

# 'I've never seen a place where they treat the veterans so well'



Tribal member and newly crowned Veterans' Queen Promise Rimer hands out small pouches of tobacco, which she made, to each veteran at the Veterans' Powwow on Saturday, July 11.

## POWWOW continued from front page

stays, 12-15 feet up, he said. The Veterans' Committee's Christian Tinney (Lower Eastern Cherokee), manager of the Tribe's Grand Ronde Station, led the powwow planning with Tribal Elder and committee Powwow Chairman Steve Rife. They have been working to bring the event off since January, Tinney said.

Tribal members Chad and Molly Leno handled the cleanup crew and vendor relations, Tinney said.

All the work, from Veterans' Committee members — also including Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte, Wayne Chulik (Tlingit) and veteran Norris Merrill — and many others did not go unnoticed.

Tribal member Tom LaChance's wife, Charlene, sitting in Elder seating, marveled at the way the event "provided for everyone." Tom served in the Army at Fort Lewis,

Wash., from 1958-63.

"This is a whole lot better setup," said Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg. "More vendors."

"You see how they treat the vets, and people like that. I'm 75, and I've never seen a place where they treat the veterans so well."

Soderberg served with the Navy during the Korean War, 1953-55. He called it relatively easy duty aboard a refrigeration ship that supplied others from their home base in the Caribbean. In their spare time, they surveyed the area.

"People thought I got a bad deal because I was sent to the East Coast, but I got good duty," he said.

Carl Lambert, 80, married to Tribal Elder Betty Lambert, staffed the AmVets' booth this year.

"I would have been here last year," he said, "but I was at the vets' hospital. My heart was lying there on a table and they put new

valves on it. They say it's good for another 80 years."

He also had eye surgery more recently. "That was harder than the heart transplant," he said. "But they sure treat me well there at the vets' hospital. Some complain about it, but they don't get away with it if I'm around. I get right in their face."

From the southeast corner on the outside of the powwow tent, Lambert raffled off a generator, grill and swing set, among "a lot of miscellaneous, too many to name" prizes to benefit the Northwest Indian Veterans Association. He sold lapel flowers in red and blue to raise funds for hospitalized veterans.

Tribal member Margo Mercier held down the raffle booth.

Tribal member Pee Wee Robertson, who served as Boatswain's



Veterans participate in the 1 p.m. Grand Entry on Saturday, July 11.

## Photos by Michelle Alaimo

The family of Tribal Elder Thomas Bean, who walked on Dec. 7, 2007, held a giveaway in his honor.

Wife Mary Pichette and the family of Tribal Elder Jimmie Pichette, who walked on Feb. 6, 2008, held a giveaway to Elders in his honor.

Active community member Speedy Fry gave a swagger stick to the event's oldest veteran, 87-year-old Robert Korhonen of Portland. Korhonen served in the Army in campaigns in North Africa, northern Italy and Sicily during World War II, from 1942-45.

"I'm lucky to be alive," Korhonen said, still with a sparkle in his eyes. "We survived 14 U-boat attacks in

## POWWOW continued on page 12



Tribal Elder and veteran Marce Norwest looks over the selection of hats that were available to veterans during the Veterans' Powwow on Saturday, July 11. Each veteran received a hat.



Rose Peters and her husband, Tribal member Deltrich Peters, dance an owl dance on Saturday, July 11. The couple acted as the Headwoman and Headman dancers for the Powwow.



Tribal member and newly named Veterans' Young Warrior True Rimer hands out certificates of appreciation to each veteran at the Veterans' Powwow on Saturday, July 11.

At right, Outgoing Grand Ronde Veterans' Royalty from left, Senior Veterans' Queen Halona Butler, Senior Young Warrior Peter Nelson and Junior Veterans' Queen Nakoosa Moreland lead a last dance as Royalty during the Veterans' Powwow on Friday, July 10.

