

will...Indians in Oregon were being subjected to a bloody scheme by murderers...." At the close of the Rogue River Wars, Tyee John was among the last to give up fighting for the right to stay in his homeland.

With the winter snows of early 1856, the first groups of Rogue Valley natives were marched to the new reservation. As others gave up fighting that summer, they were brought to Port Orford and held as prisoners, until they were loaded, 600 at a time, on the steamship *Columbia*, bound for the reservation.

May 20, 1856 brought harsh negotiations with the US Army, and when other Rogue River bands overwhelmed by the odds had given up, Tecumtum stated his position, *"This is my country: I was in it when these large trees were very small...My heart is sick of fighting, but I want to live in my country. If the white people are willing, I will go back to Deer Creek and live among them as I used to do; they can visit my camp, and I will visit theirs; but I will not lay down my arms and go with you on the reservation."*

Despite an iron will and a small band of able fighters to back him up, there were women and children to think of and with each encounter their numbers dwindled. Less than two months after Tye John gave notice that he would not leave the country he had always known, he found himself and his people tied and herded in a punitive forced march north along the rugged Oregon coastline to the newly established Coast (Siletz) Reservation. For most it was a last look at their homeland. US Army Captain Edward O.C. Ord commented on the journey, *"It almost makes me shed tears to listen to them wailing as they totter along."* Many died on the way, or soon after arriving at the reservation.

Robert Kentta of Siletz Cultural Programs explains, "Tribes from western Oregon and parts of northern California were removed to this reservation, where after many years of disease, starvation, and other hardships they eventually established themselves as the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Massive reductions of even the treaty guaranteed reservation lands continues to affect the descendants of the

people portrayed in this painting."

According to Tami Miner, project manager for Siletz Tribal Fine Arts, "This is the first in a series of commissioned work by award winning artist Peggy O'Neal. The *Lost Chapters*, published by Siletz Tribal Fine Arts, strives to accurately communicate the history, traditions, and culture of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Half of all proceeds support the Confederated Tribes of Siletz." "Perhaps most importantly" states artist O'Neal, "each work is intended to add new perspective to the complex issues of our country's Native American history."

The public is invited to the release and artist signing of posters and limited edition prints at the Chinook Winds Casino from 4pm to 7pm Friday, October 11 and from 1pm to 7pm Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13. Image size of the posters and prints is 21 1/2 " X 29". Other related works by Ms O'Neal commissioned by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians are four murals in the Siletz Tribal Administration Building.

To Order

The first in *The Lost Chapters* series *Ahnkuttie Tillicums* (Ancestors) by Peggy O'Neal just complete this form and send it to:

Siletz Tribal Fine Arts

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Siletz Or, 97380

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or call 1-541-444-1347 and order with Mastercard ☐ or Visa ☐

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Shipping Information A shipping and handling charge of \$8.00 is applicable to all orders. Orders will be shipped within 10 days of receipt of payment.

*Half of all proceeds support the
Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Indians.*

Thank you