“Letter From The Editor”

We are extremely saddened by the loss of one of our own recently. Theresa Saupitty has been involved with the Comanche Language Committee for the last few years, and she will be missed by all of us who came to love her. Her obituary follows:

THERESA MARIE SAUPITTY

“Funeral for Theresa Marie Saupitty, 75, Cache, will be at 2 p.m. Monday (February 18) at Whinery-Huddleston Funeral Chapel with the Reverend Reaves Nahwoosky officiating. A prayer service will be from 7-9 p.m. Sunday evening at the funeral chapel.


She was born March 7, 1926, in Lawton, Oklahoma, to Josie and Bert Cable. She was married to Leo Saupitty. She served as a Commissioner for the Comanche Housing Authority, contributed to the Comanche Dictionary and was a teacher of the Comanche language. She was also a Nazarene.

Ms. Saupitty is survived by a daughter, Charlotte Saupitty, Cache; two brothers, Vernon and Bruner Cable, both of Cache; two sisters, Lucille McClung and Betty Pete, also of Cache; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; both parents; two sons, Tommy and Dennis Saupitty; one daughter, Gwen Tartsah; and two brothers, Gayle Cable and Bert Cable, Jr.”

Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family, and especially to her siblings, Vernon, Lucille and Betty, who take an active part in and are strong supporters of our preservation efforts. And also to our president Billie Cable Kreger, who was Theresa’s niece. We know their hearts are heavy at this time.

Sadly, this is not the first time we have endured the loss of one of our beloved fluent speakers, and it won’t be the last. Some of the others who have helped us were:

Roderick (Dick) Red Elk  Albert Nahquaddy
Lizzie Poemeceah  Belle Pekah
Velma Akoneto  Velma Wooth

I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone, as each one is important to the work we do in preserving our language and culture.

This recent loss brings to the forefront the urgency of preserving our beautiful language while we still have the resources available. We couldn’t do anything without our wonderful speakers, and I hope each of them knows how much they are appreciated.

Please remember this family in your prayers, and all our other folks who may be going through difficult times right now or having health problems. U- ra.

LANGUAGE NEWSLETTERS

We get many requests from people wanting to be added to our mailing list. We first ask if they have internet access to get the newsletter through our web site. Many times they do, but sometimes they don’t. When they do have internet access, we ask they write down (or send us) their e-mail address and we will notify them when a new edition is ready for viewing or printing out on their computer.

This allows us to provide any and everyone who would like to get it FREE. But we also realize that not everyone has internet access, and we want to provide them with copies of the newsletters, also. Each time we publish, which is every other month, we have to determine how many copies to have printed, then buy postage
accordingly. We take copies of the newsletter to the Comanche Elderly Center, Comanche Housing Authority, and all Comanche Complex buildings, in the hopes that those who don’t receive it by mail or through the internet can pick up a copy at one of those locations. Needless to say, we still miss some people.

We have tried to save on mailing costs so that we can continue to offer our language newsletter free, but it’s frustrating when many of them are returned because the individual has moved and didn’t notify us and left no forwarding address. So PLEASE let us know when you move so we can make that correction on our mailing labels. Just drop us a line, or send us an e-mail. It would be appreciated so much.

COMANCHE STORIES

We bring you more Comanche stories for winter story-telling time. Last time we brought you several Coyote stories, this time we will bring you some adventure stories. Again, the stories are from Comanche Texts, recorded by Elliott Canonge with stories from Mrs. Emily Riddles of Walters, OK, circa 1955. Enjoy them.

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ADVENTURE STORY #1


(Translation to Adventure Story #1)

Long ago, it is said, a young Indian man, taking along his dogs, went hunting. They went off hunting north of their house, where there were grey mountains. His dogs were running around, trailing, and they went up on that mountain. The young Indian man went up the same trail. As he came up to them, one of his dogs jumped where there was a hole in the ground with a big rock lying flat on top of it. He looked at it and turned over the rock and looked in a cave. He saw it was hollow, like a room. A ladder stood leaning along it. He went down the ladder in the room. As he was inspecting the place, there was a big wooden trunk sitting there and two long guns. As he peeped in one of the cave rooms, he saw human bones. He got scared and climbed back out the ladder. He put the big rock over the cave. He loudly called his dogs, and taking them along, they went back to their house.

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ADVENTURE STORY #2

(Translation to Adventure Store #2)

Long ago, it is said, four young men were returning from fighting. As they came traveling, there ahead of them was a big lake. It had much water. A panther with a long tail appeared, and came to the water and went in. His tail went floating behind him through the water. “Look at that panther,” said the four young men. As they looked on, an alligator came by. They told the alligator they were going to feed him (the panther). The panther came swimming towards it and the alligator ran towards him. The panther put his paw on the alligator’s shoulder. By doing that, he ripped him open. The alligator rolled over and went floating away. “That one missed getting what we fed him,” said the young men. The panther suddenly came out of the water, laid down, and also died. The young men said, “Look, they killed each other.” Then they left. That is all of the story.

