“From The President”


Ron Red Elk

COMANCHE TRIBE IMPLEMENTS KAKUNUU/PIANUU LANGUAGE PROJECT

The Comanche Tribe recently implemented a Language Project funded by the Administration for Native Americans called the A.N.A. Kakunu/Pianuu Language Project.

It began with a two day training session, conducted by Ronald Red Elk, project director, and two teams from the Lannan Master-Apprentice Team Project--Gloria Cable and Billie Kreger, and Carney Saupitty Sr. and Richard Codopony Jr., plus Barbara Goodin, coordinator for the Lannan Project. The training session was titled “Comanches helping Comanches to learn our language.”

The kakunu/pia project has four teams in three communities, Apache has two teams, with Marie Haumpy and Mable Simmons serving as master speakers; Faith Martinez serves as the master speaker in the Cyril area; and June Tahpay serves as the master speaker in the Walters area. The project was set up for each speaker to teach five apprentices in a home-like setting, much as speakers learned their first language 100 years ago. We’ll keep you informed on the progress of this very important project for language preservation.

I.P.O.L.A HONORING GENEVA NAVARRO

Our own Geneva Navarro will be honored on Saturday, September 16th, by The Institute for the Preservation of the Original Languages of the Americas (I.P.O.L.A.), based in Sante Fe NM. This third annual event is honoring “Those Who Make A Difference.” Geneva will be honored for her efforts to preserve the Comanche language for the many Comanches who live in the Santa Fe/Albuquerque area. She will be honored along with Chief Billie, elected Chief of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Geneva is a retired Public Health Service Nurse and grandmother who was raised by her grandparents in the Apache area, and is presently the only fluent speaker in New Mexico.

A front page story appeared in the Albuquerque Journal on Monday, August 28, 2000 that featured a very interesting interview with Geneva. I.P.O.L.A. faxed us a copy for our records, which we appreciate.

Because the honoring event occurs on the same week-end as the Comanche Nation Fair, many
Comanches from this area that wanted to attend will be unable to. But longtime friend of Geneva’s, Carney Saupitty Sr., will go and is scheduled to speak on the language preservation efforts of our group. He will be accompanied by his son, Carney Jr. We know the Numa Toya will be there to give Geneva all the support and good wishes she deserves.

For more information on the honoring event, which will feature a dinner and auction, you may contact I.P.O.L.A. at 505-820-0311.

Our warmest congratulations to both Geneva and Chief Billie for the honor being bestowed upon them.

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**COMANCHE ALPHABET SONG**
*(sung to the tune of “The A-B-C Song”)*

_words by Melissa Hinkle_

A ebe e ha i ka mu,
Nuh o pa ere sa te u.
Tu-anoo, u wa yu,
Kesu nanakatu kehetu.
U ts a nansuyaketu!
Naaka! Tekwa Nu-mu- tekwapu-

**ENGLISH SOUNDS:**

Ah eb-ve e hah e hah e kah moo,
Nuh o pah er-de sah teh oo.
Tu-anoo, uh wah yuh,
Kesu nanakatu kehetu.
U ts a nansuyaketu!

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**SPECIAL PHONES FOR ELDERS**

Thanks to Donna Paddyacker of OKC, we learned about a program that would provide special phones for our elders who are hard of hearing. We contacted the company, received applications and passed them out at one of our dictionary meetings to those who felt they could benefit from one of the phones.

To date, there have been five telephones sent to this area to help the elders hear better when they receive phone calls. The procedure is simple, and we encouraged everyone that had a need to apply. The phones range from those that have an extra loud ringer and a volume adjustment, to one with a key board for the completely deaf person. Fortunately, none of our folks needed that model.

We are all appreciative of this service provided to our elders. For those that live alone, the telephone is their communication to the outside world, and if they can’t hear the person at the other end of the line, then they are missing out on a lot. And for those of us who call them to ask them about Comanche words, it’s good to have them hear you the first time, without having to raise your voice to be heard, or to have to repeat something again and again.

