

Wood worker brings skill, care to casket service

By George Aguilar Sr.

In 1944, I began learning the wood working skill at the Warm Springs Boarding School and Chemawa Indian School. In 1948, I start wood working in Alaska using hand carving tools. My uncle-in-law Andrew Mather used these old tools in carving totem poles for the city of Wrangell, Alaska.

In 1956, I furthered my experience in wood working, constructing kitchen cabinets for the Tribal Construction Department.

In 1956 a special request was made from the then-102 year old Chief Tommy Thompson of the Celilo Wyampums to construct a cedar casket. I played a small part with the construction of the casket. From that time on I constructed all caskets for the Rez...

In the early 1960s I became the Construction and Maintenance Department's manager. I resigned in 1968. I spent several years in the state of Oregon as a union affiliated journeyman carpenter. I became a licensed and bonded residential and commercial builder, to pursue construction projects.

Being in the building business and working with wood from my youth, I am now launching a small casket construction business that features hand-carved, affordable and personalized caskets.

Funerals are the most expensive purchases many of our people of Warm Springs will ever experience. Grieving family and friends, when under great emotional stress, are confronted with many decisions that need to be made quickly for a loved



George Aguilar Sr. with casket and items of adornment.

one's funeral arrangements.

I am now offering the construction of burial caskets utilizing a Native American approach to your casket needs. I will offer you savings on costs of the casket which only a small manufacturer can make. My hand-crafted pine or cedar caskets will convey the Native American and traditional customs of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Growing up and knowing the older families of warm Springs I will be working with, as craftsman I have committed myself to help ease your planning and decision making concerning the loss of a family loved one by saving you a bundle of bucks.

1. A simple standard size pine casket can be constructed and

delivered in about six to eight hours.

2. Five casket sizes will be available: standard, large, extra large, young person and an infant size.

3. Outer boxes can be made on request for an additional cost per unit.

4. The introduced Wasco cedar wood casket is also being offered. This uniquely designed casket will be stained jet black or pale blue (traditional canoe colors) on the outside, and knook knook resembled red stain Wasco face paint on the inside. The logo of a Chinook salmon is attached on the ends and a cedar carved canoe paddle on the top... The mentioned color combination was used on canoes of the Kiksht people

With no paint or preservative chemicals applied to the wood, the cedar casket is designed to be an environmentally friendly unit.

(Wasco) many snow melts ago.

Casket dimensions:
Standard: 24"x78"x16" deep.
X-large: 28"x80"x18" deep.
XX-large: 32"x80"x20" deep.
Young person: 18"x54"x12" deep.
Infant: 12"x30"x10" deep.
Price of product as listed:
1. Simple pine casket natural: \$750.
2. Cedar tight knot natural:

- \$750.
3. Cedar premium clear natural: \$1,000.
4. Cedar tight knot Wasco canoe paint colors, Chinook salmon logo, and canoe paddle: \$900.
5. Young person is pine or tight knot cedar: \$600.
6. Infant, pine or tight knot cedar: \$400.
7. Outer box: \$200.
8. Standard size—X-large—XX large—all the same price as per above listing.

At the time of this writing I have five caskets on inventory, including the special Wasco unit. Special logos can be made and attached of your choosing like a basketball, guitar, cowboy hats, horse, eagle feather, or how about the outline of the Rez? The possibilities are many.

Special note

The cedar casket is by far the lightest in weight at approximately 80 to 100 pounds. With no paint or preservative chemicals applied to the wood, it is designed to be an environmentally friendly unit.

Further saving can be had by not using or purchasing an outer box. The use of the cedar casket will not need an outer box. The older generation did not use an outer box. The use of an outer box began during the 1950s when the local people purchased steel caskets.

The phone number is 541-553-3047. If not available, prompt response will be available by contacting Easton or Tina Aguilar.

Respectfully,
George W. Aguilar Sr.

More Letters to the Editor

Powwow

The Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee would like to thank the following for their sponsorships, donations, and contributions to the success of the powwow:

Confederated Tribes of Warm Sprigs Reservation, Warm Springs Police Department, Fire & Safety, Natural Resources, Credit Board, Three Warriors Market, KWSO, Kah-Nee-Ta Reservations—Krysta Rhoan, King Mountain Tobacco—Jode Goudy, Round Dance Coordinators—Carlos Calica and Checks Boise, Lupita Tohet family, Miss Warm Springs Tamera Moody, Luther Clements, J.R. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Sal Sahme, Gilbert Brown, Jabbar Davis, Simnasho Mayor-Captain Moody, Oliver Kirk, Cena Wolfe, Atcitty Begay, Preston Tom, as well as the Dancers, Drummers and Powwow fans; without you we could not of done it.

We look forward to next year.

Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee.

Great time

I would like to thank everyone for the privilege of represent the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow. I had a blast traveling, meeting new people, it was a great stepping stone in life.