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ADVENTURE STORY #3


(Translation to Adventure Story #3)

Long ago, it is said, a man went off hunting. As he went along the edge of the timber, a deer ran in front of him. The man chased it, and as he
chased it, a white man, wearing warm clothing, came along on horseback. The white man asked him what he was doing around there. He told him he was hunting. The white man asked if he was by himself, and he answered no, that many of his relatives were on the other side of the hill, where they had a camp. The white man said to go with him to his house and they would drink coffee. They went together to his house. As he looked around inside the house, he saw four long guns leaning up. Seeing these guns, the Indian got scared. He thought to himself that he had arrived at a white robber’s house. He told the white man that he had to go, but the white man told him not to go, that he had some belongings he wanted to show him. Then he opened up a big wooden trunk. It was half full of silver money, gold money and paper money. He told the Indian not to be afraid of him, that he wouldn’t harm him. The Indian told him he was leaving and went towards his horse and crossed to the other side of the creek. Here he saw horses and two grey mules carrying big packs with their stomachs full from grazing around so much. This man tried to throw off their packs but failed to do so. He then crossed back across the creek, where there were two wagon wheels. Having crossed, he went back towards his camp. As he went among the trees, two white men met him. They told him they had killed an animal and it was in this direction. They told him to come with them and he could take some of their killing. It was about evening and the Indian went with them, even though he was afraid of them. They told him not to be afraid of them. They told him just wanted to cut off some of the hindquarter and he could haul the rest of it off. They arrived where their killing was and they cut off what they wanted and left. The Indian man said to himself that the two white robbers did something very good for him. He then carried off all the white men’s killing to his house. When he arrived, all his relatives evenly divided his load and finished it all up. Those white robbers, in that way, feeding all his relatives, fed them good. That is all.

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ADVENTURE STORY #4


(Translation to Adventure Story #4)

Long ago, it is said, a man with his wife and children moved away from their relatives. They camped beside a creek and the man went off hunting. He killed a fat buffalo, butchered it and loaded it up on his pack animals and went to their house. When he arrived he told his wife to make a fire and roast the meat for them. They all ate. When it got dark the man was lying on his back in
their bed, holding his bow and arrow, testing them. There was a big tree near their teepee, bending over it. On one of the limbs an Osage Indian was lying, spying on them through the teepee hole on the top. The man told his wife that he could shot an arrow through the teepee hole, and he did. Ouside they heard a big thud. His wife asked him what that noise was. The two of them went out to find the Osage lying there. The man told his wife that he could shot an arrow through the teepee hole, and he did. He told his wife to hurry and fetch their horses, that they needed to move away. She saddled up their horses for them and they mounted up and ran back to their relatives. He told the others that he killed an Osage where they had just come from. He told them to get ready, that they all needed to move away. They all moved and escaped the Osage. Their relatives said it was very good that he told them to move away. That is all.

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ADVENTURE STORY #5


(Translation to Adventure Story #5)

Long ago, it is said, where there were many houses, there was a man, his wife, his mother and his little son and little daughter, who moved away. When they were traveling, they stopped to camp. He told his wife to get ready, they would go off to kill. They left the grandmother with the two children in the teepee. They went hunting and had to camp by a creek. He killed a buffalo that was fat, and he carried it towards his wife. After they arrived, she unloaded it and fed him. After they finished eating, they jerked the meat. The woman jerked it and hung it outside. Her husband told her he was going to go look on the other side of the hill. She told him to hurry back. While he was gone, two Osage men came to their camp and
asked where her husband was. She told them that he went in that direction. One told the other Osage that he would sit with her while he went to look for her husband. When the second man left she told the first man that she was going to hang more meat outside. Her horse was saddled and tied near their teepee and she ran to it and climbed on and ran to find her husband. When she found him, he asked her what had happened. She told him two Osage men had come to their camp. Her husband then went to spy on them. He saw them at their camp, roasting meat. When he returned to his wife she told him that one of them had nearly caught her as she was running to escape. When it got dark, her husband returned to his camp and heard the men snoring. He saw their meat hanging around outside their camp and he went down and got it, carrying it back to his wife. They then left and returned to the grandmother and their children. They all moved back to the rest of their relatives, where there were many teepees, and they camped among them. That is all.

**DICTIONARY STATUS**

It’s coming! The final stages of our Dictionary is progressing well. The task of proof-reading and checking words is tedious and time consuming, but we are moving along steadily.

We are elated to have it to the point it is, and we know in due time we will have a final printed copy in our hands. It has taken so long to get it to this point that we want to make sure it is the very best possible publication we can produce.

We are working with a computer program expert who is guiding us through this final process. There are so many possibilities for the future, but right now our focus is on a printed Dictionary.

Please watch this newsletter and/or our web site for the announcement when the Dictionary is ready for publication. Area newspapers will carry the announcement, also. Because of time constraints, we will not be able to notify people individually.

**COMANCHE SINGING**

The CLCPC has scheduled a series of Comanche Singings at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton on Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. The first one was held February 9th and a good crowd turned out to sing and tape record the session. They are being held the 2nd and 4th Saturday, possibly through April.

