
NUMU TEKWAPUHA NOMENEEKATU NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Vol. 12 Issue 1

The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

1375 N.E. Cline Road, Elgin OK 73538-3086

www.comanchelanguage.org 1-580-492-5126 e-mail: clcpc@comanchelanguage.org

Editor: Barbara Goodin

COMMUNITY CLASSES TO BE OFFERED IN 2009

We will be offering community classes in 2009, utilizing the talents of our families from both Year One and Year Two of the "Learning To Speak Comanche" projects. The classes will be free to enrolled tribal members and their families and will be scheduled weekly for one month in each of the area communities, to include Walters, Cache, Apache, Anadarko and Lawton.

The classes will teach the basic skills to learn to read and write the Comanche language, with learning material provided.

If you are interested in participating in the classes, please call me (580-492-5126) so I can keep you informed when the dates, times and places have been scheduled. We will also place notices in the newspapers.

A FEW FACTS....

A Few facts about words:

- There are about 700,000 words in the English language, more than any other language.
- The average lead pencil will write 50,000 English words.
- Normally, a person speaks 26,800 words per day, enough to fill up a 500 page book each week.
- The average person uses 773,650,000 words in a lifetime of 75 years.

The above is paraphrased from a small publication that is delivered to my house from time to time called "House to House, Heart to Heart."

What this tells me is that words are important. In our Comanche Dictionary we have about 6,000 words, yet we know it is not a complete list of all the words in our language. Our Dictionary will always be a "works in progress."

VIDEOS TO DVDs

Remember the DVDs we offer to tribal members of various activities that have taken place over the last sixteen years, when CLCPC was first born. The list can be found in the April 2008 issue of this CLCPC newsletter, which is online at our web site (see top of page for web site address).

AUDIO CASSETTES TO CDs

Also, we are in the process of having audio cassettes transferred to CDs that we will offer at a later date. When that project has been completed we will print that list and offer the CDs to tribal members, also.

ANOTHER COMANCHE HYMN BOOK

We are currently working on another project to put more of our Comanche Hymns into book form with corresponding CDs. We will notify you when that project has been completed.

NEED A GOOD LAUGH?

Do you need a good laugh after the stress of the holidays? All the family get-togethers, indigestion, and bills coming in? Well, let me provide you with some relief.

A number of months ago I received a rather strange e-mail from someone wanting to know if we could provide a tape of someone speaking Comanche. They wanted to use the tape to prove a particular woman was not Comanche and could not speak, or understand, the Comanche language.

Upon further investigation I found the web site where this woman has some information. The web address is long but if you want a good laugh here it is: www.bigfootreferenceguide.com/showthread.php?t=85. Whew! These are all lower case with no spaces.

Apparently (or should I say “allegedly”?) this woman claims Big Foot speaks Comanche and she can communicate with him. She even provides a rather lengthy list of Comanche words they “allegedly” use. She says she was raised speaking only Comanche, yet she is only 43. I forgot who she said raised her –maybe Big Foot?

Well, she collects money for this Big Foot thing she does, and in her profile says she is a bum. Apparently she has fooled some people, but others got wise and contacted us.

This just goes to show to what length some people will go to try to associate themselves with Comanche people.

ANOTHER GOOD LAUGH

I recently heard a distinguished looking Indian man say “I’ve been told I am part white – but I can’t prove it.”

Haven’t we all heard the reversal of that before? And many of them proclaim to be the descendant of an

“Indian Princess.” I want to say “Oh, what year was she princess?”

SPELLING CONTEST

Back in October of 2008, I mentioned a spelling contest to correctly spell the names of Comanches who signed various treaties many years ago. I challenged the participants of Year One and Year Two of our “Learning To Speak Comanche” project to earn *puhiwi*. But we would also like to encourage any enrolled ~~Namunux~~ to participate.

We will *namakanu wanapuhiwi pahitu* for each name you spell in the Comanche spelling system – to the first five (5) people who respond by mail OR e-mail.

We told you about the contest back in October, so you’ve had three months to be working on this, now I expect to see some responses very soon!

If you don’t have the Comanche fonts on your computer, e-mail us and we can send those via e-mail -- because the names have to be written in Comanche.

If we have a good response to this contest, we may offer other contests in the future to challenge your “language learning.”

So get busy and get those names sent to us!

COMANCHE PENDLETON FOR SALE

In case you missed it in the tribal newspaper, the Pendleton Company now has a Comanche Pendleton blanket available. The first 250 blankets are being offered at the Comanche Visitor’s Center to enrolled tribal member only (you must present your CDIB card and the purchase price of \$160 to have one reserved in your name.) Delivery date is estimated at January 15th.

