
NUMU TEKWAPUHA NOMNEEKATU NEWSLETTER

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The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

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“Letter From The President”

Haa Maruaweka Numunuu,
Haa taasuu nu sumu u naramuiku. Suka
tu numu uk tuibitsi, na ketokwetu.
Sasumu hina hanitui, suku usu na
kwuhai, usu hanitui. Suku usu naibi?tu
pu punipu, usu kahni uraatsi, suku
tukani uraa wa?ikana. Kema
tuna?punine, uraa wa?ikana. Susu
mawaitu suku mu kaku usu taatu
punine. Susu, yaa sumu su
kahniku?patu, mu yukwitu! Suka usu
huya suku suruu tuibitsi uka wata?mata
popine. Oka natsawina ubatu
natsawinaka suruu puetapu. Uruu kaku
puku u ikana weki, suruu suk natsakai.
Usu kwetsi onai suku pu kaku pahine.
Suruu kaku pia yaketu! Suruu suku su
u pabi, usu wapai tuibitsi, usu to?itsi
nukine. Subetu.

Greetings Comanches,

This is a humorous short story as told
by Carney Saupitty, about the trials
and tribulations of a young man
seeking romance. If you cannot read
or do not understand Comanche, you
can learn to do both. Come to a
spelling workshop and see how easy it
is to learn to read Comanche.
Learning to understand Comanche is a
lot harder, but you will never learn
either unless you get involved.
Kimaka Numunuu tuniharui tanu.

SOUND SYSTEM WORKSHOPS HELD AT COMPLEX

Ronald Red Elk is conducting noon hour
workshops at the Comanche Complex to

teach the sound system of the Comanche
language. The workshops are held on
Wednesdays beginning at 12:15 (to allow
participants time to grab a quick lunch) and
continue until just before 1:00 p.m.

Tomah Yeahquo, director of the tribal
program to develop a Comanche Sounds CD
for infants and children, coordinated the
workshop.

All tribal employees are invited to attend
and learn about the sound system. Other
tribal members may attend, also. Mr. Red
Elk states that participants who continue
through the entire workshop will leave with
a clear understanding of the sound system
and be able to both read and write using the
Comanche alphabet.

The sessions are being video taped to
send to Comanches out of this area who
would like to learn the sound system but are
not able to attend in person. We have had
several requests for a taped version of the
workshop.

At the conclusion of the workshops held
at the Complex, participants with a perfect
attendance will be given a special surprise.

Kimah! Numu Tekwapu!

COMANCHE LANGUAGE TEE- SHIRTS PRESENTED TO WINNERS

The Comanche Language & Cultural
Preservation Committee (CLCPC) presented
language tee-shirts to local winners in the
2nd Annual Oklahoma Native American
Youth Language Fair, held recently in
Norman, OK.

The Comanche Nation Early Childhood
Development Center, under the direction of
Desiree Tonips, brought home 1st Place

honors in the Pre-K through 2nd Grade category. Children participating were:

Yolanda Ahhaitty
Phillip Archilta-Tutstsisah
Hazel Codopony
Victor Corpuz
Malayna Dinwiddie
Gabriella Guerrero
Galu Lavatai
Alyshia Nieto
Miyanna Ortega
Faith Wahkinney

Bringing home 2nd Place honors in the 3rd through 5th Grade category were the Southern Plains Sign Language Ensemble under the direction of Tomah Yeahquo. Members of that group are:

Angelica Blackstar
Candace Lonewolf
Chelsea Sapcut
Gabrielle Edwards
Isa Belle PoorBuffalo
Kayla Bointy
Kimberly Blackstar
Maxine Stumblingbear
Tiauna Ricker
Theresa Kiley

Congratulations to all our young people on a job well done!

COMANCHE CHILDREN'S VIDEO

Free copies of the Comanche Children's Video were given away to Comanche children who attended the special preview held in March at the Visitor's Center.

The preview was held in conjunction with the monthly Fine Arts Exhibit.

Approximately 25 families went home with a copy of the twelve minute video which told a traditional story in Comanche and in English, featured several songs and the numbers. Several grandparents came to request copies for their grandchildren who live far from Comanche Country.

We plan to have more copies available for distribution during the Comanche Nation Fair, which is normally held the last week-end of September.

Meanwhile, work has begun on a second video for children. Hopefully, this could be the start of a series of children's tapes.

