

Leaf "Chook Chook" Hillman tries out his new drum.



Paul Hailey shows his finished drum to drum-maker Robert G.

Third Annual Karuk Language Camp Held

Nearly 20 students, ages 10-14, attended the third annual Karuk Language Camp, August 23-26, held at the Mountain View Ranch in Orleans. The camp staff was made up of language teachers, a local basket-maker, a drummer from Yreka, a fluent elder, and Tribal Health staff. There were also adult volunteers who came to help and to just be a part of the camp themselves.

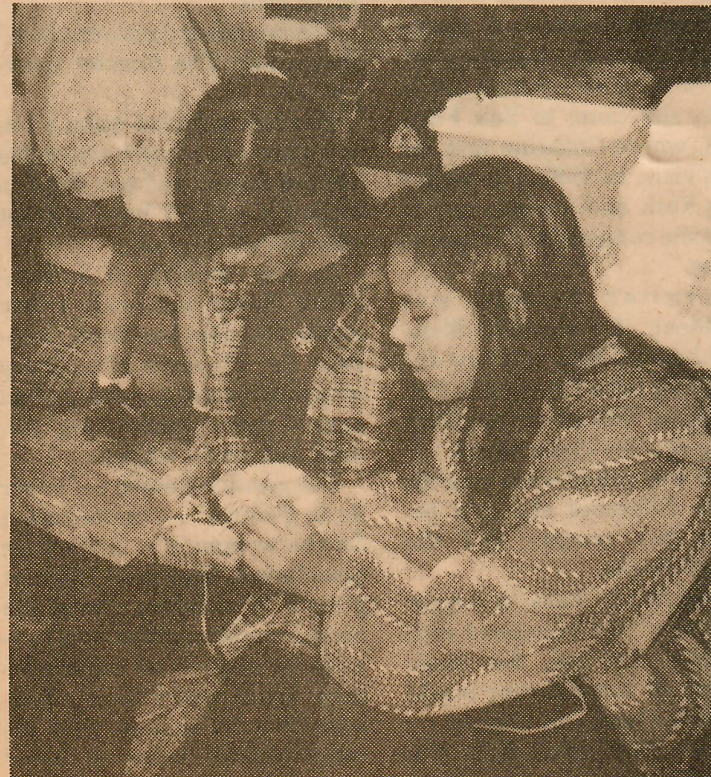
Each morning camp began with language activities. These activities centered around the vocabulary that campers would be using to create traditional projects later in the day. Active games and card games were played in the language with this vocabulary each morning. Young and old enjoyed playing the games together.

In another activity everyone played "Karuk Charades". One person acted out a Karuk description and everyone had to

Karuk that one person could give another.

At one point a polaroid picture was taken of everyone who attended the camp. All of the pictures were stapled onto a piece of paper. The papers were hung on a wall next to the camp area. Stickers were made of the descriptions from the Karuk Charades game, and participants were able to put the descriptions on each others pictures as they thought appropriate. They also added positive statements about the person that they learned during the course of the week. These "positive affirmations" were read about each person in Karuk and in English at the final night's potluck.

During the week Beau Morton, Karuk Tribal Substance Abuse Counselor, and Jeanerette Jacups-Johnny, Tobacco Education Specialist, each gave



Laura Sanders and Willow Reed work hard on their baskets

Staff performed skits in the Karuk language. Students were then asked to create their own skit or role-play about substance and tobacco abuse prevention. Staff helped the students to translate their ideas into the Karuk language. These skits were performed at the potluck for the parents and community members who attended. The students first performed in Karuk and then, so everyone could understand their messages, they translated their skits into English. This was the first time in recent Karuk language instruction that young children produced their own presentations entirely in the language.

During the week students made full-sized drums and miniature baby baskets. Their finished work was displayed at the potluck as well. One student learned a gambling song in the Karuk language, and he practiced it for hours at camp – first with staff and then by himself. The night of the potluck he sang the song for everyone in attendance, and accompanied himself on the drum he had made.

One group of students incorporated the making of drums and baby baskets into their skit. On the left they showed one student pretending to smoke and one pretending to drink until their imaginary car crashed, while on the right, one person was making a drum and another was making a basket. They then asked the audience, "What would YOU rather do?"

It was apparent from the enthusiasm of the participants, and the pride they took in their traditional projects, that being at the Karuk Language Camp was what THEY would rather be doing that week.

-Terry and Sarah Supahan



Four Campers practice their Karuk language skit about Substance Abuse Prevention with trial elder Violet Super.



LaVerne Glaze, basketmaker, helps Carrie Hailey.

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Salmon was cooked the traditional way for everyone to enjoy at the camp potluck.