I understand the first 250 blankets are going fast, so plan to order yours soon.

EIGHT POINTS FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

(*from Leanne Hinton's *Flutes of Fire*)

1. **Be an active learner.** Ask about things
 2. **Don't use English**, not even when you can't say it in Comanche. Find other ways to communicate what you want to say.
 3. **Use gestures, contexts, objects, actions**, to help your communication when you don't know the words.
 4. **Practice.** Use new words, new sentences, new grammar as much as possible, to yourself, to your teacher, to other people.
 5. **Don't be afraid of mistakes.** If you don't know how to say something right, say it wrong. Use whatever words you know and gestures for the rest. Everyone makes mistakes.
 6. **Be willing to play in the language** like children do. Name things you see, count them, talk about what colors they are. Make up stories.
 7. **Understanding precedes speaking.** You may recognize and understand many things you cannot say. Focus on understanding. That is the most important step toward language learning. After you understand an utterance, learning to speak it will not take long.
 8. **Be patient with yourself.** It takes time to learn a language well. You are doing a heroic task; forgive mistakes.
-

(*We bring you more stories from Emily Riddles, this time on "Fairy Tales and Fables" and "Manners and Morals" These stories are listed as numbers 8, 11, 12, and 18 through 21, in Comanche Texts by Elliott Canonge.)

FAIRY TALES AND FABLES Story #VIII

A white man went to cut down a cedar tree which they were going to use

for their Christmas tree. He went where the big mountain sits and was cutting a tree. As he was cutting, something among the trees came towards him making wing noises. The white man looked around and wondered what it was. He saw a big winged snake. As he looked at it, it came flying towards him. The man ran away to his wagon, but before he could reach it, the snake bit him from behind. It got dark and his relatives began to miss him. In the morning, his wife told their neighbors he had not come home. Some neighbors got on their horses to look for him, and some taking their guns, got on their wagons and went looking for him. They found him dead, all swelled up. They wanted to know what killed him, and as they stood there, the big winged snake came flying to them. Seeing it was a dangerous snake, all of them shot it at once and killed it, saying it had killed their friend. They then carried the white man off the mountain. Later, many of them went back to the place on the mountain and found a big hole at its very top. When they peeped in, they heard winged noises. They prepared explosives and set them in the hole. From afar they watched as their charge exploded and scattered snakes all over the mountain. They gathered the snake remnants together and set them on fire. They left knowing that what had killed their friend, they in turn had killed. They told everyone about the winged snakes that had killed one of their friends. That is true. That is all.

Fairy Tales & Fables Story #XI

Long ago, it is said Indians had a camp somewhere. Their chief said, "We will move." They all took down their teepees and loaded their pack animals. They mounted their horses and put their children behind them. Driving their pack animals, they moved away. A young girl from the camp had gone towards the

creek, and as she returned to camp she saw the teepees were gone. She knew the camp had moved away. She traveled along their trail until night came. In front of her she saw something dark coming. As it arrived to her, it was a big bear. The bear said to her, "Which way are you going?" She told him her relatives had moved away and she was following their tracks. The bear said, "Go with me to your camp." She said she would go with him, but she had worn out her moccasins walking. The bear told her he would carry her on his back, and they left with him carrying her. They came to the mountains where a big cave was. He told her this was his home but his wife was mean. He said he would go talk to her, and the young girl got down from his back. He told her he would go see his wife and his children first. As they stood there, the bear's wife came out, crying loudly. "Don't try to hurt this little woman," she told him. She took her inside their house and fed her berries, grapes, persimmons, pecans and dried plums. When the young girl finished eating, the bear's wife made a bed for her, where she slept. Early in the morning they got up and ate breakfast. The young girl said she should go, and the bear said he would take her. When they arrived at a big hill where a big level spot was, there were teepees all along there. The girl told the bear he had bought her to her camp very well. She got down and he left. She went to her mother's camp and her relatives gathered together, rejoicing over her return and dancing. That is all.

Fairy Tales & Fables Story #XII

Long ago, it is said, young men went to fight. Two of their sweethearts went with them. As they traveled, other Indians attacked them, killing all except the two women. As the women went back to their camp, along the trail they

saw a human skull lying there. One of them said to the other, "Look at this friend, that could be one of us lying there," and she kicked it. Her friend told her not to treat the skull that way. As they traveled along they arrived at a big creek. They noticed the white skull following behind them, bouncing along. The skull, every time it bounced, made noise. When the two women came to the edge of the water they decided to swim on to the land and they jumped in. When they got to the other side they climbed out of the water. They thought they had escaped the skull that was bouncing along after them. They put their moccasins on and went on. As they traveled, the skull came in sight behind them, making a running noise. One of the women told her friend, "It is still coming on our trail." When it got dark, the skull became an Indian and talked with them. He said, "I will go this way and find a horse for you." He left and arrived back sitting on a big white horse. He said to the woman that had not kicked the skull that he would take her to her camp. She climbed on behind him, leaving her friend. As they traveled along on the horse, buffalo, deer and different kinds of birds ran from them. He told her they weren't afraid of him, but were afraid of her. When they arrived at teepees, it was her relatives camp. He told her to get off and she went towards her camp. He disappeared with his horse, and her friend was abandoned. That is all.

