



SMOKE SIGNALS

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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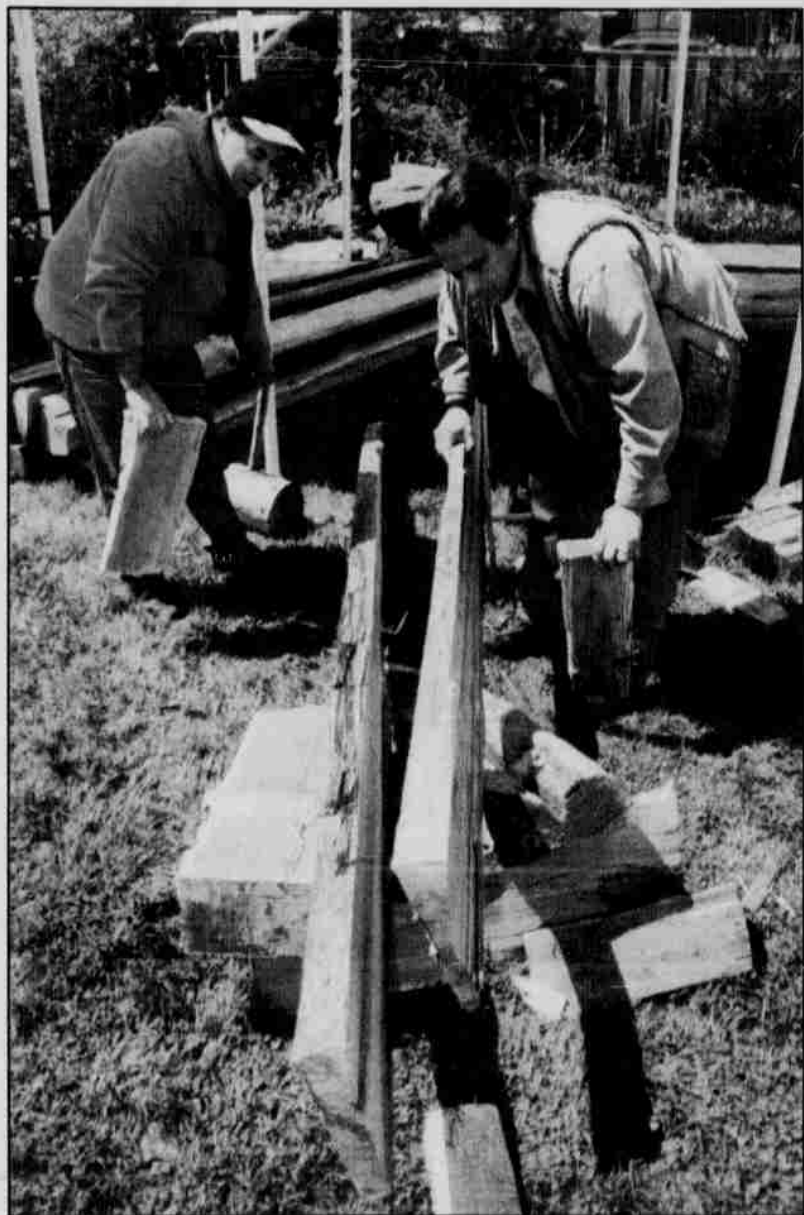
UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



Photos by Peta Tinda

Day Of Education — Tribal Elder and Cultural Specialist Don Day, (above and left) adjusts his name tag before putting on a demonstration of traditional cedar plank-splitting with the help of Tribal member Dietrich Peters. The demonstration was part of the Oregon State University's Museum of Natural History's Annual Identification Day, held recently. Many Grand Ronde Tribal members have been re-learning the lost art of plank-splitting, in an effort to revitalize traditional skills and methods. No metal tools are used to split the logs. The planks are split with wooden mallets and wedges. When they get enough planks split, volunteers want to build a traditional long house for community and cultural gatherings in Grand Ronde. The Tribe's Longhouse project is scheduled for completion later this year. A staunch traditionalist, Day also attended the Northwest Indian Language Institute, a two-week program aimed at increasing knowledge and use of Tribal languages (page 3).

Tribal Elder Receives Honorary Degree From Portland State University

■ Former Tribal Council Chair Kathryn Harrison awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters.

