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## Takelma Indians

**Overview** Hugo, Oregon like most places has its Native American history, some known, most not. Hugo's first citizens or peoples were the Lowland Takelma Indians of the Rogue River Valley.

**John Peabody Harrington**<sup>1</sup> (1884–1961) was an linguist and ethnologist and a specialist in the native peoples of California. Harrington is noted for the massive volume of his documentary output, most of which has remained unpublished: the shelf space in the Library of Congress dedicated to his work spans nearly seven hundred feet. The information on Harrington was from Wikipedia.<sup>1</sup>



*Camas*

**Early Life and Education**<sup>1</sup> Born in Waltham, Massachusetts, Harrington moved to California as a child. From 1902 to 1905, Harrington studied anthropology and classical languages at Stanford University. While attending specialized classes at the University of California, Berkeley, he met anthropologist Alfred L. Kroeber. Harrington became intensely interested in Native American languages and ethnography.



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1. Downloaded from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Peabody\\_Harrington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Peabody_Harrington), September 6, 2011.  
2. Creator:Harrington, John Peabody 1884-1961Title: John P. Harrington Papers 1907-1959 (some earlier)  
See Others in: John P. Harrington Papers 1907-1959 (some earlier)  
Phy. Description: 683 linear feet  
Downloaded August 28, 2011  
<http://sirius-archives.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?uri=full=3100001~!87802!0#focus>.

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## John Peabody Harrington, Linguist & Ethnologist

**Linguistic Legacy**<sup>1</sup> Rather than completing his doctorate at the Universities of Leipzig and Berlin, Harrington became a high school language teacher. For three years, he devoted his spare time to an intense examination of the few surviving Chumash people. His exhaustive work came to the attention of the Smithsonian Museum's Bureau of American Ethnology. Harrington became a permanent field ethnologist for the bureau in 1915. He was to hold this position for 40 years, collecting and compiling several massive caches of raw data on native peoples, including the Chumash, Mutsun, Rumsen, Chochenyo, Kiowa, Chimariko, Yokuts, Gabrielino, Salinan, Yuma and Mojave. Harrington also extended his work into traditional culture, particularly mythology and geography. His field collections include information on place names and thousands of photographs. The massive collections were disorganized in the extreme, and contained not only linguist manuscripts and recordings, but objects and realia of every stripe; a later archivist described how opening each box of his legacy was "an adventure in itself."



*Salmon*

Harrington gathered more than 1 million pages of phonetic notations on languages spoken by tribes from Alaska to South America. When the technology became available, he supplemented his written record with audio recordings - many recently digitized - first using wax cylinders, then aluminum discs. He is credited with gathering some of the first recordings of native languages, rituals and songs and perfecting the phonetics of several different languages.

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## Bureau of American Ethnology

**Field Work**<sup>2</sup> Certain themes frequently appear in his work, including annotated vocabularies concerning flora and fauna and their use, topography, history and biography, kinship, cosmology (including tribal astronomy), religion and philosophy, names and observations concerning neighboring tribes, sex and age division, material culture, legends, and songs.

**Works**<sup>2</sup> Harrington's papers relate to Alaska/ Northwest Coast, including (1) Aleut; (2) Tlingit/Eyak; (3) Northern Athapascan (Beaver, Carrier, Chipewyan, Sarsi, Sekani, Cree); (4) Nicola/Thompson; (5) Lummi/Nespelem; (6) Duwamish; (7) Chimakum/Clallam; (8) Makah/Quileute; (9) Quinalt/Chehalis/Cowlitz; (10) Chinook/Chinook Jargon; (11) "Kwalhioqua-Tlatskanai"; (12) Tillamook, (13) Alsea/Siuslaw/Coos; (14) Southwest Oregon Athapascan (Chasta Costa, Chetco, Upper Coquille, "Gold Beach", Smith River, Tolowa, Tutini, Upper Umpqua), (14) Galice/Applegate; (15) Takelma, general and miscellaneous; . . . (emphasis added)

**Harrington's Takelma Indian Research**<sup>2</sup>  
**Papers of John Peabody Harrington: Reel number 28**<sup>3</sup>

**Want more information?** Contact a member of the HNAT.

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3. Gray, Dennis J. (1987). *The Takelmas and Their Athapascan Neighbors: A New Ethnographic Synthesis for the Upper Rogue River Area of Southwest Oregon*. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers, No. 37. Eugene: Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon.

4. Harrington, John Peabody . 1981 *The Papers of John Peabody Harrington in the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution 1907-1957*. Reel number 28. Kraus International Publications. Millwood, New York.

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## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: [hugo@jeffnet.org](mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org)

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

Edited by Jean Boling, Karen Rose, & Mike Walker

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## John Peabody Harrington, Linguist and Ethnologist



Brochure NA-18F Of Hugo's  
Native American Brochure Series



*John Peabody Harrington and Chief Wi'ishi  
of the Mission Indians: 1935*

September 9, 2011

Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
Josephine County Historical Society