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# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Hundreds gather for hydro dedication

Under a warm summer sun, hundreds of tribal members, friends and dignitaries attended the dedication of the Tribes' newest and most complex venture last Friday. The hydroelectric project at the Pelton Reregulating dam was dedicated with flare and style, with the ceremonious dropping of the tarp that covered the three-tepee logo imbedded in the concrete of the powerhouse and the flip of the switch that rechanneled the swift-flowing waters into the powerhouse.

In his opening remarks, Warm Springs Secretary/Treasurer Ralph Minnick reviewed the Tribe's progress of the past 200 years or so and referred to the Lewis and Clark journals. "The significance of the Lewis and Clark journals is they point out the Indians living along the Columbia River were very adept at bartering."

Minnick also referred to the various economic ventures the Tribes have been involved in since becoming self-governed in 1938. All ventures, Minnick said, "were either totally tribal or joint ventures between the Tribe and the U.S. government or a relationship between the Tribe and the state of Oregon."

Minnick explained that the hydroelectric project was not the first effort at generating electricity. In the 1970's, the Tribes purchased three boiler and generators from a company in Alaska and in 1979, that plant, after



Tribal Council Chairman Delbert Frank lowered the tarp covering the Tribe's logo on the powerhouse wall during the hydro dedication ceremonies. Over 1,700 people attended the ceremonies. Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

reassembly in Warm Springs, began generating electricity. Pacific Power and Light purchases the excess electricity produced by the plant. "Now these mill and regulation dam electrical generating projects will save some 200,000 barrels of oil a year to ease the energy problems of the United States."

In conclusion, Minnick said, "In summary, the Confederated Tribes, from the beginning of time have been involved in economic development, or commerce, and as the years passed our economic development on the reservation, through the patience and understanding of our elders and ancestors, has been methodical and well planned with a deep-rooted philosophy of maintaining and preserving this reservation's resources for now and future generations. This, then, can be the legacy for our generation and generations yet unborn."

Following Minnick's speech, tribal council chairman Delbert Frank officially dedicated the project by releasing the rope that lowered the tarp which was covering the three-tepee logo.

Oregon governor Victor Atiyeh made a brief

appearance on his way to southern Oregon. Atiyeh commended the Tribes for their tremendous accomplishment and referred to the project as a 'bootstraps operation.' "The visions of tribal leaders—beginning with the decision to subordinate, not sell, tribal rights to Celilo Falls and investing that money wisely—was the keystone in what has become the most remarkable bootstraps operation anywhere in Oregon."

Atiyeh referred to the economic successes the Tribe's have had over the years. "No one should be surprised, then, that the Confederated Tribes are today adding one more extraordinary achievement to a history rich with successes," said Atiyeh. He continued, "We who have watched—and we who have had the privilege of helping—are absolutely convinced that nothing is beyond your capabilities."

Atiyeh said he was proud of the project. "I have special pride in this project because it typifies Oregon's commitment to renewable energy resources.. a project such as this protects the fragile beauty of scenic revers such as the Deschutes and at the same time conserves

our non-renewable energy resources and helps assure adequate supplies of reliable and affordable energy for the future."

Wasco chief Nelson Wallulatum made a special presentation to consulting electrical engineer Jerry Dibble that made Dibble a "blood brother." Soon into the ceremony, Wallulatum realized there was no knife available to do the traditional wrist cutting. Instead, Dibble was presented with a headdress, which he wore throughout the day.

Dibble was obviously touched by the gift and was unable to deliver his prepared speech. However, Dibble did commend the Tribe's wise leadership over the years and said that the "Tribe always makes opportunities available" to its members.

He continued, saying that the councils he's worked with over the past years have always looked to the future. "They always say," said Dibble, "we want to do what's best for us, our children and our children's children."

During his speech, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ken Smith read a telegram from President Ronald Reagan. In

essence, Reagan's message was congratulatory and praised the Tribes for taking initiative and completing the project with very little help from the federal government. "The new hydro project will bring long-term benefits to the state, region and the entire nation," said the telegram.

Smith said, "I believe the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are blessed with good people who want to make progress and who want to prove that self-determination is not just an expression." Smith also commended the engineers and builders of the project. "Neither dreams or money can be a substitute for technical know-how that makes this dam a reality."

Smith continued, "what you have done in planning this project, working out the unique financing for it, contracting for the sale of the power, completing the construction and beginning the operation of this generating plant, can be, and will be, an inspiration to other tribes."

At the conclusion of his speech, Smith pushed the handle that rechanneled the water from the river into the generator and turbine—leaving a comparative trickle running over the spillway.

PP&L senior vice president Robert Moench presented to the Tribal Council a check in excess of \$161,000 for the purchase of 13 day's power production.

Following the ceremonies, a lunch was served near the project site. Over 1,700 people were served roast beef, salmon, eels, fry bread, salads and various other items. Each guest was given a thermometer commemorating the dedication and all children received frizbees. Senior citizens were given cushions; all gifts were embossed with the three-tepee logo and date of the dedication.

### Weather

July	HI	LOW
4	71	47
5	74	53
6	81	49
7	78	58
8	80	57
9	84	55
10	88	56
11	93	61
12	92	64
13	80	60
14	73	55
15	70	43
16	78	46
17	87	48
18	92	56
19	91	57

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