

Canoe project afloat and set to finish in September

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

It's hard to miss the project in progress at the Museum at Warm Springs—three replica canoes being built, one of each tribe of the Confederated Tribes.

Joseph Sheppherd, project coordinator for the River Eagle Canoe Project, has been hard at work. With the help of tribal members, the canoes should be completed by September.

"As a non-Indian, my job is very clear," Sheppherd said. "It's to build three model canoes for the museum, teach as many people who are interested the skills that I have acquired, and then step away so that tribal members can take the lead and direct it where they feel it is appropriate for it to go."

Since the beginning of the project, he added, 22 tribal members have helped out.

He has worked directly with some tribal youth and also with some tribal members who were simply passing by and decided to help for a few minutes.

In addition, Sheppherd said, "In that same period of time we've had 800 non-tribal visitors come and not help but wonder what was happening."

Sheppherd spent many years studying and working in Asia, Africa and South America and learned about the canoe-making

process.

According to Sheppherd, "Wherever there were people living beside bodies of water they made canoes, and as a young man I learned from them. Now, as an old man, it is my obligation to pass on what I know to younger generations."

To complete the replicas, Sheppherd constructed blueprints and closely examined whatever existing examples or historical materials he could find.

Sheppherd added, "We also went to professional Indian canoe builders and watched how they made canoes."

Carol Leone, director of the museum, said, "It's been an interesting project, and it's funded by some grants."

Besides an Oregon Heritage Commission Grant, there are also private supporters like the Pendleton Woolen Mills, Anderson Construction, and some in-kind donations from Warm Springs Forest Products.

According to Leone, "One of the interesting things is that the museum's current exhibit does talk about fishing but it doesn't really refer anywhere specifically to the canoe traditions of the Warm Springs and Wasco people."

Now, Leone added, they are hoping that the replicas will help extend that discussion.

With an upcoming exhibit

about Celilo Falls, she said, there will be "a whole discussion of the so-called control of the Columbia River. The canoes will be outside the museum as part of that whole thing."

While those involved have made a lot of progress, the project is far from over.

They hope to get red cedar logs to build dugout canoes that are traditional for tribes in this area.

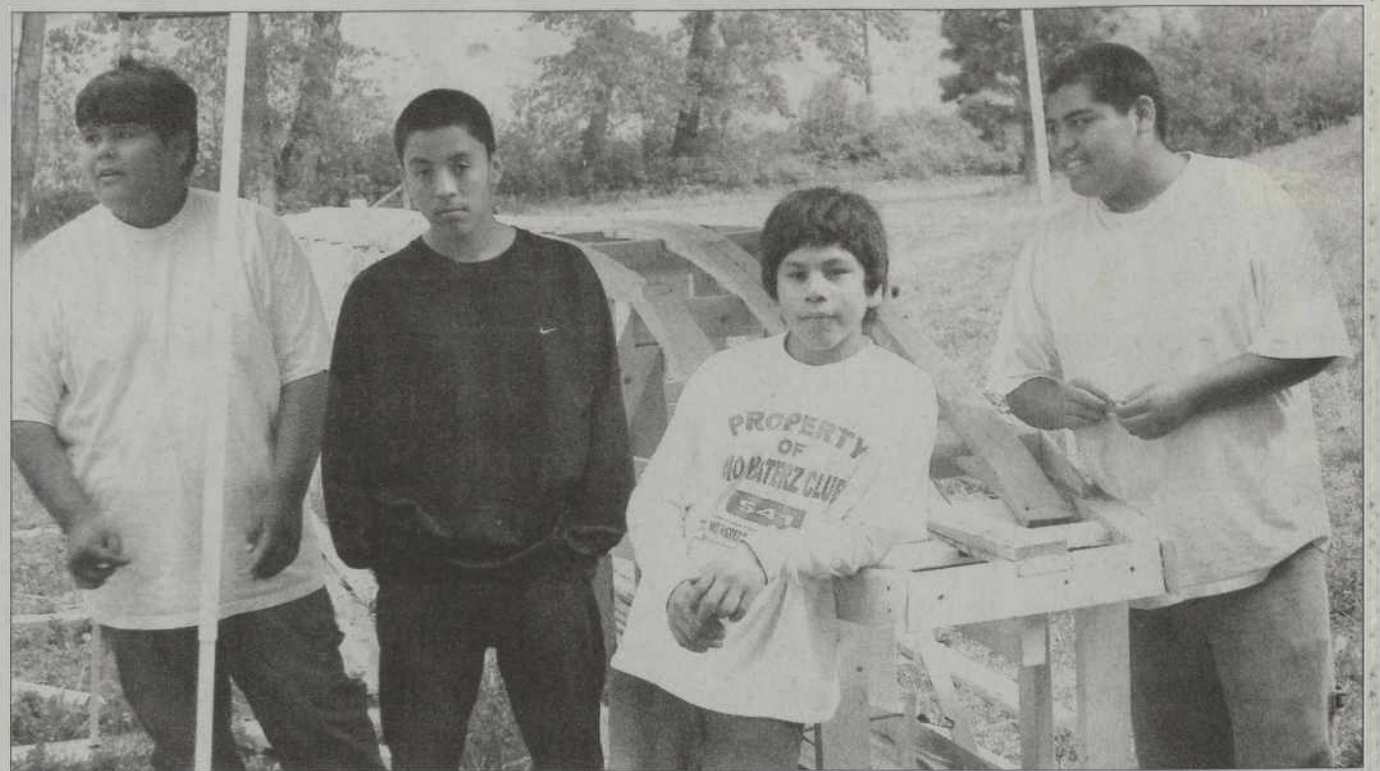
Leone said, "There's much further work to be done. It will completely go to tribal members when we are able to obtain the red cedar logs for the dugouts."

