



NEAWANNA POINT THE SITE FOR WILBUR TERNYIK'S BRONZE

*Clatsop Leader Honored During Lewis & Clark Bicentennial
and Led the Way for Coastal Land-Use Planning in Oregon*

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PORTLAND, OR, October 18, 2005 – A site at the north edge of Seaside rich in natural resources and native American cultural history has been selected for the permanent display of a bronze bust of coastal planning pioneer Wilbur Ternyik, 79, of Florence, former Senator Mark O. Hatfield and The Bridges Foundation announced today. The bust, soon to be completed by internationally-known sculptor Lorenzo E. Ghiglieri of Wilsonville, is to be dedicated in March of next year.

Working with Hatfield, the Turner-based Bridges Foundation commissioned the life-size bust in tribute to Ternyik's decades of community service to the Oregon Coast. Ternyik is best known for his leadership role in the early 1970's to develop land use standards for coastal conservation and development that helped make Oregon a leader in shorelands management.

The Florence man spent much of his life as a leader in various levels of local government including a long stint as Florence mayor. He gained international recognition as an expert in sand dunes stabilization as well as delineation and restoration of coastal wetlands.

Kathy Bridges, director of the Bridges Foundation, said the site for the sculpture at the Coastal Natural History Center on Neawanna Point overlooking the Necanicum River estuary could not be more suitable because of the site's natural beauty and ties to Ternyik's Clatsop Indian ancestors. Born in Warrenton, Ternyik spent much of his youth on the North Coast of Oregon. "This is where Wilbur grew up. No place could have been better than this," Bridges said.

The Coastal Natural History Center opened earlier this year in a small building on leased land adjoining a 20-acre tract acquired through a donation in 2001 to the North Coast Land Conservancy. The center, designed to tell the history of the coastal region and how people interact with the environment, is operated through a partnership of nonprofit groups including the Land Conservancy, the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, the Seaside Museum and Historical Society, the Seaside Native American Project, and the WEB Discovery Program.

The Land Conservancy has plans to build a larger Coastal Natural History Center on its 20-acre site at some time in the future. Plans call for the Ternyik sculpture to be moved to the new center when it is built. The conservancy property includes forests, marshes, and dunes and overlooks the estuary and the ocean. The land was acquired by the organization after persuading a Texas development company which had proposed a condominium project to donate the acreage so it could be kept in a natural state. Ternyik helped the conservancy document the existence of wetlands on the land.

The Necanicum site where the sculpture will be displayed symbolizes Ternyik's commitment to protecting unique lands like it up and down the Oregon Coast, Maine said. Dick Basch, a member of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes said the land was important to the Clatsop Indians because of good salmon runs in the Necanicum that occurred so late in the year that the tribe was able to have fresh fish to trade when others had only dried fish.

The site is linked to Ternyik, Basch said, because it was once home to one of Ternyik's ancestors, Celiast, the daughter of Coboway, the Clatsop chief who provided assistance to the Lewis and Clark expedition while its members were camped at Fort Clatsop. Basch, who also traces his lineage to Celiast, said she and her husband, Solomon Smith, lived on the Necanicum estuary for a time.

Ternyik said he is pleased with the site selected for the sculpture and honored to be memorialized there because it represents so much history to his tribe. "It's a beautiful place; very special," he said.

To him, Ternyik said the sculpture is not only a tribute to his work but to that of the 30-member Oregon Coastal Conservation and Development Commission which drafted the early land-use goals for the Oregon Coast. Ternyik led the commission often wearing a fringed buckskin Indian jacket and using a tomahawk for a gavel. And that is how he will be depicted in the sculpture.

"Wearing his Indian jacket and carrying a tomahawk, Wilbur Ternyik spent 40 years volunteering to help Coastal communities," said Bridges, the foundation leader. "A true leader, he has earned the highest respect among his peers and helped bring recognition to his Clatsop Tribe."

While underwriting the cost of the sculpture, the foundation seeks donations from individuals and organizations to help cover the cost and to develop an interpretive area at the new center. Donations have exceeded \$5,000. To date, donors contributing \$250 or more will have their names included on the base for the sculpture. Rainy Arago Lehrman, a native of Neskowin is designing and fabricating the base for the bronze made of Sitka spruce.

Future donations for the interpretive center honoring Wilbur Ternyik at the Coastal Natural Resource Center may be sent to the Bridges Foundation at P.O. Box 1123, Turner, OR, 97392, or they may be made on-line at www.thebridgesfoundation.info.

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