
NUMU TEKWAPUHA NOMNEEKATU NEWSLETTER

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The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

P.O. Box 3610 Lawton OK 73502-3610

www.comanchelanguage.org fax: 1-580-492-5119 e-mail: clcpc@comanchelanguage.org

Editor: Barbara Goodin

“Letter From The President”

Haa Maruawekü Nümüñü

Back in the year 1993 the CLCPC asked the sitting CBC for recognition and to adopt the current spelling system, which they did unanimously. The CLCPC then asked for a budget which was denied on the grounds there was insufficient funds available at that time.

During the 1994 General Council meeting the CLCPC asked the General Council for a budget of \$25,000. As you know, the Comanche people have been supporting this same amount to the tune of 70-80% approval for the past 12 years. The CLPCP must be doing something right! So as long as you, the Comanche people, feel that we are doing a valuable service, we will continue.

Now, during the Tribal Budget process this year, we ask for your support again. We need at least this same amount to continue to operate at the current pace. The General Council will meet on Saturday, September 23rd to finalize the Tribal Budget for 2006-2007. We ask that you attend and support the budget for the CLCPC. Later the entire tribal population will have the opportunity to vote and we ask that you support us again.

Back in 1994 when the overall Tribal Budget was in the thousands of dollars they found the \$25,000 for us. Now with the Tribal Budget in the forty million plus bracket they can surely find it again.

Soobesü taa na?nümüñü sümü oyetü Nümü niwüñü?etü.

Let's go back in time when all our relatives spoke Comanche. This would be our parents and grandparents. Maybe 100 years ago, more or less. These Comanches learned to speak English back then. They became bilingual. How did they do it?

Why is it that today's Comanches can not learn to speak Comanche? Is it not important enough to today's Comanche people to learn our language? Can you answer these questions?

The 15 families in the “Learning To Speak Comanche” project are doing a great job in learning to read and write in Comanche. Could this be the answer to one of those questions?

Ronald Red Elk

COMANCHE GAME BOARD

A Comanche Game Board has been developed by the Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee, and is being utilized by the 15 families participating in the “Learning To Speak Comanche” project during their evaluations.

Magnets with Comanche words are placed on a magnetic board and participants are asked to pick out pronouns or nouns, or to form short phrases and sentences with the game pieces. They are rewarded with points towards their final evaluation score.

Currently there is only one game board in use, but who knows what the future might hold in store?

NEW OKLAHOMA QUARTER

The new Oklahoma State Quarter is due to be released in early 2008. Governor Brad Henry is asking Oklahomans to help with the selection of the final design. Go to www.gov.ok.gov/coin2.php to see the final ten design selections, which have to be narrowed down to five to be sent to the U.S. Treasury, who will make the final choice.

Of the final ten selections, only five depict the Indian heritage of this state. What a shame if our new state quarter did not honor the Indian people who were here long before anyone else!

You can cast your vote for five choices from this web site. Don't miss this opportunity to make your vote count! The deadline is Wednesday, September 20th. Let this coin truly reflect the rich native history of this state! Even the OK state license tags say "Native Oklahoma" on them. Has everyone forgotten why it says "Native"?

Please vote, and pass this information on to anyone else you think might be interested. Thank you.

(***Editor's Note:** We are publishing this issue of our Comanche Language Newsletter early so that we can provide scheduling information for the Shoshone Nations Reunion and the Comanche Nation Fair, which will both take place the last week in September at the Comanche Nation Complex. We hope this helps you plan your activities for these two important events in Comanche life.)

SHOSHONE NATIONS REUNION TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 25th:

- 7 am Greet the Day, Sunrise Service
- 8 am Breakfast served
- 9 am Opening Ceremony
 - Flag Processional
 - Prayer
 - Welcome

History of Reunion

Introductions

Noon Lunch served

1:30 Teepee Contest

2:30 Cattail House Construction

3:30 Fry Bread Contest

Archery Contest

5:00 Supper served

6:30 Singing

Tuesday, September 26th:

7 am Greet the Day, Sunrise Service

8 am Breakfast served

9 am Workshops:

Tribal Customs

Beadwork – Horse Regalia

Basket & Willow Demonstration

Herbs and Foodways

Noon Lunch

1 pm Tours or Area

Tribal Games

2 pm Demonstrations:

Family History Preservation

Burial Traditions - NAGPRA

Phraselator Demonstration

5 pm Supper served

6:30 Fashion Show

Wednesday, September 27th:

7 am Greet the Day, Sunrise Service

8 am Breakfast

9 am Workshops:

