

# Ed Ben: Taking care of family and Tribe

At 88, Ed Ben is the patriarch of a large extended family that descends from the Chetco and Tututni bands of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

His parents are Archie Ben and Victoria Butler-Ben. He and his wife, Dolores, have been married 68 years and live in Salem, Ore. They have three sons – Gerald, Rodney (deceased) and Ed Jr., nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The majority of Ed's working life was spent at the Oregon State Penitentiary, where he worked for 30 years as a correctional officer, then in the prison library and finally as a personnel manager for field services in the corrections division.

This World War II veteran says that one of the best ways he's given to others in his life was during 1973-80, when he "sacrificed my life" to help get the Tribe restored.

"I was part of the group that served on the Tribal Council during that time. Some of us who lived here in the valley traveled to Siletz to attend meetings," he said. "Often we would meet in Siletz beyond

midnight, then drive home and had to be at work and able to function the next day."

In describing the Siletz Tribal members and their families who served during those years, Ed said, "I don't think a lot of us considered it doing more than our parents did. Our parents, prior to termination, who served on the Tribal Council likewise weren't compensated; there was no money for travel and per diem back in those days ... Our parents on the Tribal Council didn't have the resources people take for granted now. People don't realize what those folks went through."

Ed said the most significant thing the Siletz Tribe has done since Restoration in 1977 is build Chinook Winds Casino Resort, which has helped provide the Tribe with resources to help Tribal members.

"Health care and education were two of our objectives – the important things that drove us pre-restoration. We looked at Tribes that weren't terminated and the number of college grads that we could identify. Almost none of us were college

grads in 1973 ... and other Tribal governments were getting their young people into colleges. If you don't have a Tribal government to try to do that and you don't have BIA resources, we would continue to be an Indian group that continued to lack in education and not be self-sufficiently providing for family"

Taking care of the family is important to Ed because "I was raised when family takes care of it in the Indian community. I think I've been able to hand that down to my children. I think it's a Tribal trait. Another Tribal trait that we practiced – and maybe also in the big community – was that I never expected my wife to provide food for my table, as in fending for food because dad didn't do it. I'm proud that I acquired that trait from my dad and I think, back in the day, that was a Tribal thing.

"I look at what the Tribe has provided for me since we got restored and I'm proud to be a part of that group."



File photo

Ed Ben



Courtesy photos

Tribal youth take part in a clay mask workshop (below right) on March 7 at the Portland Area Office. Ed Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock) helped participants make all kinds of masks. Edmo is a poet, playwright, traditional storyteller and lecturer on Northwest Tribal culture who lives in Portland, Ore.

Adrianna Jaramillo (above) and her father work on masks.

Magdaelena Jimenez (below) helps her daughter, Magdaelena Westley, make a mask. Gabriel Jaramillo is in the background.



## Siletz Tribal Student Incentives Program

If you have completed any of these milestones, please send a copy of your certificate or diploma to your area education specialist. The Siletz Tribal Student Incentive Program rewards student achievements as follows:

Head Start/Preschool	\$10
Kindergarten	\$10
Elementary School	\$20
Middle School	\$50
High School or GED	\$100
Adult Vocational Training	\$100 (one-year program) \$200 (two-year program)
Higher Education	
Bachelor's Degree	Pendleton blanket plus \$75
Master's Degree	\$300
Doctorate Degree	Pendleton blanket plus \$300

### Tribal Education Specialists

Portland Area Office: Katy Kaady, 503-238-1512, 12790 SE Stark St., Suite 102, Portland, OR 97233

Salem Area Office: Sonya Moody-Jurado, 503-390-9494, 3160 Blossom Drive NE, Suite 105, Salem, OR 97305

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