

# A Day at the Opera



*Cinderella (far left), sung by mezzo-soprano Marie Bafus, wins the heart of the handsome Prince, tenor Ken Lavigne (below), despite the efforts of the wicked stepsisters and their father played by Esther Moses, Jade Edwards and Virginia Peche (near left) to capture him for themselves.*



## Warm Springs Elementary Treated to Portland Opera's *Cinderella*

Students at Warm Springs Elementary spent an afternoon at the opera last Friday – and never left school. Instead they were visited by members of Portland Opera's artist-in-residence program who staged a fabulous production of *Cinderella*. The performers, recruited nationwide for the opera's educational outreach program, were well-received by students, staff and guests.

With only a few movable sets, minimal costume changes and the accompaniment of the school piano, the young troupe transported the enraptured audience to *Cinderella's* home as well as the Prince's palace.

One of the goals of the outreach program is to introduce opera to students as an entertaining as well as significant art form. Judging from the laughter elicited by the antics of *Cinderella's* jealous step-sisters as well as the hushed attention to *Cinderella's* lovely solo, the troupe succeeded in their goal.

In true fairy tale tradition, both the performance and the school week ended on a happy note.

# Tribal council chairman calls for unity on salmon

*Editor's note: Following is the text of a speech of Olney Patt Jr., chairman of the Warm Springs Tribal Council, given at the Government to Government Summit, Portland State University, in December 2000.*

My fellow Tribal Chairs, Governor Kitzhaber, tribal representatives, agency heads and liaisons, I have the honor to represent the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon at this potentially historic gathering. This is the last such gathering before a legislative session during the term of this Governor. This legislature is less combative and more interested in working together for solutions than any of the last decade. We have a brief moment to combine our energies to work for the long-term solutions to the primary problem of our time and our region.

Of course, I'm talking about real salmon recovery: fish enough to catch, not just to propagate. I'm talking about needed responses to over-use of our natural resources, rural economic development and education initiatives. And I'm talking about the responsibility of all Oregonians to

restore our birthright of salmon-rich streams and not to be deterred and distracted by Measure 7 and limited ideas of property rights.

We approach sesquicentennial of our Treaties with the U.S. The astounding decline of salmon can only be understood by looking at the wealth of our rivers at the time of treaty-making. The Creator gave our people a gift without price; abundant salmon runs that made us as rich as any people in what is now the United States. We didn't need a livability initiative; just follow the plan the Creator set in place for us. When our leaders turned over most of land to the newcomers, they had no idea that this gift would be thrown away. Few than five percent of the salmon return to the rivers today.

Governor, you are well aware of the problem. We applaud you for putting salmon recovery at the top of the agenda. We know you will keep it there despite challenges of Measure 7. This measure is a warning sign that some do not understand the damage they are doing by their land abuses.

At this critical time, the Treaty

Tribes and the States need to partners, not opponents, in salmon recovery. The Columbia River Fish Management Plan works for harvest. The CRFMP just needs to be revised to include production. When it was first put in place it was a model agreement for the entire nation. It can be again. Let us devote ourselves to this improvement and end the need for frequent trips to the federal courthouse.

Even as we do this, we must respond to our depleted natural resources with rural economic development and education initiatives. The real wealth of Oregon is in healthy forests and streams, not in money banked from the destruction of these priceless wonders. With lots of help from our trustee, we made the mistake of converting too many trees into dollars. Today we pay the price with sharply reduced revenues from our forests. Our story is the story of all of Oregon. The sad fact is our losses translate into the need for more economic development. Livability with poverty is still what one-third of our people – and so many rural Oregonians – have to look forward to unless the state gets serious about incentives and education.

The answer lies not in crowding more Oregonians into cities, but in innovative development in rural Oregon. The Warm Springs Tribes continually seek business opportunities on or near our reservation: tourism in the Columbia Gorge, industrial development and energy acquisition near Warm Springs, to name a few. We can work together to see incentives for rural investments enacted in the 2001 Session. We must work together to improve funding for capital improvements to rural schools so that our people can benefit from the jobs we create.

A final point: I urge you, Governor, not to let Measure 7 slow your hand. We opposed Measure 7, and we urge every Tribe to join in stopping it. We agree with you that Measure 7 is not about preventing salmon recovery. Still it opens the door for the greedy to profit from doing what they should do anyway. It is a test of our determination to achieve a return to the way of life all Oregonians have as our birthright. Streams should be full of fish, as they were for so many thousands of years. This is how the Creator made this world. People of

ignorance have injured the streams.

No one gave them the right to do this damage. Our people had no concept of the destructive force of some of the newcomers to our country. Your people could not foresee this in 1855, either. In both of our ancient traditions, owning land has meant taking stewardship for all the people, fish and others who must live there and pass through. Ownership is not a license to bring devastation upon our fellow beings. It is not an entitlement to destroy the way of life, the very livelihood of our neighbors.

Observing this principle is very important to our whole range of property rights under our Treaty and the federal laws that protect these rights. Measure 7 cannot touch the Tribes' Treaty property rights. This is not just about the fish, but about the deer and elk and other game animals that must have a home. Our cultural plants that the Treaty guarantees our gathering are also immune from Measure 7. Huckleberries, camas, and coues are important foods as they have always been. We call upon you, Governor, to help us preserve these resources from greed, as you have been work-

ing to do in the riparian zones. Also, we call upon you to protect our burials and other cultural resources that this process promised two years ago.

At the beginning of this talk, I called this a "potentially historic meeting." The potential lies in our work together in this Legislative session and for the last two years of the Governor's term.

If we work together to restore salmon to harvestable levels ...

If we labor to improve business opportunities in and near Indian Country, with public education funding so that our children may have the skills to benefit from the opportunities ...

If we unite to stop extreme versions of property rights from saving salmon habitat and the homes of other important animals and plants and saving our ancestors and cultural resources on and in the land ... then this government-to-government process and this meeting will prove historic for our people.

Thank you.