
NUMU TEKWAPUHA NOMENEEKATU NEWSLETTER

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The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

Editor: Mark Wauahdoah

“Letter From The President”

MarawekꞤ NꞤmꞤnꞤꞤ,

Inka taa NꞤmꞤ tekwapuꞤha sꞤꞤmai
tꞤꞤawetui.

What a great Summer we all had (the
Language Summer Camp and Palo
Duro/Adobe Walls Trip)!

Tribal politics have not affected our
programs and projects. We are still making
preparations this Fall for the Lannan Master-
Apprentice Training (2nd group – 400 hours)
on October 2, 1998, and the Comanche
Language Conference “Comanches
Reaching Comanches” at the Museum of the
Great Plains in Lawton on November 7,
1998. Join us in this renaissance!

As long as the CLCPC maintains its
focus on language and cultural preservation
and is committed to Taa NꞤmꞤ Pu?i, we will
continue to keep the tribal political climate
from having an adverse impact on our goals
of maintaining Taa NꞤmꞤ Pu?i.

Remember, SꞤꞤꞤ oyetꞤ tanꞤ nana
nꞤmꞤnꞤꞤ.

ꞤꞤra

Taa NꞤmꞤ TekwapuꞤka Nomneewapi.
Ron Red Elk

PALO DURO/ADOBE WALLS TRIP

The Comanche Language and Cultural
Preservation Committee toured the Texas
Panhandle on April 8-10, 1998, to view first
hand the sites of several historic battles
where their ancestors fought. The trip was
both a working and sightseeing trip. Stops
included the Battle of the Washita, Adobe
Walls, Palo Duro Canyon, Hutchinson
County Museum in Borger and Panhandle
Plains Museum in Canyon, Texas.

After stopping by the Battle of the
Washita near Cheyenne, OK, and seeing a
few “Oklahoma” antelope, the group
traveled on to Borger, Texas, where they
were welcomed by the Hutchinson County
Museum and Historical Society. The
Museum Director, Ed Benz, was proud of a
video they produced describing the West
Texas history and showed it during that first
meeting. He led the group as we toured the
museum. One interesting item was a
miniature replica of Adobe Walls.

The Adobe Walls site is now on private
property and is marked with two large
monuments. One monument commemorates
the Comanches who lost their lives during
the battle which took place June 27, 1874.
Carney Saupitty Sr. conducted a cedaring
ceremony and sang four Comanche songs.

The Hutchinson County Museum and
the Historical Society hosted a banquet for
the group. Each group provided an
entertaining speaker. Lucille McClung
represented the Language Committee, and
told a humorous story, first in Comanche
and then in English. Following were
presentations by LaDonna Harris, Executive
Director of AIO in Albuquerque, New
Mexico, and Mr. Ron Red Elk, Chairman of
the CLCPC.

On day two of the trip the committee
members had the opportunity to work in
groups and to be guest speakers at several
different schools in the West Texas School
System. Deloris Karty and a group of
Comanche elders talked to the West Texas
Elementary School about being Comanche.
They taught the children the round dance,
and sang several songs in Comanche.
Deloris’ group was presented with weaved
red and yellow blankets that read “West

Texas Comanche. Comanche Pride. State Academic Champions.” One of the teachers explained that several schools in the area combined to form the West Texas School. After choosing the Comanche as their model, there developed a pride where none was before. The school is now number one in the state in academics as well as athletics. The students and faculty are interested in learning Comanche. Other groups were lead by Carney Saupitty, Sr, Geneva Navarro, Ron Red Elk and the Cable family. The Cable family group included Penny Cable, one of our outstanding young Comanche students.

The group traveled on to the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, where they were welcomed by the museum staff and escorted to the basement to put on white gloves and work to identify some old photos of Comanches. The photos included some committee members when they were children and many included relatives. One photo was of Marie Parton as a young girl riding on a pony. The museum staff was fortunate to have our Comanche elders to help them with their work.

The most exciting event came on the last day when the group descended 800 feet into Palo Duro Canyon. The scenery was breathtaking. Carney Saupitty, Sr. and Rosalie Attocknie conducted a cedaring ceremony. After the ceremony, the group disbursed. Some wandered down familiar paths, crossed clear sparkling creeks, and climbed up steep red hills to gather ekwipsa and then on the way back down the trail some cedar – just as their ancestors had done before them.

The trip allowed us to walk where our ancestors walked and to feel the vastness of the Texas Plains and to think about the courage our ancestors had as they struggled in their changing world.

by Barbara Goodin

The steamy, hot days of early June gave way to cool, rain filled days. My hopes were that the cool days would remain during our planned Summer Camp. Silly me!

