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# NUMU TEKWAPUHA NOMNEEKATU NEWSLETTER

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May 2002

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The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

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*Editor: Barbara Goodin*

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## **“Letter From The President”**

The days are warming up and school is about to turn all our children back to us for the summer. Why can't they have school all year?

Anyway, if they did have school all year, the children would miss out on all the wonderful Comanche Summer Camps coming up this summer. I wish I was still a young teen. (Then again, never mind!)

At our last monthly meeting we had a cook-out just before the meeting and had a read good time. I was glad to see a lot of friendly faces again. Tutangsuang.

Our next singing will be Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and I hope you and your family will come out and help us learn some songs that no one ever sings in their churches anymore. We do need your help.

Oh, by the way, I got to go flying in an airplane. My daughters and I were asked if we wanted to fly the friendly skies with a retired commercial airline pilot. His name is Lyle Prouse. Taa Nanumunuu nakia. It was exciting as we flew over your houses. He took us down to the Red River near Wichita Falls, Texas. It was fun 'till he let Penny fly the plane. Josie just about lost it. But all in all it was pure fun.

No na tuasa u puni ne. Billie Kreger

(\*Editor's Note: Others who took advantage of this generous offer were Jan Woomavoyah and son Jack, Kenneth Goodin and Ray Niedo.)

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## **DICTIONARY STATUS**

The final stages of proof-reading is the current status of the planned Comanche Language Dictionary. With several thousand words to look over, in addition to the definition for each, you can imagine how much time it takes.

Remember to 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.

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## **COMANCHE SONGS**

Comanche Songs will continue to be sung on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton, through May. The sessions start at 1:30 p.m. and last until 3:00 or 3:30 p.m., depending on when everyone is ready to stop singing! At the end of May we will decide if it's necessary to continue the sessions in order to complete our task. The goal is to learn the songs and record them onto a cassette tape and/or CD. In the meanwhile, all those attending are encouraged to bring their tape recorders so they can learn songs being sung that they don't know.

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## **COMMUNITY CULTURAL SESSIONS**

The community language/cultural sessions have been adjourned for the summer. They will begin again after school takes up in the fall.

This year's sessions were held in Apache, Cache, Fletcher, Lawton, Richard's Spur and Walters. Facilitators monitored each session and contacted Comanche craftsmen/experts in various areas of language, culture and traditions who made presentations to attendees. Over 600 people signed in during the six month program.

Watch this newsletter and other media for the start dates for the next sessions.

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## **ANNUAL YOUTH FAIR HELD IN SANTA FE**

The Indigenous Language Institute hosted the fourth annual Native Youth Language Fair on the

first week-end in April. More than 200 children participated in the gathering at the Santa Fe Indian School, where 800 people were in attendance. Inee Yang Slaughter, executive director of the sponsoring organization, said over 150 native languages are in danger of being lost.

“We consider a language to be endangered when the children are no longer using it, and in that sense, of the 175 Native American languages left in the United States, perhaps only 20 are considered stable.”

Comanches were well represented by 11 year old Matthew Gomez, grandson of Geneva Woomavoyah Navarro, native of Apache OK who now resides in Santa Fe. Matthew began his presentation by singing the Comanche Flag Song (which brought audience members to their feet) and went on to recite the motto for the Comanche Language Committee:

“Soobesu Numunu sumu oyetu Numu niwunu?etu. Ukitsi nunu tuasu Numu niwunuhutui. Ubunitu tuasu Nvmu niwanu hutuinuu.”

He then gave his translation for the motto:

“A long time ago, all the Comanche people spoke the Comanche language. Now we are all going to speak Comanche again. From now on we will speak Comanche forever.”

Later Matthew explained that he began speaking Comanche when he was eight years old, with the help of his grandmother. He said, “I wanted her to teach me because our language is dying out. I just like expressing my language; it tells more about me, it tells how I live.”

Autumn Yubani Gomez, Matthew’s sister, also made a presentation by singing Comanche words to the tune of “Our Father” and doing sign language.

Geneva regrets not teaching her own children how to speak their native language, but now she spends endless hours teaching her grandchildren.

Sid Byrd, a member of the Lakota Nation, remembered being beaten for speaking his native language when he attended a boarding school in Nebraska in 1926. After three years at the school, when he returned to South Dakota, he had forgotten his native language and had to relearn Lakota in order to communicate with his family.

“It was beaten out of me,” he said in reference to his language. He was thrilled to see the youngsters speaking and singing in their native languages during the event. “It makes my heart soar like a hawk to hear the children speak and sing,” he said.

Some of the languages represented at the event, besides Comanche, were: Dine, Tewa, Cherokee, Keres and Lakota.

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### SUMMER FUN CAMP

The first annual Summer Fun Camp is being sponsored by the Comanche Reformed Church, with Marla Nauni coordinating the event. The camp will be held Friday and Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and will feature Comanche Hymns and cultural activities.

#### AGENDA

Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:

- 5:30 p.m. Registration
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Prayer
- 6:15 p.m. Workshop #1 Comanche Hymn
- Workshop #2 Science Experiment
- 6:45 p.m. Snack
- 7:00 p.m. Cultural Activity(medicine bundles)
- 7:45 p.m. Kid’s survey
- 8:00 p.m. Closing Prayer

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:00 a.m. Meet at Comanche Reformed Church
- 9:45 a.m. Leave for Wichita Wildlife Refuge
- 10:15 Breakout into Groups
- 10:30 Walking/Hiking on Trail & Storytelling
- Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cedar & Sage Presentation
- Buffalo Presentation
- 2 p.m. Swimming at Lake Letra
- 5 p.m. Return to Comanche Ref. Church

If you have children or grandchildren who would like to attend, contact Marla at (580) 492-3734 (work); (580) 678-0018 (cell); or e-mail: marlia32@hotmail.com.