"People who know how to do that in the traditional way will come to the museum and do it that way," Leone said. "There are some who do have those skills already or who have family members who have some of those skills."

After that, the canoes will be turned over to canoe families.

"We want to emphasize that this is only the first phase. We're building replicas that are going to be used as an additional enticement," Leone said. "The next phase is bringing in the logs and bringing in experts. Hopefully the canoe families will then get going on their own."

At this stage of the project, Sheppherd said more than 1,200 hours have been spent on the replicas.



Since the beginning of the project, 22 tribal members have lent a helping hand—like the high school students pictured above. According to Sheppherd, part of the River Eagle Canoe project aims "to catch up with the other tribes of the Pacific Northwest in the construction of wood and fiberglass replicas for racing and the annual canoe journey which unites all of the Pacific Northwest tribes in an event that brings together 5,000 Indians and hundreds of canoes from scores of reservations." This year the journey will take place on July 31 on Lake Washington, near Seattle.

Little League junior team at regional

The Jefferson County Little League Junior Team has played a remarkable season. The team this week is competing in the Western regional tournament, held in Beaverton.

The Jefferson County Little League Junior Team reached the regional tournament after sweeping the state tournament in LaPine.

Winners at the regional tournaments then play in the semi-finals, followed by the Junior League World Series Championship Game.

Local youth on the Jefferson County team, representing Oregon, include Tyrell Smith, Trevor Suppah, Martin Brown, Rodney Smith and Spencer Ellsbury.

The team manager is Bob Gill, who works in the tribes' Forestry Department. Coaches are Doug Calvin and Doug Jackson.

The team was scheduled on Tuesday of this week to play its opening regional tournament game against Northern California. On Wednesday their opponent was the host team of

Beaverton, followed on Thursday, August 3, by Southern California.

On Friday, no game is scheduled for Oregon, then on Saturday the game is Oregon vs. Montana. On Sunday no game is scheduled, and then on Monday the game is Oregon vs. Arizona.

The semi-finals begin on Wednesday, August 9.

The regional tournament is being played at the Tualatin Valley Parks and Recreation District.

Camp Sap-Si-Kwat next week at park

Camp Sap-Si-Kwat will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, August 7-11 at Elmer Quinn Memorial Park.

The camp is a fun time for families and children, youth and elders. The camp features arts, crafts and culture. Continental

breakfast and lunch provided.

For information call Char Herkshan at 553-3205.

Twenty-five years ago this week

From the July 30, 1981 edition of the Spilyay Tymoo.

The question of whether or not Simnasho school warrants the expenditure of \$46,000 of the 509-J district budget was again presented to the school board.

There had been some apprehension among many Warm Springs and Simnasho residents that the small rural school would be axed from the budget. Now it appears the school has again survived the 509-J budget axe.

Several members of the Madras community expressed their belief that the Simnasho

school was too expensive to operate. In other news:

Who would ever believe that a young man, just out of school, who was hired as a temporary clerk/typist in Washington, D.C. would, in 18 years, end up a superintendent on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

That's exactly what Meritt Youngdeer, an Eastern Cherokee from North Carolina, Warm Springs' newest superintendent, did. And elsewhere:

Hired earlier this spring to head up the newly formed Justice Branch for the Confederated Tribes is Dick Burton. The

new branch was formed following the completion of a task force study conducted in 1979 entitled "A Need for Reform."

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Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, August 11. Thank you.

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