

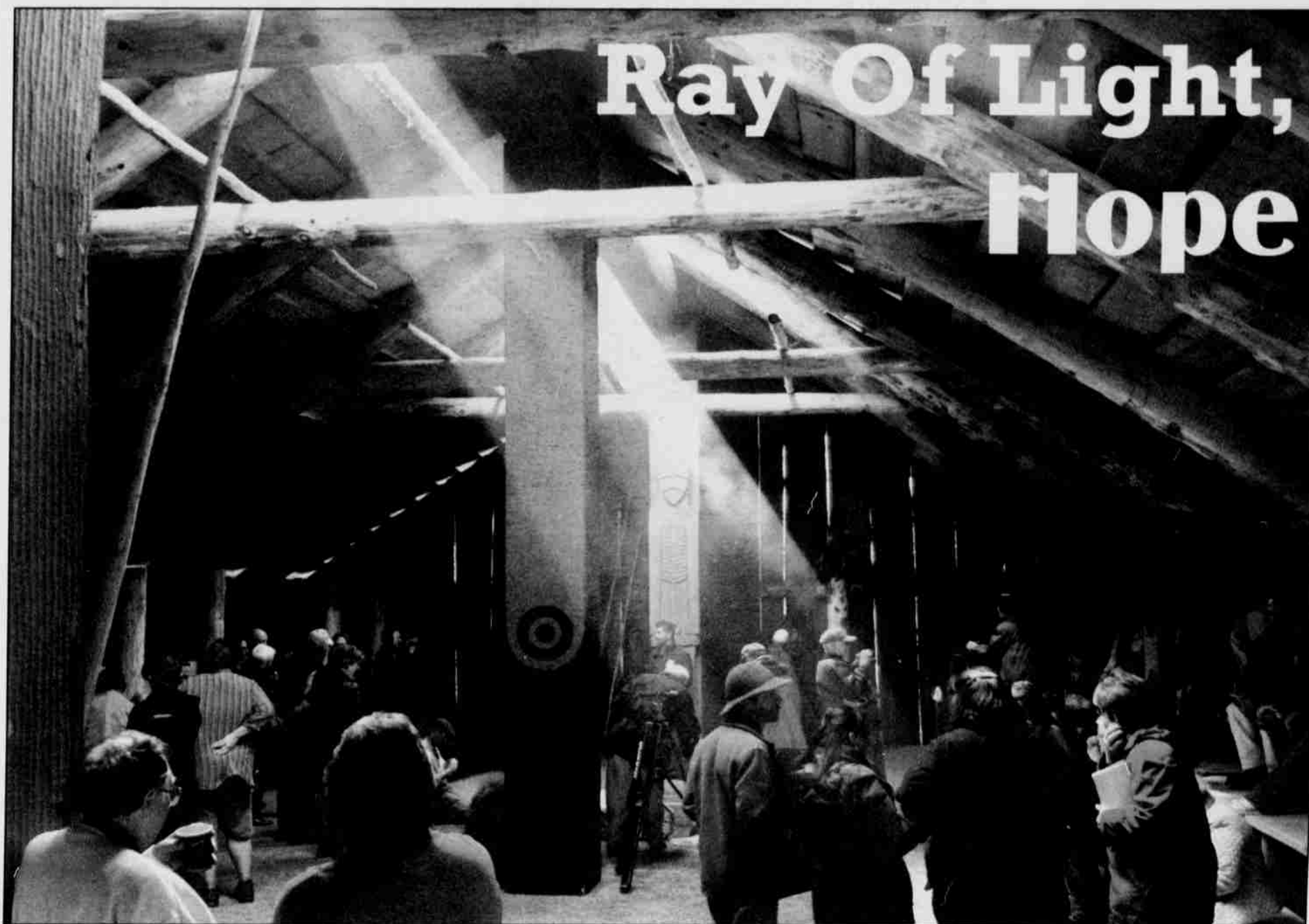


Chinook Tribe's Traditional Plankhouse Dedication Pullout

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Place Of Enlightenment—Light shines through the roof of a Chinookan-style plankhouse that was opened to the public on Tuesday, March 29.

Chinookans Bring Traditional Plankhouse To Life

■ Chinook Tribal people share their legacy at dedication ceremony.

By Toby McClary

Standing near the center of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and about 100 yards from Duck Lake, is a traditionally-built replica of a Chinook-style plankhouse.

On Tuesday, March 29, the Chinook Tribe, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee opened a red cedar plankhouse in Ridgefield, Washington.

The structure stands about 20 feet tall, is 78 feet long, 37 feet wide and fits into the landscape like a piece to a puzzle.

"We (the people of the Chinook Tribe) built this because it is important to us," said Chinook Tribal member and the Grand Ronde's Culture Department Interim Manager Tony Johnson. "It is an opportunity for us to exercise our cultural knowledge and gain experi-



All Photos by
Toby McClary

Doorway To The Past, Entry To Another Time—About 150 people attended the opening ceremony for a plankhouse built in Ridgefield, Washington. The Chinook Tribe, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee and dozens of volunteers were all honored for the work that they invested into the construction. Everyone gathered outside to listen to a speech put on by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as well as words from Chinook Tribal Chairman Gary Johnson. Johnson said "It adds to our Tribal history and it helps show the path of our Tribe's survival."