



**2009** – Tribal Council Chair Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Reyn Leno and Tribal Council members Steve Bobb Sr. and Wink Soderberg inspected Tribal artifacts at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, they also inspected the original Willamette Valley Treaty that is stored in the National Archives.

**2004** – Tribal members visited Tomanowos – the Willamette meteorite – at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. On the trip were Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison and Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. The Tribe presented Museum President Ellen Futter with a Tribal blanket.

**1999** – Grand Ronde Tribal Elders hosted the first Elder Honor Day on July 16-17. The event was held at St. Michael's Church and included banquet meals and bingo. Ann and Raleigh Anderson were honored as the eldest man and woman, as well as the longest married couple.

**1994** – Chris Leno, a Strategic Plan Task Force member, said that Tribal members living outside of Grand Ronde indicated a need for outreach services, such as holding Tribal Council meetings away from Grand Ronde. From 200 to 300 Tribal members also indicated that there is a need for housing. Many said that if there was housing available, they would move to Grand Ronde.

**1989** – Eleven-year-old Toby McClary was among Tribal members taking dance and craft classes held every Tuesday at the Tribal office in Grand Ronde. "Right now I am in the process of finishing a drumstick that I'm making in craft class," he said.

**1984** – Allen "Biff" and Louise Langley were thanked for opening their home to Tribal Council members who attended a timber management workshop held at Warm Springs. "We enjoyed a barbecue and generous hospitality," *Smoke Signals* said.

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



File photo

# A stone for Tilmer

*Grand matriarch of the Confederated Tribes is still without a headstone*

By Ron Karten

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

History often sweeps away the little things. That's not always so with families. They know the people who were towering figures in their lives, whatever the larger community and country knew of them.

Still, even among families, things get lost.

Tilmer LaChance Leno, 99 at the time of her death, was born in 1858 in St. Paul, Ore. In 1877, she married the first David Leno, one of the Tribe's pioneers, who also was an orderly to Lt. Phil Sheridan.

Together, they brought 10 children into the world, all themselves now passed.

Tribal Elder and former Tribal Council member Val Grout, Tilmer's great-granddaughter, has been trying for years to remedy a family omission when Tilmer walked on.

Buried in the Tribal cemetery, her memory was never preserved with a headstone.

"Grandpa has a tall headstone," Grout said. "I don't know why grandma doesn't."

The effort started, Grout said, about 10 years ago, when she and her late cousin, Tribal Elder Russ Leno, talked about it as they came from Tilmer's grave on Memorial Day.

Now, Grout is asking Tilmer's far-flung family to chip in to get her a belated gravestone. She thinks it will cost about \$4,000 with a picture of Tilmer on one side and on the other a carving of a lady sitting at a quilting frame.

In that regard, Grout has collected the names of Tilmer's children in hopes that those in the family who have forgotten her may yet remember her children's names.

Tilmer's children were:

- Joe Leno, 1880-1907;



Tilmer LaChance Leno

- Dollie Leno, Pichette, Baker, 1883-1980;
- George Leno, 1885-1975;
- Edwin Leno, 1887-1917;
- Agnes Leno, Mercier, 1889-1982;
- Frances Leno, Houck, Porter, 1891-1974, (Val Grout's grandmother);
- David Leno II, 1892-1964;
- Elizabeth Leno, Lafferty, 1895-1962;
- Myrtle Leno, McKnight, 1898-1982;
- Gus Leno, 1900-1989.

Grout said she remembers Tilmer quilting every day and teaching the craft to many from the next generations.

"I never remember a time that there wasn't a quilt on the frame. She would let it down from the ceiling, and she would give me a small corner and teach me to quilt. And she would tell me stories of the old days.

"I remember the sourdough biscuits, the white beans and fried spuds she would make us. It was so good because grandma made it and she was a great cook."

For those who would like to contribute, send the gifts to Val Grout, P.O. Box 113, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. ■

## Tribal Council OKs applying for grant to build police station

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

The effects of having a Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department dominated the July 23 Tribal Council meeting.

Tribal Council approved applying for a \$500,000 Indian Community Development block grant to possibly design and build a new police station in Grand Ronde.

The current modular building near Spirit Mountain Casino is 1,443 square feet and too small for the current police and emergency services staff. It also lacks a holding cell and evidence room.

Kim Rogers, Tribal Planning & Grants manager, said a secure, 3,900-square-foot building would cost about \$960,000. If received, the block grant would cover more than half that cost with a \$167,000 Tribal match and at least \$40,000 in Tribal funds to pay for the space occupied by the police chief.

Rogers said the Tribe can apply to the U.S. Department of Justice and other grant agencies to cover the balance of the cost, or use Tribal funds if the grant applications are unsuccessful.

At the July 22 Legislative Action Committee meeting, Police Chief Al LaChance said he favors either locating the new police station on

the Tribal campus or next to the fire station on Grand Ronde Road.

In addition to applying for the grant, Tribal Council held a first reading on amendments to the Public Safety Ordinance to reflect the police department's expanding role in the community. Among the amendments is creating a concealed weapons permit process and transferring the permitting authority from Tribal Court to the police department.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved applying for a \$5,000 language grant from the Potlatch Fund. Rogers said the grant would pay for a six-month project to collect, inventory, scan and organize the Chinuk Wawa language curriculum and reading materials developed by the Tribe.

- Approved a Tribal credit card for Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Greg Azure.

Eirik Thorsgard, Jon Looking Wolf Reibach, Travis Stewart, Chris Mercier and Tribal Council member Jon A. George opened the meeting with cultural drumming and singing.

A video of the meeting can be viewed at the Tribal website, [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org), under the Videos tab. ■

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In 2012, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board will launch a companion website: [www.weRnative.org](http://www.weRnative.org). The site is being designed for Native youth, by Native youth, to encourage healthy behaviors, share youth-friendly media and current events, increase cultural identity and pride, and share the positive impacts Native youth are having on their communities.

Funded by the National IHS HIV Program

For more information, please contact  
Jessica Leston: [jeston@npihb.org](mailto:jeston@npihb.org) or visit us at: <http://www.npihb.org/epicenter/project/projectredtalon>



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