

# Exhibit takes visitors into the past

As visitors strolled through the Agency Longhouse last week to take a look at the exhibit presented by the Middle Oregon Indian Historical Society, the 200 or so people were probably reminded of how different life must have been long ago. On display were most of the 1,600 heirlooms and artifacts accumulated over the past 14 years by the MOIHS. The two-day exhibit was the first time all the MOIHS artifacts had been displayed for public viewing. A display in 1983 featured about half of the accumulated treasures.

The preservation and safekeeping of the artifacts is of utmost importance. The Tribe has spent over \$600,000 since 1974 to acquire the artifacts that are currently stored in an environmentally controlled room in the Day Care building. However, the ultimate goal is to build a top rate museum in which the entire collection can be safely and attractively displayed.

Among the many stressing the importance of a museum were Bill Merrill and Jo Allyn Archanbault, both from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Merrill has "accumulating a collection...it is important that people make an effort to preserve their own culture."

Archanbault stated that the Warm Springs collection is "very important...it's value is important." She advised that Warm Springs should be sure to "get the collection into a first class museum." She added that some of the pieces are "very rare." Speaking of the 74 shup ta kais (rawhide suitcases), Archanbault stated their designs may be used to "rewrite the history" of beadwork. "They're extremely important in unraveling history."

MOIHS has in its possession a deer tail dress that Archanbault described as "very rare and extremely valuable." The deer skin dress features narrow fringes on the bottom hem and the hem of the sleeves. The sleeve fringes feature actual deer tail fur, thus the name of the dress. The yoke is beaded and includes brass thimbles. Archanbault approximated that the dress was made before 1860.

Concluding, Archanbault advised that the Tribe retain the collection "safe in your keeping and not in the hands of collectors...you have a very good collection; make it available to your children, grandchildren and their children."

Verbena Greene explained her feelings about the collection, saying that "these things have been handed down" for many generations. "I'm proud of the display. The people who made these things made them with loving care. They gave it to their children, family and friends. As I walked around in there, it was like living way back there."



A tule mat in the middle of the Longhouse floor was backdrop to many pre-contact era artifacts.



A teepee was set up to display various headdresses, pelts, men's wear and a drum. All exhibits were put together by MOIHS staff.



Shup ta kais, all 74 of them, were displayed. They were described as possibly "providing a history of tribal beadwork."



Jo Allyn Archanbault, director of the Native American Program at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., described some of the artifacts to MOIHS board member Jim Southern.



Rudy Clements was honored at the Longhouse dinner for his many years as board member and chairman. Delbert Frank, Sr. has been appointed acting chairman.



Old-time beadwork features unusually colored beads and a design not often seen on present-day work.



Huckleberry baskets, numbering 116, were lined up on the bleachers for display. The large and small baskets are an important part of the tribal collection.

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