Leadership Development

Group Discussions

Cradle Boards

Language & Word Games

Bands/Clans

Noon Lunch served

2 pm Dance Demonstrations

5 pm Supper served

6:00 Dance Demonstrations continue

9 pm Closing Ceremony

Native American Church Meeting Follows

(*The Shoshone Nations Reunion is free and open to all Comanches, but pre-registration is required. For a registration form, or to donate your help, or for further information, please contact Dr. Reaves Nahwooks at 580-246-3529)

**COMANCHE NATION FAIR
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
“Celebrate The Comanche Spirit”**

Saturday, Sept. 23rd:

9:00 am Golf Tournament
Fort Cobb Golf Course

Sunday, Sept. 24th:

24 Hour Security Begins on grounds
Porta-Potties Moved In

Monday, Sept. 25th:

7 am Shoshone Nations Reunion Begins,
Gymnasium (see schedule above)
9:00 am Golf Tournament,
Lawton Country Club
3 - 8 pm Registration, Art Show
New Conference Room
All Day – Parking passes being issued
by Chief Ray Anderson

Tuesday, September 26th:

7 am Shoshone Nations Reunion, 2nd
Day, Gymnasium
12:00 pm Reception for new exhibit at
Visitor’s Center
3 - 8 pm Registration, Art Show
New Conf. Room

Wednesday, September 27th:

7 am Shoshone Nations Reunion, Final
Day, Gymnasium
3 - 8 pm Registration, Art Show
New Conf. Room

Dusk: Peyote Meeting, Complex

Thursday, September 28th:

Day Break – Camp set-ups begins
Noon – Vendor set-up begins
5:30 pm Grounds Blessing
6:30 pm Reception & Prize Presenta-
tion for Fine Arts Show,
new conference Room
7:00 pm Hymn Singing, Gym
8-10 pm “Crying Spirit” and “Monnu
Peta” pageant

Friday, September 29th:

8 am-5pm Car Show Registration &
Swap Meet begins
10-6 pm Quilt Show, Old Conf. Room

1-3 pm Gourd Dancing, Little Ponies
3-5 pm Blackfoot Dancing
5:00 pm Supper Break
5-Midnight Free Teen Concert
6:00 pm Gourd Dancing, Little Ponies
6-Midnight Comanche Handgames
7 pm Grand Entry

Dance Contests begin

7:00 pm Golden Oldies Dance in Gym

9:00 pm Apache Fire Dancers

Saturday, September 30th:

7:00 am Meat Rations – Food Dist.
7:00 am 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
8:00 am Coed Softball Tournament
8:00 am 1K Run
8:30 am Parade Line Up begins
9:00 am Bike Rodeo
9:00 am Special CBC for enrollment
10:00 am Quilt Show, old conf. room
10:00 am Parade begins
Immediately after parade – Horse Shoe
Competition

12:30 pm Luncheon Honoring
Chairman Wallace Coffey, Gym

1-3 pm Gourd Dancing

1-5 pm Car Show & Swap Meet

1-Midnight Comanche Handgames

3:00 pm Tail Dancing

2-4 pm Bull Riding

4:00 pm Dog and Horse races

5:00 pm Supper Break

Cheevers Adoption

5-7 pm Bike Rodeo and Children’s
Activities

6:00 Gourd Dancing, Arena

7:00 Grand Entry

Dance Contests

7-10 Teen Dance in Gym

7-10 Gospel Singing

10 pm Fireworks Display

Immediately after fireworks: Round of
Intertribal dancing

Sunday, October 1st:

7:00 am Cedar Ceremony

8:00 am Spirit Walk 2006

8:00 am Coed Softball Tournament

8-5 pm Car Show & Swap Meet

10-2 pm Quilt Show, Old Conf. Room

10:00 am Church Service
 Noon Sunday Meal in the Gym
 Contemporary Gospel Singing
 1:00 pm Comanche Handgames
 2-4 pm Bull Riding
 4:00 pm Dog and Horse Racing
 1-3 pm Car Show & Swap Meet
 3-5 pm Gourd Dancing &
 Switch Dance Contest
 New Comanche Nation Princess
 crowned at this time frame
 5:00 pm Supper Break
 6:00 pm Fashion show in Arena
 7:00 pm Grand Entry
 Dance Contests

OTHER IMPORTANT FAIR NOTES:

- 1) Carnival Rides will be FREE to all children 17 and under this year. The only limitations will be what the carnival itself imposes as far as age and height requirements.
- 2) Bottled water will be available free at the Information Booth, in the southeast corner of the arena.
- 3) People are being hired to help with parking. If interested, contact Chief Anderson at Law Enforcement.
- 4) 200 Volunteers are also needed at the Fair. Call Law Enforcement with your name and tee-shirt size. You will be provided with one Tee-Shirt and a free meal each day.
- 5) Voting for the new Comanche Nation Princess will be held during this year's Fair, and crowning will take place in the arena on Sunday.
- 6) Princess candidates will have their booths set up on the west side on the arena, behind the speaker's stand.
- 7) The Comanche Nation is expecting several dignitaries to participate in the Parade on Saturday morning. It starts at 10 a.m. so line up early with your lawn chairs, umbrellas and cameras!
- 8) Contact Tomah Yeahquo at 492-6089 for a parade entry form.

