

Tribal Youth, Gary Guzman and Raymond Duran Experience The Big Apple

Interns continued from front page

the museum scientists and staff. They studied the geology of the New York area and represented the Tribe by answering questions that the museum's patrons had. It was a lot like being in school, one of the interns later said.

"I think they did a great job representing the Tribe," said Harmon. "And there were some pretty tough questions asked of them. But the boys did great."

When they weren't working, the interns got to check out the sights. They went with a group of New York kids who were also involved with the Museum. They went to Times Square, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and Coney Island.

The biggest difference between Grand Ronde kids and New York City Kids?

"We were more loose," said Harmon. "Not as serious, almost

carefree. We went to Coney Island and rode the roller coasters and we were all screaming and yelling and having fun and the New York kids were like 'oh, my, god, I'm so scared,' and they just sat there. We were definitely more laid back."

The interns also got a chance to share their culture and heritage with the other kids.

"A lot of people don't know about Indians," said Sohappy. "Or what they do know is from movies. So it was good for them to break down those barriers and perceptions. It was cool."

After three action packed weeks in New York, the interns headed back to Grand Ronde,

A bit wiser and worldlier for the experience.

"The experience of going to New York was great," said Guzman. "I'd do it again for sure." ■

East Coast -

Tribal youths Raymond Duran (right) and Gary Guzman pose for a photo at the Statue of Liberty in New York. The two young Tribal members were the second set of interns to make the trip to New York to work in the Museum of Natural History and to spend time around the meteorite Tomanowos. Guzman is the grandson of Vicki and William Long. Duran is the grandson of Beryle and Angel Contreras.



Photo by Richard "Bubba" Sohappy

Sheridan Library Grant Turns Into An Issue

■ The \$75,000 grant stipulated that the new library not be named for General Phil Sheridan.



Phil Sheridan

By Ron Karten

A \$75,000 grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund has a lot of shouting going on around the Sheridan Library. The grant approval came in April in response to a Friends of the Library request for \$150,000 of the anticipated \$4 million needed for a new library.

Approval of the Challenge Grant was contingent on the city council agreeing and documenting that the library will not be named, in any fashion, for General Phil Sheridan for whom the town is named.

"Diversity is one of the strongest values of the Board," said Angela Blackwell, Director of the Tribe's Community Fund. "And we are not prepared to give money to support a library named for a man so hateful to Indians."

The problem is that Sheridan, a Civil War hero to many, coined what became the phrase, 'the only good Indian is a dead Indian.' The actual exchange was a bit different and the timing of the remark has been variously attributed some 13 and 20 years after Sheridan's time in Oregon. In what-is now Oklahoma or South Dakota, Sheridan, by then a general, is said to have responded to Comanche Chief Toch-a-way's assertion, "Me good Indian," by saying, "The only good Indians I ever saw were dead." Sheridan denied making the remark.

A PBS website, "New Perspectives on The West," quotes Sheridan as proposing in 1866 to "bring peace to the plains by exterminating the herds of buffalo that support the Indians' way of life: 'Kill the buffalo and you kill the Indians.'"

Even here in Oregon in 1856,

when Sheridan was still a lieutenant, his 1888 *Personal Memoirs* indicate that he had little respect for Indians. A "Cultural Resources Overview" being used by Benton County as it prepares development of Fort Hoskins County Park, reports, "The total disregard and contempt for the customs and beliefs of the local Indians was exhibited by Sheridan when he chose to put a blockhouse on a prominent burial ground." (This incident did not refer to the blockhouse on the Hoskins site, but one on the coast.)

Tribal Council member Jan Reibach, who also sits on the Board of Trustees that approves all Tribal Council Community Fund dispersals, likened an effort to name a facility funded with Indian gifts for General Phil Sheridan to a German effort to name a facility funded with Jewish gifts for Adolph Hitler.

"We have helped the town of Sheridan many, many times and we'd like to help them with their needs as far as the library goes, but the Tribe and the Community Fund will find it difficult to give the grant and justify it to our people without the name change."

In fact, the Community Fund has provided six previous grants to Sheridan-based entities, including more than \$28,000 for a Jaws of Life to the Sheridan Fire District and four different grants to the Sheridan School District totaling more than \$143,000 for a range of requests. Including the current offer of \$75,000, the Community Fund gifts will have exceeded a quarter million dollars to benefit residents of the town. Many other grants, to Yamhill County and larger entities, also have benefited Sheridan residents in a variety of ways.

"I'd just like to forget the whole thing came up," said Sheridan Librarian Toni Rose. "The people I

hear from feel a loyalty to me and feel I've been insulted (by the condition attached to the grant). They ask, 'Do they even know you?' I am one-eighth Chippewa. It's just an assault on my reputation as a diverse and fair-minded librarian."

Asked if she understood the Tribe's perspective, she said, "I can't really gauge somebody else's feelings. I think it's all blown out of proportion. Japan was our enemy in World War II and now we embrace Japanese products. When does it stop?"

Darrel Jones, head of the Friends of the Library group that requested the grant, said, "I didn't care for the condition. Sheridan has never promoted anti-Indian feelings. I was born and raised here and never felt it." In fact, Jones said, "If you look at the whole life of Phil Sheridan, he has that one bad quote but when he was here, he was an extremely good buffer between the Indians and the settlers. As a matter of fact, he was sensitive to the needs of the Indians, and the Indians here liked him."

"It may be true," said Katrine Barber, assistant professor of History at Portland State University (PSU), "that Sheridan, like a lot of military officers and military men in the Far West had good moments and you might even find evidence that some Indians appreciated him, but if you look at his career, he was not a friend of Indians. He was part of the effort to eradicate Indians from the west, to re-people the west, replacing Indians with white men. He was on the vanguard of violence in the re-peopling of the West. White people don't like to think about that history because we're the beneficiaries of it."

Barber is teaching a course this year at PSU called "Indians of the Columbia Basin."

Still, Sheridan realtor Dick Jor-

dan said, "I think it (the condition) is reverse discrimination. They seem to hate Phil Sheridan but I love Phil Sheridan and they're not being fair to our culture."

Saying he has no sympathy for the Indian position, Jordan said, "Maybe in 1865 but not now. It's time to forget all that stuff."

"I remember in the eighties when Kathryn Harrison (Former Tribal Chair and Tribal Elder) came to us and asked for our help in getting the Tribe restored," Jordan said. "I wrote a letter to help. Everyone helped. Sheridan did everything it could because we believed that they should be restored."

"We have a right to defend what our people went through," said Harrison in response to Jordan's comments. "At the same time we are offering a helping hand. Like we have always done. Look at Lewis and Clark."

The issue has come up before. In 1998, the Spirit Mountain Casino helped to revive the Sheridan Days summer festival with a sponsorship of the event. At that time, the Tribe and the community worked out objections to referencing the soldier by eliminating his first name from the festival name.

The Community Fund grant will be discussed, along with other grants by the Sheridan City Council at the August 19 meeting, according to City Manager Mike Sauerwein.

The city has received other "not terribly large" grants to help with the new library, said Val Adamson, a Sheridan City Council member. Friends of the Library have set 25 percent of the total cost as a goal to raise through foundations.

"We've got good people on both ends," Adamson added. "We've worked well together before and we'll work it out." ■