



San Diego Cherokee Community Newsletter

Issue 11

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

February 2009

Upcoming Meeting

The San Diego Cherokee Community will hold its next meeting at the Lemon Grove United Methodist Church, located at 3205 Washington St, Lemon Grove, 91945. The date is February 22 at 1 pm.

The meeting will be held in the educational building, which is located behind the church. Please look for signs to direct you to meeting spot.

George Lynch will introduce a class on flat mat weaving. The group will weave drink coasters. All basket weaving materials will be provided.

If you have the following tools, please bring to the meeting as you will need during the basket weaving: small flat-blade screw driver and some scissors capable of cutting reed. We will have some extras of these on hand.

Shannon Ventuleth will present a program on the Caltrans Adopt a Highway Program.



(sample of flat weaving)

Council Election May 17

There are 3 council positions up for re-election this year. These are the 3 positions that were only elected for a 1-year term last May. This year, these positions are for a 2 year term.

Candidates must declare their candidacy no later than sixty (60) days in advance of the election. They must provide a written statement of candidacy and a biographical sketch of no more than 200 words to the election Committee for publication in the newsletter.

The candidacy statements must be received no later than **March 16, 2009**. The statements can be emailed to:

sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com

or mailed to:

SDCC
P O Box 504453
San Diego, CA 92150-4453

Looking for a new meeting place

Since the City of San Diego has cut the budget for the Community Centers, we are looking for a new place to meet. The place needs good parking, centrally located and preferably rent free. If you know of such a place, please contact the SDCC at:
sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com

What you missed.....

The SDCC held its last meeting on December 7 at the Clairmont Community Center. This was the last meeting at the Community Center due to City budget cuts. The Center is now closed.



Angel Tree

The Council sent a \$242 check donation to the Cherokee Nation Angel Tree. The Angel Tree provides gifts for low income Native American children within the Cherokee Nation boundaries.

Currently there are many children who live in extreme low poverty conditions. Unfortunately for these children, the holiday season is filled with disappointment. This donation will bring a little joy to those individuals.

Meet your council members:

Meeting Facilitator – Phil Konstantin
Records Keeper – George Lynch
Treasurer – Mike Ledger
Membership Coordinator – Patrick Bea
Program Coordinators – Cindy Swayze and Shannon Ventuleth
Alternate Facilitator, Records Keeper & Newsletter editor– Wynona Bigknife

If you have any ideas or suggestions for upcoming meeting, please contact us. You can contact any of the council members at:

sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com

We also have a new address for correspondence to the Council:

SDCC
P O Box 504453
San Diego, CA 92150-4453

Website launched

The Cherokee Nation has launched its Cultural Tourism website on January 23 at:

www.CherokeeTourismOK.com//portals/default/skins/DNN-Cheroke/TourismVid

Living history is now just a click away as the Cherokee Nation launched its new website functionality features with the ability to book tours online, research Cherokee Nation history and visit notable locations.

Currently, four tours are available to purchase including the Cherokee History Tour, Cherokee Old Settler Tour, Civil War History Tour and Will Rogers History Tour.

May 17 Set For Spring Picnic

May 17 has been set for the SDCC Spring picnic. Exact details are yet to come.

During this picnic, the election of 3 council members will take place.

So, save the date on your calendar, May 17 and visit our website for further details:

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

Buttered Cornsticks

2 2/3 C biscuit/baking mix
1 (8 1/2 oz) can cream-style corn
1/2 C butter or margarine, melted

In a bowl, combine biscuit mix and corn. Stir until a soft dough forms. Knead on a lightly floured surface for 3 minutes. Roll into a 10 x 6-inch rectangle. Cut into 3 x 1-inch strips. Dip in butter. Place on an ungreased 15 x 10 x 1-inch baking pan. Bake at 425 degrees for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown.

Standing Rock

One of the most curious and notable landmarks in the Three Forks region in Oklahoma, was the Standing Rock located in the center of the Canadian River near Eufaula.. This enormous sandstone rock rose out of the center of the riverbed, which is the boundary between the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations.

