

**Tribal building inspectors ensure quality of construction**

The Public Utilities Department is a large department that has many important responsibilities. Ed Manion, Public Utilities General Manager, oversees 71 employees that serve the Tribe in a multitude of areas. One area that doesn't get a lot of publicity but performs a vital function is the building inspection department.

Ramasurdial Prem Singh, Austin Smith and Tom Estimo have the responsibility of making sure construction projects on the reservation meet exacting specifications, assuring quality buildings.

This summer has been a busy one for the trio. Austin, a journeyman carpenter, and Tom, a student youth worker, are training under Prem, helping ensure that all codes and specifications are met in the construction of the Early Childhood Center and the Tribal Museum.

Both projects, totaling around \$10 million, are progressing at a rapid pace, keeping the three inspectors busy. The ECE center has seven buildings going up simultaneously and the Museum design includes 21 different areas housed inside the structure.

Next year, forty new homes are scheduled to be constructed on the reservation, and there will be approximately forty remodel projects.

"The inspectors provide a service not only to the tribe, but also to individual tribal members," said Manion. "Building codes are tougher here on the reservation and that means individual tribal members are getting a better product for their money, and if it's a tribal project, the Tribe is getting more for their money.... These buildings, a house, or a tribal building, must last for many, many years. The inspectors see to it that quality construction is practiced and everyone benefits in the long run."

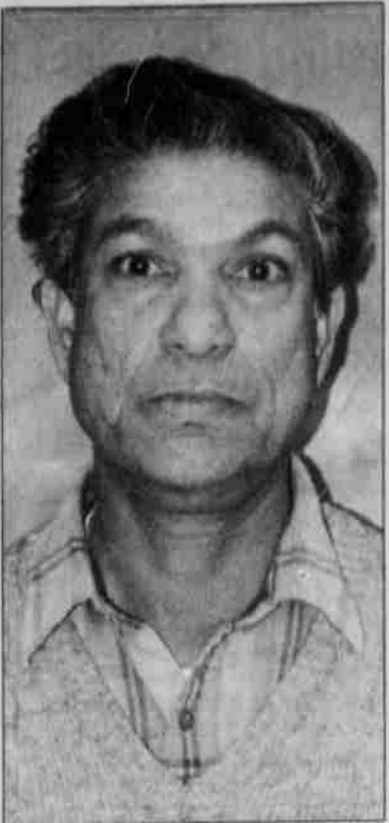
According to Prem, a certified inspector with an engineering background, "We are involved in all

phases of building on the reservation, including assisting tribal members, tribal member contractors, project engineer, Kah-Nee-Ta, BIA Roads, Plant Management and the tribal Construction department. In most cases, we are involved from scratch, art work, concrete, carpentering, heating, cooling and ventilation."

When the work load begins to subside this fall, Austin will take some classes at Chemeketa Community College to complement his training program. Tom will return to

Central Oregon Community College to continue his education. Tom has indicated he might take some classes that would help him in his job when he returns next summer.

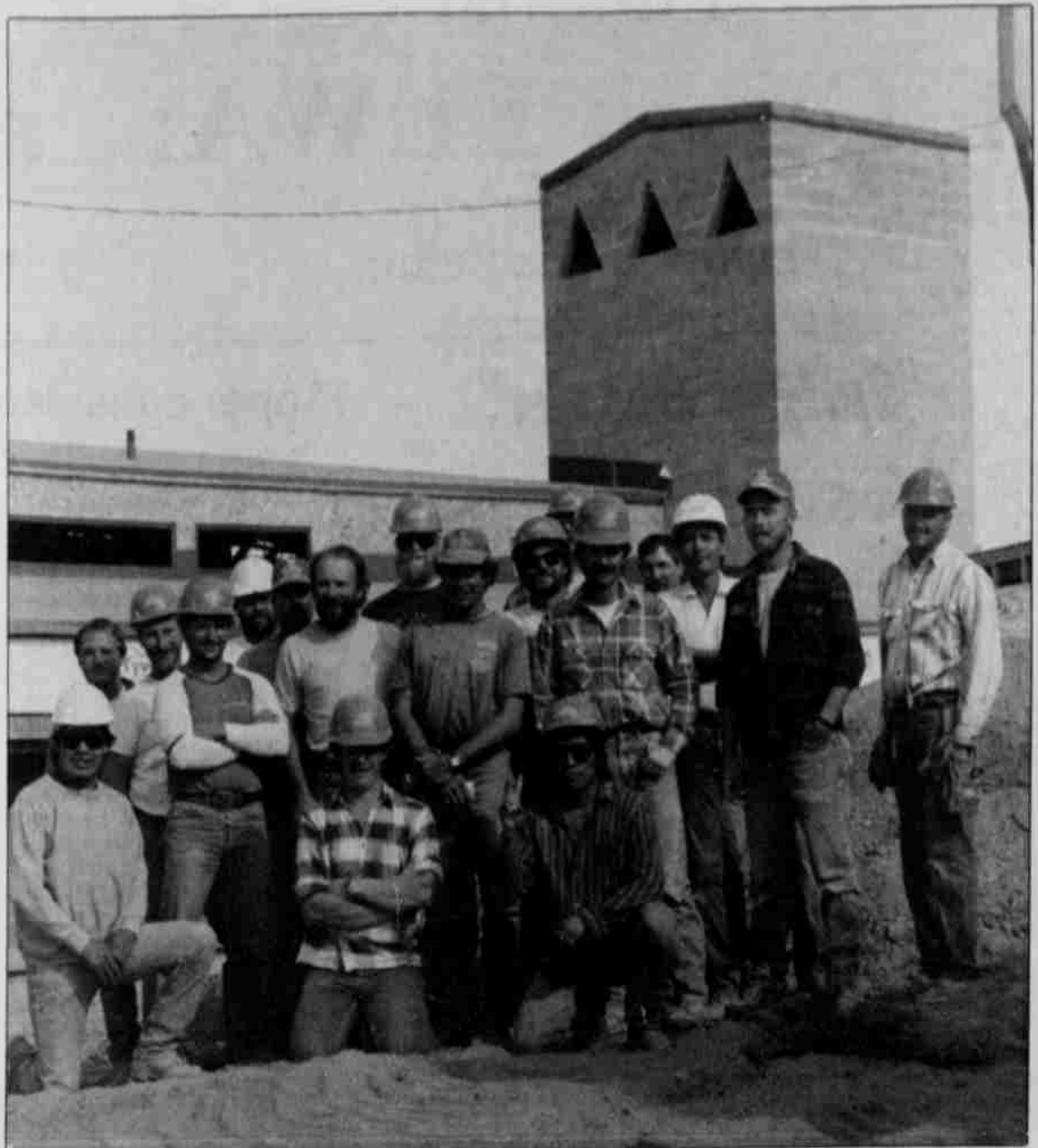
Prem, Austin and Tom have critical jobs that benefit the Tribe and tribal members in many ways. There appears to be no let up in the work load in the near future. According to Manion, permits worth \$10 million have been issued, with another \$7 million on the drawing board.



Ramasurdial Prem Singh



Austin Smith



Construction workers at the Early Childhood Development Center take a break.



Food Commodities Warehouse will be ready for use at the end of December.



The S.M. Anderson crew includes (left to right) Wayne Saunders, Tommie Kalama, Henry O'Rourke and Jerry Polk.



Work continues on the Warm Springs Tribal Museum. Completion date is set for early 1993.



Early Childhood Development Center is expected to be completed mid-year 1992.