
NUMU TEKWAPUHA NOMNEEKATU NEWSLETTER

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The Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

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“Letter From The President”

Maraweka,

Ura?itama. In June I had the pleasure of traveling to the 4th Annual Shoshonean Language Reunion at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, with a bus load of Comanches.

The beautiful snow capped mountains and the wide open spaces of the prairie just rolled on and on. It was a magnificent sight to see – I’ll always remember it.

We had traveled 5357 feet above sea level and I really felt it. I was tired all the time and couldn’t get enough sleep. If I felt like that, I know the rest were probably feeling it, too.

The Shoshones greeted us as we arrived at Fort Washakie about 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 22nd. I was so happy to see familiar faces. We visited for a while then we retired to our motel rooms in Lander, which is about 14 miles from Fort Washakie. While we were there, it rained two days out of three, and it was cold. Some of us expected it, some of us were unprepared.

The following day, on Monday morning, our drum group/singers started the day with a prayer song, then sang the flag song and a memorial song to bring in the flags. All the groups presented their history and how they got their present day homelands. Some spoke in their native tongues. It is amazing how we can relate in each other’s languages, since it is almost the same as ours. And if you don’t believe that, then maybe YOU can explain it.

I also learned why the Shoshone use the rose symbol on their bead work. It is a symbol for good luck and good health. This

small rose bush, which grows wild in the mountains, is pale pink to bright pink in color. In the Fall, when it dies out, the rose hips are picked to make tea to drink for medicinal purposes.

The second day, Tuesday, we had time to take a dip in the Chief Washakie hot springs. The natural hot springs comes from Yellowstone National Park, possibly. It felt real good. Some of us went into the cages where you can relax and feel the warmth and calmness, and it was invigorating. We thanked them for the time we had at the hot springs, and we were on our way.

All in all, I had a good time. Seems like when we go to visit our relatives each year we get to know them even better.

Ura
Billie Kreger

In Memory Of

LEONARD “BLACKMOON” RIDDLES (b. June 28, 1918 / d. June 30, 2003)

The Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee has lost another friend. The Comanche Nation has lost a true Treasure. Following is his obituary:

“Funeral for Leonard “Black Moon” Riddles, 85, Walters, will be at 2 p.m. Thursday (July 3, 2003) at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Lawton. A prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Comanche Nation Community Center, Walters, OK.

“Mr. Riddles died Monday, June 30, 2003, in Temple, OK.

“Burial will be at Deyo Mission Cemetery, Lawton, under direction of Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home, Walters.

He was born June 28, 1918, east of Walters to William Wesley and Jane (Motherme) Riddles. He graduated from Fort Sill Indian School in 1941 as valedictorian of his class. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany and France during World War II. He married Eva Mae Portillo on August 19, 1947, at Wichita Falls, Texas. He was an internationally known artist, painting and sketching the Indian way of life. Many of his paintings hang in permanent collections around the world.

“Survivors include his wife, of the home; three daughters: Carrie Joy Wahnee and Sharron Lynn Kindred and her husband, Frankie, all of Walters; and Dorney Gayle Riddles, Gaithersburg, Md.; three sisters: Esther Parker, Tularosa, N.M.; June Woosey, Provo, Utah; and Faye Teakell, Walters; four grandchildren: Mycol Lynard Wahnee and his wife, Donna; Gregory Jon Wahnee; and Shawn David Wahnee and his wife, Loree; and John William Kindred; four great-grandchildren: Austin Daniel Wahnee, Brayden Conner Wahnee, Darius Kyle Wahnee and Laurne Olivial Wahnee.

“Memorial contributions may be sent to Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 3610, Lawton OK 73502, or the Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center, 715 E. Central Blvd., Anadarko OK 73005.”

Leonard was an inspiration to all of us who knew him. He had a quiet and easy way about him that made you feel comfortable in his presence. He was a humble and unassuming man, and if you didn't know it, you would never guess he was an internationally known artist. Many warm stories of Leonard were shared during the prayer service, and through others' memories, we all came to know our friend a little better.

Leonard was one of the early supporters of language and cultural preservation, and was with our group from its inception. He designed our very first language logo, which was used for several years. In recent years the logo evolved to what it is today.

With Leonard's passing, a lot of knowledge and history was lost. I considered him the expert on the Comanche mustang horse. Back in 1992 I sat down with Leonard and a tape recorder and documented some of that knowledge. If you would like to read more about the mustang horse, go to our web site at www.comanchelanguage.org and click on “Comanche History” then “Mustang Horse.”

