

Elder's Feature

A Life In The Old Ways



Family — Tribal Elder Dale Langley poses with Tribal members and granddaughters Bryanna (l) and Ashley Langley, daughters of son Bryan.

LANGLEY continued from front page

to school in the small four-room schoolhouse that was torn down at the site of the current Grand Ronde Middle School.

He was born in the Depression, he said, "but I don't ever remember being hungry," he said. "My grandfather (Tribal Elder, now deceased, William Langley) had 12-14 milk cows and had a little money coming in from that. He sold calves for veal and we always had a few dollars coming in from that, too. We raised a garden all the time. My uncle (Tribal Elder, now deceased, Clint Langley) was staying with us at that time. He

and my dad brought home meat, so we had that all the time."

Like many in the community at that time, Dale grew up thinking that deer meat was the only kind of meat.

Langley's dad, Tribal Elder Ivan Langley Senior (now deceased), and his mom, Tribal Elder Grace LaChance Langley (who now lives in Elder Housing), also had cows. It fell to Dale and his brother, before they were teens, to milk them because his dad worked graveyard at Murphy's mill. The boys were up by five-thirty every morning and worked for a few hours to get the work done.

Even before that, they were responsible to bring the cows in from



Photos courtesy of Dale Langley

Happy Couple — Tribal Elder Dale Langley with wife Shirley of 50 years.

the field and to clean out the barn every day.

"We never paid much attention to it," he said. "We just had to do it, so we did it. Just a part of life."

This is also when he learned to hunt. His uncle, Clint, took the boys hunting. "The days you wanted meat, you went out and killed it and brought it home. They used to hunt three to four miles out on the big ridge between state highways 18 and 22, and then "pack it out."

His uncle Clint "was real good at hunting," said Dale. "He taught a lot of young people how to hunt. He could just about tell where deer were at, with the weather and stuff."

"We didn't bother with (hunting seasons)," he said, "but we wouldn't

shoot a doe with a fawn. It was kind of hands-off in those times of the year."

In school, he played basketball, softball and in the summer, he joined the local baseball team. He grew up Catholic and went to the old St. Michael Church in Grand Ronde.

His dad had worked as a logger, and Dale and his brother were ready early to do the same.

He started working in the woods when he was 17.

"I lied," he said. "I told them I was 18."

Today, Dale's son, Bryan, says that it was seeing how hard his dad worked that convinced him to go to college.

Dale married, brought Michael and Kathy into the world, and went to war. For two years at the end of the Korean War, he was an ordnance man for the Navy in San Diego.

"I was loading rockets, bombs, missiles," he said.

When he came home, he started over.

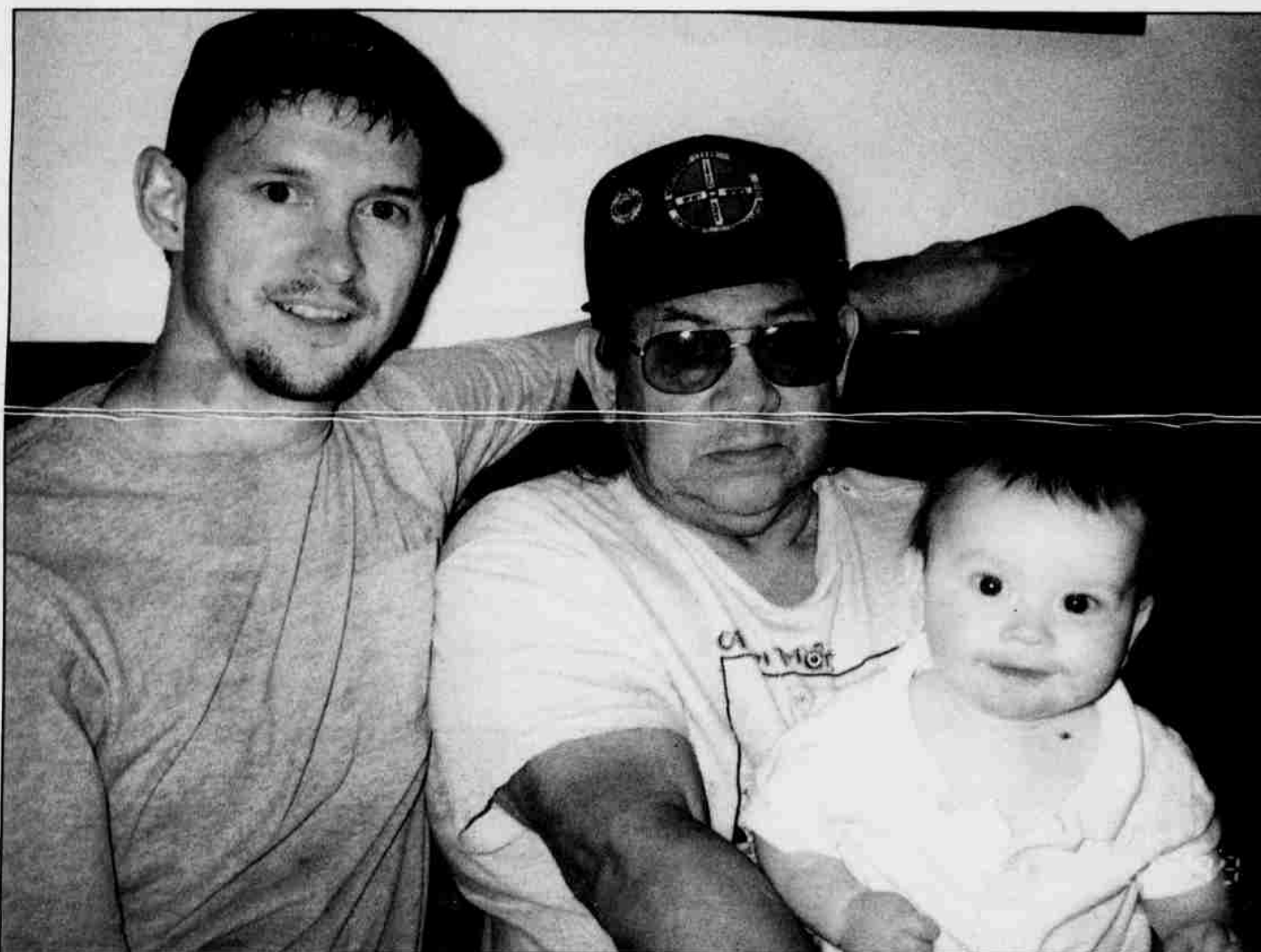
"When I got out of the service," he said, "my second wife got me going to church, and I just started going to the Pentacostal church..."

Tribal Elder Ken Haller came through the room. Haller himself is a Pentacostal preacher. And Langley continued, "...where they've got these wild preachers," he said, pointing the joke at Haller.

Religion has been good for him. He has been alcohol free for 23 years, he said. "Like everybody else, on Friday and Saturday nights, we'd drink a little beer and run around. At the time, I never thought it caused a problem. Now, I can look back and see it was a problem. I didn't spend enough time with family and I spent dollars you shouldn't spend."

Bryan said that when his father decided to quit, "God just took away the craving and he hasn't had a drink since."

"I just started going to church,"



Three Generations — Tribal Elder Dale Langley and son, Bryan and granddaughter Kara.