

“Wall of Remembrance” Will Be Dedicated At St. Paul Cemetery

■ 535 Natives and settlers are buried here.

By Elaine LaBonte

Before the Grand Ronde Reservation was established in 1857, the last grave had already been filled at the St. Paul Pioneer Cemetery. About 100 of the 535 graves mark the lives of Native people. Family names include Menard, Norwest, Pichette, Petit, Lafferty, LaBonte, Vivette, Quinelle, Nepasank. Many bear the last names: Kalapuya, Chinook, Kalispel and Chehalis, while others are simply marked “Indian.”

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2005 at 1:30 p.m., the St. Paul Cemetery Association will officially dedicate the Wall of Remembrance. It honors the 535 buried in the cemetery – including both early settlers and Native people.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will be represented in the opening part of the dedication. A reception will follow at the St. Paul Community Hall.

St. Paul is considered the heart of the French Prairie. According to organizers of the event, the earliest farm-

steads date back to 1828 and were found along the bottomlands of the Willamette River. The greatest concentration was clustered around St. Paul.

The woods and prairies of the north Willamette Valley were the home to many Native Tribes – the Clackamas, Molalla and Kalapuya, among them. The first settlement by Europeans occurred when the Hudson Bay Company sent French Canadian trappers from its headquarters in Montreal, Canada to establish a trading post at Champog. In later years, the French-Canadian employees of the fur companies retired and began to settle on the free lands.

In later years, Irish and European immigrations added to the ethnic background of the Prairie population.

The Pioneer Cemetery is located on Main Street on Highway 219 in St. Paul. Parking will be available nearby at St. Paul High School.

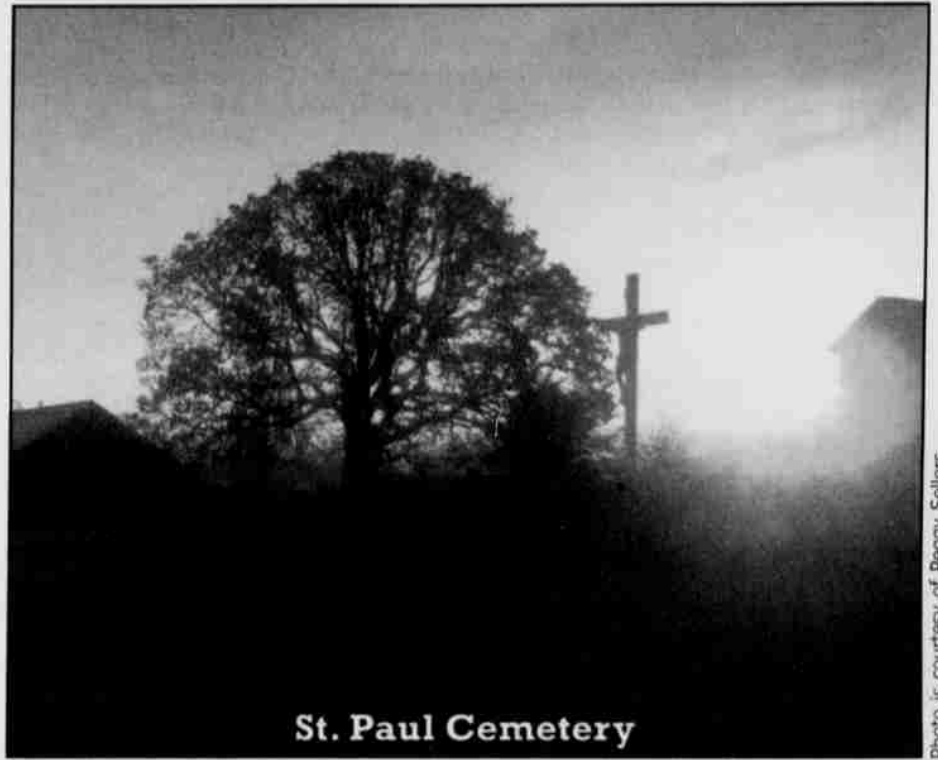


Photo is courtesy of Peggy Sellers

Chemeketa Naming Ceremony “Nu Lah Shree Dah Nah Yash”



Historic — Chemeketa’s name is a Kalapuyan word meaning “a place of peace.” Former Chemeketa student Susan Blum was awarded with the winning entry when she submitted the word Chemeketa 35 years ago in a naming competition held by the school. On Wednesday, April 27, members from Grand Ronde Tribal Council and members from Siletz Tribal Council joined Chemeketa Community College President Gretchen Schuette in an inter-Tribal naming ceremony held on the Chemeketa campus. In the inset photo is Multi-Cultural Representative for Chemeketa John Lujan.

Photos by Toby McClary



Susan Blum



Tribal Participation — Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy addresses the crowd at the traditional naming ceremony at Chemeketa Community College in Salem on Wednesday, April 27.