

Tribal Business Spotlight.

Tribal Member And Veteran Steve Manangan Opens Auto Business

By Toby McClary

See the General.
Tribal member and Veteran Steve Manangan and his wife Berta own General Automotive, an automotive business in Newberg, Oregon.

The Manangans specialize in the replacement and installation of new and used motors but say that they can fix just about anything. Steve has a history of over two decades in this line of work and explains that his work is done with high quality.

"I am very conscientious about the work I do and I have a whole wall of certifications and awards to prove it," said Manangan. "I like to maintain a personal relationship with the car I'm working on, as well as the customer."

Manangan has been "wrenching" for a long time. Auto mechanics was his hobby long before he started doing it as a profession. He has been doing some kind of mechanics, whether on bicycles, electronics or cars, since he was about eight.

"Mechanics is what I know best and what I have a passion for," he said.

Steve, 43, is the grandson of deceased Tribal Elder Esther LaBonte and son of Tribal Elder Rosetta LaBonte. He was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. Manangan joined the Navy when he was 17 and spent 10 years in active duty. He studied engineering in the Navy and said that he "repaired all kinds of pumps for them."

When Manangan finally left the Navy he started working in auto shops around the Portland area.

"I started working in random auto shops in the early 1980's," he said.

Manangan got his big break when he bought and operated an auto shop in Oregon City, Or-

egon. In 1993, he opened Save-on-Auto, an auto mechanic shop that he ran for a little over a decade.

Then in 2004, he moved his location to Newberg, Oregon, where he and his wife now own and operate General Automotive. Manangan explained that he wanted to be closer to the Tribe, his people and his family. He offers Tribal members a discount for work done in his shop. Manangan usually charges \$65 an hour, but he only charges Tribal members \$55 an hour.

"The Tribe has helped me in the past and I would like to give something back," said Manangan. "I would also like to be more involved in the activities put on by the Tribe."

Manangan also has some long term goals. He wants to eventually find a home in either Yamhill or Polk County to bring him even closer to Grand Ronde. He is also looking into operating and owning more than one garage. Most importantly, Steve wants to train young Tribal members in an auto mechanics mentorship program. He said that it is very important in life to learn a trade and he wants to see Tribal youth succeed.

"I would like to give the youth an idea of what auto mechanics is all about," he said. "And in some way, I would like to share my knowledge with the Tribe."

Steve wants to be involved with the Tribe, and in turn, wants the Tribe to be involved with him.

"If the Tribe can have people trained in this area, then we can all work together and be helpful to one another," said Manangan.

General Automotive can do anything from engine installation to brake and clutch repair. They have just recently started doing tune-ups for \$14.95.

GENERAL AUTOMOTIVE

415 W. 1st St.

Newberg, Oregon 97132.

Phone: 503-538-4824



Tribal member Steve Manangan

Photo by Toby McClary



Photo by Peta Tinda

Disgraceful Habits — Truckloads full of garbage were pulled from forest land next to the rez last month. Although the Tribe was not required to pick up the garbage, "It was so disgraceful that we just could not leave it there," said Tribal Public Works Director and Tribal member John Mercier. The situation was back to normal as *Smoke Signals* went to press, but Mercier cautioned that this isn't the first time he has encouraged the community to keep our lands clean. "It doesn't take much for thoughtless individuals to disgrace the beautiful forest lands in our area," he said. With illegal dumping virtually impossible to police, it will take a commitment by the local community to keep things clean. That commitment can begin with you!

Smoke Signals' Staff Receives Honors From Inter-Tribal Journalists

■ Peta Tinda wins Photographer of the Year, Ron Karten Writer of the Year and Tribal member Brent Merrill, Editor of the Year.

By Toby McClary

Inter-Tribal Journalists Organization (ITJO), an online organization from Southern California, has been recognizing and honoring Native American publications from California, Arizona and Nevada for the past five years.

2004 was the first year that they expanded their services to Oregon and their first year recognizing individual journalists. Three members from the *Smoke Signals* staff were nominated in three separate categories:

- Brent Merrill for Editor of the Year
- Ron Karten for Humanistic Journalist of the Year
- Peta Tinda for Photographer of the Year

We are proud to acknowledge that all three members received awards.



Peta Tinda



Ron Karten

ITJO is made up of nine board members that read, evaluate and vote for their favorite articles, photography and overall layout and design of Tribal publications. *Smoke Signals* staffers won

half of the total awards given to Oregon's Tribal journalists.

Chairman of ITJO Robert J. RedFeather, Jr. said that his organization is concerned with Tribal news papers as means of encouraging them to reach out beyond their own tiny nations.

"Our staff here at ITJO would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to each of the journalists who were recognized for their work, and we encourage readers to submit even more articles and photos to us for the year 2005," said RedFeather.

If you would like to submit an article or photo, you can send it to intertribaljournalistsorg@yahoo.com.