OR -- if you are young and energetic and would like to volunteer to help, call the above listed numbers. Give our kids a positive role model to look up to. It will be well worth your

time!

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### **SUMMER CAMP 2002**

The Comanche Tribe's Substance Abuse Program will sponsor a summer camp again this year which will feature language learning. It will be held June 17<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday through Thursday) on the grounds of the Fort Indian School. Applications can be picked up at the Comanche Complex, Comanche Housing and Fort Sill Indian School. There are only 50 slots open this year for children ages 5 through 14, so get your application in early.

Many fun activities are being planned, with skating, swimming, movies, bowling, trips to Turner Falls and the Omni Plex in OKC, and a trip to the Wichita Falls Nature Works. Cultural crafts and language will also be incorporated into the program.

If you want a good, wholesome activity for your child or grandchild for the summer, pick up an application soon. For more information call 357-3449.

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### **ATTENTION**

#### **COMANCHE KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

If you are a member of the Comanche Tribe and are a veteran of the Korean War, or have a family member that fits this criteria, please read the following article.

The Department of Defense has an ongoing project to present all Korean War Veterans, or their next of kin if deceased, with KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDALS. To apply, contact HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, TX 78150-4714, or you may visit [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/) on the internet. Phone numbers for additional information are 1-800-558-1404 or 210-565-2432. Their fax number is 210-565-3118.

They emphasize the medals are free to those who qualify.

A big Ūra to Albert Clark Jr. who provided the above information.

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### **AN OBSERVATION.**

One of my favorite pastimes while driving down the road is to observe the license tags that have a personalized message. Some have their names, others have another message displayed. What I have observed recently is the number of Comanche Nation tags that have Comanche words personalized on them. Because there are so many people who display personalized tags, and there can't be any duplication, some of the spelling can get very creative. The same follows with the Comanche tags. We always get a chuckle out of some of the things people choose to display on their vehicles. Wonder if they realize how much this says about them?

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### **HONOR PLAQUE**

The CLCPC has initiated a project to honor individuals who have promoted the preservation of our language and culture. The first step is to provide a distinguished looking plaque on which the names of the individuals can be displayed.

Ron Red Elk, past president of the organization, made the motion to initiate the project and challenged everyone who has benefitted from previous CLCPC programs/projects to donate to this cause. This means if you received money from the CLCPC as a speaker, a teacher, a student, a vendor, a presentor, etc. you are being challenged to help make this project a reality. To date we have received three donations: Ron Red Elk, Barbara Goodin and Billie Kreger.

We have also received two nominations for names to be placed on the plaque. The Executive Board will set the criteria for the names of persons who will be eligible to be placed on the plaque.

Executive Board Members are:

Billie Kreger, President;  
Dr. Reaves Nahwooks, Vice-President;  
Deloris Wooth Karth, Secretary;  
Barbara Goodin, Treasurer; and  
Ron Red Elk, Past President.

At this time we envision the plaque will be placed in a prominent place at the Comanche Complex until a more permanent home can be

found. We want the plaque to have a place of honor so that others can see it and read the names of both living and deceased individuals who have made a concerted effort to preserve our language and culture.

If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Barbara Goodin at 580-353-3632 or e-mail us at <clcpc@comanchelanguage.org> for more information.

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### SHOSHONE REUNION 2002

Plans are moving ahead for the Shoshone Reunion 2002, which will be held in the heart of Comanche Country this year. The third annual event is shaping up to be the largest gathering yet of Shoshone and related tribes, which includes Comanche.

Planning meetings have been held since last year, with the most recent one taking place in New Mexico. Other meetings have been held in Lawton and Utah. Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee (CLCPC) Vice-President and Planning Committee member, Dr. Reaves Nahwooks, stated the "reunion is beginning to build, and centers around language. There is an eagerness for all concerned to learn more about each other." But he also stressed the main purpose of the reunion is to have fun. In charge of the agenda, he said all presentations will include the language, with translations being provided, also. Others serving on the Planning Committee are Delphine Nelson, Comanche Nation Tribal Administrator; Dr. Bill Southard, Comanche Nation Vice-Chairman; Jim Arterberry, Comanche Nation N.A.G.P.R.A. Representative; Billie Kreger, CLCPC President and Ronald Red Elk, CLCPC past president.

Some of the tribes planning to attend are the Eastern Shoshone, Shoshone-Bannocks, Western Shoshone, Reno Sparks Shoshone, Fallon Nevada Shoshone, SouthEastern Shoshone and the New Mexico Toya Comanche band.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MAY 2002

7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday: CLCPC Monthly Business

Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 511 Monroe, Lawton.  
11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Comanche Singing, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton.  
25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Comanche Singing, canceled.  
25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday: Cable Family Reunion, Leatrice Cable home in Cache.

#### JUNE 2002

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

#### JULY 2002

19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday thru Sunday: Comanche Homecoming, Sultan Park, Walters OK.

#### AUGUST 2002

5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - Monday thru Saturday: American Indian Expo, Caddo County Fairgrounds, Anadarko OK

#### SEPTEMBER 2002

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - Comanche Nation Fair

#### OCTOBER 2002

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> - Shoshone/Comanche Reunion

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### 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.** A primer for learning the language explains the Comanche alphabet and the sound of each letter. Examples of many simple words and brief sentences. 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 to accompany song book!

**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 solid red or 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. 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 turquoise 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: "Numu Tekwapu" and #2: "Ihka Niha, Numu 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***