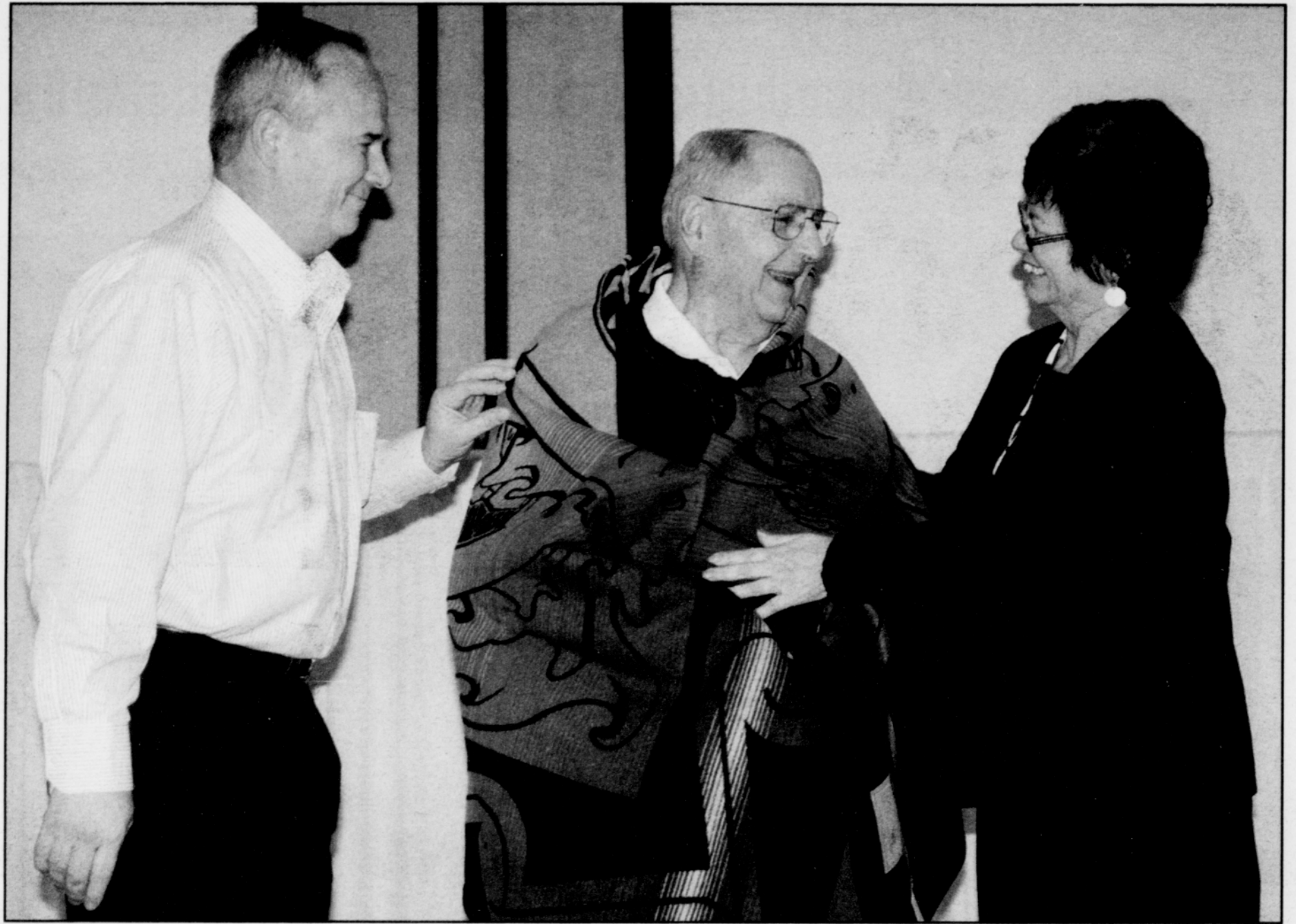




Photos by Diane Rodriguez

Above: Halli Skauge

Right: Bud Lane, Victor Atiyeh and Delores Pigsley



Restoration, con't from page 1

for a reservation," said Pigsley. The Siletz Reservation Act was passed in 1980.

Hatfield's ties to Siletz went beyond his dealings with the Tribe in Washington, D.C.

"Not only did he do all this work in Washington, D.C., he visited the Tribe many, many times. He's been out to Siletz. He would drop in when he was in the area. He had a home in Newport," said Pigsley. "His mother, in the early days, taught school in Siletz and he often told us the stories of her having to cross the river to get to the school to teach. He always had, I think, Siletz in his heart and his mother always reminded him of that."

