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The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

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*Editor: Barbara Goodin*

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### **!! COMANCHE LESSONS AVAILABLE !!**

The long-awaited Comanche Lessons are now available! We announced them on our internet web site recently and have filled several orders to date. The first set contains four lessons, as will subsequent sets, beginning with greetings and leave-taking, followed by two Comanche stories.

The format followed will be words/phrases written in Comanche, followed by an English translation. An audio cassette accompanies each set, so the student can actually hear the words spoken as they follow them on the written sheet.

Other sets will follow, with each set containing four lessons and an audio cassette.

To get your Comanche Lessons, send \$25 check or money order to C.L.C.P.C., P.O. Box 3610, Lawton OK 73502. Shipping and handling is included in the price. If you have an e-mail address, please include it in case we need to contact you about your order.

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## **Shoshonean Reunion 2001**

### **“Honoring Our Elders”**

### **Fort Hall, Idaho**

#### **SHOSHONEAN REUNION**

*by Carmilita Red Elk Thomas*  
*Utah CLCPC Member*

Comanches were well represented at the Second Annual gathering of Shoshonean people. The Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee (CLCPC) members attending this year's reunion consisted of folks from New Mexico, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Oklahoma. Including three Comanche Nation leaders, there were 45 of us attending various

segments of this three day reunion.

On Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Northwestern Band of Shoshones of Utah hosted an elaborate Dutch-Oven meal of ribs, chicken, potatoes, corn on the cob, spicy beans, two kinds of punch drink, dinner rolls, and a peach cake baked in a Dutch-Oven. So Good!

As if that was not enough to eat, Rachel Crummitt's birthday cake and give-a-way jars of honey were passed out to the 80 plus people in attendance. (The Cables sang their famous "Happy Birthday" song in Numu and Zona Atetewuthtakewa gave Rachel her Numu name.)

Patti Timbimboo Madsen, NW Shosone Cultural Director, wanted constant Comanche/Shoshone conversation as we ate, so she had the chairs and tables in a horse shoe pattern. There were name place cards indicating Comanche or Shoshone. Since we had fancy name tags we could tell who was to sit at the Comanche sitting place or the Shoshone place. The small twinkling decorative lights and cloth napkins really made it fancy. Also, the landscape was beautiful, but it was slightly chilly for walking around the center. Conversation was great.

First off, Patti introduced the oldest Shoshone person in attendance, which went well with this year's theme of "honoring our elders." Introductions, a brief program and a give-a-way concluded the stay in Utah.

At Fort Hall, Idaho, we had another meal, with the Sho-Bans hosting. This time we were entertained by Hovia Edwards, Grammy Nominee Flute Player, as we helped ourselves to their noted potato bar. Since most of us had been in the air and on the road most of this day, we were eager to get back to EconoLodge in Pocatello. It was neat to have us all under one roof, albeit a motel roof! (Thanks to Barbara Goodin, for making that

happen.)

Friday's activities at Fort Hall started off with a welcome song by the Lemhi singers. Most of us had not ever witnessed the singing of 49 songs as opening ceremony songs. It was a treat to see the Lemhi singers circle the auditorium beating a canvas (not a drum) and singing recognizable 49 songs.

There were children's activities for Friday and Saturday. The children in our group, especially Penny, were not shy or scared as they went off to their fun activities.

Although Delores Titchywy Sumner from Northeastern State University at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, wasn't listed on the final agenda program, she became a pest until she received the information needed to be a presenter for the genealogy workshop. When told she would be sharing the time with another, she said, "I'll be first," and immediately started putting up her displays and setting out her hand-outs. Delores told of her genealogy research from the Numunuu prospective and did an excellent job of relating to the participants' need in doing their own research. After all, she has been doing genealogy forever and has two books published on her lines, the Wis-sis-che and Titchywy lines. It is good to have a pest on the Committee. Keep it up, Delores!

The Language Panel and Historical Time Line Lecture was well attended by our group. I spotted Geneva Navarro, Lucille McClung, Rosalie Attocknie, Daryl Bread and Bill Southard in these sessions.

George Thomas said the demonstration on saddle making was outstanding. Several people in this session said it should have been recorded and that they were hearing and seeing museum quality material. (Maybe the Shoshone saddle maker, should have a special invitation to the next reunion to be held in Lawton.)

The best time was had during the Hand Game. Pre-pep talk for this event was given by Bill Southard who said, "Let's show them how bad we are, so they'll think all Comanches can't play. Then when we get them to Oklahoma we'll get our pros after them. They'll be sorry they messed with us."