For centuries, the rock was used as a way marker for Native Americans, explorers, immigrants and surveyors in Indian Territory. The Standing Rock became one of the cornerstone markers of the surveyed boundary line of the Cherokee Nation.

How this huge boulder came to stand in the middle of the river is a matter of conjecture, for its existence predates any written history. It was noted in the journals of early explorers who plied the waters of the Canadian River.

The most plausible explanation is that at one time it was actually a part of the bank of the river. A flood may have changed the river's channel and the rushing waters carved away the softer soil of the bank, leaving the rock standing in the middle of the river's new channel.

Whatever its history, the Standing Rock developed an aura of mystery. Legends grew up around it, and each story grew larger with the telling over the years.

The rock was at least 20 feet tall and its sides were worn smooth by the centuries of water passing over it. The smooth walls of the Standing Rock would have been impossible to climb, and the water eddied and swirled around the base of the rock making it difficult to reach by boat. Yet old timers said that direction maker shaped like a hatchet had been carved at the top of the rock with its handle pointing toward the rugged hills of the Cherokee Nation's Canadian District.

According to a story printed in an 1899 edition of Twin Territories magazine, the mystery of the carved hatchet had to do with buried treasure. The story goes that a rancher had driven a herd of cattle to market in Kansas. On his return trip home, well paid in silver coin for his cattle, he feared he was about to be robbed.

He left the main road and pushed back into the wilderness near Standing Rock in what was "Belle Starr" territory. Here he buried the silver, marking its position with carved directions. He returned to the main road and continued on south, expecting to return shortly and retrieve his treasure.

However, when he reached Texas he fell ill. While under a doctor's care, the rancher realized he was dying and with his last word he whispered directions to the doctor, telling him how to find his buried coin. He was to look for the carved hatchet on the Standing Rock, follow the direction the handle pointed into the hills, find a carved arrow pointing toward a cave and dig for the treasure inside the cave.

At first, the doctor dismissed the dying man's words. But later the idea of finding buried treasure intrigued him and he decided a vacation trip up to "the Indian Nations" wouldn't hurt. Finding the Standing Rock proved easy enough since it was such a well-known landmark. But the doctor found the area to be so rugged and remote and so full of "wild Indians" that he did not linger long. He returned to Texas without the treasure.

The doctor, did however, write to a Cherokee man in Indian Territory whom he knew only by reputation. He told him the story of the buried coin. This man supposedly went exploring and found the carved hatchet, the carved arrow, the cave a hole dug in the cave floor – but no treasure. If it ever really existed, some other treasure hunter had already found it. This account was told to the Twin Territories editor by an old timer named I. B. Hitchcock who claimed to have seen the letter written by the Texas doctor.

Whether this treasure actually existed seems unlikely, but we'll never know. The Standing Rock is now buried under the water of Lake Eufaula. In times of drought, such as was recently experienced in Oklahoma, the tip of the

Standing Rock can be seen peeking out from the waters of the lake.

Source: Muskogee Phoenix

Design Artist

The SDCC is searching for a design artist who can take our logo and put on different items. We would like to set up these products for sale. This will help raise funds for our organization.

If you would like to help us out, please contact the Council at:

sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com



New PSB Documentary

Cherokee Nation Immersion School kindergartners may just be learning to read and write, but they're famous.

Filmmaker Sharon Grimberg, executive producer of "We Shall Remain", a five-part documentary mini-series on American Indian history, visited the CN Immersion School to film material for the series and its multimedia educational campaign.

Principal Chief Chad Smith believes language revitalization is crucial for the successful continuation of Cherokee culture.

The school, for 3 year olds through third graders, focuses on standard elementary school subjects, but only the Cherokee language is spoken. All texts are written in Cherokee, as are library books, maps, clocks, etc. The overall plan is to add one grade per year until the school reaches students through high school.

Fundamental to the Cherokee Language Revitalization Project is the development of an evidence-based curriculum, designed to teach Cherokee language and culture, which simultaneously prepares students to excel on standardized tests required by the state.

Working with a hand-picked team from the Cherokee Nation Education and Culture Department, the school ensures that each grade is provided with the highest possible quality materials that reinforce the language, meet state standards, and are appealing to the children.

