

Spilyay Tymoo

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Root Feast Full of Activities

The delicious aroma of roots and salmon and the sound of drums and song attracted hundreds of local people, visitors and rodeo fans to the Warm Springs Longhouse this past weekend. The Annual Root Feast had much to offer to those with a variety of interests and the longhouse was the scene of bustling activity.

Of course the climax of the weekend's festivities was the feast itself, which took place Sunday afternoon. However, the long hours of preparation and worshipping went unnoticed

Earthquake

As Spilyay Tymoo staff raced to meet deadlines on Monday, April 12 an earthquake rumbled through the Tribal Office Building as well as the whole reservation and most of north central Oregon. Perhaps we needed to be reminded that there are powers greater than the written word, although the paper went to press despite the forces of nature.

The quake registered at between 4.3 and 5.1 on the Richter Scale and occurred at 4:48 p.m. It began about 35 miles southeast of The Dalles and was felt as far west as Portland and as far south as Bend.

Reportedly the editor didn't feel the earthquake at all.

Apparently he was still shaking from his rodeo accident on Saturday, when he and his camera were trampled by an angry horse; so the quake was not news to him.

Water Board

The Water Board has had just two meetings since the last meeting with the Tribal Council, the Water Board has been working along with various Engineers and Hydrologists in an attempt to improve the water situation here on the reservation.

The uses of water on the reservation are divided into the following classifications: I Domestic and Community use, II Fishery, Wildlife and Natural Vegetation, III Agriculture Range and Commercial Recreation, and IV Industrial (including Hydro-electric).

At the present time the Water Board is working on up-dating the Water Code in conjunction with the U.S.G.S (United States Geological Survey), the water supply is an important natural resource and the tribe should be aware of this.

by many whose attention was focused on boxing, the rodeo and other simultaneous activities.

Ever since the roots were dug earlier in the week, much effort was devoted to peeling them in time for the feast. Many people came to the longhouse to offer their help; and many people left with sore fingers but a sense of appreciation and respect for the meaning of the roots.

Among the volunteer root peelers were the regular longhouse ladies, friends and visitors from other reservations, classes from the grade school, and people seeking to learn the traditional ways. Everyone was especially glad to see George Schneider, the former extension agent, pitching in on Sat-

urday.

Food flowed bountifully throughout the weekend for anyone with an appetite. Supper was served Friday night, followed by religious and war dancing. Because of the boxing tournament the longhouse closed up shop after this.

On Saturday lunch was served, after which most people moved on to the rodeo or boxing. But those left behind continued peeling roots and preparing for the evening meal at which 400 people were served.

Card games began shortly after dinner and they absorbed the attention and money of many people.