I would also like to thank the young ladies who participated in my teen girls fancy out going queen special...Winners:

1st place: Katrina Blackwolf: Toppenish, Wash.: Jacket cash, pendelton blanket, plumes.

2nd: Persia Salome: Tuba City, Ariz.: Jacket, cash, blanket, plumes.

3rd: Destiny Summers, Kla-

math Falls: Jacket, cash, blanket.

Thank you to Irene Onepennee for helping me with judging... And thank you to my uncle Miko Polk and family for helping with the jackets... And Droopy (Sena Polk) and family, Anna Polk-Lopez and family... Also my grama and grampa (Alex and Phyllis Tohet) for helping with the supply water and chips at the Round Dance on Thursday.. It felt good to offer these to my people. I enjoyed the smiles of appreciation for the offer, very hart warming.

I would also like to thank my mom and dad Chet Tias for the support and encouragement throughout the year. I had fun traveling to powwows. And just being there for me.

Thank you.

Shum-Ing-Wash. Pita Tohet.

1st birthday



Happy 1st Birthday to our Lucky Charm, Romeo Rain Whitefoot, on March 17, 2011.
We love you. Mom and Dad.

Salmon plan

My name is Terry Courtney Jr. I am a platform fisherman and I am very concerned about what salmon recovery really is. I've done over 10 years of studying the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.

I firmly believe that it is being operated out of compliance with the original intent for the people of this reservation.

Too many times our fishermen couldn't fish at Sherars Falls because of the low returns of the wild salmon.

There used to be about 2,500 or more salmon before the hatchery was built.

Now the wild salmon count is between 400 and 650. But there are over 2,000 or more hatchery fish that are being used for non-tribal fisheries.

Our elders used to gaff and spear salmon above the hatchery site. I did some gaffing in 1961 and 1962.

I have a good plan that can bring back the salmon, but it will take between six and ten years, maybe sooner.

Native Thunder



Native Thunder team members: Jake Suppah, Chasan Walker, Gilbert Tsatoke, Jack Frantz, Vernon Suppah, Delbert Bishop, Byron Kill, and Adam Parker

Our basketball team Native Thunder took third place at the Camp Verde, Ariz., tourney.

A special thanks to my brothers Wolf (Vernon)

The salmon need all of us tribal people to protect and preserve them for the future generations.

Thank you.
Awees.

Awareness Proclamation

(The following item was submitted by the Warm Springs Victims of Crime Office.)

State of Oregon Proclamation from the Office of the Governor:

Whereas, Sexual Violence affects Oregonians every day, whether as a survivor or as a family member, friend, partner, neighbor, employer or co-worker of a survivor; and,

Whereas it is estimated

that one out of six adult women in Oregon has been the victim of forcible rape sometime in her lifetime; and,

Whereas, it is important to recognize that sexual violence is preventable; and

Whereas it is important to encourage healthy, non-violent interactions and relationships and un-do social norms that allow for and promote sexual violence; and

Whereas every individual

and community in Oregon has the ability to help eliminate sexual violence by working together to promote social change;

Now therefore I, John A. Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim April 2011 to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Oregon, and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

TeleCo Corner Office remodel to start soon

by Marsha Spellman
Marketing & Regulatory
Director, WSTC

In the next couple of months, like our spring flowers, you will start seeing signs that the new telecom company is starting to bloom.

One of the first signs will be the remodeling of a building that will become our new headquarters. We will be using the space next to the Warm Springs Construction department. The building previously housed the old garment assembly factory.

We have hired an architectural firm, Steele Architects, from Bend. They are in the process of drawing up the plans to remodel this building to be purpose-built for a telecommunications operation. They have also hired a Bend contractor that will build out the plans. Steele Architects is working with us to give design ideas for the best way to remodel this building. Pretty soon, we will have a newly refurbished building that will be the home of the Warm Springs Telecommunications Company.

The building will be divided into two parts. One half will be the "central office." The second half will house all the customer service needs, as well as the offices of the management of the company. Both parts are critical for the company to function.

The "central office" (CO) is the term used in the telecom industry to describe the area that houses the technology that is necessary to run the network. The switch is the main piece of equipment that will be in the CO. The switch is essentially the brains of the network. Without a switch, we would have a network that has a line going from one phone to every phone... Like a tin can and string.

Remember the old TV shows, Lily Tomlin was the operator who manually used wires to switch the calls from one person to another? The switch of today, called a soft-switch, is a relative small piece of equipment. This will enable us to not only switch your calls, but offer you features that you don't have now.

Since the switch is the key ingredient that makes the entire company work, it needs its own room. A clean room, with air conditioning, standby power and other features, is really important.

In addition, since we will be providing additional equipment, both for the network as well as for the customer, the CO will store equipment, be a space for repairing equipment, and will be the offices for the Operations Manager and other technical staff.

The other half of the building will be for customer service and management offices.

Please see **TeleCo** on 10