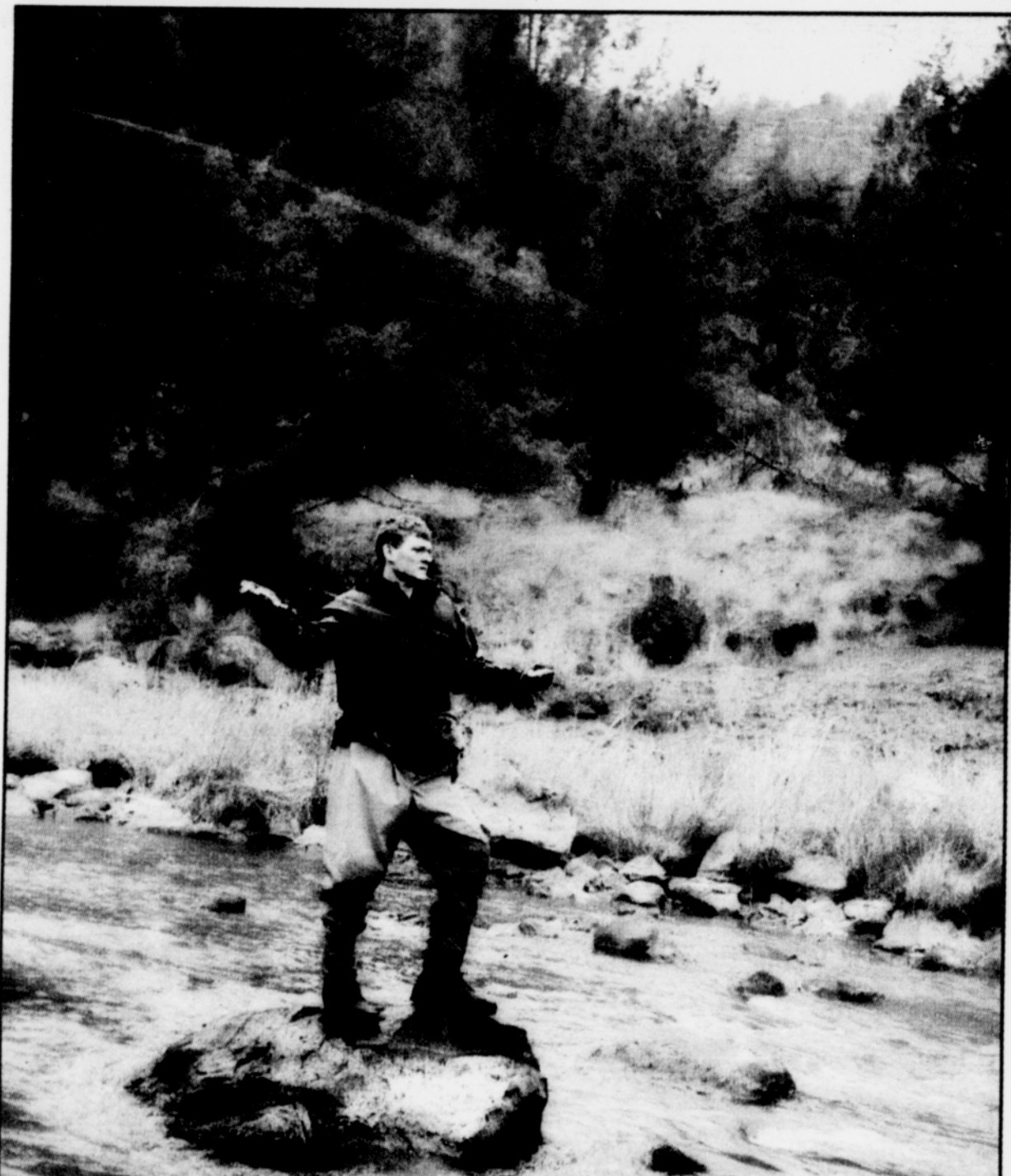




Courtesy photos
Brett Blundon goes
fly fishing (above)
and gets close to
his catch (left).

Blundon, con't from page 1

During the first year of grad school, Blundon continued to work for the Tribe in a contractual capacity while he finished some data summary work for van de Wetering, examining fish migration at the estuary restoration sites.

Van de Wetering began talking with professor Dr. Jason Dunham about Blundon as a candidate for a master's of science program at OSU.

"Brett was interested in the proposed program, the professor was interested in Brett and the rest fell into place," said van de Wetering. He recommended Blundon for his graduate project and encouraged him to continue on for a master's degree.

Blundon's project involved freshwater mussels.

Van de Wetering and Blundon communicated regularly during his grad school period. Blundon continues to gather eels each year with the Tribe. Staff has visited his laboratory, where he worked on mussels and has continued to discuss his project findings and future work the Tribe.

