

Early craft

(Continued from page 1)

wings and fuselages. The landing gear had a distinctive, wide frame that inspired smokejumpers to nick-name these planes the "bow-legged buzzards." The Noorduynes were reliable aircraft, but not free of problems. There was at least one account of engine trouble forcing the plane to make an emergency landing in a field near Cave Junction.

In 1953, the Noorduynes were replaced by the faster-flying Twin Beech. They were a more reliable and faster plane. But in 1954, when a new barracks was constructed and the number of crew working at the base almost doubled, the plane became too small to handle the increased number of crew members.

A larger, but slower DC-3, was added to the fleet to handle the larger number of smokejumpers.

The base would continue operations for another three decades, and although modern planes replaced the older ones with better technology, the fact will always remain that the planes used in the first 10 years of operations faced the greatest challenges in forging the success of the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base, one of Oregon's greatest adventure stories.



A SACRED SALMON CEREMONY was conducted near Applegate Dam above Ruch and concluded Sunday, June 11. Takelma Elder, Granda Aggie (in middle, photo below), also known as Agnes Baker Pilgrim, has held the ceremony annually since 1994. Participants from California and Oregon camped for several days, and enjoyed good food, story-telling, drumming, singing, and observing the ceremonial rites. A sunrise prayer circle blessed the river-divers and thanked the salmon for returning every year to feed the people. After the men returned from the depths of the icy cold Applegate River, they were praised and welcomed back by the enthusiastic crowd. A smoked salmon feast was enjoyed by participants and observers. Participants camped in the tree-shaded grove above the river and enjoyed the dry weather and camaraderie of the gathering. (Photos by John Woodward, of Cave Junction)



Older people love to give advice. It compensates them for their inability to set a bad example.

- Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld -

Swimming pool will open

(Continued from page 1)

to get the facility ready. He anticipates keeping the pool open through Labor Day.

Besides the \$11,000 in revenue-sharing monies, it was revealed that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners has approved payment of \$10,000 from Economic Development dollars for the pool.

The money is to be used "in the creation of jobs at the pool," wrote commission Chairman Dwight F. Ellis.

"It is the board's understanding," he continued, "that the pool will be open as many hours as possible for the benefit of the citizens of Josephine County and to help increase gate receipts."

He added that the board is "encouraged that the city is willing to be a partner with the county and community members in keeping this valuable recreational facility open for our citizens this summer."

Carmody, in her presentation, noted that the following donations have been received: The Shining Stars/\$1,000; Bridgeview Vineyards Winery/\$2,500; Fire Mountain Gems/\$2,500; Harry & Jan Jordan, \$1,000 (with a pledge for the same amount for the next four years); Margaret Mead/\$1,000; and Sterling Development & Investment/\$10,000.

Plus, there is \$4,300 held by the Josephine Parks Foundation, a private organization. A representative said that the nonprofit group, in existence 12 years, offers a safe, tax-deductible way to donate money for the pool. He offered the group's service, noting that all money

donated is used solely for its intended recipient.

A number of people urged the council to ensure that the YMCA keep accurate financial records. Polk explained that the city will handle all checks and keep track of income.

A letter from Gerry Sterling & Andy Chen, of Sterling Development, was received by the mayor. Their firm's gift, they noted, is being given "openly in the hope that others concerned with future of our community will participate in finding solutions for a problem that is not going to be miraculously fixed by fairies."

"We will be faced with the same issue next year, and the likelihood of being bailed out by grants, subsidies or other freebies that seem to be expected to pour forth from a cornucopia of federal largesse, is minimal, at best."

The donors further noted that, "We need to begin thinking proactively, and realize that indifferent bureaucracies are not going to provide for us."

Carmody, Crystal Schroeter of The Shining Stars, and others took the same tack in addressing the council about financing.

The mayor, while applauding all who are giving funds, agreed earlier in the meeting that the pool financial problem will continue next year. However, he also stated that "a nonprofit organization could be forming to operate the pool."

He could provide no further details at this time.

Cynthia Hobbins, a former pool manager and advocate for the facility, said that

(Continued on page 10)

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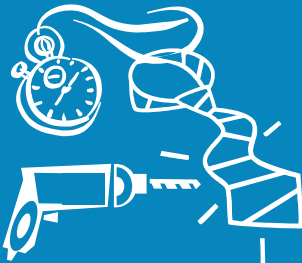
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