COMANCHE BANDS

from *Our Comanche Dictionary*

(*We receive a lot of requests concerning the various Comanche Bands. I have extracted the following from our Comanche Dictionary. It may not be a complete list, but plans are already underway to add to our current dictionary in the near future. The five main bands have been bolded for distinction. Meanwhile, I hope this helps those of you who had a question about the Bands.)

Hanitaibo – Corn People
Kuhtsutuuka – Buffalo eaters
Kwaharu – Antelope Eaters
Kwahi~~h~~ ki – Back Shade Comanche
Kwaru – Loud Speaking People
Nokoni – “They Travel Around”
Noyukanuu – Wanderers
Ohnon~~u~~ – Band from Cyril Area
Parukaa (Padouka) – Name given
Comanches by the Sioux people
Pekwi T~~u~~hka – Fish Eaters
Penatuka/Pinaatuka – Honey Eaters, also known as “Quick Striking”
Pikaatamu – Buckskin Sewing
Sarii T~~u~~ka – Dog Eaters
Tanin~~u~~ – Liver Eaters living south of the Peace River in Texas
T~~u~~tsanoo Yehku – Comanche Band
Wian~~u~~/Wian~~u~~ – Band from Walters area
Yaparuhka/Yapaituka – Root Eaters
N~~u~~m~~u~~n~~u~~ – Comanche People (plural), “crawling on belly like a snake”
N~~u~~m~~u~~ – Comanche person (singular)

TAA NA NUMUNUU

(our relatives)

Pia — Mother
Ahp~~u~~ — Father
Pabi — Older Brother
Tami — Younger Brother
Patsi — Older Sister
Nami — Younger Sister

Tua — Son
 Petu — Daughter
 Kaku — Grandmother on mother's side
 Tooko — Grandfather on mother's side
 Huutsi — Grandmother on father's side
 Kenu — Grandfather on father's side
 Tsoo — Great-grandparents on either side
 Num Tokoo — Our Grandfather
 Num Kaku — Our Grandmother
 Samupu — Brothers, Cousins
 Taka — Brother, Sister, Cousin
 Kumapu — Husband
 Kwuh — Wife
 Paha — Aunt (father's sisters)
 Ahra — Uncle (mother's brother
 or father's sister's husband)
 Tu?urapu — Sweetheart
 Tui — Female's female Friend
 Haitsi — Man's male friend
 Num Tsoo — Wife's grandparents,
 Son's grandparents
 Tsoo Ah?ahpu — Great granddaughter's
 husband
 Tsoo Ah?pia — Great Grandson's wife
 Nanamsu — In Laws
 Monapu — Son-in-law
 Hutsiapiapu — Daughter-in-law (son's wife)
 Pahapiapu — Sister-in-law
 Tetsi — Brother-in-law
 Notsakapu — Boy friend or Girl friend
 Nabarai — Divorce

**SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE
 AMERICAN INDIAN
 GRAND OPENING SOON**

Tribal member Machel Monenokit, who works for the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., keeps us updated on all the latest happenings. She sent this internet address recently for anyone wanting more

information about the grand opening of the Museum:

www.americanindian.si.edu

The Comanche Nation will be sending about 50 people to represent us, and I know they will make us proud! The opening falls just prior to our own Comanche Nation Fair in September, and those of us who are unable to attend may be able to view the happenings of the opening via cam, like we were able to follow the progress of the building of the museum itself. Machel will let us know when that's been decided, and we will post the web site in our next newsletter, due to come out the first of September.

SHOSHONE REUNION V

We have received information that the 5th Annual Shoshone Nations Reunion will be held October 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2004, in Elko, Nevada.

For more information you can contact one of the following people:

Leah Brady at 775-753-6931 (phone or fax);
 Lois Whitney at 775-753-3794; or
 Larinda Yvette Bill 775-744-2700 or by e-mail at lorindayb@hotmail.com.

Registration packets will be going out soon, so if you're interested in attending please contact one of the ladies listed above.

URA

Thank You

Thank you to the people who have given us an updated mailing address. Comanche County moved to an enhanced 911 emergency system, and in the process gave all rural residents a street address and house number. This was done about one year ago, and the expiration time will soon run out for those people who still use their old address (Rural Routes). If we receive your newsletter back due to an old mailing address, we will not re-mail it. If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please send us your new address. Ura.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Taa Ahr̥ tomoba?t̥,
(Our Father in Heaven)

Nan̥suw̥k̥ait̥ ɛ nahnia.
(Wonderful is your name)

ʉ tekwap̥?ha pit̥ruibe,
(Your word arrived)

Sik̥ sok̥ tomoba?atu waiku.
(Here on earth are the same as in Heaven)

N̥mi maaka sika tabeni n̥mi t̥su?n̥r̥
(Give us this day, forgive us)

N̥mi t̥suuna aiku n̥mi hanip̥?kat̥.
(For anything bad or wrong that we have done)

Keta ait̥ku numi pets̥r̥, t̥saa ku n̥mi
muhne.
(Don't tempt us to do evil, lead us to do good)

Oyo t̥n̥ nar̥mi,
(All of us, Master)

Mohats̥iku n̥mi kamak̥t̥.
(We love Him a lot)

N̥mi sutai, usuni.
(Bless us, always.)
Amen.

