

LOMS Student Wins Film Award

By Jack Beardwood

Tyler Conti used shots of his favorite places in Los Osos and a tale about the ancient Chumash Indians to win a History Film Award that was shown at the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival.

The film is titled, "Chumash Indian Grounds." The South County Historical Society, the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society and the California PTA sponsored the contest. This year's theme was "My Favorite Place," and the Los Osos Middle School student took top prize.

Tyler said his film is basically a history of the Chumash Indians and "different scenes that were some of my favorite places in Los Osos, just like by the bay and a few woody areas."

He said they lived in harmony with the environment. "They were not as dependent upon technology as we are now."

When asked what the world would be like today if the area's occupants lived more like the ancient Chumash, he replied,

"Not as many problems, no global warming and holes in the ozone layer."

He made the film as an assignment for a digital communications class. "If you actually entered the film in the film festival it was an automatic 'A' for the class," said Tyler.

Making a film is not easy, as Tyler attests. "Doing [shooting] it all in one day," he said. "I'm a procrastinator!"

"Probably one of the hardest things was editing it out, like finding what parts to keep and what parts to kind of just leave behind."

Tyler credited teacher Greg Wilcox for helping with the film's quality. "He was great," said Tyler. "He helped me a lot with my project, with the editing, finding things that would look good and informing me that I shouldn't be using the first person when I was saying things."

Tyler had big time butterflies when they played his short film at the Film Festival. "There was a few things that we tried to edit out, but ended up hearing any-

way, which was kind of embarrassing," he said. "We could hear footsteps while walking with the camera."

Nevertheless, he bagged his 'A' along with \$50 in prize money.

"I was impressed that he selected an historical documentary to focus on," said Wilcox. "I was pleased to see that, as a history teacher. I think he did an excellent job of piecing together some historical photos with present day music. Tyler is mature for a middle school student and quite creative."

Wilcox said the historical society is asking him to encourage his students to do documentaries on the history of Avila Beach, including the Union Oil clean-up project, the fishing industry and commerce at Port Harford.

Meanwhile, Tyler said he has no aspirations of becoming the next Cecil B. DeMille. His interests are athletic — he enjoys track, cross country and playing soccer.

Last year the Historical Society opened a new facility, which

includes a history library and resource center that will focus on projects for both children and adults.

"This new center will offer teachers, students, journalists and researchers a wealth of materials

on California history with an emphasis on south San Luis Obispo County history," according to a press release.

The library and resource center will be available to students and the community. Both the South County Historical Society and the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society sponsored hands-on workshops last December to train county youth in the art of digital story-



Submitted photo

Vivian Krug, left, a member of the South County Historical Society Board of Directors and Craig Rock, right, Historical Society library director, present a \$50 prize to Tyler Conti for winning the History Film Award for his 'Chumash Indian Grounds.'

telling, a computer-based digital film editing system that is available with inexpensive software.

Workshop presenters included Professor Lou Rosenberg from Cal Poly's College of Education and Santa Barbara filmmaker Jody Nelson.

The County Office of Education assisted by opening its computer lab to participating students as well.