



Watchlist: ‘The Forest Grove Indian Training School, 1880-1885’

(Editor’s note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube, and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those myriad videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

An article in this edition of *Smoke Signals* called “Indian boarding school report includes Grand Ronde location” has a companion video on our YouTube channel where we visit three federal Indian boarding school sites in Oregon listed in the Department of Interior’s report.

In the video, *Smoke Signals* visited Chemawa Indian School, the site of the Forest Grove Indian Training School and the Grand Ronde Boarding School.

During the Forest Grove Indian Training School portion of that video, a clip from a video published by Pacific University’s magazine in 2019 is used. Pacific University is located in Forest Grove and its Archives and Special Collections Librarian Eva Guggemos compares a before-and-after photo of Native children who attended the Indian boarding school.

The rest of the six-minute Forest Grove Indian Training School video on Pacific University’s YouTube channel gives an in-depth perspective on the history of the boarding school, explaining the documentation of the school and the traumas that occurred there.

Guggemos narrates the video and explains that the Forest Grove Indian Training School opened in 1880 “to intentionally break students’ relationships with their Tribes and mix them with other students so it would be harder for them to maintain their own languages and customs.”

Using historical images, the video shows federal Indian boarding schools followed the template set by Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Guggemos says the Forest Grove Indian Training School was the second off-Reservation boarding school in the country after Carlisle.

“As time went on they would go to Tribes with very young children who might only be 7 or 8 years old and then tell the parents they needed to send their children here,” Guggemos says in the video. “I don’t think the parents felt they had a choice.”

According to Guggemos, a lot of the photos from Pacific University’s special collections library used in the video were most likely staged to demonstrate the school was “civilizing” Native students.

“We have a few scattered pieces of evidence pointing toward abuse at the school,” she says. “One student was actually one of the most prominent graduates of the school. He wrote a letter saying that he remembers the second superintendent hitting and kicking the students to keep them in line. In my opinion that probably was the tip of the iceberg.”

If you would like to watch the full video on the Forest Grove Indian Training School, you can visit it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4iAk53ONpg> or find it linked on the *Smoke Signals* “Watchlist” playlist on the *Smoke Signals* YouTube channel. ■

Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellow applicants

Applications for the 2022-23 Hatfield Fellowship are being accepted through June 15 by Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in a congressional office. Placement of the Fellow rotates through the Oregon congressional delegation to enhance the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

The Hatfield Fellow begins his or her Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association. It is then followed by an eight-month term in an Oregon congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend, as well as relocation and travel expenses.

Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon are eligible to apply, as well as members of Tribes in the Pacific Northwest. However, preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree or be graduating in June, and be at least 21 years of age.

The Hatfield Fellowship was created in 1998 to honor Sen. Mark Hatfield’s public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. For more information or to apply, go to thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship/ or visit youtu.be/7T0nNoFgUYS to watch an informational video. ■

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