9) Handicap Parking will be north of the buffalo pens. Shuttles will provide transportation from your car to the activities

CLCPC MOTTO

Soobesæ

Næmænæ sæmæoyetæ næmæ niwænæ?etæ.

Ukitsi nænæ tæasæ næmæniwænæhutuui.

Ubnitu tæasæ Næmæniwænæhutuuinæ.

Carney Sauppitty Sr.

Translation:

A long time ago we spoke Comanche.

Today we speak Comanche.

We will speak Comanche forever.

Geneva Navarro

DORIS DUKE COLLECTION

We have been running excerpts of Comanche interviews from the Doris Duke Collection of oral histories from the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. A total of 12 Comanches participated in the interviews during the 1967-1972 time frame. The interviews were recorded by audio cassettes, then transcribed by hand and placed on microfiche. Now those interviews have been place on the University web site and can be accessed through the following address:

<http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/duke/>

Here is a list of Comanches interviewed:

1. Attocknie, Joe
2. Chibitty, Dana
3. Chibitty, John
4. Coffey, Wallace
5. Harris, LaDonna (text from a speech)
6. Howrey, Ethel
7. Niedo, Joey
8. Palmer, Ruth
9. Poahpybitty, James Isaac
10. Poafpybitty, Mary Niedo
11. Pocucsucut, Sarah
12. Wauqua, May (misspelled Walquah)

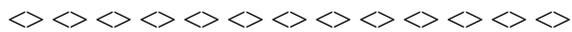
13. Deyo Mission

Recordings from hymn singings and hand games were listed, too. Roberta Pewo Tohay was also listed with the Comanches, but her interview was a discussion held with two Kiowas ladies in regards to BIA problems, and can be searched on the internet site. We do not have copies of her interview.

Subjects discussed ranged from Indian ceremonies, customs, social conditions, philosophies, Indian medicine, standards of living and some family history.

If you've enjoyed reading the excerpts we've included in our newsletter so far, you will enjoy reading them in their entirety online.

Since not everyone has internet access, we will continue to include some of the interviews in our newsletter.



Doris Duke Collection

Mary Poafpybitty interview

June 17, 1967

Q: You were telling me before about the Comanche and Shoshones.

MP: There was lots of groups of them, by the thousands...here and there, just like that. This whole army of Indians, men, women and children. Somehow they caught a big sickness. Did you ever hear of that?

Q: Polio?

MP: Something like that. It just twist their arms this way and that way...twist their legs, twist their necks up like that. They were doing that for a few minutes, and they die. Ever time when they camp they used to get out of the tent, and if they walking, just fall over and die. The bottom where they were camping was just full of dead people. So this Chief, he got on his horse and was riding around the camps, talking loud. He said, "I want this group and this group to go south as far as you can go. You're alright now, (but) if you don't go you're all going to die." They got all their horses and their wives and children and left their teepees.

They took off without carrying nothing except their knives and their axes, and they didn't have nothing to carry water in. They just took off. You know, in them days they didn't have no saddles, they just ride bare-back. They have ropes for bridles -- ropes around here in the mouth of the horse. So they took out.

Another group went southwest, as far as they can. Other people he told to go west, right straight west. Some of them go northwest. Some of them he told, "When you all come to big mountains, just go to the other side of the mountains, if you all could get over it." And so these groups, they all scattered. Some of the Indians didn't go. Some of them said, "We're going to go east," and the Chief said, "No, don't go that way, that's white people's land. They up that way when you get over there, they going to kill you all. You all just go west, way back there. And when you hit the river, just live there." That's what he said.

These other folks went southwest and northwest, they all scattered. The ones that didn't believe him, they all died. Their bodies was just everywhere, laying everywhere.

So when those got over there, they live way up in the mountains somewhere. This one man, he took his family and he took off. They went north, just as far as they could go. When they got over there, they came to a big river and they couldn't cross it, so they just land there. Just stayed there.

All the ones that left, they alright. They didn't die, but all the ones that stay there, they all die.

And now these, I forgot what the name of these was, just southwest of California, there's some Indians talk just like us. And that's some of the group that went that way. And some of these that went west, they came to a big mountain and they went over it just as far as they could go. And they are the ...let's see what they are now? I forgot the names of those Indians up there (but) they talk just like us. Those Indians out

there now. I think they call them...I know them by their Indian name.