Actually, Rosalie Attocknie, with Geneva Navarro helping, gave an excellent presentation on how we play. The demonstration wasn't bad either. Bud Yackeschi, Reaves Nahwooks, and Ed Tahhahwah were the lead singers. Billie Kreger, Lucille McClung, Teresa Saupitty, Betty Pete, Edith Gordon, Barbara Yackeschi, Delores Sumner, Zona Atetewuthtakewa, and the young ones, Terry, Penny, and Nicole, were the chorus girls. (Delores found out why the Shoshone were looking at them in amazement. Comanches were singing about "horny" eyes. This report will not tell who won the hand game contest between the Sho-Ban and Comanches.)

The Eastern and Western Bands of Shoshones were involved in Saturday's session. The historical aspect on tribal separation was given. John Washakie (former Ft. Sill Indian School attendee) and Lonnie Racehorse really need to come to the Oklahoma reunion.

Delbert Farmer, former Sho-Ban Chairman, guided the tour of Shoshone lands. That was so interesting. Who is going to be our tour guide of the Wichita Mountains? We've got to get ready if we're to match Delbert's expertise in telling about our lands. He surely is educated in Shoshone ways and a holder of a college degree.

The talking circles for men and women were equally interesting. A Shoshone lady, talking in her language, was seriously telling about the huge holes on their lands, left by the miners. Comanches were thinking, "Is she really saying that?" (How we say certain words concerning body parts and body functions are not always spoken the same for the Shoshones.)

Ed Tahhahwah came to the rescue. He gave an impromptu talk about our Nation. He also was invited to lead the Shoshone drummers in singing Southern style and for the Scalp and Victory Dance.

The Scalp and Victory Dance, preformed by our women, was well received by the audience at the final night's activity. The "luluing" and the choosing of a partner for the Victory Dance added to this presentation. Rosalie told about the meaning of the dances and how they should be preformed. The dancers received various gifts in appreciation.

Geneva Navarro and Nicole Brewer won big bucks as winners in their contest numbers.

The Sho-Ban demonstration of the War Bonnet Dance involved a number of authentic war bonnets. (During the fashion show two war bonnets were shown and modeled, but there were at least twelve for this dance.)

Darla Morgan, the Fort Hall Reunion Coordinator, told us her family's war bonnet wasn't there but it had a much longer train than the ones used for this demonstration. Each war bonnet had a good amount of eagle feathers and beadwork. They were truly beautiful. We were told the War Bonnet Dance is done during the New Year's Eve celebration.

The war bonnets were placed on the floor and the men stood behind them and the women stood behind the men. The war bonnets were put on by the men. The Northern round dance was done by the men and the women remained in place. When the men returned to their starting point, they placed their war bonnet on the ladies and the ladies moved in front and danced. These words do not do this dance justice, so let's hope they come to Oklahoma.

The fashion show was narrated in Shoshone. Eastern and Western as well as Sho-Ban items were modeled. The setting was well decorated. The Native American Church songs (what I call peyote songs) were sung and items used for these meetings were shown. A special pail used by the women for bringing the water caught my eye.

For the give-a-way time, the Western/Eastern Bands sang a fast round dance song and everyone laid out their give-a-ways. Also, all were invited to get up and dance. Then the individual groups would give the small items to those dancing first, then to the shy ones, sitting down. The items we were given were beaded purses, necklaces, pins, and cloth-bound sage and tobacco, as well as Idaho mugs, etc. For the bigger items and for designated people, the names were announced. This was done while we were dancing. Daryl Bread helped Rosalie Attocknie give a special head piece to a long lost friend she found at the reunion. Carrie Thomas, Delores Sumner, Zona Atetewuthtakewa and Bill Southard helped Billie Kreger and her crew with their give-a-way.

Vernon Cable gave Lionel Boyer, the Sho-Ban Chairman, a pail of partially shelled pecans. Since pecans are a rarity there, Lionel cherished that gift.

All in all, our hosts and relatives from the various Shoshone Bands gave us too much. The hard work going into the home made items has to be appreciated. Also, the money spent on commercial items makes one want to start a "give-a-way" fund.

Honestly, let's begin preparations for next year's reunion in Lawton, Oklahoma. Those of us who live away, should especially watch for the dates of this reunion and plan on being apart of the activities. NŪMŪNŪ, we are all part of the Language Committee. All we have to do is to tell our hard working NŪMŪNŪ in Lawton what support we can offer, be it monetary or our donated time during the reunion.