We planned the first evening, Thursday, for setting up camps. Rosalie Attocknie, her daughter Esa Attocknie and Esa’s granddaughters, Shauntel and Desirée showed up along with Kenneth and I. Ron Red Elk wandered through bringing tents donated for those needing them, but proceeded back home to Anadarko for the night. What a party pooper!

Darkness fell, and although Camp Doris began to fill with other campers, our group’s area was quiet. But by early morning the site was abuzz with activity.

Of the 58 people who registered, about half stayed the night, with others coming and going during the day.

Esa did an outstanding job of making arrangements and contacting presenters. She chose Camp Doris, nestled in the beautiful Wichita Mountains near Quanah Parker Lake. We saw deer (araka), buffalo (tasiwóo) and wild turkeys (the two legged kind!) in the camp area on various occasions. The tasiwóo were awesome!

Bud Yackeschi acted as camp crier, calling people to meals and presentations in Comanche. We kept pretty much to our scheduled agenda, with a couple of minor glitches along the way.

Ms. Lorna Cable served as our caterer for the Camp. This young Comanche woman recently completed chef’s training and was eager to please us. That, she did! Most of the food was prepared in her home nearby and people soon learned the sound of her diesel van when she arrived at mealtime. I believe she was the most popular person at the camp! Some meals she prepared on site on the grill, but everything she served was delicious and cooked to perfection!

After a wonderful breakfast that first morning, our first presentation was given by Morgan Tossee, who erected a full size

**LANGUAGE SUMMER CAMP
June 11-14, 1998**

teepee on the spot. He explained the reason for everything done and everyone there, young and old alike, learned from his demonstration. It was absolutely beautiful, seeing that teepee where other Comanche teepees may have sat many, many years before.

Friday afternoon we saw a cradle making demonstration given by Edith Kassaravoid Gordon, a meat slicing demonstration by Esa Attocknie and a yuhu nookopu (fry bread) presentation by Margaret Poahway, of which we enjoyed the results along with our evening meal. During the meat slicing event, everyone was encouraged to try their hand at the technique, as it truly is beginning to be a lost art among our people.

The evening was spent gathered under the shade trees with a nice breeze blowing through, listening to Gloria Cable tell stories in Comanche. As darkness crept in around us, we began dispersing to our respective abodes for the night.

Saturday morning dawned with tasiwóo in the camp area. Our delicious breakfast arrived, and after we ate we were ready to start our day. Plenty of fruits, juice and cold bottled water was available each day as we sweltered under the hot Oklahoma sun.

Wekeah Bradley began with an interesting presentation of herbs and home remedies. She has certainly preserved a lot of the flora and fauna culture of our people and has an extensive knowledge of how they were used. Deloris Karty followed with a presentation of the beautiful beadwork she does. Both ladies were dressed in traditional Comanche clothing.

Ozmun Parton began his moccasin making demonstration by asking Kenneth to take off his cowboy boots and tracing his foot. Ozmun told us about the various steps taken to complete a pair of moccasins and continued to work on the moccasins during the rest of the camp.

Eva Rice demonstrated how to make a traditional Comanche dress which was very

interesting. Not having a sewing machine on hand, we didn't get to see a finished product.

After lunch Lucille McClung told us about atakwasu (dried corn) and showed us the finished product. It's a process that takes several days (and have you seen the PRICE of dried corn in the store?), so she began her demonstration on the creek bank a few days earlier. Her presentation netted about two or three cups of atakwasu, and a drawing was held to see who would take it home. Lucky me, Kenneth won!

Eva Riddles next gave a doll making demonstration, showing handmade cloth dolls of all sizes. Everyone was then given pieces of fabric and proceeded to make their own dolls.

Following that, Rosalie Attocknie told us about the origin of the hand game and proceeded to demonstrate it for us. Some were familiar with it and others were just learning.

After our evening meal Kenneth and I were called away unexpectedly, but I understand the storytelling continued with Marie Parton and ended with Carney Saupitty Sr. singing beautiful old Comanche songs and playing the flute. I can just imagine the notes of the flute echoing through the trees where our ancestors once considered their domain.

Following a hearty breakfast of ko?i ma (thin sliced meat) the next morning, everyone broke camp, while making plans for the next Cultural Camp.

Quotes from some of the participants:

MARIE PARTON: "It was really interesting and I really liked Wekeah Bradley's herb demonstration. There's a lot we have forgotten. The meat slicing was interesting, too."

