

FIRST RESTORATION CELEBRATION A BIG SUCCESS!!!

If you were one of the 1,000 plus that attended our first Restoration Celebration, October 6, 1984, in Grand Ronde, OR, you are probably still able to hear the beat of the seven drums who came to our pow-wow; or still taste the delicious fry bread, baked salmon, and Desserts that were served at the St. Michael's cafeteria after the procession of speakers and presenters that preceded the feast!!

It was awesome, wasn't it????

Our keynote speaker, U.S. Representative Les AuCoin, was right on time and had some special words of praise in regards to the accomplishments of this Tribe. After his presentation of the framed and mounted Restoration Bill to the Tribe, he was given a resounding, standing ovation as he left the crowded hall to continue on his campaign trail. Everyone certainly was most appreciative of his taking the time to come to be with us and to share this first celebration of our restoration, of which he was an important participant!!!

As expected, the gifts ran out before the names of all those who assisted in this great effort but, we did the best we could and vowed to plan better for next year. Of those who were given gifts were: Sen. Dell Isham; Area Director, Portland Bureau of Indian Affairs: Stan Speaks; John Weddell, Tribal Operations, B.I.A.; Judge Carl Francis, Dayton, OR.; Elizabeth Furse, Gary Forrester, Sande Schmidt and Stephanie Richards, all of Native American Program, Oregon Legal Services, Portland, OR.; Dr. Barbara Lane, our Tribal Historian, Victoria, B.C.; Gordon MacPherson, Atty., Newport, OR. Barbara Millikan, of Statesman Journal, Salem; and Phyllis Turner, Sheridan Sun, who was honored later in the p.m. at the pow wow; Anna & Rudy Clements, Warm Springs, OR.; Dee Pigsley, Chair. of Siletz Tribal Council; Pauline Ricks, Treas./Affiliated Tribes of N.W. Indians, and, of course, Rep. Les AuCoin and Sen. Mark Hatfield who was unable to attend.

Many gifts were bestowed upon the Grand Ronde Tribe, also, in the spirit of this occasion such as: the beautiful framed R. Bill from U.S. Rep. AuCoin; a very old bound ledger on Grand Ronde B.I.A. employees, from Stan Speaks of B.I.A.; the maps and information gathered and used for our R. Bill from Dr. Lane; A lovely green foliage plant from Delbert Frank, Pres. & Pauline Ricks, treas. of Affiliated Tribes of N.W. Indians; and, a colorful group of helium-filled balloons saying "Congratulations!" from Kathy Corospe, Exec. Officer of Commission on Indian Services. Suzanne Harjo, Exec. Dir. of National Congress of American Indians, Wash. D.C. sent a Congratulations via Mailgram, and, Cindy Darcy of Friends Committee on Nat'l Legislation, Wash. D.C. sent the same via letter.

Following the feast which everyone agreed was so tasty, it was on to the pow-wow! The impressive Grand Entry led by the visiting tribal royalty from many tribes was a mass of color and pageantry as dancers wound their way as followed the procession into and filling the Grand Ronde Elem. School gym. Gifts, again, were exchanged, like Potlatches of old, as the dancing and drumming continued on into the nite, with the voice of M.C. Les Thomas calling out the names of those being honored or the drum to be used. It was, indeed, a nite of celebration and everyone came to participate in every way.

So, as the last song was sung and Rudy Clements took the mike to announce the Honor Dance for the Grand Ronde Interim Council, it was a reminder of the reason for our being and how this event had begun earlier, with the Seven Drum sacred ceremony from the Warm Springs Tribe. It was a reminder that, not only had we gathered to share our food and goodwill towards one another, but, also, to give thanks to our Creator for all blessings bestowed upon us, especially during this past year.