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**N.AI.W.A MEETING HELD**

On August 12th, the North American Indian Woman’s Association (N.AI.W.A.) Held their quarterly luncheon meeting at the home of Deloris Karty in Anadarko, OK. There were 11 members in attendance, together with a couple of their spouses, who had traveled to Anadarko to view the Indian Fair Parade and watch the afternoon program.

In addition to other business conducted at this meeting, the ladies had requested that Alyssa and Amber Karty, Deloris’ twin granddaughters, sing some Comanche songs. They sang “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?,” “This Is The Way We Wash Our Hands,” “The Numbers Song,” and “Jesus Loves Me.” The twins have also learned “Amazing Grace,” and the “Birthday Song.” They are also learning the “Lord’s Prayer” in song and in sign language.

The N.AI.W.A. ladies appreciate the efforts of the Comanche Language organization in preserving their language and can see some of the results of the work they do in the songs sung by Alyssa and Amber. The ladies congratulated the girls and encouraged them to continue to learn more of the Comanche language.

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The following are hymns from the Comanche Hymnal:

**Comanche Hymn #1**
*(to the tune of “Follow On”)*

_(words by Namiquau - Tired-Out Man)_
Nah ḥaka tabenī Ḫu uwaṣuṣu mairui
Jesus?i pu?eṭu Ḫu mairui.
Oko ḥa tomoba?atu Ḫu mairui.
Uwaṣuṣu Ḫu mairui Ḫu tsuh.

Chorus:
Numi suutai, numi suutai,
Jesus?i numi suutai ebulani
Uwaṣuṣu mairui Ḫu tsuh,
Nah hakatu, nah hakatu, Ḫu mairui Ḫu tsuh.
Translation:
Any day I’m going to Heaven.
I’m going to follow Jesus’ path.
I’m going to go up there above the clouds.
Yes, I’m ready to go to Him.
Chorus:
Love us; love us (or bless us, bless us)
Jesus, do love us.
Yes, I’m ready to go to Him.
Just anywhere, just anywhere, I’m ready to go.

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Comanche Hymn #2
(“Take The Name Of Jesus With You”)
(words by Foster Burgess)

Chorus:
Translation:
Take the name of Jesus. Your soul will feel good.
His kindness goes along with you, praise His name.
Chorus:
His name is good, it tastes sweet. Our heavenly Father up above in heaven.

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“Ṣuym Oyeti Tana Napananṭimpiŋ”
Ronald Red Elk

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!! IMPORTANT NOTICE !!
The dates for the Comanche Nation Fair has changed since our last language newsletter in July. The new dates are September 15-16-17 at Camp Eagle, north of Cache OK, near the foothills of the beautiful Wichita Mountains. For more information contact Ms. Delphine Nelson at 580-492-3822 or 580-492-4988.

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CRATERVILLE PARK
(Camp Eagle - Fort Sill’s West Range)
2 miles north of Cache OK
September 15-16-17, 2000

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Friday: 10:00 a.m. Cedar Ceremony
3:00 p.m. Children’s & Adults Games
6:00 p.m. Official Opening of Fair
6:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7:30 p.m. Grand Entry
Saturday: 7:00 a.m. Spirit Walk/Fun Run
11:00 a.m. Parade-Downtown Cache
Noon Hot Dog Cook Out at Fair
2:00 p.m. Comanche Brush Dance
3:00 p.m. Gourd Dancing/Specials
Supper Break
6:00 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7:00 p.m. Grand Entry
10:30 p.m. ‘49 Contest
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Church Services
Noon Meal will be served
1:00 p.m. Registration for Story Telling
1:30 p.m. Story Telling Contest
2:00 p.m.  Gourd Dancing
3:00 p.m.  Team Dance Contest
           Gourd Dancing/Specials
5:00 p.m.  Supper Break
6:00 p.m.  Grand Entry
           Contests
10:00 p.m. Comanche Fair 2000 Concludes

Other activities planned during the Fair includes: Horse Shoe Tournament, Domino Tournament, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, plus dance contest categories of Tiny Tot, Special Little Girl, Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Men’s Straight, Grass, Traditional, Switch Contest, Scalp Dance, Victory Dance, Women’s Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy Dress, Jingle Dress and a special Golden Age Princess Contest for women who are 50 or older. (Come on, ‘fess up, girls!)