The purpose of the gathering is to go through the Comanche Song Book, beginning at Song #1 and conclude at the end of Song #116. It is known that some of the songs included in the book have been forgotten, and we want to find out exactly which ones and see if they can be revived. At the conclusion of this series we plan to make a tape of all (or as many as possible) the songs in the book, and offer it to those who want to learn our beautiful songs. It will be an important accompaniment for the Comanche Song Book, which is listed on page 7 of this Newsletter, under Products For Sale.

In the meanwhile, everyone is invited to come practice with the group, bring your tape records and join in with the singing.

**COMANCHE CODE TALKERS**

Congresswoman Kay Granger’s office sent us a copy of a wonderful letter she sent to Comanche Tribal Chairman Johnny Wauqua in regards to the recent bill she introduced asking that our Comanche Code Talkers be recognized with Congressional Medals of Honor.

Fellow Comanche tribal member Ben Tahmahkera is one of her constituents in the Fort Worth district she represents, and approached her with the fact the Code Talkers had never been recognized by the U.S. government. She, along with her Legislative Assistant, Robert Head, have worked tirelessly gathering information and putting together a bill to present to Congress.

If you haven’t yet written your letter of support for this long over-due recognition, please refer back to the January 2002 newsletter for all the addresses needed. Please let our representatives know that we in Comanche Country want this award for our Code Talkers.
“Sampler Oyetu Tana Nanañtunyu”

LANGUAGE / CULTURE CLASS SCHEDULES

Apache: Thursdays 6:30 p.m., Community Center
Marie Parton, facilitator.
March 14th & 28th / April 11th & 25th

Cache: Mondays 7:00 p.m., Housing Authority,
Billie Kreger, facilitator.
March 4th & 18th / April 8th & 22nd

Fletcher: Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Little Washita,
Deloris Karty, facilitator.
March 5th & 19th / April 9th & 23rd

Lawton: Thursdays 6:00 p.m., Comanche Housing
Sam DeVenney, facilitator.
March 9th & 23rd / April 13th & 20th

Richard Spur: Sundays 2 p.m., Petarsy Church
Lorene Kerchee-Pewewardy, facilitator.
March 10th & 24th / April 7th & 21st

Walters: Mondays 7:00 p.m., Community Center,
March 4th & 18th / April 8th & 22nd

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2002

5th - Tuesday: CLCPC Monthly Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 511 Monroe, Lawton.
Please bring your folding chairs in case we need them.

9th - Saturday: Comanche Singing, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton.

23rd - Saturday: Comanche Singing, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton.

APRIL 2002

2nd - Tuesday: CLCPC Monthly Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 511 Monroe, Lawton.
Please bring your folding chairs in case we need them.

13th - Saturday: Comanche Singing, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton.

27th - Saturday: Comanche Singing, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton.

CLCPC MOTTO


PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Comanche Lessons, set #1. A set of four Comanche Lessons, complete with a word list for each lesson and an audio tape. $25 includes s&h.

Comanche Dictionary. A 133 page soft bound dictionary begins with an introduction of the spelling system and the alphabet sounds. Offers a Comanche to English section, followed by an English to Comanche section. $22 plus $3.50 s&h.

Picture Dictionary. Developed as a primer for learning the language, this 26 page booklet explains the Comanche alphabet and the sound of each letter. It give an example of many simple words and brief sentences (in Comanche) using those words. Includes worksheet/coloring pages and an English to Comanche vocabulary list. $10 include s&h.

Comanche Song Book. Collection of 116 songs written in Comanche with an English translation for each song. $10 plus $3 s&h. “Coming Soon! An audio tape that will allow you to hear each song!”

Comanche Flash Cards. A set of 48 cards showing a picture and the spelling of simple Comanche words. $5 plus $1 s&h.

Comanche Language Tee-Shirts. Comanche Language logo in full color on left chest. Available in two colors; solid red and royal blue. Children’s sizes small (6-8), medium (10-12), and large (12-14), $10 plus $3.50 s&h; Adult sizes small through XL $12 plus $3.50 s&h; Adult sizes 2X and 3X $15 plus $3.50 s&h. Please specify color and size when ordering.

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

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)

Tote Bags. Navy with red trim. 16”x12”x5” with back pocket. Front has the Comanche Language logo. $12 plus $3.50 s&h.

Ball Caps. Three styles: Men’s royal blue with red bill; Men’s turqoise with southwest design on bill; and Lady’s solid royal blue, all with
Language Logo on front. $10 plus $3.50 s&h.

**Collar/Hat Pins.** Language logo complete with feathers, 3/4” long. $4 includes s&h.

**Earrings.** Same design as collar/hat pins. $8 total.

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

**Buttons.** Two styles. #1: “Nu-mu Tekwapu_” and #2: “Ihka Niha, Nu-mu Tekwapu_. $2 each includes s&h. Specify button style number.

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

Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee
P.O. Box 3610
Lawton OK 73502-3610

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Nama Tekwapu