

# Business Association Honors Hatfield

■ The Senator's work benefiting the Umatillas is highlighted in evening gala.

By Ron Karten

Everybody loves Mark O. Hatfield.

The man who has held every major elected office in Oregon, the elder statesman whose *bona fides* are still intact after 46 years in public life and nearly another ten in active retirement, last week was named 2004 Statesman of the Year by the Portland-based Oregon Business Association.

Indians from many Tribes were on hand to support the man who was instrumental in Restoration legislation of the 1980s, including Restoration for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The Grand Rondes and Cow Creeks were major sponsors of the evening's event.

Umatilla Chairman Antone Minthorn was co-recipient of one of three Oregon Values Awards presented after the dinner. The Values awards were given in three categories — investment, collaboration and action — to highlight the ways that Hatfield's values translated into concrete results throughout Oregon.

Minthorn received the Collaboration award along with Hadley

Akins, a banker who once represented irrigator interests along the Umatilla River. Irrigators and the Umatillas had been adversaries for much of the last century because the Bureau of Reclamation gave water rights to the Indians for fishing in 1857 and then gave those same rights to irrigators in 1907. But the Bureau did not just give away the water rights twice. It also diverted water the fish needed with an ambitious dam project that resulted in irrigators alone using the water.

Hatfield's contribution was to work with these and other groups to bring in water diverted from the Columbia River.

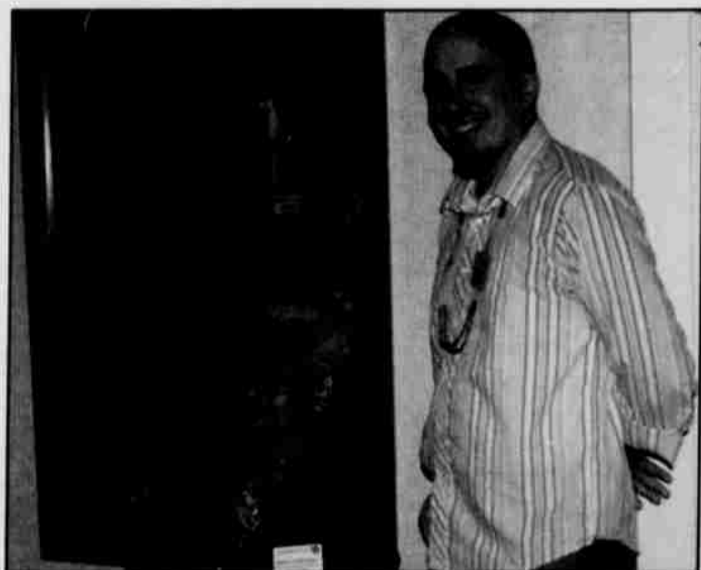
The other awards went to the Oregon Hearing Research Center at Portland-based Oregon Health Sciences University and to Eugene-based Mobility International, a group running international exchange programs for folks handicapped in one way or another.

What the folks from Mobility think about their disabilities was made clear not only by their participation in the group's programs,

but also by a plaque affixed to the back of one wheelchair that read: Handicap.

In a video highlighting moments in Hatfield's life and comments about his work from a range of players on Oregon's business and political scene, Cow Creek Chairman Sue Shaffer said that Hatfield "never forgot his roots in rural Oregon."

Hatfield Legislative Director Sue Hildick, who was also instrumental in developing Grand Ronde's Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship, said that Hatfield's office was always like a classroom. (Hatfield started his ca-



Photos by Ron Karten

**Reflections** — Cow Creek Chairman Sue Shaffer talked to Grand Ronde Lobbyist Justin Martin (in the mirror) as they stood among a group that also included former Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison and new Tribal Council member Chris Mercier.

reer as an instructor of political science at Willamette University.) "He loved watching people grow and thrive."

She credited his success to his ability to form fruitful personal relationships and to his pragmatism.

Hatfield's daughter, Elizabeth Hatfield Keller M.D., added his sense of priorities to reasons for his success. "It was always God first, my mother second, the children next, and then all of you."

Keller went on to call for "revolution" in her father's name. She encouraged the audience to "open our hearts to experience outrage."

In calling for "a spiritual renaissance," she also came down on the "quote Religious Right," for taking religion out of the realm of the personal and placing it in the public square, and then using it to sit in judgment of others.

While acknowledging that her father was "not perfect — there is no Saint Mark," she noted that he did have qualities largely missing from today's public discussions.

"My father had the ability to disagree as a gentleman," she said.

The Statesman of the Year was ill and unable to attend. ■



**Remembering The Good Times** — Former Grand Ronde Consultant Len Bergstein, standing, rekindled old friendships during the program. Bergstein bolted from Grand Ronde years ago to work for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. From far left is Grand Ronde's former Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison, Tribal Council member Angie Blackwell (center) and Tribal Council Secretary June Sell-Sherer (right.) Inset is Elizabeth Hatfield Keller M.D., the Senator's daughter, who accepted the award.



**Grounded** — On Tuesday, December 7, Ben Pap (left) and John Fowler out of Henkels and McCoy Construction Company pull communication cable from the Housing Authority offices back to the main Tribal complex. This is a project that will connect Tribal housing phone lines to the main communications hub.



**On The Job** — The Tribe's communications contractor, Henkels and McCoy Construction Company, install the needed communication equipment to connect Grand Meadows to the main Tribal communications hub.

Photos by Marty George