



# San Diego Cherokee Community Newsletter

Issue 11

[www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com](http://www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com)

September 2008

## Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the San Diego Cherokee Community will be September 21st at 1 pm. We will be meeting at the Lemon Grove United Methodist Church. It is located at 3205 Washington St., Lemon Grove, CA 91945.

The Cherokee Nation will be presenting a three part workshop on Cherokee identity issues. Each workshop will be approximately 45 – 60 minutes in length.

The first workshop speaker will be Julia Coates on the history of identity formation among the Cherokees. She will also be talking about clans within the Cherokees.

Melanie Knight will be the second speaker. Melanie is currently Secretary of State of the Cherokee Nation. She will talk about the hundreds of other Cherokee groups and why their claims are so problematic for the Cherokee Nation.

The final presentation will be a team effort of Gene Norris and Roy Hamilton.

They are genealogists for the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah. They will talk about the Dawes Rolls and the questions and misconceptions they most often encounter around Cherokee identity claims.

Mr. Hamilton also heads the new Cherokee Artists Association, so he may be able to talk a bit about the identity issues that involve Indian artists and the Cherokee Nation's "Truth in Advertising" legislation and the group members' reactions to it.

The workshops will also be held in Los Angeles on Friday, September 19 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Recreation Center in Palisades Park, 1450 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90405; Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Women's Ebell Club, 625 N. French, Santa Ana, CA 92701; then Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Sherman Indian HS, Bennett Meeting Hall, 9010 Magnolia Ave, Riverside, CA 92503.

For more information, visit our website:

[www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com](http://www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com)

The Cherokee Nation will be returning later on this year or the first of next year to put on another program. More about

that program to come. Please visit our website for up to the date information.

This is a great opportunity to build bridges and relationships of true Cherokee traditions with the people of San Diego and southern California.

We will be providing soda, water, and coffee along with deserts and munchies between the workshops.

## What You Missed At Our Last Meeting....

Our last meeting was held at the Clairemont Community Center on June 29. George Lynch taught a class on basket weaving and dyeing the reed different colors.

Everyone participated in unrolling the reed and putting in tubs of water to soften the reed so it would be pliable to weave with. George handed out instructions but gave hands on class to everyone.



Here we are unrolling the bundles of round reed.



A nicely finished basket by Kandis West

While most finished their baskets, others took reed home to finish their baskets. We also had a raffle prize book about basket weaving donated and signed by its author, Charolette Coats. The book was won by Marsha West (below).



Weaving an OK Cherokee Double Wall Basket  
by Charlotte Coats.

Oklahoma wisdom worth sharing:

### WISE OLD INDIAN

When told the reason for daylight saving time, the old Indian said, "Only a white man would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket and sew it to the bottom of a blanket and have a longer blanket."

## Good News... .

We received word from Julia Coates that the San Diego Cherokee Community has been designated an official Satellite Community under the Cherokee Nation Community Association (CNCA).

It is hoped that all the Cherokee satellite communities will go under the guidance of the CNCA. This will provide for us to gain a non-profit status under the Cherokee Nation.

We will now be able to apply for grants with the CNCA.

### Meet your council members:

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

We are still searching for a person to take over the Membership Coordinator's position on the council. It is a one-year term. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at:

[sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com)

## Indian Tacos

(enough for a large tribe or scale back for small one)

### Bread dough

2 C scalded milk  
1 C warm water  
2 packages yeast (rapid rise)  
½ C sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
2 t salt  
¼ C melted shortening  
7-8 C flour

Scald milk first and let cool. In another bowl, add yeast to warm water (not hot); let sit. Place cooled milk in large mixing bowl and add eggs, sugar, salt and mix. Add melted shortening and blend into mixture. Add 1 C of flour and mix, and then add yeast mixture. Add remainder of flour 1 cup at a time until dough is not sticky.

Let dough rise once, then punch down, before making fry bread. Cut or tear off enough dough (about the size of a tennis ball) to pat down and roll out flat, about ¼ to ½ inch thick. Fry in hot grease at about 375 degrees, depending on the fryer, until golden brown. Flip and cook on second side until browned.

### Toppings

3-4 large onions, diced  
6 large tomatoes, diced  
6 pounds of shredded lettuce  
4 pounds of shredded cheese  
1 ½ C sliced black olives  
2 pounds sour cream  
1 gallon salsa  
1 jar jalapeno peppers

### Beef topping

10 pounds ground beef  
1 small diced onion  
2 C water  
1 package taco seasoning

Cook beef, onion and water all together before adding seasoning. Let simmer.

