

Elders' quilt, cultural items on display at Pow-wow

Cultural Resources staff, members of the Culture Board, and members of *Seekers* worked together to provide a variety of culture materials for the public during the Tribe's Pow-wow celebration. Tony Johnson provided visitors to the booth a Chinook Jargon interactive, and some illustration of old tribal photographs were on display for people to try to identify. Old inkwells excavated from the Cloverleaf School site and a glass plate made from the east windows of the school helped tell its story. Also available for public comment was the initial draft for the proposed Cultural Center/Museum.

But the unveiling of the two Elders' quilts was the biggest hit at the cultural booth. Made by Elders, the historical quilts express our common tribal history and family descendency. These quilts will be the property of the Tribe and will hang on display for all tribal members to enjoy. It is not too late for tribal Elders to participate in this project. If you would like to have photographs of your ancestors on the quilt, contact June Olson.

A number of items were donated to *Seekers*, and raffled during the Pow-wow. A handmade buckskin dress made by Josephine Dreyer; various home made jams and syrups made from traditional native berries by Janet Lyon; belt buckles donated by Christine Contreras; a contemporary Native mask by Wesley West; and a camas digging stick from Dave Suderman.

Raffle winners were: Barbara Feehan, Don Day, Dave Suderman, Carla Hill, Lea Chulik, Mary Loy, Marie Schmidt, Edith Frank, Cookie Jensen, Julie Goad, Crystal Miller, Emma Sell, Karen Hardy, Michael Martin, June Sherer, Carla Dieter, Matt White, Kathleen Feehan, Melissa T. Johnson, June Olson, and Ken Gregg. Winners who have not



picked up their prizes may call Cultural Resources at 1-800-422-0232 or (503) 879-2249.

A special thanks to: Jeff Nepstad, Bear Robertson, and Randy Butler, Jr. from Natural Resources for cutting poles and building the arbor/structure; Frank and Joe Hostler for getting Evergreen boughs and transporting tables and chairs to the booth; Thomas, Tana, and Tamara Ainsworth and others for set-up, clean-up, and organizing displays.

Seekers is a community-based group interested in identifying and collecting tribal information and genealogy. Their primary objective is to help the cultural revitalization process by sharing information they obtain.

Cultural Protection staff works on regaining possession of our people's remains and items that are in university and museum collections all over the world. They also work to assure that burial and village sites are protected from disturbance and are appropriately managed according to federal laws.

Kwelth Tahlkie Culture and Heritage Board was created to help preserve and perpetuate the culture and heritage of peoples who came here or were brought to the Grand Ronde Reservation. The Board helps to educate the general public, or those individuals who want to know more about the history and contributions of the tribes that make up the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

Kalapuya baskets tell tribal story

By Oscar Johnson

A Grand Ronde official and Yakama basket weaver last month joined in honoring Northwest Native tradition and heritage while punctuating the region's indigenous struggle for survival as part of a opening ceremony for the Hillsboro Central Transit Center.

"My main message is to let you know that we are not gone. We are still here and will be here throughout time immemorial," proclaimed Grand Ronde Council Chairwoman, Kathryn Harrison, in her opening remarks to the mostly non-Indian crowd gathered at Hillsboro's new southeast 3rd street depot. "I can almost hear the drums and voices of my people nearby."

Harrison and Yakama traditional basket weaver, Sophie George, were among many speakers and artists on hand for the unveiling of the new light rail depot bedecked with bronze figures, archival photos and historic quotes representing the ethnic diversity of Washington County's pioneer heritage.

Additional representations included members from area Hispanic, European and Japanese American communities such as George Iwasaki, whose family, despite their prominent achievements as members of the Hillsboro community, were disrupted during World War II when many Japanese Americans were imprisoned by the U.S. government in internment camps.

Grand Ronde Kwelth Tahlkie Culture Board members Marie Schmidt and Tony Johnson, as well as respected members of the Yakima Tribe were also on hand for the event. Johnson, also the

Tribe's curator and language specialist, addressed the audience both in English and Chinook Jargon.

George, who earlier this year taught traditional Northwest Indian basket weaving to Grand Ronde tribal members, reproduced two traditional Kalapuya baskets that were used in casting the bronze replicas now on permanent display at the transit center.

Emotionally moved by what she considered long overdue acknowledgment of Northwest Native peoples, George told the crowd that "constructing the basket was like going back in time and reading the minds of the people to see how it was done."

She said it took her three attempts to reproduce the burden and seed-fan baskets once used by the Kalapuya peoples to harvest seeds such as camas. She painstakingly reproduced them from photos of original baskets that were collected by a Kentucky minister in the late 1870s and are now on display in London's British Museum.

Entitled "Niches," the new exhibit is part of the Art on Westside MAX project which incorporates more than 100 works in 20 different transit stations spanning from Portland's Civic Stadium to Hillsboro.

The Tri-Met-sponsored project brought artists, architects, engineers and community members together to collaborate on the theme of a local peoples history and will also include a Grand Opening Celebration at four different westside stations as well as free MAX and bus rides Sept. 12 and 13.

However, for Grand Ronde tribal members the



Artist Sophie George (with daughter Ida) and the bronze replica of her Kalapuya basket.

event is more than a chance to celebrate the opening of 33 miles of MAX track from Gresham to Hillsboro. As both Harrison and George indicated, it is a chance for Grand Ronde and all Northwest tribes to hear — not just history — but their story.

"The hopes and dreams of our people were woven into those baskets," Harrison said. "You won't find it in the history books. It's passed down from generation to generation."