MANNERS AND MORALS

Story #XVIII

Long ago, it is said, Indians had a camp beside a creek somewhere. They killed a cow. There along the other side of them, some other Indians also had a camp. The mother, along with her little daughter, went to visit the other Indians. They walked to see them, and when the two arrived, the others fed them much.

After they ate, the little daughter went to play with the other children. The mother played cards with the other Indians. Then the mother told her daughter to come, they would go home. The two children were playing with the other child's doll, and when the daughter heard her mother, she put the doll in her blanket and ran to her mother. The two started back to the other side of the creek to their camp. The little daughter traveled behind her mother on the way and her mother told her to hurry up. When they reached the creek, the mother carried her daughter across on her back. The mother then told the little girl to hurry, that is was getting dark. Along the way was a big tree that was hollowed out from burning. The little girl placed the doll in the hollow of the tree. She left it there, afraid that if she took it home and her father found it that he would not want her to steal it. Being afraid that he would whip her, she left the doll in the tree. That is all.

Manners & Morals Story #XIX

Long ago, it is said, old time Indians camped beside a mountain. They were afraid of nothing, and camped unconcerned. Their chief told the young men to go on to the mountain and kill for them a buffalo that was fat. First they ate peyote. Afterwards the young men, on horseback, ran towards the mountain. There were many buffalo there, grazing, and the young men killed a fat one, and butchered it. They loaded the meat onto their pack animals and went back to their camp. When they arrived, their womenfolk prepared the meat very good. The young men set up their peyote teepee. Their chief said, "Now young men, everybody get himself ready. We will go in." The young men were all dressed in their buckskin clothes, looking very good. One of the young men made a fire for them. The chief said, "Come now, we go in."

Everyone, getting their prepared medicine outfits, went in. They began to beat the drums and sing. As they were beating the drum and singing somewhere over there north of the mountain, one young man, with his sweetheart, saw them from above, as their teepee showed a big red firelight. He said to his girlfriend, "I want to go to them." She said yes, to go to them and she would just stay there. She told him to get what she would eat in the morning when he went to the peyote meeting. He mounted his horse and went down the mountain and ate peyote with the others. When it was morning, a young woman entered carrying water and the food they would eat. They ate and then left the teepee. The young man from the mountain got what his girlfriend would eat and said, "I will go." When he arrived back to his girlfriend, he fed her what he brought for her. After she ate, they mounted their horses and went to their camp. As it happened along the way, one of his friends from another tribe, said to him, "I want a good Indian name." This young man said, "I will give you a very good name." "What will you name me?" asked his friend. "Sits on the Mountain," he said. And his friend carried that name. That is all.

Manners & Morals Story #XX

Somewhere, it is said, some Indians camped. Their little daughter went towards the creek. There, where a little sand hill sits, a little hackberry stood on it. The little girl chopped it down with her little axe. As she was carrying a little bucket, she picked the hackberries from the tree. Picking all of them, she went home. Arriving, she said to her mother, "Pound this, my berries, and fix them for us." Her mother pounded them in her wooden bowl, pouring the marrow fat she had rendered all over it. The mother found little switches and she stuck some of the hackberry mixture on

the sticks and give it to the children. The children roasted it over the fire on the sticks. It cooked nicely brown and they ate it. The children said to their mother, "It really tastes good and sweet." The children gave some to their neighbor's children, what they had leftover. As they fed the other children, those children's mother said, "You all fed my children very good. I will also make you feel good." At that, she pulled out her clothes which were in a bag, and pulled out a buffalo blanket. She said to the little sister, "I give you this blanket." She gave two boys two beaded moccasins. When the children arrived at their home, they showed their mother what the other children's mother had given them. When their father arrived home, they told him. He said, "I think our children were treated very good." Early the next morning, he got up a ran to the neighbor's camp. He announced, "Get ready, we will dance. In this direction are four fat cattle we can butcher." One man asked, "Why are you telling us to do that?" "We happen to be poor and one of your women did something for my children. I feel good about it and I am doing this." They butchered and were dancing. The Indians said, "Very little children fed us good," as they were dancing and gave each other clothing. When it was evening they finished dancing. Because the children had fed each other they celebrated with a big doings. That is all.