Top fry bread with beef, lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, onions, black olives, sour cream, salsa and jalapeno peppers.

## CN Supreme Court Building

The Cherokee Nation Supreme Court building is going to get a face lift. The CN will launch a two-phase renovation project to restore the CN Supreme Court Building's historic charm.

Sikes Abernathie Architects of Tulsa was selected to lead the first phase, stabilizing and strengthening the outer walls. The second phase will focus on the interior. Completion is scheduled for July, 2009.

The building is to become a museum with pre-statehood photographs and artifacts.

Only six years after the 7,000 U.S. troops forced 16,000 Cherokees to abandon their homes in the East for a new life in Indian Territory – a march that took 4000 Cherokee lives in what became known as the Trail of Tears.

James S. Pierce raised one of the government buildings needed for the newly settled Cherokees in 1844 at the southeastern corner of Tahlequah town square. This became the CN Supreme Court. It now stands as the oldest government building in Oklahoma. This Cherokee symbol survived Civil War, a

fire that gutted its interior, and the invasion of non-Indian opportunists that brought laws stripping the structure from the tribe until the Cherokees could gain their sovereignty rights.

The structure also housed the printing press for the Cherokee Advocate, the tribe's official publication and the first newspaper in Indian Territory. Indian Territory's first Masonic Lodge also opened there on November 6, 1848.

In 1911, the Cherokee Nation was forced to sell the Supreme Court Building. The facility served as the Cherokee County School Superintendent's office and other county needs for the next six decades, gaining recognition as a historical site in 1974. The Cherokee Nation regained ownership five years later.

Source: [www.muskogeephenix.com](http://www.muskogeephenix.com)

### Council Member Needed

The SDCC is looking for your help. We need one more council member to serve our Council. This person would only serve until next May and hopefully would like to continue to serve on the Council so they would run for one of the three positions that would be up for election.

The council doesn't meet every month. We normally get together the month before a general meeting so we can plan the activities.

So please join our council today. We need your help. Contact us at: [sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com)

## Kanuchi (Hickory Nut Soup)

Kanuchi is a real delicacy to the Cherokee in Oklahoma. A heavy log is hollowed out a few inches in depth. A long heavy stick is used for the pounding where the long end is at the top. This is used as a weight. Kanuchi making takes a lot of effort, but sure is worth it.

The instructions for the making of kanuchi are:

Hickory nuts, gathered in the fall, are allowed to dry for a few weeks prior to preparation. The hickory nuts are cracked and the largest pieces of the shells are taken out. You can pick them out by hand or shake the pieces through a loosely woven basket. Usually both.

The nuts (don't worry if there are some small pieces of shell – they will be strained out later) are put in the 'bowl' of the log, and are pounded until they reach a consistency that can be formed into balls that will hold their shape, about 3 inches in diameter. They must be kept in a cool place; today, most people freeze them.

When you are ready to prepare the kanuchi for serving, put one of the balls in a sauce pan with a quart or so of water. Bring it to a boil, and the ball should dissolve into the water. Simmer about 10 minutes, then strain through a sieve. This separates any of the shell that is left. It should simmer until it is about as thick as light cream. Add 2 cups of hominy to each quart of kanuchi. Most cooks add some sugar or honey. It should be served hot, as a soup.

## Chief Unveils Project in Downtown Tahlequah

People who shop and sightsee through Tahlequah's downtown will soon receive additional insights into the rich history of the historic buildings surrounding Cherokee Courthouse Square and adjoining areas.

- Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith announced a plan by the Cherokee Tourism for the History on Main Street project, which will place historic photos in downtown storefront windows. While shoppers admire the merchandise, they can learn more about life here and what Tahlequah looked like a century or more ago.

The old part of Tahlequah represents two of the passions long present among Cherokee leaders, exemplified by the Supreme Court building at the south end of the square, the oldest government building existing in Tahlequah, and the Seminary Hall at Northeastern State University to the north.

“At the south end of town is our great passion for justice in the Supreme Court building; at the north end is our passion for education, the female seminary,” Smith said. “Look at all the stories between these two bookends, the development of Tahlequah. It's our belief that if we can tell our history, in these stories, we will prosper.”

