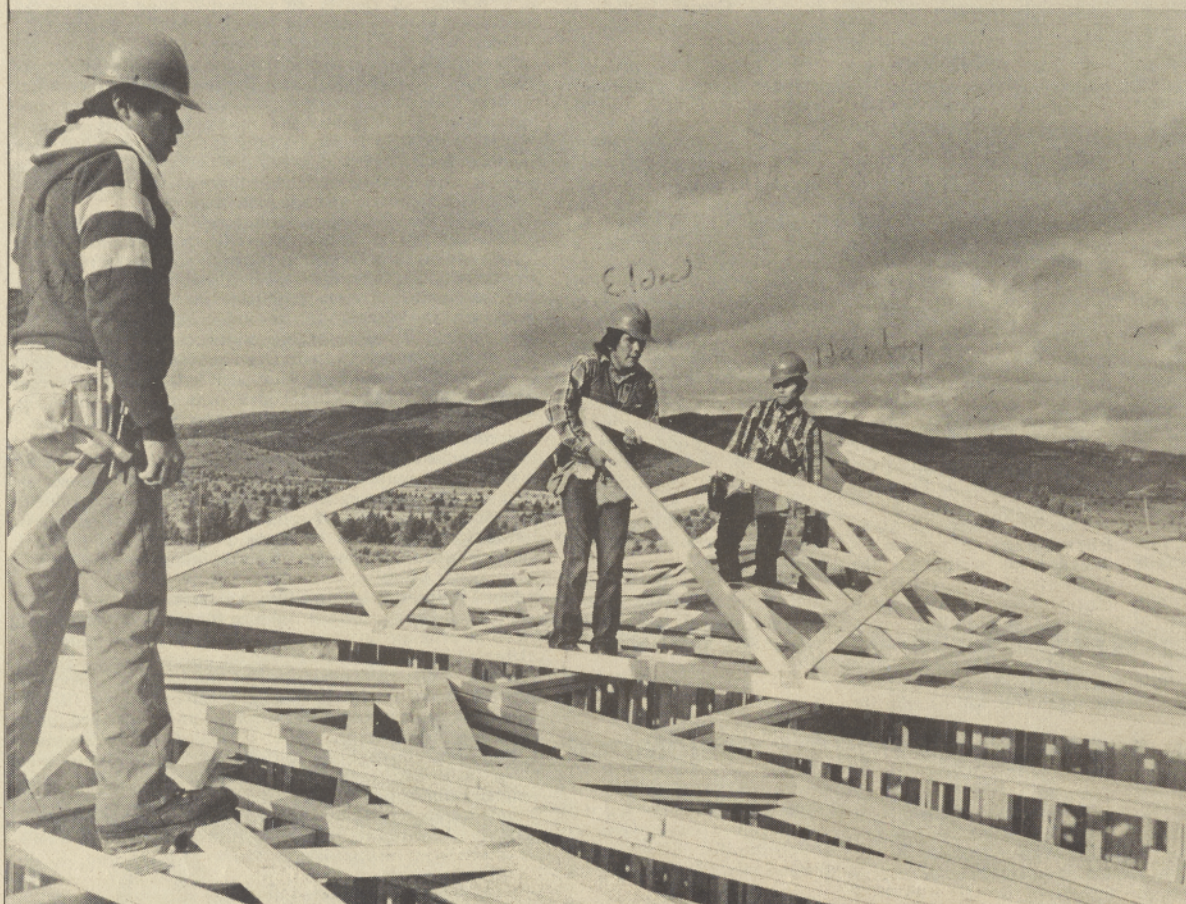


Valuable skills gained on building project

Spillyay Tymoo text and photos by Marsha Shewczyk



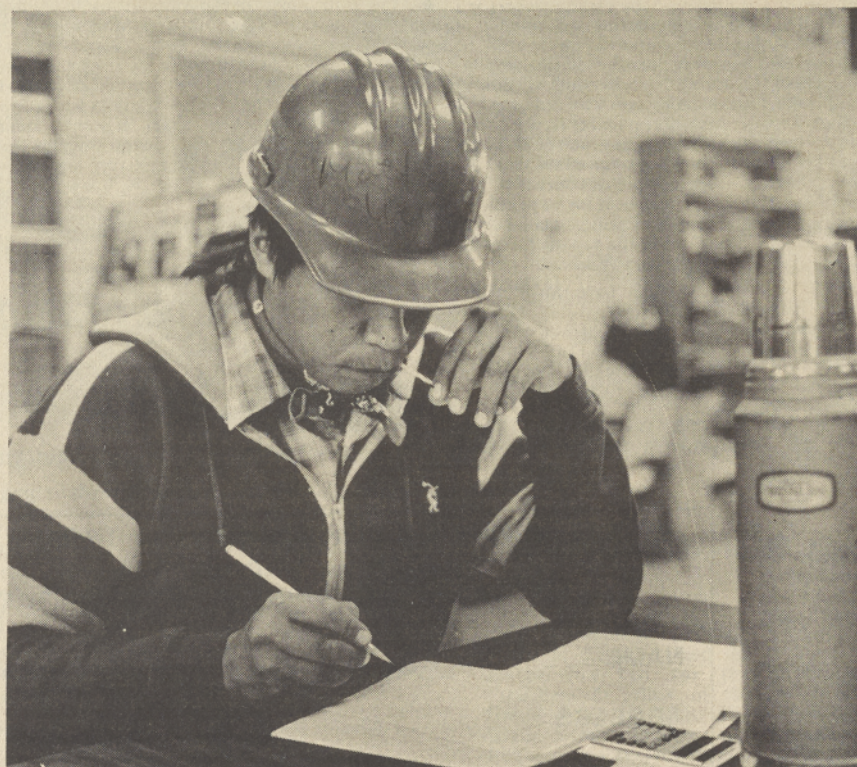
Roof trusses are raised then put in place. (Left to right) Matt Wewa, Eldred Frank and Hamley Danzuka work together.



Measurement is important in keeping the house frame squared. Edward Henry, Jr. holds tape for placement of roof trusses.



Cuts are made after measuring for fit. Mistakes do happen but with concern for accuracy they don't occur too often Hamley Danzuka (left) and Waldon Winishut (right) use circular saw.



Mathematical calculation is an essential part in construction. Workers spend most mornings in class before heading out to the construction site. Matthew Wewa concentrates on problem.



Beginning to resemble a house the structure still needs much work.

Learning and looking to the future, six Warm Springs men are beginning a new career in housing construction. The Tribe, at the same time, is gaining skilled workers knowledgeable in many phases in construction, much needed on the reservation.

The idea of training tribal members in construction has been floating around for several years. It has now been realized with funding under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). These funds provide wages and basic carpenter's tools for the six trainees and supervisor. Lumber is provided by the tribal Construction Department.

Like trainees, JTPA house construction supervisor Lee Tom is enthusiastic about both the opportunity to work on a tribal house and with being a part of this first tribal housing construction team.

Unique, too, is the fact that every phase of construction work is done by the all-tribal member crew from laying the footings to installing electrical wiring. Normally,

subcontractors are hired for the various phases of construction. The men are being trained in a variety of skills.

What all this leads to is experience that can be used over and over for on-reservation work. Enterprise manager Delford Johnson sees these men as being an asset to the Tribe. Hopefully, he says, they will be working with any hired subcontractors. They will also have the experience necessary for new construction jobs, remodeling and basic repairs needed for maintaining tribal buildings. "We do a lot of contract work that our own people could be doing," Johnson explained.

The trainees, Hamley Danzuka, Cecil Brunoe, Matthew Wewa, Edward Henry, Jr., Waldon Winishut and Eldred Frank enjoy their jobs, explains Johnson. They are on the job every day. Johnson says they are ready to learn. They appreciate this opportunity and, he adds, "they seem to enjoy every nail they drive into every board."



The map for building is the blueprint. It indicates placement and measurement of boards used in construction. Cecil Brunoe examines blueprint of house under construction before continuing work.