A series of stick games was launched Saturday night and gathered momentum just

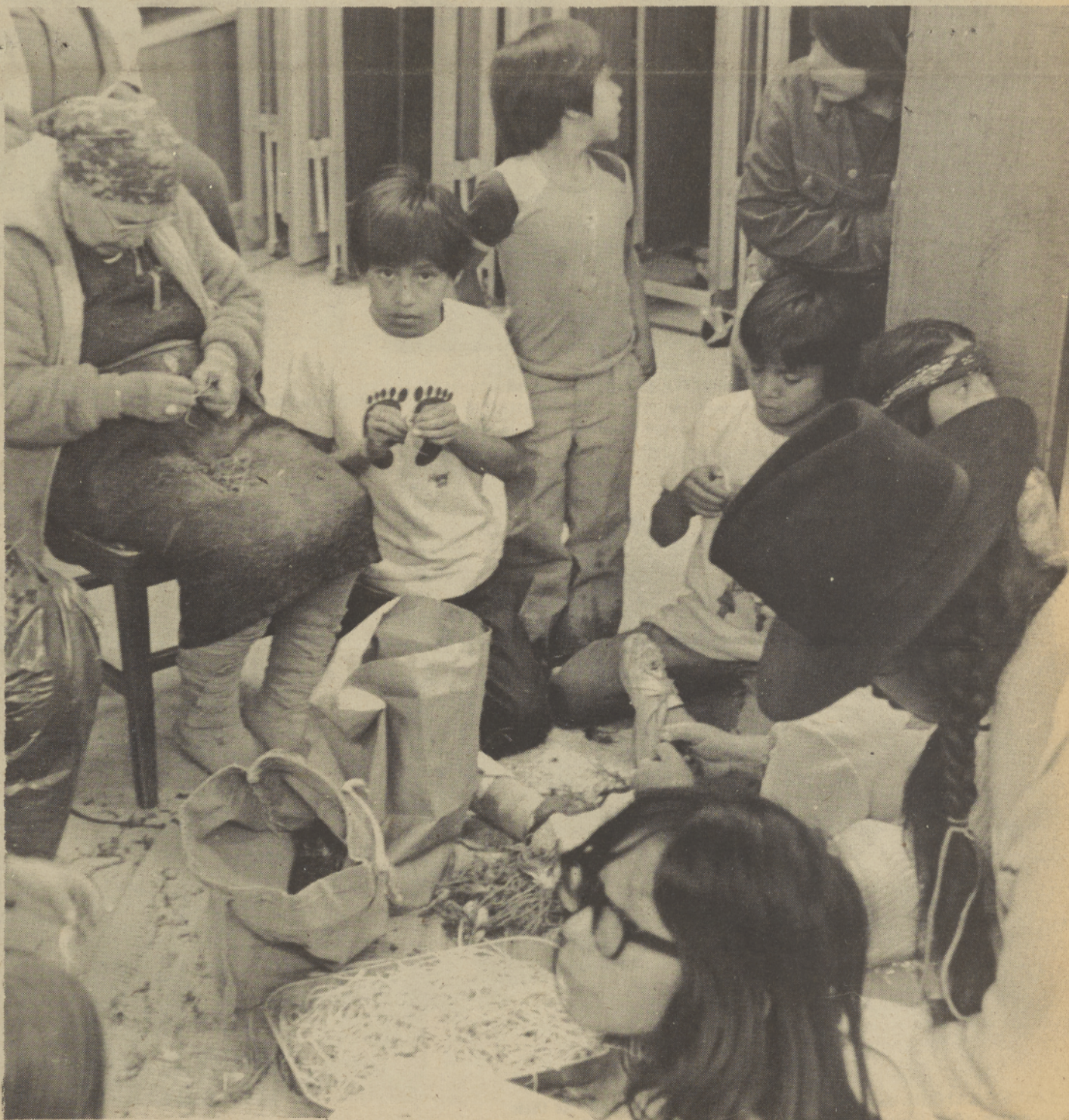
as the sacred Washat services in the main hall reached a climax. Reluctantly but with respect, the players put aside their sticks and drums while the religious services were completed.

Following the services was an evening of ceremonial and war dancing. As the social dance at the Community Center ended, people drifted into the longhouse and divided their attention among the games and dancing.

After breakfast on Sunday morning worshipping began in the longhouse and the prevailing mood was one of respectful reserve. Masses of salmon and roots were cooked up and the kitchen was the scene of elaborate preparations for the feast.

The meal was served at an estimated 8-900 hungry mouths at about 2:00 Sunday and for the sake of speed and hot food, tradition was broken. In the outer hall, the customary Washat blessing and ritualized manner of eating characteristic of the Root Feast were foregone and a cowboy-style chow-down manner was favored. Within the main hall, those Indians who preferred the traditional way followed the prescribed ritual of distributing, blessing and eating the precious foods.

Long hours of dancing followed and a festive atmosphere reigned, providing a happy but fatiguing end to the weekend — a time of joy and thanksgiving for the coming of spring and new life.



PEOPLE OF ALL AGES gather in the Longhouse to peel roots in preparation of Sunday's feast. There were four gunny sacks full of roots to be peeled Saturday evening.

Photo by Sandy Rangila