The Pow-Wow will be coordinated by the Comanche Indian Veteran’s Association (C.I.V.A.) and will honor all Native American Veterans with special Honorees being veteran’s of the Korean Conflict.

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**FALL ENCAMPMENT**

The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee will hold our Fall Encampment this year at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton, OK. Billie Kreger is coordinating this event and is already hard at work contacting presenters. It will be a two day event this year, held Friday and Saturday, October 20th and 21st.

Last year our attendance exceeded our expectations because of the interesting topics presented. This year Billie is working on the following presentations:

Comanche History,
Hand Games,
Regalia Presentations,
Herbs and Remedies,
Meat Slicing Demonstration,
Fry Bread Demonstration,
Old Time Stick Game,
Old Time Ball Game,
Cradle Making,
Tee-Pee Set Up,
Comanche Flute,
Beadwork Designs,
Mini Pow-Wow,
plus other topics of interest.

We are still in the early planning stages, but if you would like an agenda of each day’s schedule, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: CLCPC - Fall Encampment, P.O. Box 3610, Lawton OK 73502. Please note: schedules will not be sent if you do not include an s.a.s.e.

**MORE PHOTOS FROM FORT HALL**
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 2000
7th - Thursday: Comanche Language Committee monthly business meeting, Great Plains Museum, 6:30 p.m.
9th - Saturday: Dictionary Meeting, Great Plains Museum, 11:00-3:00 p.m. Covered dish meal at noon.
15th- 17th - Friday through Sunday: Comanche Nation Fair, Camp Eagle (north of Cache OK)
23rd - Saturday: Dictionary Meeting, Great Plains Museum, 11:00-3:00 p.m. Covered dish meal at noon.

October 2000
5th - Thursday: Comanche Language Committee monthly business meeting, Great Plains Museum, 6:30 p.m.
14th - Saturday: Dictionary Meeting, Great Plains Museum, 11:00-3:00 p.m. Covered dish meal at noon.
28th - Saturday: Dictionary Meeting, Great Plains Museum, 11:00-3:00 p.m. Covered dish meal at noon.

PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Item #1. Royal Blue Tee-Shirts. Language logo in full color on left chest and Ną́ nam Tekwapų́ on the left sleeve. Sizes adult small through XL $12 plus $3.20 s&h; sizes XXL and XXXL $15 plus $3.20 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 $3.20 s&h.

Item #3. Bumper Stickers. Proudly proclaims: NÚMU TEKWAPŲ 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 $3.20 s&h. (*Special Orders Only, 6-8 weeks delivery)

Item #5. Comanche Hymn Book. A 5.5 x 7.5 soft cover book that contains the words to 118 Comanche hymns, listed by title with composer’s name. Compiled by Elliot Canonge (1960), 64 pages. $10 plus $2 s&h.
**Item #6. Picture Dictionary.** A 26 page booklet that is ideal for beginning learners. Has simple words and brief sentences. $10 plus $2 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 new Comanche Language logo. Strikingly beautiful! $15 includes 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 s&h.

**Item #10. Collar/Hat Pins.** Language logo complete with feathers, 3/4" long. $3 plus $1 s&h.

**Item #11. Earrings.** Same design as collar/hat pins. $7 pair plus $1 s&h.

**Item #12. Buttons.** Two styles. #1: “Nʉmu Tekwapʉ” and #2: “Ihka Niha, Nʉmu Tekwapʉ.” $1 each plus 50 cents shipping. Specify button #.

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