Land for Chinook Winds

In addition to Restoration, Sen. Hatfield helped the Siletz Tribe in another crucial way.

"As we all know, this (the land Chinook Winds sits on) was a former allotment of the Siletz Tribe that was lost – that was sold, actually – and when we approached him to be one of the Indian gaming Tribes, he was never in favor of gambling in any way, shape or form," said Pigsley. "But what he told us was we had every right to do what the state was doing and what other Tribes were doing and that we should have the benefit of that opportunity."

Pigsley also said that no matter what kind of meeting or hearing Sen. Hatfield may have been involved in, he always would meet with them personally, even if it was just in one of the corridors of Congress.

"He was a great inspiration and when Art Bensell – Art was the chairman – and I met with him in the hallway to talk about taking land here in Lincoln City into trust, he said you know I can't authorize

you building a casino, but I can assure you that the land will get taken into trust pre-1988," which meant before the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, which placed limitations on land that could be used for gaming.

"And I still say without Sen. Hatfield's – in the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs – without his help, we may not be here today. And all of the Oregon Tribes owe a great deal to Sen. Hatfield because he was the champion of Restoration in the State of Oregon," said Pigsley.

Cultural Director Robert Kentta followed the Hatfield tribute with an introduction of *The People Are Dancing Again*, the 1976 film that chronicles the Tribe's struggles prior to Restoration.

"In 1976, we were in the midst of a battle, a battle for recognition of our right to exist. In struggles like that, it's important to gather your friends around you and to make new ones," said Kentta. "A film that's called *The People Are Dancing Again* was developed as a promotional piece to educate our fellow Oregonians and people around the United States about our community and our struggles to be free – free from the effects of termination."

The film was successful, Kentta said, in gathering support for the Tribe's efforts and helped create many long-lasting friendships with people who still support the Tribe. Restoration didn't just occur in 1977, he said, "Restoration is also a process we're still going through today.

"Some people say they are saddened to see that 1976 film because many of the people in it are no longer with us. But I hope we can all, along with that bit of

sadness, be thankful for their efforts on all of our behalf and celebrate all of that effort throughout their lives to better their community and their people."

Following the video, Pigsley introduced Victor Atiyeh, former governor of Oregon, who joined the Siletz Tribe for its first Restoration Celebration in 1977.

"Gov. Atiyeh was instrumental in creating the Commission on Indian Services (in 1975), which still operates today," she said. "Like Sen. Hatfield, Gov. Atiyeh has been very responsive to Indian issues and has been a very good friend to our Tribe."

Atiyeh said he's had a wonderful experience with American Indians in Oregon and is particularly close with the Siletz Tribe.

"My parents came from Syria; I'm the son of an immigrant. Two things about that – it just still astounds me that the son of an immigrant can become a governor in the United States," he said. "Then I think to myself, I just got here. You've been here – and you've been here for generations. And yet there's a closeness between the two of us."

Atiyeh said he met former Tribal chairman Bensell when Bensell was named to the Commission on Indian Services.

"At the time, I only thought that you and the other Native Americans in Oregon were not dealing with the state, you only were dealing on the national level. The state could provide services that could be taken advantage of and we needed a bridge," he said.

As Atiyeh's relationship with the Tribe has grown, he's become familiar with so many things.

"I had no concept that you'd been terminated and were working for restora-

tion. I just knew you were out there and needed help. I learned so many things about you – how warm and welcoming you are, also how wise you are," he said.

He's seen how culture can hold a group together and is something that shouldn't be lost.

"I have an interest in your retaining your culture. Again I want to get personal because it relates to me," he said. "I never learned the Arabic language. My children don't know the Arabic language. I've heard it, they haven't. What's happened in the Atiyeh family is that we've lost our heritage. It's gone.

"Those are the kinds of dangers that you face all the time. What I'm suggesting is not just those who feel keenly about it, you young people should feel keenly about learning your own language. And that draws them closer to your culture."

He thanked the Tribe for many wonderful memories, including the "powwows and the dances even I can do – if they're slow enough."

Many thanks to the other people involved in the event:

- Nick Sixkiller, emcee
- Siletz Royalty – Miss Siletz Jennifer Easter, Jr. Miss Siletz Clarinda Black and Little Miss Siletz Jocelyn Hernandez, *The Lord's Prayer*
- Siletz Tribal Head Start students, singing in Athabascan
- Bud Lane, video presentation *Honoring Our Siletz Tribal Veterans*
- Joe Padilla, bingo caller
- Sister Francella Griggs, closing prayer
- Siletz Tribal Elders – centerpieces
- Volunteers – stuffing gift bags
- Chinook Winds Casino Resort staff