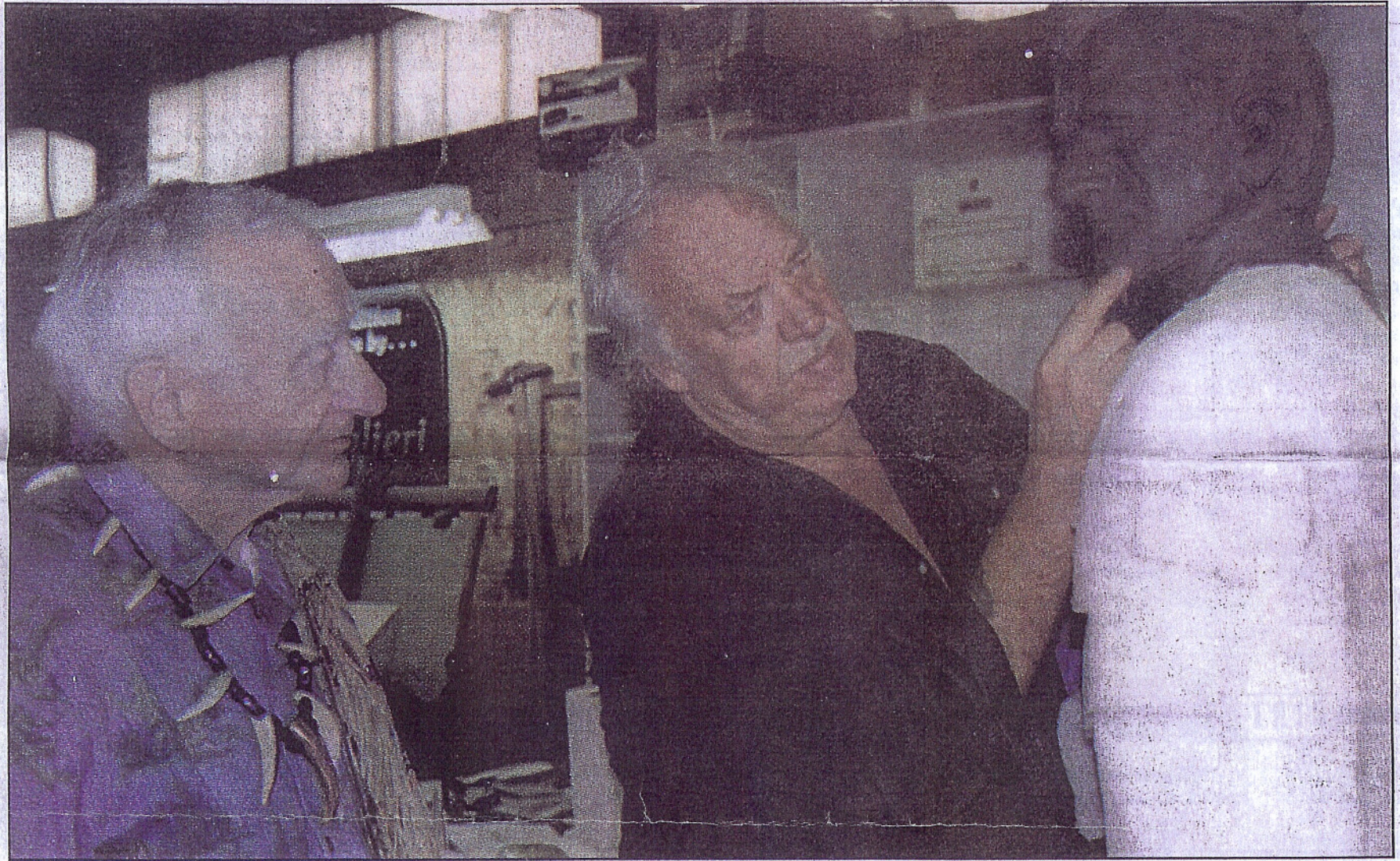


A life-size bronze statue of Wilbur Ternyik will be unveiled at the FEC on April 13.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Sculptor Lorenzo Ghiglieri of Wilsonville works on the life-size bronze sculpture of long-time Florence resident and coastal land-use planning pioneer Wilbur Ternyik.

Coastal legend Wilbur Ternyik to be honored

Former Florence Mayor Wilbur Ternyik will be honored with a luncheon and an unveiling of a life-sized bronze statue at the Florence Events Center on April 13.

A trailblazer in coastal resource preservation, as well as a colorful public figure with strong ties to the Native American community, Ternyik, 80, has spent a lifetime in public service.

BY BRET YAGER
Siuslaw News

April 5, 2006

"Wilbur's signature accomplishment was that he really carried the ball on making coastal land planning and conservation happen," said Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association director Onno Husing, who will conduct a public interview of



Wilbur Ternyik at home on the Siuslaw River

Ternyik during the hour and a half luncheon, which will be attended by coastal legislators and dignitaries and

is open to the public. "This really is an incredible part of Oregon history, and if there is one community that has

bragging rights to it, it's Florence."

Former U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield, a close friend of Ternyik, spearheaded the push to create the statue, which was funded by the Oregon philanthropic Bridges Foundation. From Florence, the statue of Ternyik will make its way to a permanent residence in a new Clatsop Indians interpretive center in Seaside, an event to be celebrated there on May 27.

Ternyik, who grew up in Warrenton before making his way to Florence, is a direct descendent of Chief Coboway, the Clatsop Indian chief who met the Lewis and Clark Expedition when it arrived in Clatsop in 1804. Ternyik joined the 1st Marine Division in 1944 and was struck in the shin by a bullet in the battle for Okinawa. Returning

See **TERNYIK 8A**

way, Ternyik forged powerful ties with political leaders both in Oregon and Washington, D.C, persuading coastal leaders to join the

Development Association, which aimed to give the coast a unified voice in planning and development issues. The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Coastal Conservation & Development Commission in 1971 in response. Presiding over OCC&DC meetings, Ternyik wore a buckskin jacket and used a tomahawk as a gavel.

The success of the organization has been attributed directly to Ternyik, and that success helped pave the way for Senate Bill 100, which established Oregon's landmark planning laws.

The public may attend the April 13, luncheon event without joining the meal. Those who wish to order lunch should make arrangements with the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association at

home, Ternyik joined the Soil Conservation Service and a project

using imported beachgrass to stabilize sand dunes. The project transformed the once open and blowing dunes of the Oregon coast.

Ternyik also became a wetlands and environmental restoration expert, port commissioner, mayor, and with his wife, Joyce, a licensed animal rehabilitator caring for injured herons, pelicans, hawks, deer and many other creatures at the "Ternyik Halfway House for Birds and Animals."

Along the



A sketch of Wilbur Ternyik by Lorenzo Ghiglieri