Idaho State University Professor Heads to Southern California to Help Save Native Language

POCATELLO, Idaho, Feb. 27, 2004.
(AScribe Newswire) -- Idaho State University anthropology professor Dr. Christopher Loether, who specializes in the Shoshoni language, has been hired for 18 months to help save the language of the Serrano Indians living in southern California on the San Manuel and Morongo Reservations.

Loether is building on work done by University of California, Los Angeles, professor Dr. Ernest Siva, a member of the Morongo Indian tribe who is half Serrano and half Cahuilla. Siva, a Serrano speaker, has worked with the Morongo and San Manuel bands of the Mission Indians for many years.

"Basically, there are only three people left who speak the language," Loether said. "The last woman who spoke only the Serrano language, who was in her 90s, died last year, but we have a lot of material collected from this woman, Dorothy Ramon, who was Siva's aunt."

The San Manuel Reservation is located in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, just north of the city of Highland, and occupies 740 acres. About 68 adults and 129 children are tribal members, according to Loether.

The 32,000-acre Morongo Indian Reservation is set near the base of the San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Mountains. Tribal membership is about 1,200, according to Loether.

Loether will first learn the Serrano language, then train teachers to teach the language in schools. The language will be taught to pre-school children next fall, then to successively higher grades each year, based on the model of a Hawaiian language program taught on the Hawaiian Islands in every grade from kindergarten to graduate school.

"Different Indian groups are trying to preserve their languages using programs based on the Hawaiian model," Loether said. "One California tribe located south of us, the Pechanga, recently implemented a language program that was very successful."

Loether will also assist Siva in teaching the Serrano language in classes at UCLA next fall. The university will begin offering a two-year certificate in Serrano culture and language.

The Serrano Indian language is a member of the Uto-Aztecan language

family, the same as Shoshoni. Paiute is also a member of that language family. Loether learned the Western Mono language while earning his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in anthropology at UCLA. He learned the Eastern Mono language while working on a project in the Owens Valley in California.

While at ISU, Loether has also become a Shoshoni language expert, working with ISU adjunct professor Drusilla Gould. The Shoshoni language program began in 1989, and ISU became one of the first universities to offer a Native American language to fulfill the foreign language general education requirement. Loether and Gould have published a Shoshoni language textbook, "An Introduction to the Shoshoni Language" (University of Utah Press 2002), and 35 to 40 people per year are enrolled in its Shoshoni language courses.

Although the Serrano language is related to the Shoshoni and the Mono languages, learning and teaching Serrano is difficult because of the lack of fluent speakers and written materials on the language.

"Serrano is related to Shoshoni and is as close to Shoshoni, perhaps, as English is to German. They are definitely related but there are a lot of differences between them," Loether said.

There is already a writing system in place for the Serrano language developed by scholar Eric Elliot. The writing system uses the Roman alphabet with a couple of extra signs and "a couple of letters that don't stand for the same thing they do in written English," Loether said. The instructional book of the Serrano language, patterned after Loether and Gould's Shoshoni textbook, will include examples of conversations, dialogues, and interactions.

"We will teach students useful phrases they can put to use interacting with other people in real situations," Loether said. "This method is known as the 'ulpan' method of language immersion and was first developed by the Jews of Palestine to teach

Hebrew, when they were revitalizing that language in the early 1900s. It is now used to teach new immigrants to Israel the Hebrew language."

Members of the ISU anthropology department have been active in recent cultural preservation projects. Gould has traveled to Shoshoni reservations throughout the West to help with language projects. Professor Dr. Anthony Stocks has helped a number of Central and South American tribes and indigenous groups acquire and manage lands in critical conservation areas.

ISU is located in Pocatello, Idaho, which is adjacent to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The reservation has about 5,000 residents; approximately 3,000 of them are Native American. The Fort Hall tribe has about 3,500 enrolled members. ISU averages about 350 Native American students each semester out of a total enrollment of about 13,500. Shoshoni language courses are well attended, and generally one-third to one-half of those enrolled are Native Americans. Two Shoshoni and one Chippewa Indian are on the ISU anthropology department teaching staff.

