



2005 — The new expansion of Spirit Mountain Lodge, nearing completion, added 106,000 square feet and 163 rooms. The finished project will include 254 rooms, with 14 being suites. "We hope to open with around 70 percent occupancy during the week and 100 percent on the weekends," Lodge General Manager Wayne Miller said.

2000 — "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno performed two shows at Spirit Mountain Casino. Coming soon to the casino was another comedy legend, George Carlin, booked for March 9.

1995 — A new modular building, purchased by the Tribe in the fall of 1994, was being erected near Spirit Mountain Development Corp. to provide badly needed office space for Tribal employees.

1990 — Tribal Council members Mark Mercier, Kathryn Harrison and Candy Robertson, along with Tribal staff members Greg Archuleta and Jim Willis, traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service officials and legislative representatives regarding youth services, child welfare, health services, forestry and other issues affecting the Tribe.

1985 — Tribal representatives, led by Kathryn Harrison, were preparing to travel to Washington, D.C., between Feb. 12-15 to meet with representatives in Sen. Mark Hatfield's and Sen. Bob Packwood's offices, as well as officials with the Department of Interior and Oregon's House of Representatives delegation.

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Valentine's cooking class slated

Tribal member and Tribal Food Services Coordinator Kristy DeLoe will be offering a free "Sweets for Your Sweetheart" cooking class at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, in the Elders' Activity Center.

Participants will make dessert ideas for their Valentine's Day sweetheart. The first 10 people to contact DeLoe on a first-come, first-served basis will be allowed in the class.

For more information, call DeLoe at 503-879-2018 or e-mail her at kristy.deloe@grandronde.org. ■

Youth Canoe Club

Every Wednesday 4-5 p.m., Youth Education Building

Contact Lisa Leno at 503-879-1471 or Travis Mercier at 503-879-2143 for more information.

Attention Tribal members

Copies of Legislative Action Committee recommendations are available on the Tribal member side of the Tribal Web site. They are located with the Legislative Action Committee minutes. These forms are only a recommendation used by the Legislative Action Committee to move discussion items to a regular Tribal Council meeting for a vote of the Tribal Council. If you have any questions, please contact Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, for more information. You may reach Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 1309. ■

'I'm going mainly to canoe with the guys and be a guest'

MAORI continued
from front page

their dance, their rituals.

"They had a blast here. Everybody took them in."

The reciprocal invitation to Mercier is also part of the aboriginal culture, he said, and he will play a role similar to the one that the Māoris played here during his visit.

"I'm going mainly to canoe with the guys and be a guest." He'll give talks. He'll sing the traditional canoe songs. "I'll be a witness to the events going on."

The event will be held in the brisk waters of the Bay of Islands east of Auckland, New Zealand.

The Māori have not yet brought their big, traditional waka (canoes) to the Northwest, but while there, Mercier said, he looks forward to canoeing in some of their bigger canoes, including a 100-footer that holds as many as 100 people and hasn't been out in the water for 70 years.

The canoes are large and heavy, Mercier said. They come from the ancient Kauri and Totara trees, prehistoric in age, with the last

stands now owned by a Māori carver.

On his trip, Mercier says he will take journeys similar to the Canoe Family journeys that last summer brought together dozens of Northwest Tribes and Canadian First Nations. The journeys may not be quite as long as the two weeks Northwest Tribes spend on the water, however.

"We'll go around the bay, with all kinds of spiritual protocols," Mercier said. There will be chants and dances in the canoes.

"Longhouses line the beach and there's a lot of protocol on the beach. They say that the wakas get us here, but this (the cultural protocols) is who we are."

Hundreds of tents line the beach. "They call it 'tent city.' They're up at five in the morning and ready to go."

"The plan is to keep the rela-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Canoe Family skipper and Tribal member Bobby Mercier, right, presents Tamahou Temara, middle, and Francis Mamaku, left, with gifts during Grand Ronde's protocol of the 2009 Canoe Journey, Paddle to Suquamish, on Aug. 5, 2009. The Māori ambassadors paddled on the journey with the Canoe Family.

tionship (with Northwest Tribes) strong," Mercier said. In the future, the Māoris hope to bring one of their canoes here, and keep it here for future visits.

The U.S. Embassy in New Zealand is funding the trip, and will help publicize the visit with photographs and special events.

Mercier said he expects to stay in tents by the longhouses for a week, and then visit a village out in the country to meet other Māori people.

He intends to take

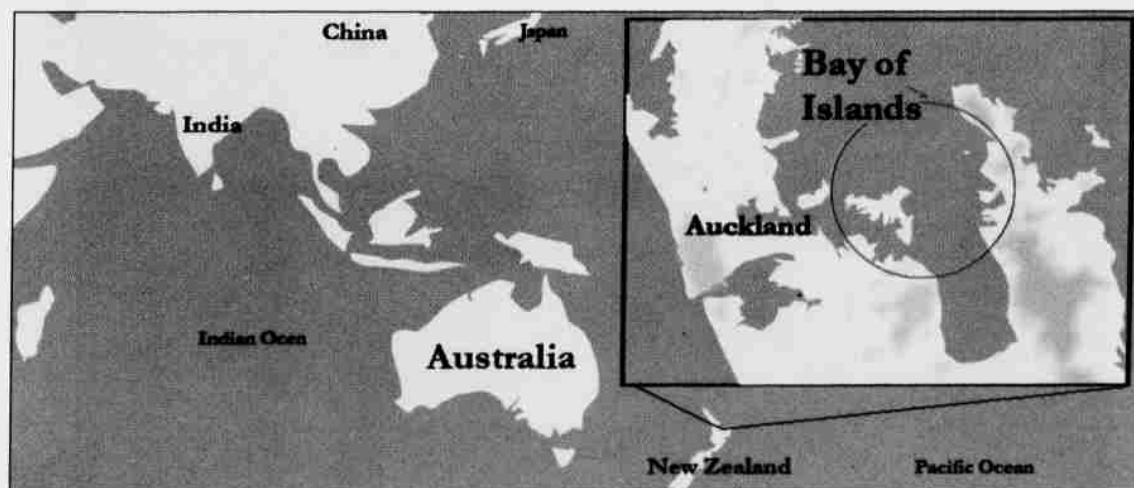
a laptop and write a blog during his visit.

Mercier anticipates that later this year, two more Māori delegates will visit Grand Ronde.

The Grand Ronde Tribe first made contact with the Māori Tribes of New Zealand in the fall of 2005, through the Māori Arts Council, Toi Māori Aotearoa. With the help of a \$25,000 Spirit Mountain Community Fund grant, the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University in Salem brought more than 100 Māori weavings, and the artists who made them, to town.

"It's a really big responsibility," Mercier said about being an ambassador.

And he is taking it seriously. ■



Map created by George Valdez