

Kalapuyans Return to Tualatin - Sunday, February 12

BY: LOYCE MARTINAZZI

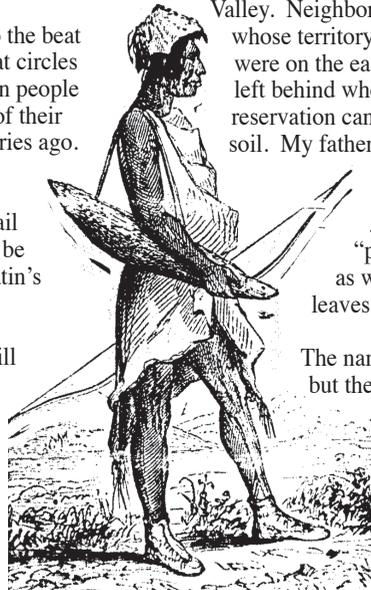
Once again young native people will dance to the beat of a drum right here in Tualatin! In a loop that circles far back through time, young Native American people will come to Tualatin to perform the dances of their tribal ancestors who populated Tualatin centuries ago.

The story of the Native Americans who lived here for thousands of years before Oregon Trail pioneers arrived in their covered wagons will be told on Sunday, February 12, at 2 pm at Tualatin's Winona Grange hall.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Rhonde will conduct the program, in cooperation with the Tualatin Historical Society. The dance troupe *The Royalty*, composed of young persons descended from original natives, will perform their ancestor's ritual dances. David Lewis, manager off the Confederated Tribes of Grand Rhonde Department, will present a Power Point that tells of the tribes, including the Atfalati Tribe, for whom our own city is named. In the 1990s, Atfalati Park, bordered by Sagert Street and 65th Avenue (Meridian Road), was named by the City of Tualatin to honor the people who lived here so long ago.

David will tell about Ki-a-kuts, the last Headman of the Tualatin, or Atfalati band of Kalapuyans, for whom our pedestrian bridge is named. Atfalati territory stretched along the Tualatin River from the headwaters in the Coast Range foothills nearly to its mouth. The river valley was so richly abundant in food sources the Atfalati could sustain themselves well without having to forage far from their camps and had no need for the horse. Before disease and the white man's intrusion took its toll, the Atfalati numbered several thousand men, women and children.

The Atfalati were one of the linguistically related groups known as Kalapuyans who occupied the fertile Willamette



Charles Wilkes explored the northwest on a government expedition in 1841 and sketched this Calapooia (Kalapuya) man.

Valley. Neighboring groups were the Yamhills, whose territory was westerly and the Molallas were on the east. Arrow points and other tools left behind when the natives were taken to the reservation can still be found as farmers till the soil. My father found many arrow points and scraping tools, and I found a few myself. My oldest sister Jo inherited them. It's called "primogeniture" and applies to relics as well as to English estates, and it leaves younger sisters S.O.L.

The name Tualatin is derived from Atfalati, but there were many other spellings. I've seen it spelled on old documents as "Tuality", "Faulity", "Tualatine", and one old map spelled it "Qwality". The original pronunciation is lost. I researched the Tualatins and wrote his group, found that there were some 17 villages along the Tualatin River and its tributaries. A semi-nomadic culture, the people moved about to harvest favorite

food supplies in the spring, summer and fall, but in the winter they gathered at Wapato Lake near present-day Gaston.

Along with the dancing and Power Point presentation, native craft persons will display their artistry and tribal members will be glad to visit with you and answer any questions you may have.

Photography by
Art Sasaki



Natives used this stone bowl and pestle to grind seeds, nuts and grain. Found on the Morse farm and donated to the Tualatin Historical Society by Margie Pohl Larsen.



Larry and Craig Lee donated these arrow points, scrapers and other native tools they found while tilling their fields to the Tualatin Historical Society. Plowshares damaged some of the stone tools. The Atfalati likely traded camas and wapato for the obsidian. The tribes would meet at the Falls in Oregon City to trade goods and socialize.



Delicate agate points, used for bird hunting, found on the Morse farm which was located where I-5 and I-205 meet. Donated to the Tualatin Historical Society by Margie Pohl Larsen.

**Atfalati Indian Presentation Sunday, February 12,
2pm. Winona Grange, 8340 SW Seneca Street
\$3 per person, children under 16 free
For information: Tualatin Historical Society
503.885.1926 or Loycem@gmail.com**