ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES

All thirty-nine of Washington's counties have participated in the celebration of the centennial of statehood. Each has formed a county centennial committee. Commission Co-Chairman Jean Gardner has coordinated and lead this effort for the Commission. Staff from the Commission has provided advice to county centennial committee chairs individually on request, through semi-annual statewide conferences, and in smaller group settings. The Commission made highway signs and an initial supply of flags and banners available to each county, which have been widely used across the state. A final reception and presentation of county centennial committees' accomplishments will be held November 4, 1989, at the time of the dedication of the Centennial Bell Garden at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle. Contact Jane McCurdy at 206/586-3158 for more information.

CENTENNIAL EVENTS DATABASE

The Centennial Commission maintains a database of local and statewide events and projects. A Calendar of Events is updated monthly, and is distributed statewide to the media and county centennial contacts. Currently, there are well over 3,000 entries, and the count continues to grow. Software for this database was designed and donated by MicroRim, using its R:base V system. To list a centennial event on the calendar, send a written description to the office in Olympia or contact Lisa Wendt at 206/586-5383.

NATIVE AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

NATIVE CANOE PROJECT

Reviving the Canoe Carving Tradition

Fifteen hand-carved cedar dugout canoes have been created and several tribal canoe racing programs have either been started or revived. Trees for carving programs were found within federal, state and private forest lands and transported to carving sites by a unique combination of donated assistance. 20 tribes, and a total of 1,254 individuals, participated in the "Paddle to Seattle" events. Thousands of spectators on-site were supplemented by prime-time news coverage on KING, KIRO, KOMO, and KSTW-TV and extensive newspaper coverage. KIRO-TV produced a 30 minute documentary "From Sacred Trees" for their KIDSWEEK magazine show which aired July 26 and September 4, 1989.

A flyer has been prepared to introduce interested people to the many maritime activities of Washington Indian Tribes. For more information on the Native American Canoe Project and "Paddle to Seattle", contact Mark MacIntyre at 206/464-6580.

NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

Heritage Information Service

Staffed by Native American professionals, the Center provided technical assistance to Indian organizations, tribes, and others preparing projects about Native Americans for the Centennial. The Center has helped the Lower Elwha Tribal Center design exhibit space; the Makah Research Center build a photo archive; Quileute Tribe create outdoor exhibits about maritime history; Colville Tribal members establish an Inecheum Cultural Resource Center; Squaxin Island Tribal Center produce photographic murals; Steilacoom Tribe install exhibits at their new museum; Samish Tribal Council design a Longhouse Discovery Room; American Indian Community Center in Spokane coordinate an intertribal encampment; and Yakima Nation Museum create an exhibit on Plateau Indian art. Contact Michael Warner at 206/586-0219 for more information.

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL PROJECTS

Tribes Celebrate Indian Heritage

Through a competitive process conducted by the Native American Committee, fourteen tribes were selected to do cultural projects through which Indians have told their story.

- Chehalis - "Last Canoe" (videotape), Tribal Center in Oakville, in preparation.
- Colville - "Cedar Basket" (videotape), Colville Tribal Museum at Coulee Dam, available.
- Jamestown Klallam - "A Strong People" (videotape), now available.
- Muckleshoot - "Cano Carving", in progress.
- Nisqually - "Photo Archive", Tribal Center, now open.
- Sauk-Suiattle - "Longhouse Carving", Sauk-Suiattle Reservation, in progress.
- Skokomish - "Seeds of our Ancestors Exhibit", Tribal Center near Shelton, opened August 16, 1989.
- Snoqualmie - "Dance Group", now available for performances, contact the Tribal Office in Redmond.
- Steilacoom - "Visions of the Past: Legacy to the Steilacoom Tribe", Steilacoom Tribal Museum in Steilacoom, now open.
- Swinomish - "Family Poles and Canoe Carving", Tribal Center, now in progress.
- Tulalip - "Beneath Tall Cedar Exhibit", Bingo Hall in Marysville, now open.
- Upper Skagit - "Canoe Carving", completed.
- Yakima - "Art of the Yakima Indian Nation: An Exhibit of Contemporary Vision", Tribal Center in Toppenish, open through November 11.

The Centennial Commission has prepared a flyer on Native American heritage activities. For more information, contact Mary King at 206/586-0375.
Final Report - Native American Projects
December 26, 1989
Michelle Weaver

The state of Washington has a diverse and complex Native American community. Celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the state’s native peoples was one of the central goals of the 1989 Washington Centennial Commission.

Several of the Commission’s program committees developed programs designed to highlight the contributions of this important community to the state’s first one hundred years. The committees such as the Maritime Committee, the Arts Committee, and the Lasting Legacy Committee have implemented and/or sponsored such programs as the following:

*The Quinault Tribe published the book Quinault to commemorate the end of old growth logging and the State Centennial

*The Evergreen State College faculty and students created The Longhouse Project designed to foster a human bridge to understanding through educational forums and conferences for all people within the college’s service area, to create a place in which to address specific educational and cultural needs for Native American students, and to contribute to non-Native American students by providing a place for humanities-type academic programs with the flavor of Native philosophy in a traditional Native environment

*The Quileute Tribe undertook a six-day voyage on the open ocean to retrace the 160-mile traditional trade route from La Push to Seattle to join the state for its 100th year celebration. Upon reaching Seattle’s Sea Fair festival, the tribe joined 14 other Native American tribes from Washington and Canada to express their good wishes at the state’s Centennial Celebration

*The Native Canoe Project involved 15 tribes by offering large cedar logs and carving assistance at low or no cost, with the stipulation that each tribe made a concerted effort to involve their young people in the revival of the art and culture of canoes. The project not only was a focal point for tribal pride and a valuable cultural education project, but it also served as an alternative to substance abuse. Organized by Mr. Emmett Oliver on behalf of the Maritime Committee

*North East Clark County held the Mt. Tum Tum Native American Encampment, which presented the way of life and
artistic skills at social times and Pow Wows while visiting land historically loved by the Native American ancestors. Held on Chellaticie and Yalcot Prairies.

Under the leadership of Bill Frank, Jr., the Native American Committee requested funding for a Native American Resource Coordinator to provide direct technical assistance to tribal cultural centers and museums, to document Washington’s Native American Heritage in a variety of mediums, to support the development of centennial related exhibits in tribal centers and at special tribal events during 1989, and to enhance tribal events during the Centennial year.

The Native American Committee and the 1989 Washington Centennial hope that these programs helped to illuminate the ups and downs in the relations between Native Americans and white people. These programs were designed to emphasize cultural diversity and how this diversity creates opportunities for us all to learn from one another as we move into the future.
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