Some of the photos on display portray moments frozen by the camera's shutter, such as:

- Cherokee National Principal Chief Thomas Buffington delivering a speech in front of the Cherokee Nation Capitol, sometime between 1899 and 1903.
- The wood-frame Palace Hotel, on Keetoowah Street next to the Supreme Court building and jail.
- A street scene showing a man with a walrus mustache, with two gold medallions and a gold watch chain adorning his jacket.
- Two typesetters in the Cherokee Advocate office, about 1900
- The young ladies of the Cherokee Female Seminary parading down Muskogee Ave in 1953.

Smith said Cherokee tourism hopes to use this program, along with other properties it has purchased in the downtown area, as an incentive to market arts and crafts, to teach and pass on the Cherokee language. He sees the day when tourist, including international ones, will stop at the Cherokee Casino in Catoosa and want to learn more about the Cherokees, leading them to this area.

Since 2000, eight local properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Cherokee County (where Tahlequah is located) has 16.

Source: Tahlequah Daily Press

## Fried Hominy

2 strips of bacon  
2 C hominy  
2 or 3 green onions

Fry bacon while cutting green onions into small pieces. Crumble bacon and

add onions. When the onions start appearing to be frying, add hominy and cook for about 10 to 15 minutes first on high heat, then on low. Serve and enjoy!

# Cherokee Seminaries

The Cherokee tribal government opened in 1851, the Cherokee Male and Female Seminaries as boarding schools. The male school stood southwest of Tahlequah, and the female school north of Park Hill. In identical, three-story, brick structures, the Cherokee Nation offered students a high school education.

The Male Seminary had a preparatory curriculum which included Greek, Latin, German, and French; chemistry, botany, geology, astronomy, and zoology; geography, U.S. and English history, political economy, and philosophy. The Female Seminary curriculum was not as rigorous but equally academically challenging. Neither seminary offered instruction in the Cherokee language, history or culture.

The year before the schools opened, Cherokee representatives visited New England, seeking teachers. The first of many Eastern-education teachers who were employed to teach at the schools were from Yale, Mount Holyoke, and Newton Theological Seminary.

In order to attend the seminary, the prospective student must first pass a two-day examination. If successful, then the student would be educated at the

tribe's expense. Although most students came from affluent, mixed-blood homes, the attrition rate was high in the early years. Twenty-six women and thirteen men were graduated from the seminaries by 1856. By that year, the Cherokee had encountered economic problems. Neither seminary accepted students for the fall 1856 semester.

The Civil War dashed the tribe's plans to reopen the seminaries. Used as warehouses, hospitals, and even stables, the buildings were in shambles when the war ended. The Cherokee Nation was broke and could not reopen its schools until the 1870s.

Students paid for room and board when the seminaries reopened due to the limited tribal resources. Children of tribe members unable to pay, could enroll in an indigent department. For the first time, the seminaries admitted children from other tribes; admission requirements were reduced and the national council created a primary department composed of grades one through five and a preparatory department for grades six through eight.

Easter Sunday in 1887, a fire demolished the Female Seminary. The principal teacher at the school, Miss A. Florence Wilson, was able to get all the girls out of the building. Two years later, the school reopened just north of Tahlequah on a 40 acre site.

Although both schools offered education rarely equaled in the surrounding states, in the years before Oklahoma 1907 statehood, the federal officials began systematically reducing the authority of the tribal government, including its administration of education. Two years

after statehood, Oklahoma bought the Female Seminary for \$40,000 to house a state teacher-training school. The next year, the Male Seminary, which was being operated by the tribe as a coeducational facility, burned. Commencement exercises held at Northeastern Normal School, now NSU (Northeastern State University), in the spring of 1910, honored the last students to earn degrees at the Cherokee National Seminaries.

Seminary Hall, formerly the Female Seminary, is the oldest building on NSU's campus. In 1994, the building was completely restored. It now houses classrooms along with academic and faculty offices. At the main entrance of the building is featured three Indian murals painted in the 1930s as a WPA project by Kiowa artists.

Source: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia> & Wikipedia encyclopedia

## Looking for Stories to Share

If you have a family story, pictures or anything else that might interest our members, please share. We are most likely family.

We are also looking for programs for our monthly meeting. If you have something that you want to hear about, please let us know. Even better, if you can lead our group in a specific program, give us your idea.

We are looking to enrich our Cherokee culture and knowledge and what better way to learn – from someone in our own group.

Send us an email at:  
[sdccnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:sdccnewsletter@yahoo.com)