Manners & Morals Story #XXI

Long ago, it is said, the Wichita people had a home somewhere. They planted much corn, sweet potatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes and pumpkins. As they are living in that way, some other Indians camped by them. The Wichitas made parched corn of their Indian corn, and peeled their pumpkins and cut them in long strips and hung them to dry. When it was

partially dried, they braided it together. They used the parched corn and braided pumpkins to trade with. The Indian boys camped near them carried off some of the Wichitas' crop, and went to the creek. When they arrived on the creek, they told their older brother to make a fire for them. When the fire was made, they cooked corn. One of them said, "I thought of a good thing. We ought to talk Wichita and eat much of this corn. The others said, "Yes, that is good. That way that Wichita man will think we are Wichita boys and won't be concerned over us." One of them said, "All hurry up, quickly talk Wichita, he is coming up to us." One of the boys said, "Oh, friend, stir up the fire. Stick the pumpkin in and stir it up." As he said that, the Wichita man came up to them. They said, "Oh, here the owner of this corn is coming," and they ran away. The older brother said, "Run onto the river's bend." The man chased them, roping one of them. The Wichita man beat him and said, "I worked hard on my crop but you crazy boys go around destroying it." He went to the boys' homes, and arriving there told the parents, "Your sons destroyed my crop." The Indian boy's father said to the boys, "For your crazy doings, we will pay this Wichita man with your race horses." One of their sisters said, "I will just marry that man's son." Her brother saddled up his good horse and helped his sister on it. Then the two of them went towards the Wichita man. The brother said to him, "Your son will have my sister in marriage." The Wichita man's son was a good young man, and this young woman married him. The Wichita man quieted down and forgot about what those boys had done. That is all.

EARLY INDIAN POLICE

Kiowa Agency:

Thos. Perdasofpy, private, 1892

Henry Tawhaw., private, 1892
 Edward Pahbe, private, 1892
 Balow Cozad, private, 1892
 Henry Pratt, private, 1892
 Henry Poolaw, private, 1892
 Harry Ware, private, 1894
 Marcus Poco, private, 1894
 Nadayaka, private, 1894
 Hampo, private, 1894
 Jack Mansookawat, private, 1895
 Boone Chandler, private, 1895
 Quasya, private, no year
 AsePermy, private, 1896
 Jack Permumsee, private, 1896
 Frank Bosin, private, 1896
 Pewenofkit, private, 1898
 Yeahquo, private, 1898
 Nahno, private, 1898
 Pevo, private, 1899
 Otto Wells, private, 1899
 Pennah, private, 1899
 Mihecoby, private, 1900
 Peachena, private 1900
 Motah, private, 1902
 Asatokkofper, private, 1902
 Covose Martinez, private, 1902
 Tom Heahkemah, private, 1902
 (*from the web site: www.okolha.net/indian_police_1899.htm. This is just a partial list, go online to see more names.)

PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Comanche Dictionary. Over 6,000 Comanche words with Comanche to English and English to Comanche sections. \$30 plus \$5 s&h.

Comanche Lessons, set #1. A set of four Comanche Lessons, complete with a word list for each lesson and a CD. \$20 plus \$5 s&h.

Picture Dictionary. 26 page Primer explains the Comanche alphabet and sound of each letter. Includes a CD. \$12 plus \$3 s&h.

Comanche Song Book. Collection of 116 songs written in Comanche with an English translation, plus a set of 3 CDs of the songs. \$20 plus \$5 s&h.

Comanche Flash Cards Set. Three sets of 48 Flash Cards using simple Comanche words, accompanied by a CD. \$12 plus \$3 s&h for all three sets.

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; Adult sizes small through XL \$12; Adult sizes 2X and 3X \$15. Specify color and size when ordering and add \$5 per shirt s&h.

Authentic Handmade Comanche Dolls. Beautiful 20" soft bodied dolls, dressed in traditional clothing. Both girl and boy dolls available. \$40 each plus \$5 s&h. (Special Order: 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 \$5 s&h.

Ball Caps. Royal blue with red bill and Language Logo on front. \$10 plus \$5.

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

New Lapel Pin. 1 1/8" Silk screened lapel pin with clear epoxy finish. Exact replica of our colorful CLCPC logo complete with feathers, on gold plating. \$5 includes s&h.

***Please Note:** We give discounts to enrolled Comanche Tribal Members. Contact us before ordering (see top of newsletter).

CLCPC MOTTO

Soobesu

Numunuu sumuoyetu numu niwunuetu.

Ukitsi nunu tuasu numuniwunuhutui.

Uyunitu tuasu Numuniwunuhutuinuu.

Carney Saupitty Sr.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!!