"He (Stan) has been one of my greatest mentors and I owe much of my success to him. I have learned an incredible amount from him and still seek advice

from him often," said Blundon. "If I ever become half of the biologist that he is, I will be quite content. He is a great asset to the Tribe and goes above and beyond to represent the Tribe's interests."

Blundon gives much credit to the Tribe in his successes for the financial support in education and experience while working through the internships.

While working toward his goal of strengthening the relationship between federal agencies and Northwest Tribes, Blundon is employed with the Forest Service in Springfield, Ore., as an assistant forest fish biologist for the Willamette National Forest. He works with engineers, silviculturists, hydrologists, wildlife biologists and more.

"I am really enjoying this position and the folks I work with are great," said Blundon. "I have a lot of opportunity to see many different disciplines ... it keeps me engaged for sure!"

As for Blundon's capabilities, "He is one of the brightest kids I have come across. He is very efficient and effective in the workplace, he is good with people and he has a strong interest in Tribal issues. I believe Brett will be able to achieve whatever career he desires," said van de Wetering.



Courtesy photos by Maria Westervelt

Supervising cook Derek Simmons and Elders barbeque coordinators Brett Lane and April Bender join hungry Elder Dennis Lane as "first in line" for delicious hamburgers and hot dogs coming off the two barbeques. Word is out from Elders, their grandkids and barbeque enthusiasts – "Best grub in the West, let's do it again next year."

Elders Have Magical Time at Barbeque

By Ken Forster

The Siletz Elders enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food and magic at their barbeque held at the Tribal Community Center in Siletz on June 26.

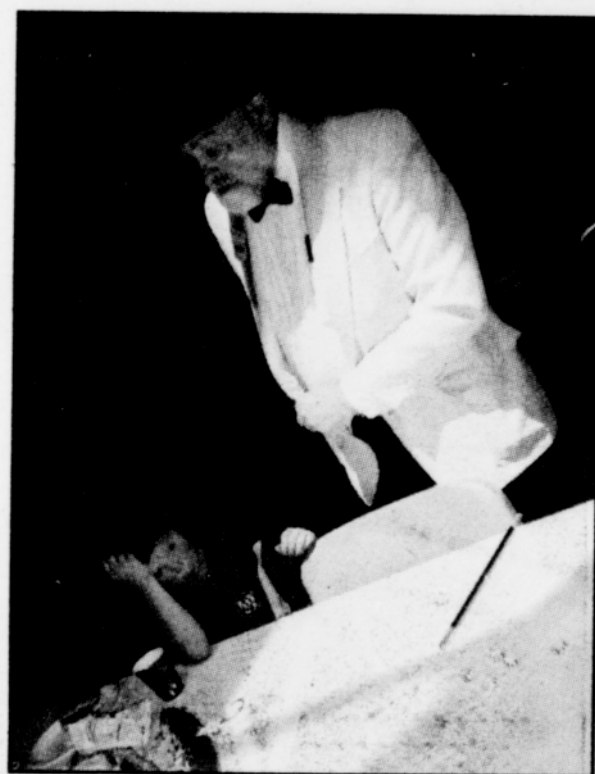
Approximately 80 Elders took part in the festivities, hosted by Elders Program Coordinator April Bender and Program Clerk Brett Lane.

After a lunch of hot dogs, burgers, salads and cake, the Elders enjoyed many rounds of Bingo, with the winners receiving mystery gifts. A comical happening occurred when elder Arlen Kentta, a confirmed bachelor, discovered a pair of women's pantyhose in his gift packet. He exchanged packets and all was well again.

Many Elders brought their grandkids to the party and a highlight of the Bingo game was when 10-year-old Rodney Tryon won a men's wristwatch on a day that just happened to be his birthday.

The Elders were entertained by Corvallis magician Stephen Peterson, owner/star of Minor Miracles Magic.

All in all, it was a wonderful barbeque afternoon for our Siletz Elders, the pride of the Tribe.



Magician Stephen Peterson from Corvallis mystifies 10-year-old Rodney Tryon at the Siletz Elders barbeque. Rodney was celebrating his birthday and won a wristwatch in the Bingo game held later.

Photo by Diane
Rodriquez

Accounting supervisor Karen Bell wraps Darlene Smith in a Pendleton blanket at Smith's retirement celebration.



Smith Retires After 20-Year Career

Darlene Smith's retirement celebration was held July 1 as she completed more than 20 years of working for the Siletz Tribe.

She was hired in July 1988 as a clerk in Tribal Court, then moved to the OJT (on the job training) bookkeeper III position in November 1989.

She then took a bookkeeper II position in March 1991, then became a clerk in Contract Health Services in June 1995. She transferred back to the bookkeeper II position in June 1997 and remained there until her retirement earlier this year.