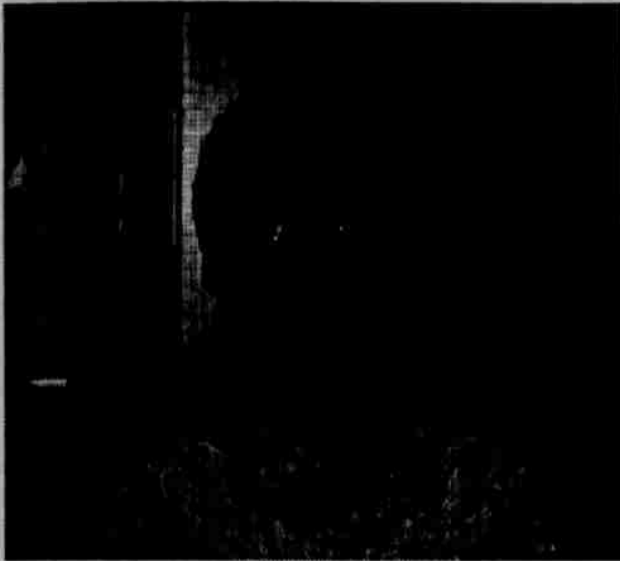


Tribal Elder's feature - Wilmadene Butler



Wilma Butler

By Brent Merrill

A chat with Tribal elder Wilma "Tuff" Butler is like taking a gallop down memory lane. Her eyes sparkle as she gives you a mischievous grin and begins to tell you about her childhood.

"I was born February 20th, 1934 in Grand Ronde and my parents were Amanda and Andrew Riggs. My mother's maiden name was Jeffrey," said Wilma. Her grandfather was Solomon Riggs who was the last Chief of the Umpqua Tribe. Her grandmother was Jane Riggs.

Wilma was the youngest of 21 children in her family. "There are only two of us left out of all of us. I have a sister living in Tumwater, Washington, her name is Emma Summerlin."

Wilma recalls her childhood as being care free. "I can remember when I went to school my oldest brother John would walk me across the trestle bridge because he didn't want me to fall into the river. He would always come to get me when school was out." She said she would hop a train when she got older. "Sometimes I would ride the railroad train with Bill Lentz and Johnny McPherson. They would stop the train and pick me up and then let me off on the other side." She also remem-

bers having fun picking wild flowers and strawberries and they would peel chitum and take it home.

When asked about her mother she smiles and put her crochet needles down and begins to reminisce. "My mom was a quiet person, she did a lot of baking and made a lot of quilts. She took care of her family. She remembers her father as being a good man. "He was sweet. Anywhere I wanted to go he would take me because I was his baby. I was the youngest and I was spoiled." Wilma recalls only one spanking in her life but, she doesn't remember what she did to deserve it. "It must have been something bad."

As you listen to Wilma talk about her childhood you can understand why she always sports that mischievous smile of hers. "I remember one time my mom was washing on the back porch and she had bought a bushel of peaches. I wanted one and I had my eye of this big, beautiful one but she said I couldn't have it. So, I stuck my hand right through the wringer on the wash bucket. I got my peach!"

When Wilma was 20 years old she met her husband Jim Butler. They have a daughter Cindy and they currently reside in Monmouth. Wilma said that her family started getting involved with the happenings in Grand Ronde about the same time as the Pow-Wows began. "We would come and help out at the celebrations and then I got involved with the Cemetery Committee and the Pow-Wow Committee," said Wilma. "I'm still on the Pow-Wow Committee and I really enjoyed working on the Tribal Council." Wilma served on the Council during a few months in 1990 and was grateful for the experience. "We had a lot of tough decisions to make when I was on the Council but I always did what I felt was right in my heart."

Wilma would like to see more Tribal members get involved in the committees and make more of an effort to see what's going on with Tribal operations. "Then they would be able to see what it's really all about."

Wilma talks very proudly of her heritage and is happy to have found a place among her people.



Photo by Brent Merrill

Corbin Harney, a Spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone Nation, visited Grand Ronde earlier this year.

Video Review - "To Protect Mother Earth"

By Brent Merrill

After viewing Joel Freedman's powerful film "To Protect Mother Earth - Broken Treaty II", it's very easy to become emotional and disenchanted with the United States Government. From the tranquil opening scene that shows the beauty of a lone wolf and wild horses to the disturbing conclusion at the nuclear weapons test site in Mercury, Nevada "Broken Treaty II" takes the viewer on a cultural journey of disappointment, injustice and stunning reality.

Robert Redford's narration of "Broken Treaty II" adds credibility to a film that is laden with visual impacts and provocative insights into the people of the Western Shoshone Nation.

The film details the story of the Dann sisters Mary and Carrie. The Dann's are fighting the United States government to keep from having their home land taken from them and to stop the nuclear weapons testing currently being practiced in Nevada by our government. Freedman's film is the sequel to his first account of the Shoshone's ongoing battle with the government entitled "Broken Treaty of Battle Mountain."

The issue first came to the attention of the nation when the Bureau of Land Management notified the Dann sisters that they were trespassing on the land that had been in their family for five generations. The film focuses on the Dann's fight with the government and follows them to the United States Supreme Court where they argue that the land was legally retained by the Shoshones in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. Corbin Harney, the spiritual leader of the Shoshone Nation, is also showcased. Harney, recently toured the Grand Ronde Reservation.

It became clear that treaties signed by the government with Tribes were meant to be broken and this is just another case of another broken treaty. Freedman's film separates this case from others with brilliant insights into the lives and cultural practices of the Shoshones. The film brings to life to the strength and determination shown by the Dann sisters on behalf of their people. A portrait of these people is created that shows their courage, sense of history and their conviction to protect their sacred Mother Earth.

By taking the time to witness this film for yourself you will be enlightened on this true American tragedy. See it for yourself and make your own judgments.

This video was recently purchased by the Tribe's Economic Development Program and is available to be checked out. Contact Mitch Conley at the Forestry Office for further information.



Fish & Wildlife Library - Book Review All Season Hunting - By Bob Gilsvik

By Brent Merrill

The Tribal Fish and Wildlife Program recently purchased a copy of Bob Gilsvik's "All Season Hunting, A Guide to Early Season, Late Season and Winter Hunting in America," for the Fish and Wildlife Library.

Gilsvik's book details how many hunter's miss out on hunting time they could be enjoying because they only go out on opening weekend. Gilsvik believes that despite the fact that there are less animals to be hunted after the opening weekend slaughter, the best hunting can take place. Kills are more demanding after the opening days but, the results, according to Gilsvik, can be more satisfying.

Gilsvik writes in his book that by hunting in the late season an avid hunter will sharpen their skills and make themselves better all-around hunters. This book will help you develop a better understanding of game animals through the detailing of their habits, preferences and adaptations to different environmental conditions. Hunting later in the season calls for special preparations that are not needed early in the season. "All Season Hunting" details those preparations that you will need to be aware of for a successful hunt.

This information packed guide devotes special chapters that outlines the different game animals available during the winter hunting seasons. Grouse, pheasants, squirrels, rabbits and deer are discussed as well as hunting in different weather conditions. The book also goes into detail about the types of clothing needed when hunting during the winter months.

Bob Gilsvik is a free-lance writer who concentrates on outdoor issues for both books and magazines. "All season Hunting" is published by Stoeger Publishing Company and is part of the Stoeger Sportsman's Library.