

A prelude to a museum...

Artifacts displayed at Longhouse



TEEPEE DISPLAYED—This teepee was just one of the many items displayed at the Agency Longhouse last week to show the community what types of artifacts have been collected for the anticipated museum. Most people were surprised at the number, age and quality of things collected.

For many in Warm Springs, preservation and collection of tribal artifacts and heirlooms is a most important endeavor. So important is this mission, that Tribal Council has appropriated, over the past nine or ten years, nearly \$400,000 for the purchase of nearly 1,000 items. These artifacts will one day, in the not too distant future, be placed in a museum proposed to be located near Kah-Nee-Ta lodge.

On January 19, hundreds of the artifacts were displayed at the Agency Longhouse to show just how many and what types of items have been collected thus far. Cornhusk bags, baskets—large and small, beadwork ranging from dresses to bags to belts, old photographs and even a teepee complete with hide flooring and mannequins dressed in Indian regalia filled the longhouse. Many were surprised at just how many items have been collected. Most of the artifacts, up until the display, had been stored in a small room at the administration building previously used to store office supplies.

Collection of the artifacts began in the mid-1970s with the inception of the Mid Oregon Indian Historical Society (MOIHS). This non-profit organization is incorporated through the tribal constitution and was chartered, when they sought their charter in 1974, to secure, either through purchases or donations, and to safeguard heirlooms and historical artifacts of the mid-Oregon Indians, "Mid-Oregon," says board chairman Nelson Wallulatum, "could go as far east as Umatilla and as far south as Burns." Because Warm Springs was known as a trading people, some of the artifacts come from western

states such as California and Montana, says Wallulatum.

MOIHS has a seven-member board of directors consisting of chairman Wallulatum. Harold Culpus is vice-chairman. Also on the board are Lillie Heath, Rudy Clements, Sam Johnson, Dave Waldron and Roy Sampsel. Tribal Council secretary Juanita Bourland serves as the board's secretary/treasurer.

According to Wallulatum, all artifacts were purchased from tribal members, except for a piece or two. Often times, these purchases have prevented the loss of these artifacts through sales to people off the reservation. The board now has \$50,000 available to purchase more items. Nearly \$400,000 may have been spent on the artifacts up until now, "but their value is another thing," says Wallulatum. He estimates the value near \$1 million.

Another responsibility of the MOIHS is investigating archeological finds in the area. Wallulatum says that the remains of a find near Prinville will be turned over to Warm Springs in the near future. The remains will be interred here in Warm Springs.

Another very important duty of the MOIHS is developing and instituting a plan for a museum building. The complex would also include a cultural, historical and performing arts center. With the complex having all four aspects, Wallulatum feels it would be a big drawing card for the public. That's why it is tentatively planned to be located at Kah-Nee-Ta, he says.

To ensure the safekeeping of the artifacts until the museum is completed, a room on the second floor of the day care center was remodeled and equipped with burglar alarm

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BASKETS AND MORE BASKETS—Many, many baskets were displayed at the Longhouse. Though Tribal Council has appropriated nearly \$400,000 over the past nine or ten years for the purchase of artifacts, their value is estimated at approximately \$1 million.



ARTIFACTS VIEWED—Students from Warm Springs Elementary visited the display at the Longhouse.

and a special fire alarm/suspension system. The fire suppression system uses a special gas to extinguish any fire instead of water. Total cost of the remodeling was approximately \$7,500.

Four public meetings are planned throughout 1983 to introduce tribal members to the idea of the museum and familiarize them with the ways

artifacts are exhibited and preserved. Indian museum resource people will be available to answer questions. The first of these meetings is scheduled for February 25 and 26. Once building and site plans are approved, fund raising will begin. Primary thrust for funding will be through foundation and corporate grants in the private sector.

Some tribal funds will be used, also. Wallulatum says it will take approximately \$4 million to build the complex.

Now that Warm Springs is on its way to having a real museum, people can be assured that tribal artifacts and historical heirlooms will be preserved and kept for the enjoyment of many in the years to come.