"We get people (enrolled in ISU Shoshoni classes) who are just interested in the language and the culture, but the majority of our students are from Fort Hall," Loether said. "However, we've had students from about every Shoshoni Indian reservation in the West over time. Shoshoni from Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah have all attended our classes, as well as Comanches, who speak a dialect of Shoshoni."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SONG

(In Comanche)

(sung to tune of English Happy Birthday)

Eya heya heya (chant)

ǂ pahipǂma wǂhpitǂi

(it's when you were born)

Nǂnǂse ǂ Kamakǂtǂ

(And we love you)

Eya heya heya (chant)

TAA TÜRÜTSÜ
(our numbers)

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Sümü | 1 |
| Wahatü | 2 |
| Pahitü | 3 |
| Hayarokweetu | 4 |
| Mo?obetu | 5 |
| Naabaitü | 6 |
| Taatsükwütü | 7 |
| Namewatsükwütü | 8 |
| Wümühinatü/Wüminatü | 9 |
| Süumarü | 10 |

TÜTSÜ WOO TAIBOO
(Old McDonald)

Tütsü woo taiboo **pimaroo** katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Moo moo sikü.

Moo moo sukü.

Sikü moo, sukü moo.

Tütsü woo taiboo pimaroo katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Tütsü woo taiboo **sari** katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Arf, arf sikü. Arf, arf sukü.

Sikü arf, sukü arf.

Tütsü woo taiboo sari katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Tütsü woo taiboo **woo?oo** katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Meow meow sikü. Meow meow sukü.

Sikü meow, sukü meow.

Tütsü woo taiboo woo?oo katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Tütsü woo taiboo **mubi pooroo** katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Oink oink sikü.

Oink oink sukü.

Sikü oink, sukü oink.

Tütsü woo taiboo mubi pooroo katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Tütsü woo taiboo **kokoraa** katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

Cluck cluck sikü.

Cluck cluck sukü.

Sikü cluck, sukü cluck.

Tütsü woo taiboo kokoraa katü,
heyah, heyah, ha.

(*And so on and so on with other animals)

“Sümü Oyetü Tana Nananümüñü”
(We are all related)

Ronald Red Elk

COMANCHE LANGUAGE MOTO

Soobesü Nümüñü

(A long time ago)

Sümüoyetü nüñü niwüñü? etü.
(we all spoke Comanche)

Ukitsi nüñü täasü nüñü niwüñü hutüi,
(Now we will all speak Comanche again,)

Ubunitü täasü nüñü niwüñü hutui nüñü.
(from now on
we will speak Comanche forever.)

Carney Saupitty Sr.

PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Comanche Dictionary. Compiled entirely by Comanche people, this dictionary contains over 6,000 Comanche words with Comanche to English and English to Comanche sections. \$34 incl. s&h.

Comanche Lessons, set #1. A set of four Comanche Lessons, complete with a word list for each lesson. Specify audio cassette or CD when ordering. If we don't receive your preference, we will automatically send an audio cassette. \$25 includes s&h.

Picture Dictionary. A primer for learning the language explains the Comanche alphabet and the sound of each letter. \$10 includes s&h.

Comanche Song Book. Collection of 116 songs written in Comanche with an English translation for each song. \$10 plus \$3 s&h.

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

Comanche Flash Cards, set #2. A complete new set of 48 different cards. \$5 includes s&h.

Comanche Flash Cards, set #3. Now available! \$5 includes 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.

Comanche Language White Polo Shirt. We have a very few shirts in a limited number of adult sizes still available. The shirts are white with a collar and two button placket in the front. They have the colorful language logo on the left front chest and **Numu Tekwapu** just above the sleeve band on the left sleeve. \$20 plus \$4 s&h. PLEASE e-mail us (clpc@comanchelanguage.org) with the size you need so we can let you know if we have it before you send your check or money order. Then we can reserve the shirt in your name and wait for your check to arrive.

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, allow 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.

Lapel Pins. 1 inch Cloisonne pin with colorful C.L.C.P.C. logo and "**Numu Tekwapu**" written in center. \$5 includes s&h.

Note: If you are ordering multiple items, please e-mail us a list of items you will be ordering so we can give you a better price on shipping and handling. Our e-mail address is:

clpc@comanchelanguage.org.

**Please include your e-mail address when ordering in case we need to contact you.*