

Society established to preserve tribal resources



The MOIHS has a wide variety of photos and documents in their collection of artifacts. Some items have been donated to the museum while others have been purchased.

Some people may feel that if our heritage and culture are not observed or are abused, they will be lost forever. It is that theory that has inspired a handful of people to strive toward a common goal—that of a museum/cultural center on the reservation.

It all began nearly 14 years ago when the Middle-Oregon Indian Historical Society was formed as a non-profit corporation by the Confederated Tribes. Since that day in April, 1974, many events have occurred that have brought the idea of a museum out of the conceptual stage to one of reality.

Tribal Council, in December, 1974, appointed the first board of directors. The first board consisted of Nelson Wallulatum, chairman; Harold Culpus, vice-chairman; Juanita Bourland, secretary/treasurer; Nathan Jim, Sr., Lillie Heath and Sam Johnson. Present board members are Rudy Clements, chairman, Delbert Frank, Sr., first vice-chairman, Bernice Mitchell, second vice-chairman/treasurer; Jim Noteboom, executive secretary, Janice Clements, James Southern and Don Kerr.

The Society immediately began business with the purchase of artifacts in 1974. Accessions resumed again in 1976 and have continued throughout the years. In 1982, Tribal Council directed that \$50,000 be included in the annual operating budgets for the purchase of artifacts. Each year, the accessions committee carefully selects artifacts that will be appropriate for display in the proposed museum.

Museum intern Liz Tewee was hired in September, 1982, under the CETA program to care for and store artifacts. Later that same year, nearly \$10,000 in capitalized funds were appropriated to renovate a room in the boys dorm. The room, complete with a special fire retardant system and burglar alarm, is the home to about 2,100 artifacts valued at over \$500,000. All items have been identified and tagged by Tewee, who is now museum curator.

In December, 1983, the Society adopted the MOIHS Collection and Acquisition Policy which establish procedures for the purchase, care and safekeeping of tribal artifacts.

The early part of 1984 was a busy time for Society members. In March, Bernice Mitchell was appointed as an alternate to the Board and liaison for Tribal Council. Also, the accession committee, consisting of Lillie Heath, Emily Waheneka and Betty Lou Lucio, was appointed. The Board also appointed Rudy Clements as acting executive secretary and acting executive director until those two positions were filled. Architect Dave Waldron was authorized to construct a scale model of the museum/cultural center.

In early 1985, the board appointed an ad hoc committee that was directed to draft a job description of the director's position. In September, Janice Clements was appointed to the board.

With executive director applications arriving, interviews were scheduled in early, 1986. However, the interviews did not prove to be successful, as the position was readvertised for an additional three months. The job description was rewritten in May. An employment firm was hired to assist with the advertising and hiring of the director. In July, the museum staff moved into their own office building just west of the justice services facility. In August, Jim

Noteboom was appointed as secretary/treasurer of the board.

It was in March, 1987, that Duane King formally accepted the executive director's position following an interview with Rudy Clements and Jim Noteboom. After months of consideration, the board approved the Antiquities Ordinance that helps protect all resources related to the Tribes' heritage.

In September, U.S. Bancorp presented MOIHS with a \$5,000 check and a promise of technical assistance for a video project. The board made final acceptance of a site on Highway 26 for the proposed museum. Work continued with the design of the museum as Garfield-Hacker had been selected as architect for the program phase of the museum design. Also in October, Lillie Heath resigned from the accessions committee. That vacancy has not yet been filled.

While the museum may still be a way off, the work done so far has not been without its rewards. To finally have a home in which to place pieces of Warm Springs' past will be a dream come true for many.



Wasco dolls, made of buckskin, show complete Wasco outfits. The figure on the left depicts the way a body was prepared for burial. The horse was buried as well. The dolls were made by Mary Ann Meanus.

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Video portrays Warm Springs' past, current events



"Warm Springs Today" is complete and will make its debut during the 50th anniversary celebration of tribal self-government. Appearing in the beginning of the video are, left to right Charlotte Herkshan, Harry Miller, Liz Tewee, Larry Dick Wallulatum and Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum.

"A long time ago, our people lived on this land in isolation. There were no roads here. We gathered berries and roots. We taught these things and knowledge of the Sacred One to our children."

**Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum
in "Warm Springs Today".**

Efforts to restore and preserve Warm Springs' past for future generations has taken another step forward with the production of "Warm Springs Today". The video, in its final form, was released to the Middle-Oregon Indian Historical Society last week.

The video, which is just under nine minutes in length, was sponsored in part by a grant from U.S. Bancorp and the Confederated Tribes. The film will be used to inform and educate those who are interested in learning tribal history and culture as well as tribal business and economic activities. It will also be used as a promotional tool when fund raising activities begin for the proposed museum.

Footage, shot by Ralph Cunningham of Video Locations in Portland, includes current settings such as a Tribal Council session, aerial photos of the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery, WSFPI and Kah-Nee-Ta, powwow participants as well as shots of old photos depicting tribal life 100 years or more ago.

Senator Mark Hatfield and Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt are also featured speakers in the film. Says Governor Neil Goldschmidt, "The traditions of the people of Warm Springs are a proud part of the history of Oregon and the Northwest. From their economic strength to their social responsibility to their cultural integrity, they contribute significantly to Oregon's promise of continued prosperity."

The video will make its debut at the 50th anniversary celebration. All are encouraged to see the film. It is a vehicle through which viewers can gain accurate and insightful knowledge of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.