By Peta Tinda

Kathryn Harrison, Tribal Elder and longtime Tribal Chair, received an honorary degree from Portland State University in recognition for her commitment to public policy and Tribal government. She was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters at the 2003 graduation ceremony, held in Portland.

"My grandchildren called me and asked 'Can we call you doctor grandma?'"

Harrison played a major role in the restoration of both the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes.

Harrison was born in Corvallis, and lived through the great depression.

She was orphaned when her parents died of influenza when she was ten. Undaunted, she began attending Chemawa Indian School, where

she graduated. Afterwards, she went to Lane Community College in Eugene, and received her licensed practical nursing degree. She was the first Native American to ever graduate from the program. A picture of her still hangs in the hallway there.

Harrison has long been known as a dedicated supporter of Native issues, often traveling and putting in long hours to advocate Native concerns, both at the state capitol in Salem and the Nation's capitol in Washington, D.C.

She has also given many years of service to the local community, working for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as a nurse, nutritionist, a minority outreach worker and an alcohol and drug counselor. She raised her ten children by herself and knows well the challenges facing Native families and commu-

nities. Harrison was also the first woman to be Tribal Council Chair and has held various elected positions in the Grand Ronde Community for the last 22 years.

In 2001, Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) awarded her a Tom McCall Leadership Award for her efforts.

Harrison is also a board member of PSU's institute

of Tribal Government, a component of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government.

Harrison currently serves as an ambassador to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and she previously worked on a group appointed by the governor for the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

"I'm just so gracious," she said. "All I did was work. I was always blessed by my Tribe, my family and my God."

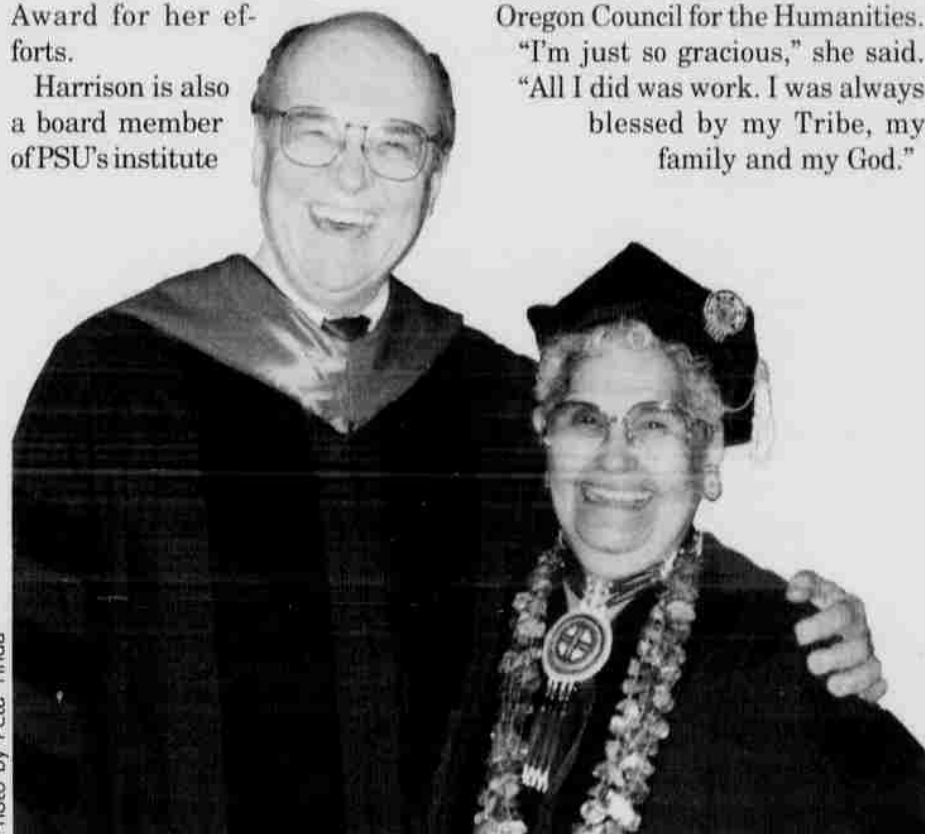


Photo by Peta Tinda

Recognition — Kathryn Harrison smiles with Marvin Keiser, Dean of Portland State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to the respected Tribal Elder and longtime Chair of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Harrison received her degree along with 3,800 others from 44 nations across the globe.



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