

Wall Of Remembrance Dedicated At St. Paul Pioneer Cemetery



Reverence — On Monday, May 30, the Tribe was invited to attend the Wall of Remembrance Dedication in St. Paul, Oregon. The Wall of Remembrance (right) honors the 535 settlers and Native Americans that are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery established in 1839. Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison did the invocation, Tribal members Bobby Mercier and Travis Stewart sang an Honor song and Tribal member Maria Ramirez (above) signed the Lord's Prayer.



Photos by Toby McClary



The Passing Of Sister Margaret Mary

■ Former teacher at St. Michael stirs long forgotten memories.

By Ron Karten

When Sister Margaret Mary (SSMO) served the St. Michael mission and school starting in 1946, she bought a school bus with S&H green stamps, said Sister Ina Marie Nosack (SSMO), who was principal of the school when Sister Margaret Mary taught grades three to five there.

She passed on in February this year. Found among her things were the following notes:

Sept. 4 — 1962. We started to save S&H green stamps for a new school bus for Grand Ronde,

Dec. 25 — 1962. We reached 100 books of S&H stamps.

June 3 — 1963. We now have 913 S&H books plus 500 other types and \$516. The bus was ordered and will be picked up in early August."

"She was just wonderful," said Tribal member Violet Zimbrick, who attended the St. Michael school, and remembered Sister Margaret Mary's youth and energy.

"She would get down on the



Sister Margaret Mary

ground and play marbles with the boys," said Zimbrick. "She'd lift her habit up to run the bases. She was a real young, enthusiastic person."

Tribal member Sharon Herron remembered that Sister Margaret

Mary's brother came to visit riding his motorcycle and Sister Margaret Mary jumped on, habit and all, and rode it around. "The majority of the kids in seventh and eighth probably enjoyed that the most," said Herron.

A lifelong teacher, Sister Margaret Mary made use of everything to get a point across. "She took all of us girls to the nun's rooms," said Zimbrick, "and we would bake. That's how we learned fractions. We'd cut up the cake."

Sister Margaret Mary also served in a rural outpost of Peru, where Sister Ina reported, "When she'd come home on the boat, she'd be heavy laden, and little kids would run down and help her carry things. She always had treats for the kids who helped her and she never had any trouble with help carrying things up."

In 1946, the Sisters of Saint Mary of Oregon (SSMO) came to the mission in Grand Ronde at St. Michael

Church to staff the school. Before them, the Holy Names sisters now of Marylhurst and Benedictine sisters from both St. Paul, Minnesota and Mt. Angel provided religious education here.

Sister Margaret Mary joined the Grand Ronde community about a year after the SSMO group arrived, according to Sister Ina.

The order stayed in Grand Ronde 23 years, or until 1968, when the school closed because "enrollment figures dropped so dramatically," according to Father Gregory Moys, past president of the Oregon Catholic Historical Society. In 1967, the school graduated seven students. In 1968, the school graduated four students.

Sister Mary Margaret was raised on a farm in Hillsboro. "She knew how to work and to can. She was a great berry picker, the fastest in the world," said Sister Ina.

"She was full of life," said Herron, "and she really enjoyed the kids."

Photo courtesy of Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon