



## Willamette Heritage Center at *The Mill* Announces New Special Exhibition

- WHAT:** *We Were Here First... And We're Here to Stay! Assimilation, Termination and Restoration of the Grand Ronde Tribe*
- WHERE:** The Willamette Heritage Center at *The Mill*, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR, 97301
- WHEN:** Friday, April 12 through Monday, May 27, 2013
- COST:** Free with museum admission
- INFO:** 503-585-7012, <http://www.willametteheritage.org>

In 1954, one hundred years after the Indians of western Oregon were removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation, the United States implemented its termination policy. The permanent Grand Ronde Reservation, settled in 1855 and established by presidential executive order in 1857, was terminated by Congress; the seven ratified treaties were nullified; and the tribal people lost their Federal recognition. In western Oregon, native people appeared to cease to exist. For 29 years Grand Ronde's tribal cultures, languages, and community were severely fractured, and much was lost. During the post-termination era, despite all of the problems tribal members faced, they found ways to survive and worked to restore the tribe. In 1983, the Grand Ronde Tribe was restored.

This exhibition, curated by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR) and the Grand Ronde Museum, explores the experiences of tribal members living through efforts by the U.S. government to liquidate the Grand Ronde Tribe forever. The stories of loss endured for 160 years are put into the context of the tribe's 40-year journey to fight back through federal restoration and the subsequent building of a tribal nation. This exhibition occurs on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the restored Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

-----  
The Willamette Heritage Center at *The Mill*, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.willametteheritage.org>

*The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.*

-----  
Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, [cclark@auramarketing.com](mailto:cclark@auramarketing.com) ###