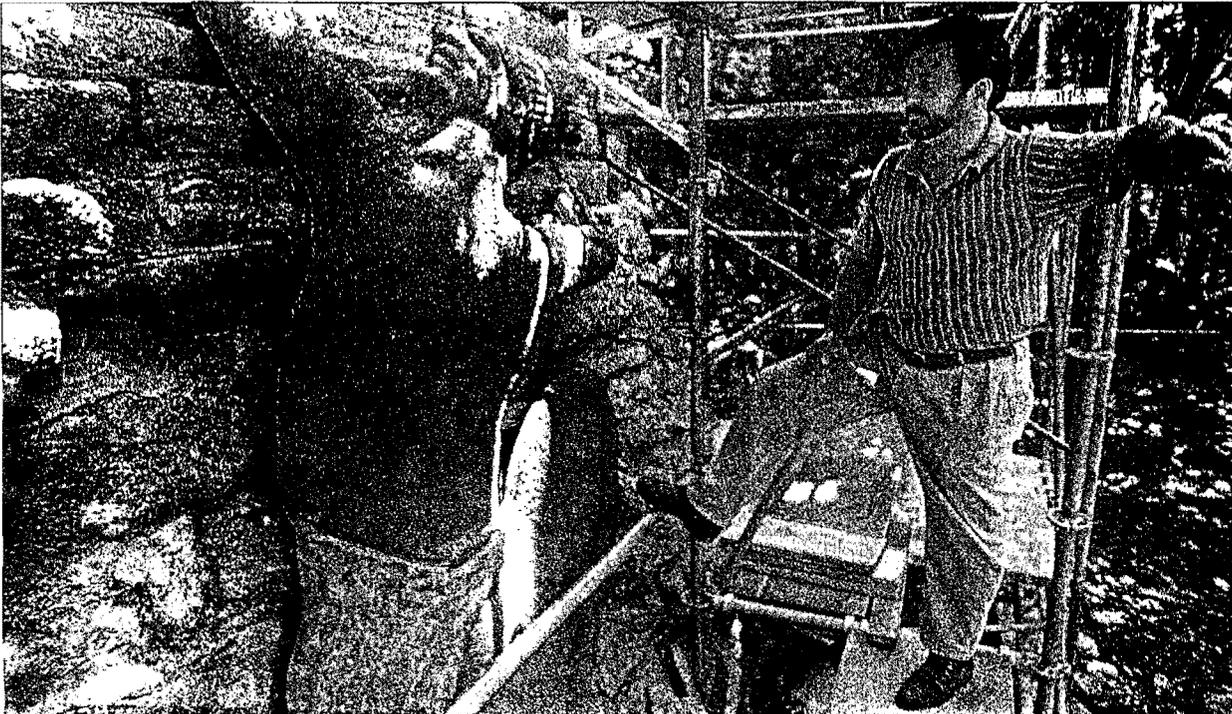


Area/Florida

Section D

Monday, May 18, 1988
Daytona Beach, Florida*Saving a local legend*

News-Journal photo by Roger Simms

T. Scott Kreilick, an architectural conservator from the University of Pennsylvania, looks at one of the high relief sculpted figures he is working on in the restoration of the Chief Tomokie statue at Tomoka State Park north of Ormond Beach.

Tomokie statue gets healing touch

By AUDREY PARENTE
Staff Writer

ORMOND BEACH — The original earth-tone color of one warrior in the Fred Dana Marsh statue "The Legend of Chief Tomokie" at Tomoka State Park has been uncovered.

Revelation of rough reddish-brown concrete, under crusty fungus patches, previous repairs and dull paint layers, is the first visible sign that restoration of the 45-foot, 41-year-old sculpture has begun.

But in order for the restoration project

to be completed, funding and volunteers are still needed, said Benny Woodham, park manager.

T. Scott Kreilick, architectural conservator from the University of Pennsylvania, has begun testing treatment techniques for removal of paint and previous repair materials used over the years on the art deco sculpture Marsh unveiled in 1957.

The work by the Chicago-born industrial era muralist and architect captures a local legend about a spring with curative pow-

ers. Topping the piece is Chief Tomokie, holding a stolen cup which spills stylized water, while maiden Oleeta and other warriors take aim with bows and arrows.

Kreilick will document and test the treatment process on only the central warrior's body, excluding the limbs, and recommend how best to proceed with restoration.

A specialist in historic preservation and a specialist in conservation, Kreilick is

SEE TOMOKIE/3D

Tomokie

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working at the request of Dames & Moore, a multi-service environmental and engineering firm selected by the State of Florida.

Funds for this portion of the project came from \$100,000 budgeted by the state Legislature in 1996, following a study by John Maseman, an accredited objects conservator from South Florida Conservation Center, Pompano Beach.

Maseman had conducted his study during 1994 with a \$1,000 grant from a national group called Save Outdoor Sculpture. In 1995, his report indicated a need for about \$235,000 for restoration.

State Rep. Evelyn Lynn, R-Ormond Beach, and Senate Majority Leader Locke Burt, R-Ormond Beach, campaigned for state funding, but only \$100,000 was earmarked in the state budget. The sum was authorized for spending in September 1996.

Stephen Gubitti, construction project manager from the state Department of Environmental Protection, said the funds were at first going to be used to dismantle and move the statue to a work site, but after a year, no company would bid on the project.

"We also talked to John Maseman, but we could not get interest from him in doing the project. We finally got together and said we could do the work in place," Gubitti said. He hired Dames & Moore.

Christopher Macey, an associate from Dames & Moore, said each step in the process is painstaking, not only because of the care needed for restoration, but also because of the ecological site.

"The site goes back 4,000 years, which complicates this, and (under current laws) the statue would never have been allowed to be constructed on this site. We have to be very careful," Macey said.

Nothing can be damaged, so even fence-post holes were sifted for artifacts before the chain-link enclosure that now protects the site was erected, Macey said.

"Vegetation and root growth has overgrown. Trees obliterate some of the views, but pruning must be carefully completed so not to damage the trees," Macey said.



News-Journal photo by Roger Simms

The 45-foot sculpture created by art deco artist Fred Dana Marsh in 1957 will be restored, but more than \$100,000 will have to be raised to finish the project.

Also, liability was not as much an issue when the statue was erected, Macey said, so a plan is being designed to keep visitors from climbing the structure, possibly incorporating such things

as smooth rock, water areas and prickly pear and cactus plants.

So far the state money has paid for fencing, scaffolding, lab testing and Kreilick's initial work.

Kreilick will document current conditions and stabilization activity required, make treatment recommendations and develop a maintenance plan so the statue will not fall into disrepair again.

Beyond that, additional funds will be needed to continue, and Kreilick's report will include a projected figure of just how much. His report is expected to be completed by late June.

Park Manager Woodham said diligent searches have been made for possible grants for completion of the restoration, but none have been discovered.

A dedicated fund to help fix "Chief Tomokie" was set up in early 1996. Woodham said there is "not much more than \$200" in the fund. The park would welcome donations designated for the Chief Tomokie fund, sent to Tomoka State Park, 2099 N. Beach St., Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

Gubitti said any volunteers interested in "helping out with the renovations or clean up," should contact the park at (904) 676-4050.

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