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#### **SOME THOUGHTS ON FORT HALL.....**

"This year we thought the Reunion was better. The people were friendly, and we got better acquainted with some of our friends from last year. The reception for us was very enjoyable, enjoyed the food and visitation. The pow-wow was very good. Betty Pete."

"I think the greatest thrill for me was seeing the 'Bottoms', as they were called, of seeing all the water that was coming out of the ground. And the eagle's nest. Vernon Cable."

"What a wonderful trip! A glimpse into our past. The people treated us like long lost relatives. It was exciting as well as exhausting, yet we didn't want it to end. I look forward to seeing them next year and hope that we can treat them just as good as they treated us. Billie Kreger."

"The hospitality was great — did not feel as a stranger — I guess because of the language, etc. They were very good to us. Meals were excellent. Hope to do likewise when they come here to visit us. Gloria Cable."

"I enjoyed our get-together — speaking our Indian talk together. Theresa Saupitty."

"Had a wonderful time. Weather was good. Visits, we had about the separation was mainly

the subject. Bud Yackeschi.”

“It was a wonderful trip, food was good. Our cousins were good to us. We had a good time. Edith Kassanavoid Gordon.”

“My daughter enjoyed the special activities for young people including the Lava Hot Springs and the Water Park. We all enjoyed hearing the native language being fluently spoken by elders and others. It was fun to meet the people from the other states, Wyoming, Nevada and Utah. I enjoyed seeing all the group from Oklahoma and New Mexico. I am grateful for being able to attend this reunion and look forward to the next one in Oklahoma. Lisa Pewenofkit Powers, Washington.”

“The Fort Hall trips continue to be a great experience. There are so many things to learn and share. Many questions concerning the origins of our traditions are being answered by our Shoshone relatives. The country side and the weather was beautiful. I can hardly wait for the next Reunion. Walter Bigbee, New Mexico.”

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## **HAND GAMES**

by Geneva Navarro

Hand games used to be played in the Fall and in the Winter, and the last hand games were during Easter. That was the last hand game of the year, until the next Fall. But now they play it all year long, and they’ve changed a lot of the rules and they make their own rules. It’s still about the same but just a little bit different. They only used to use small bones, but now I noticed they use two bones in each hand. It’s been a long time since I’ve been to one of the new hand games. But I remember we used to have big hand games all over. The Comanches used to play the Kiowas, the Taasi — they always played Tribes. Recently they started having teams so now hand games are a little bit different. There were several main songs, and one particular one that was sung when they played the Taasi.

They used to have a lot of fun just playing and hollering and singing all kinds of crazy songs. I don’t know that kyunii song, but Rosalie Attocknie might know it. Rosalie or one of the other hand game players might know it, or one of

the Maries (Parton or Haumpy).

I’m not sure if I remember all of the hand game things, but I’m sure Rosalie remembers most of it, and some of the other girls that play hand games yet. I haven’t played hand games in years so I can’t remember all the things, but I know the basics of it.

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## **COMANCHE TRIBE’S SUMMER CAMP**

The Comanche Language Committee is pleased to have been asked to help with the Tribe’s Summer Camp, sponsored by the Substance Abuse Program. We will provide speakers for the camp to be held June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 19<sup>th</sup>. Speakers will tell stories and share the Comanche language with the summer campers.

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## **COMANCHE SINGING**

The Comanche Singing classes begun back in November of last year concluded with a Final Singing on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Comanche Tribal Complex. Rusty Wahkinney of Cyril served as the Master and Ronald Red Elk served as the Apprentice during the classes.

The project was sponsored by the Comanche Language Committee, with funding provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council.

347 people signed in for the classes, which were held in Walters, Apache, Cyril, Indianola and Lawton. That made an average of 17 students per class. News releases were sent out to all area newspapers to encourage attendance, which for the most part was good. There were some disappointments, too. Even though the language committee provided an excellent teacher who is well known for his singing skills and knowledge of Comanche songs, we had hoped for a much larger turnout. The classes were free for anyone who took the time to attend, plus they were informative and enjoyable. Those who didn’t make the time to learn some of their Comanche culture missed a great opportunity. And those of us who did are all the richer for it.