Film from the Immersion School will be highlighted on the We Shall Remain website as part of a contemporary focus program.

The series will air in April on PSB. Part 3 focuses on the Trial of Tears, and features Wes Studi, Harry Oosahwee and R. David Edmunds.

Check your local PSB station for exact time and date of the series airing this April.

Source: Tahlequah Daily Press

National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian is the sixteenth museum of the Smithsonian Institution. It is the first national museum dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of Native Americans.



Exterior of Museum (photo by Mike Ledger)

Established by an act of Congress in 1989, the museum works in collaboration with the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere to project and foster their cultures by reaffirming traditions and beliefs, encouraging contemporary artistic expression, and empowering the Indian voice.

George C. Heye provided most of the extensive collections. The collections encompasses a vast range of cultural material – including more than 800,000 works of extraordinary aesthetic, religious, and historical significance, as well as articles produced for every day, utilitarian use.

The collections span all major culture areas of the Americas, representing virtually all tribes of the U.S., most of those in Canada, and a significant number of cultures from Central and South America as well as the Caribbean.



Cherokee Gourd Rattle in NMAI (photo by Mike Ledger)

The National Museum of the American Indian comprises three facilities. In all of its activities, the National Museum acknowledges the diversity of cultures and the continuity of cultural knowledge among indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere and Hawaii, incorporation Native methodologies for the handling, documentation, care and presentation of collections.

The National Museum of the American Indian, is located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, between the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum and the U.S. Capital Building. It is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and closed on Christmas Day.

Mary Golda Ross

The National Museum recently received notice of a bequest from Cherokee citizen Mary Golda Ross, who died in 2008, just 3 months shy of her 100th birthday.

Ross joined 25,000 Native people who helped the museum in 2004.

Ross, whose Cherokee lineage includes former Principal Chief John Ross, was a rocket scientist who spent her 99 years of life looking mostly into the future.

Born in 1908 in the foothills of the Ozarks, she was one year younger than the state of Oklahoma. A gifted child, she was sent to live with her grandparents in Tahlequah to attend

school. At age 16, she enrolled in Northeastern State Teachers College.

She was graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1928. She taught math and science for nine years in nearby high schools. But by 1937, Ross asked herself if she was going to go out and see the world or stay in Oklahoma.

She took a civil service exam and was hired as a statistical clerk at the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C.

While there a Cherokee woman from the Department of Education noticed her and decided that she was wasting her degree and experience in teaching.

In 1937, she was sent to Santa Fe, N.M. to work as the girls' advisor at a school for American Indian artists. In the summers, Ross pursued a master's degree in mathematics.

While there, she took astronomy classes and read every book about the stars. But it was while visiting friends in California when she heard that the Lockheed Corp., short of skilled workers upon the outbreak of WW II, was looking for people with her technical background. She was hired as a mathematician in 1942.

She was assigned to work with the engineering staff on the effect of pressure on the P-38 Lightning fighter plane as it neared the sound barrier.

After the war, Lockheed sent her to UCLA to get a professional certification in engineering. She studied mathematics for modern engineering, aeronautics and missile and celestial mechanics. By

1948, she was on the ground floor of what would become the space race.

In 1952, Lockheed asked Ross to be one of 40 engineers known as the Lockheed Skunk Works, a secret think tank. It was the start of Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., a major consultant to NASA, based in Sunnyvale.

Ross retired from Lockheed in 1973 at the age of 65 and turned her attention to the next generation of Native Americans and women in engineering.

Source; NMAI and Cherokee Phoenix

Heisman Trophy Winner

Cherokee citizen and University of Oklahoma Sooners quarterback Sam Bradford became the first Native American, fifth Sooner and 74th player to receive the Heisman Trophy, a highly coveted trophy in college football. Bradford is only the second sophomore in NCAA history to win the award.

Although Bradford didn't grow up identifying with his Cherokee heritage, he wants to use his status to inspire other Cherokees and Native Americans.

Bradford is believed to be the first Native American to quarterback a major college program since Tahlequah native Sonny Sixkiller led the Washington Huskies in the early 1970s.

Source: Cherokee Phoenix