

# Tribe's Basket Display Brings History To Life

**Baskets continued from front page**

tives, and represent different styles, techniques and materials used in basket making. The exhibit will be open until April 17. Admission is free to Tribal members.

"The idea of the exhibit was to showcase the baskets and show the continuity between weavers," said Lindy Trolan, Cultural Collections Specialist for the Tribe, who along with Cultural Projects Assistant Kim Mueller helped prepare the display. "We tried to incorporate a historical perspective with present day. There are baskets from present day Grand Ronde weavers, as well as baskets from pre-settler days, as old as the 1830's."

Many non-Natives do not know of

the rich history of Western Oregon basketry. Baskets were an essential item to Natives, critical in gathering of traditional foods like camas, tarweed and clams. They are also an expression of the skill and artistry of the weavers. There is a strong tradition of basketry in Grand Ronde. Tribal Elder Martha Jane Sands was a prominent weaver, as were many of her children.

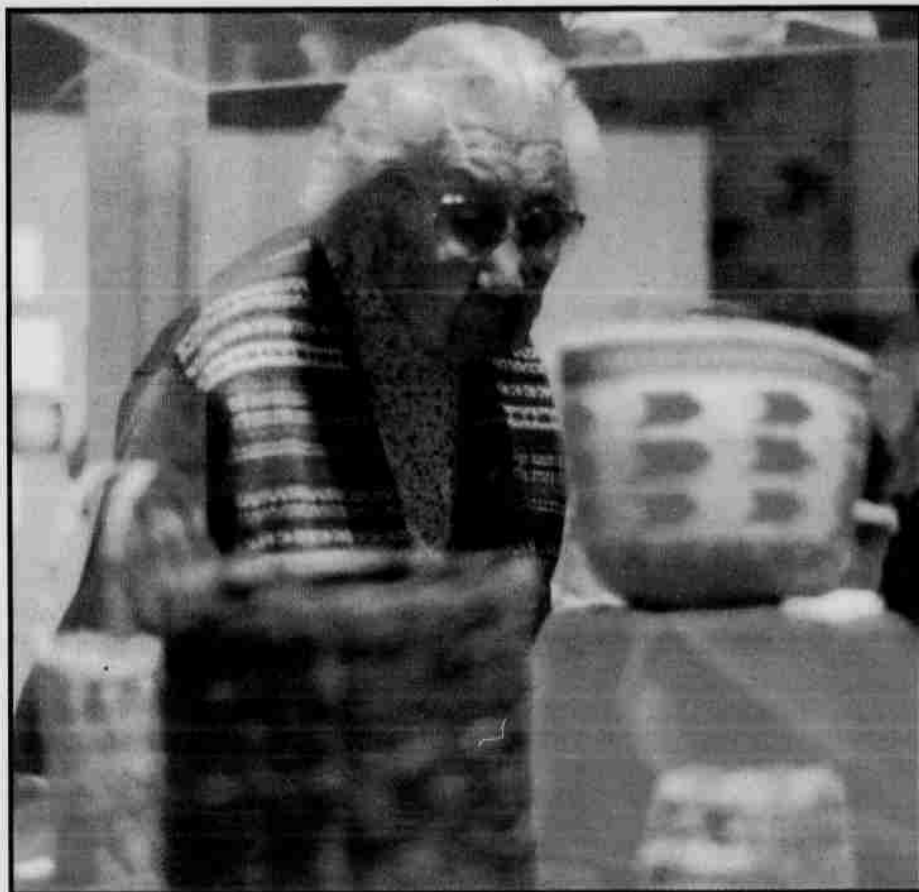
"People don't know a lot about Western Oregon basketry," said Trolan. "There's not a lot written down. With this we want to say who Grand Ronde is, where the people come from and that these traditions still continue."

Mueller said the response to the display has been overwhelmingly

positive.

"It was great working with the Mission Mill people," said Mueller. "Everyone there for the opening night had positive things to say. A

lot of the Elders who were there complimented us on the display. And the baskets themselves are great. It's a beautiful, beautiful collection." ■



**Through The Looking Glass** — Tribal Elder Nora Kimsey made the trip to Salem to be part of opening night at the Mission Mill Museum exhibit of Grand Ronde basketry.



Photos by Peta Tinda

**"I Remember"** — Tribal member Margo Mercier was part of the group from Grand Ronde who attended the exhibit's opening night. Mercier grew up in Grand Ronde and remembers what it was like growing up in a basket making family and listening to members of her family speak in Chinuk.

**A Collaborative Exhibit**  
by  
**The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**  
and  
**Mission Mill Museum**

Planned, Designed and Installed by  
**Lindy Trolan, Kim Mueller, Kuri Gill, Kari Busch, and David Birch**

**Display** — The Cultural Resources Department's most recent effort at increasing understanding of Native Americans is seen in this museum exhibit showing baskets from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to modern times.

## Cultural Committee Advises Tribal Council, Culture Program

**By Ron Karten**

The Cultural Resource Committee is the advisory arm of both Tribal Council and the Cultural Resources Department.

"We're restoring the culture and tradition of the Tribe," said Committee Chairwoman and Tribal member Pat Allen. "It wasn't lost, but needed to be revived."

Currently, the committee is monitoring the work on the Portland Harbor superfund cleanup, reviewing interpretive signs on Interstate 5, producing commemorative pouches for the

Lewis & Clark bicentennial, preparing for the 20-Year Celebration of Restoration coming up in November and it is about to bring forth what committee secretary and Tribal member Janet Phillips called, "a new custom" for the Tribes: The First Annual Blessing of Our Land, Food and Water. Look for it March 29.

Committee member and Tribal Elder Don Day has been collecting cedar for the building of a traditional long house (See SS, 12/15/02). "We're becoming more aware of our culture and

creating a better understanding between culture and people," said Day.

Committee members blessed the Lummi Healing Pole when it came through Portland last summer (See SS, 9/15/02). They will be teachers for Tribal children at the first Tribal summer camp this year. They will lead the blessing of the white deer. They are considering involvement in the clean up of the Chemawa Indian School cemetery.

"We're caretakers of the land," said Allen. "We need to become more in-



**Don Day**

involved with what's going on around us."

"It keeps us very, very busy," said Phillips.

Photo by Peta Tinda

### Geographic Information Systems Uses The Technology Of The Future To Protect The Past

**By Ron Karten**

The start of the Culture Department's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) work is digitizing a geographic area. The tool used takes satellite readings for accuracy of within 10 feet, said Josh Levy, the Tribe's GIS Specialist. Levy then assigns information on layers. For instance, topographical features like rivers and roads and mountains may

be on one layer; federal and state projects may be on another layer; and culturally significant sites may be on another layer. The computer program allows Levy to view those layers in any combination.

Then, for example, Levy can find out how often culturally significant sites are found at a river's edge or the foot of a mountain or how close it is to other

important cultural sites in the area.

"It's useful for planning and management," said Levy.

And for the future, it offers the possibility that the Tribes will be able to make predictions with a fair degree of accuracy, as for example, the likelihood that there are or aren't objects of cultural significance in one place or another.

Imagine the power of such a system, when you add a number of pre-historic layers that show, for example, changes in land use patterns — historic trails, gathering sites, sacred sites, petroglyphs, pictographs or village locations. (Much of this information may be unavailable to the general public in order to safeguard the sites).