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## NEW COMANCHE WEB SITE

Comanche Nation Games has recently joined the realm of cyberspace and put up their own web site. You can visit them at:

www.comanchenationgames.net

### COMANCHE HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

The Comanche Health Representatives (C.H.R.s) sponsored a Bike Run during May, and the Comanche Language Committee provided prizes for the participants.

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### 2001 FALL ENCAMPMENT

The dates have been set for the 2001 Fall Encampment sponsored by the Comanche Language Committee. This year's event will be held October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Gym (old Bingo Hall) at the Comanche Complex north of Lawton. We will have full details in the next issue (September 2001) of the Comanche Language Newsletter. Mark this date on your calendar!

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### COMANCHE NATION FAIR

When: September 28, 29 & 30, 2001

Where: Camp Eagle, north of Cache OK

Contact: Comanche Nation at 1-877-492-4988

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### July 2001

3<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday: CLCPC Monthly Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 511 Monroe, Lawton.

14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Dictionary Development Meeting, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains. Covered dish meal at noon.

20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday through Sunday: Comanche Homecoming Pow-Wow, Sultan Park, Walters.

22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday: Titchywy/Wissischi Family Reunion, 11 a.m. till ?, Comanche Community Center east of Walters. Bring food, utensils & pictures.

28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Dictionary Development Meeting, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of the Great

Plains. Covered dish meal at noon.

#### August 2001

6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> - Monday through Saturday: America Indian Exposition, Anadarko OK.

7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday: CLCPC Monthly Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 511 Monroe, Lawton.

11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Dictionary Development Meeting, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains. Covered dish meal at noon.

25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Dictionary Development Meeting, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains. Covered dish meal at noon.

#### September 2001

4<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday: CLCPC Monthly Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 511 Monroe, Lawton.

8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Dictionary Development Meeting, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains. Covered dish meal at noon.

22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday: Dictionary Development Meeting, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains. Covered dish meal at noon.

28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> - Comanche Nation Fair, Camp Eagle, north of Cache.

#### October 2001

5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday through Sunday: Annual Fall Encampment sponsored by the CLCPC. More information in the September Newsletter.

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### PRODUCTS FOR SALE

**COMANCHE LESSONS NOW AVAILABLE!! SEE FRONT PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Item #1. Solid Royal Blue or Solid Red Tee-Shirts.** Language logo in full color on left chest. Namu Tekwapu in white on left sleeve. Children's sizes small through large, \$10 plus \$3.50 s&h; Adult sizes small through XL \$12 plus \$3.50 s&h; sizes 2X and 3X \$15 plus \$3.50 s&h.

**Item #2. Comanche Dictionary.** A 133 page soft

bound dictionary prepared by Dr. Alice Anderton (1993) with Comanche speakers Lucille McClung and Albert Nahquaddy. \$22 plus \$3.50 s&h.

**Item #3. Bumper Stickers.** NUMU TEKWAPU in large letters, with Comanche Language Preservation on the second line. \$2 each includes s&h.

**Item #4. Authentic Handmade Comanche Dolls.\*** Beautiful 20" soft bodied dolls, dressed in traditional clothing. Both girl and boy dolls available. \$40 each plus \$3.50 s&h. (\*Special Orders Only, 6-8 weeks delivery)

**Item #5. Comanche Hymn Book.** No longer available. Watch for new edition out soon.

**Item #6. Picture Dictionary.** A 26 page booklet that is ideal for beginning learners. Has simple words and brief sentences. \$10 includes s&h.

**Item #7. Comanche Flash Cards.** A set of 48 cards showing pictures and words in Comanche.

\$5 plus \$1 s&h.

**Item #8. Tote Bags.** Navy with red trim. 16"x12"x5" with back pocket. Front has the Comanche Language logo. \$12 plus \$3.50 s&h.

**Item #9. Ball Caps.** Men's are royal blue with red bill and Language logo on front. Ladies are solid royal blue with logo. \$10 plus \$3.50 s&h.

**Item #10. Collar/Hat Pins.** Language logo with feathers, 3/4" long. \$4 includes s&h.

**Item #11. Earrings.** Same design as collar/hat pins. \$8 includes s&h.

**Item #12. Buttons.** Two styles. #1: "Numu Tekwapu" and #2: "Ihka Niha, Numu Tekwapu." \$2 each includes s&h. Specify button number.

**Item #13. Lapel Pins.** 1 inch Cloisonne pin. \$5 includes s&h.

*\*If you have an e-mail address, please include it in case we need to contact you about your order.*