

DR. COLL.
E
78
.06
S66
October
15, 1999

CHASTA
UMPQUA
MOLALLA
KALAPUYA
ROGUE RIVER

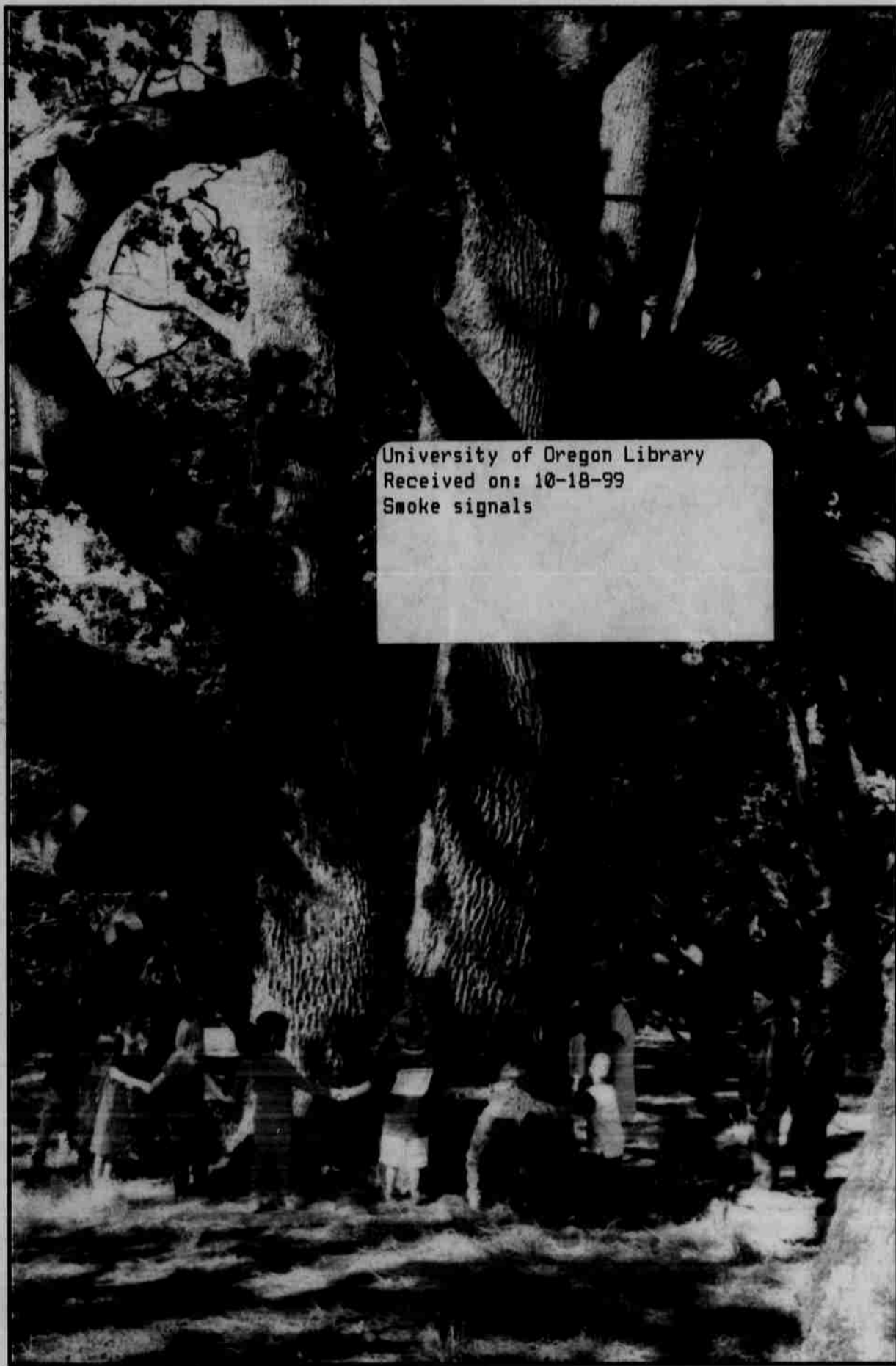
SMOKE SIGNALS



A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

October 15, 1999

Oregon Garden in Silverton receives Community Fund grant



University of Oregon Library
Received on: 10-18-99
Smoke signals

HOW MANY PRE-SCHOOLERS DOES IT TAKE TO FIT AROUND A 400-YEAR-OLD OAK TREE?

The answer, it would seem, is the same number of tribal children enrolled at Twah Sunchako. They made a field trip to the Oregon Gardens the day the Community Fund grant was awarded.

Photo by Tracy Dugan

The Grand Ronde Tribe has committed a gift of \$266,000 from its Spirit Mountain Community Fund to the Oregon Garden Foundation for restoration and preservation of a spectacular 25-acre stand of native Oregon White Oak trees located on the grounds of the Oregon Garden in Silverton. A traditional Willamette Valley ecosystem dating back hundreds of years, this grove represents the rapid disappearing stands of its type around the region. A majority of the trees are between 250-300 years old and include the Garden's "Signature Oak," a massive tree estimated to be more than 400 years old.

Spirit Mountain's gift will be used to preserve the trees for future generations and, in essence, will turn the clock back to a time that pre-dates the arrival of European explorers and pioneers. Invasive plants such as blackberries, ivy and scotch broom will be replaced with a more natural understory, and the creation of nondestructive trails and educational signage will encourage visitors to experience and learn about this rare treasure.

"Our people believe that all living things are related," says Kathryn Harrison, Tribal Chair and Community Fund Trustee. She adds that the Tribe is deeply honored to be able to protect these ancient trees and restore this portion of the Grand Ronde homeland to the way it looked to Native Americans for centuries.

"It will be very exciting to see the project actually finalized," said Ed Pearsall, Chair of the Community Fund and Tribal Council member. "The Oak Grove will look like it did well before any European settlement took place in the area," he said.

Jack Long, president of the Oregon Garden Foundation, expressed appreciation for the contribution. "The Oak Grove is a spectacular natural element that will distinguish the Oregon Garden from any other garden in the world. The Oregon Garden Foundation is honored that the Spirit Mountain Community Fund is joining us in the stewardship of this unique feature of the Garden," Long said.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund was established in 1997, as a way of continuing tribal traditions of sharing and giving back. Each year, the Community Fund receives six percent of the profits from Spirit Mountain Casino. The funds are used throughout the Northwest Region to provide financial assistance to a variety of community and educational organizations and environmental causes, particularly in the area of the watershed restoration. Other recent recipients of grants from the Spirit Mountain Fund include Life Flight, OMSI, Willamette University, Raphael House and the Perry Center for Children.

The Oregon Garden is a world-class botanical display garden and major tourist destination under construction in Silverton. The Garden will showcase Oregon's rich botanical and horticultural heritage and will serve as an education and research resource for home and commercial gardening. The Oregon Garden Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization formed to develop the Oregon Garden as a joint venture with the city of Silverton.

Construction of the Garden's 60-acre Phase One is well under way, with the Preview Season planned for the year 2000. Phase One will include major formal gardens, arboretum settings, natural wetlands, water gardens, acres of forest, an event pavilion, amphitheater and visitor education center, as well as the oak grove. The Oregon Garden ultimately will grow to encompass 240 acres.



Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
Community of Oregon
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALEM, OR
PERMIT NO. 178

Fox, James (Special Coll.)
Knight Library, UofO
Eugene OR 97403