ROSALIE ATTOCKNIE: "(The Camp) came off very nice, and if the children were listening they got a lot of good out of it. They should know some of their culture

now. I learned at the camp, also, especially about the herbs.”

LUCILLE McCLUNG: “(The Camp) was good, it was educational. It was something to see us ladies sitting slicing the meat. Never in my life did I have that for breakfast before!”

RON RED ELK: “There was a lot of good sessions, people who didn’t attend missed out on a lot. But it was almost too hot, and I got hurt.” (A wasp stung him on the ear!)

BUD YACKESCHI said that his favorite part was: “Being selected for Camp Crier!”

DELORIS W. KARTY: “This Camp was very interesting and informative and should be attempted again soon. The more we get together the more we can share experiences and learn from each other.”

MARGARET POAHWAY: “I enjoyed every session that we had. Some were enlightening, some were a reminder of the things that have been lost (to) modern times, such as drying meat.”

EDITH GORDON: “It was really enjoyable, food was good and we showed our Comanche way of being together and speaking our language and having fun.”

MARK WAUAHDOOAH: “1) hot – very hot – extremely hot!; 2) Good – but move closer to Lawton; 3) Good food and demonstrations – great coordination and volunteers!!”

UNKNOWN: “It was informative, fun and brought a closeness among the group. This closeness made us more at ease to speak freely with each other and learn about each other.”

UNKNOWN: “It was very good and would suggest another (camp). Lunches were on the grounds and real good. Camping every night, also.”

UNKNOWN: “Although it was very, very hot, I thought it was also very informative, interesting and things I thought we needed to see.”

MYSELF: “I’m ready for the next one!”

**Ura
(Thank You)**

Thank you to all the members of the Comanche Language Committee who gave us so much support and love after the death of our brother and brother-in-law, Joe Steve Goodin. Your acts of kindness in the way of prayers, food, flowers, cards and love offerings touched our hearts more than you will ever know.

You are more than friends, you are our extended family.

Ura
Kenneth & Barbara Goodin
and
Arlene Goodin Comer

“S̄am̄ Oyetā Tan̄ Nanan̄m̄n̄n̄”

Ron Red Elk

**MEDALS OF HONOR SOUGHT FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS**

Anadarko, OK. April 8, 1998. Many of the American public knows that in World War II a large number of Navajo served as “code talkers” for the Marines in the Pacific.

In all, at least 17 tribes have been identified as serving in this manner in the Pacific and Europe and in both World Wars!

Dr. William C. Meadows, an Anadarko OK scholar whose book on the Comanche and the other 17 tribal code talkers of World War II is currently under review by the University of Texas Press. The tribes identified include: Cheyenne, Comanche, Cherokee, Choctaw, Osage, and Yankton Sioux in WWI, and in World War II, Chippewa, Choctaw, Comanche, Creek, Hopi, Kiowa, Menominee, Muscogee-Seminole, Navajo, Oneida, Pawnee, Sac & Fox, and Sioux (both Lakota and Dakota dialects).

Meadows identifies two types of code talking, which he calls Type I and Type II. The former involved actual encoding of messages and translation of code into the

code talkers' native languages. The second type involved the planned or spontaneous use of Native American language to relay strategic messages without further encoding.

The code talking of these American Indian warriors was practiced under dangerous, harrowing conditions, willingly and without question. Perhaps even more remarkable, it was a service which they rendered to a government which had conquered their own people. Some of the code talkers lost their lives, and many were wounded during the two World Wars. Many of these brave men have since passed on to the land of the spirits, unrecognized by this country. The United States has never officially recognized the code talkers, although the French government awarded them or their tribes their highest military honor in 1989.

Kreger, Cache (quilt); Leonard "Black Moon" Riddles, Randlett (print); Geneva Navarro, Santa Fe NM (ceramic angel and shell necklace); and Deloris Karty, Anadarko (beaded necklace). Our thanks to everyone who participated in the drawing.

*The Agenda for the Lannan Master-Apprentice Training Session was included in this newsletter. It will not be reprinted for the web site.

NEWS RELEASE

On July 31, 1998, the Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee announced the winners of five prizes given away by the organization.

Grand Prize: Handmade Star Quilt was won by Dwight Ahdosy of Walters.

Second: "Black Moon" print won by Vernon Cable of Cache.

Third: Ceramic Indian Angel won by Ann Asenap of Cache.

Fourth: White shell necklace was won by Sam E. DeVenney of Lawton.

Fifth: Red & black traditional beaded necklace won by Pat Gilpin of Cache.

The Language Committee, which raised about \$345. would like to thank the following people for donating items: Billie