Q: What's that?

MP: Their Indian name is Eka,

Q: What does that mean?

MP: It means red – red Comanche. That's what they call them, Eka. The ones that went over to Denver and in there, they went on to the state of Wyoming. Those Indians up there just like us.

My grandmother was telling me a story when I was about twelve years old, she tell me all kinds of stories about the Indians. She said, "When you get old enough to travel, I want you to go south, and west, to California – see those people that talk like us. They the ones that just disappeared, never did come back. And the ones that went over to Wyoming, I heard they over there now. And the ones that went over the mountains, they still over there. They all talk like us. They come from the Comanches...they belong to the Comanche tribe. That's what my grandmother told us.

And so three years ago we made a trip. We went to New Mexico and Las Vegas. We don't know where we going but we just went that way. Came to Navajos, the Pueblos, and we visit among them. We stayed about ten days and then we went on to Wyoming. When we got over there, we got there in the afternoon, and we asked where the Shoshone people were. We was right there among them, and we didn't even know they were Shoshones. We went into a big building, it was their community building or something like that. It was full of Indians. They was sitting in groups around like that on the floor. And there was blankets they was sitting on. We stand there and look at them and they were gambling.

I wanted to find out (about) what my grandmother told me, and when I went up to them they were talking about us. We didn't talk, we just stood there and looked at them. They said, "These are some kind of Indians, maybe they're Mexicans. They sure look like Mexicans." They said that. And we

said in Indian, "We not Mexicans." And they all look at one another and said, "Do you talk like us?" and we said, "Yeah, we talk like you." We said, "We are your (relatives). That's where we come from."

So that evening they invite us to their homes. That night we have a group of Indians there. They were talking to us...finding out where we live and where we come from and all that. And I told them, "You are the people that my grandmother told me about." And I told them about that big sickness what the Indians caught, and then I said, "You all got that and then you all scattered. You belong to our tribe. That's what my grandmother told me." And they were surprised, you know. We stayed there for two months.

This old man wanted to know about the Comanches. I told him I know everything about the Comanches because they have come to me...always there with them. My uncle was a committee man. Everytime he was going he (would) take me with him. I could go way back, where the treaty was done, you know. Know all the men who signed the treaty. I know how we live way back in years.

And that's how come I find out (about) those people. And when we went to Utah they talk just exactly like us. But these people in Wyoming, they talk real fast, and they cut their words too short. Before they finish their word, they cut it right short. Sometimes they talk so fast you can't understand what they talking about.

They had a big dinner for us, and they told me to tell them how they got over there. And I told them everything what my grandmother told me. I said, "My grandmother was half Arapaho and half Comanche."

Q: What was her name?

MP: Sana-pia. I told them everything about them. This man that asked me questions, I said to him, "Maybe you my uncle or my grandfather." I told him that and they all

laughed. So we stayed there two months then we went on to Utah.

And when we got there, they talk just like us. They don't talk fast, they talk easy, slow, and they say every word like us.

Q: Which people are the people in Utah?

MP: I can't think of their names right now.

Q: Do you remember what town they lived around?

MP: They the Shoshones, live on a reservation at Ft. Washakie. Kind of north-west from Lander, town of that name. That's the town we went on from the reservation, and there's a bunch just here and there. All in groups, you know. They live close to one another, not like us. We live so many miles away from each other.

(*Mary's interview goes on to talk about other subjects.)

“S̄m̄m̄ Oyēt̄ Tana Nanan̄m̄m̄m̄”

(We Are All Related)

Ronald Red Elk

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. \$25 includes s&h.

Picture Dictionary. Primer explains the Comanche alphabet and sound of each letter. \$15 includes s&h and your choice of audio cassette or CD.

Comanche Song Book. Collection of 116 songs written in Comanche with an English translation, plus set of 3 CDs of songs. \$30 plus \$5 s&h.

Comanche Flash Cards Set. Three sets of 48 flash cards each with simple

Comanche words. \$15 includes s&h and your choice of audio cassette or CD.

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 & add \$4 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 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 \$4 s&h.

Ball Caps. Royal blue with red bill and Language Logo on front. \$10 plus \$4 s&h.

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

For faster service, please send orders with check or money order to: **CLCPC Attn: Barbara Goodin, 1375 N.E. Cline Road, Elgin OK 73538. Orders will be shipped the following day by Priority Mail. Please include your e-mail address when ordering in case we need to contact you. If ordering multiple items contact us first, as we can usually ship more items less than quoted here. (e-mail address at top of newsletter).*

Note: We give discounts to enrolled Comanche tribal members.