Leonard shared his knowledge about my Indian family, and even the band I am from. (Do you know the band you are from?) He explained the name Tivis – my great grandfather – was actually Tivischy. His brother was Perschy, of which I already knew. Leonard was also the first one to translate my husband's grandfather's song – Otipoby's song – #47 in the Comanche Song Book for us. Due to his inspiration, my husband and I drew a picture and titled it “Otipoby's Song.”

Leonard's passing has left a void in the lives of his family and friends. But we can keep his memory alive by remembering him and sharing our stories of him, and continuing to preserve the beautiful Comanche language and culture that he loved so much.

LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Comanche Language Committee is offering scholarships to enrolled members of the Comanche Tribe who are taking Comanche language classes at the Comanche Nation College.

For more information, or to obtain an application, please contact Sandy Ticeahkie, Registrar, at the Comanche Nation College at 1608 S.W. 9th Street in Lawton, or call 580-591-0203.

The Comanche Tribe purchased the Will Rogers Elementary School in Lawton to be used as the Comanche Nation College. The college covers a full block on the corner of 9th and Garfield, which is four blocks south of Lee Boulevard. Classes will start in mid-August.

GEOGRAPHY EDUCATORS

Members of the Oklahoma Allegiance of Geographic Education (O.K.A.G.E.) asked to meet with elders of the Comanche Tribe. A meeting was set for Tuesday, July 15th, in the new conference room at the Comanche Complex from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.

OKAGE is working with the National Geographic magazine on a study of the migration of Comanche people. The purpose is to be able to teach geography from an Indian perspective. There are 20 students involved, who are also educators, three of whom are Indian. One is Comanche.

Flyers were posted to tell of the event and about 45 showed up at the appointed time. Unfortunately, all of the student/educators were not required to participate and therefore were not in attendance. The Comanche student/educator did not attend.

Apparently, the OKAGE group has been receiving some misinformation about Comanches in general, and everyone felt it was very important to attend this meeting and set the record straight. If we, as Comanche people, want our history presented from our perspective, then we need to make our voices heard.

We asked many of the elders in attendance to sit at the front and be our spokesmen. Each one was given a chance to present their views and answered questions the OKAGE group presented.

Those participating were: Marie Parton and Rosalie Attocknie, both from Apache; Ray Niedo, Edith Gordon, Reaves Nahwooks and Ava Doty, from Indianahoma;

Bud Yackeschi from Walters; Gloria and Vernon Cable and Lucille McClung, from Cache; and Geneva Navarro from Lawton.

We hope the OKAGE group received enough information that they can now present an accurate picture of the Comanche people. From the Comanche perspective.

COMANCHE LANGUAGE WORKSHOPS

The Comanche Language Committee will be offering workshops in the spelling system of the written Comanche word. A series of 4 weekly workshops will be given in area communities over the next few months. Local facilities will be secured for the meeting places, which will last 90 minutes each week. If you would like to have a workshop in your area, please e-mail us at clcpc@comanchelanguage.org. We will put up flyers and have announcements in the local papers as we secure meeting places. Don't miss this chance to learn about the spelling system that will allow you to be able to read AND write Comanche!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 5th: Monthly Business Meeting of the C.L.C.P.C., small conference room at the Comanche Complex.

Monday through Saturday, August 4th – 9th: Annual American Indian Exposition, Anadarko, OK.

September 2nd: Monthly Business Meeting of the C.L.C.P.C., small conference room at the Comanche Complex.

September 26th – 28th: Comanche Nation Fair held on the grounds of the Comanche Nation Complex, north of Lawton. Check the web site for more information: www.comanchenation.com.

PRODUCTS FOR SALE

We still have a few copies of the *Comanche Code Talkers of World War II* book by Dr. William Meadows. Please send \$24.95 plus \$4.50 shipping & handling to address at top of the newsletter. Quantities limited! Hurry!!

New 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 includes shipping & handling.

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. Examples of many simple words and brief sentences. Includes worksheets & coloring pages and an English to Comanche vocabulary list. \$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 plus \$1 s&h.

Comanche Flash Cards, set #2. A complete new set of 48 different cards. \$5 plus \$1 s&h.

Comanche Flash Cards, set #3. COMING IN OCTOBER !!

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.

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 "Nam̄ Tekwap̄" 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:

clcpc@comanchelanguage.org.

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