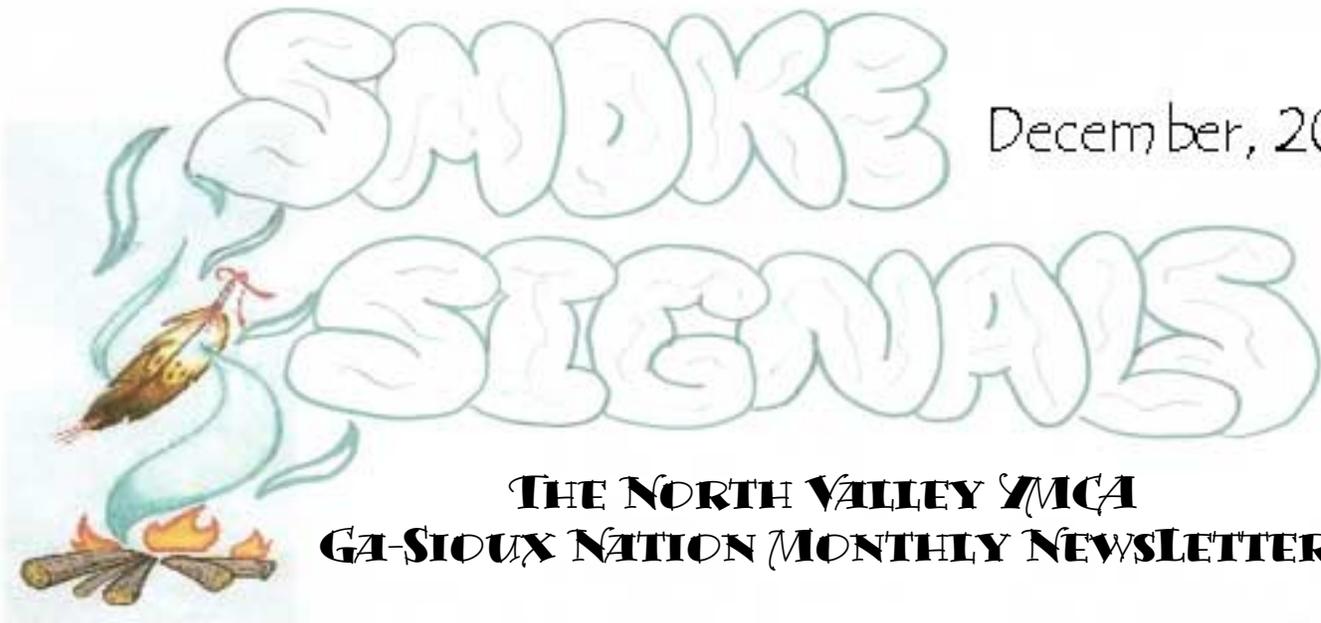


December, 2000



**THE NORTH VALLEY YMCA
GA-SIOUX NATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Seasons Greetings from the Chief

So, I'm sitting in yet another traffic jam, my anger boiling over, thinking about getting to the mall and fighting the crowds to buy more gifts for my family. I'm looking out the window, frustrated beyond belief, when I look up into the hills and notice a house with Holiday lights on. Just one house. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and the stars were shining and this little house was sitting there looking so festive. I realized that this Holiday season was slipping by and I wasn't enjoying it. I wasn't taking the time to play Christmas songs on the piano. I hadn't taken my family in the car and went to look at all the houses lit up, or go through Griffith Park to see all the decorations. I haven't even watched Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer! C'mon! Not even Rudolph?!?! I hadn't seen Yukon Cornelius or the Abominable Snow Man! For cryin' out loud! What's happening to me!

Have I become that grumpy guy that I used to watch in the malls, griping at all the kids running around with saucer-like eyes? I don't think so... but I have become a father, and a professional, and a husband, and a homeowner, and the Chief of the Ga-Sioux Nation and.... And... AND! I know many of you are like this as well (and I'll bet a lot of you are even more busy!). I keep thinking about Ebenezer Scrooge, and how he saw the Ghost of Christmas Future, and realized how fleeting all this is... and how he wished he had time to change!

I don't want to become this. I don't want to become an old man and look around me and

realize that my life has been one endless business meeting/soccer game/mall crowd/ traffic jam. My Grandmother was going to be 87 years old this next February. Sadly, I had to take my kids to say good-bye to her this month. I'm at least grateful that she got to meet my new baby. I was so proud of my boys, each of them giving her a hug. But what impressed me most was her spirit... her grand spirit! She was literally on death's door, and my uncle and I joked about what the heck we were going to do about dinner with her in the hospital. She smiled then said "Well, if you go to the house, I have some lasagna in the freezer." She was still thinking of the little things, taking care of us. However saddened I am by her passing the next week, I am forever grateful for the lesson she taught me... she had no regrets! None. Sure... things could have been done differently, or she might have taken one more trip to Italy to see her cousins, but her life was very full and very complete. Everyone in the family knew that they were loved by her and will remain connected with her forever.

I'm going to make the time this Holiday season to enjoy this moment in our lives. I want my family to know how important they are to me. I want to sit in front of the tree, and listen to carols and talk with my kids. If the Ghost of Christmas Future visits me, I don't want to have to beg for one more chance.

Happy Holidays!
Joe Orr/ Ga-Sioux Nation Chief

TRIBAL NEWS

Arapaho

The Arapaho tribe had an exciting afternoon at the Granada Hills Parade. The silly string in every color of the rainbow highlighted the sunny California day. The tribes children shooting silly string from the float included: Little Acorn, Talking Fox, Little Iron Horse, Yelling Eagle, Jason R., Silver Wolf and Adam Z. Our tribes new banner made its debut as the fathers walked along side the float. Many tribes asked about how we got such a great looking banner. A special thanks to Kelly for creating the banner and the fathers and sons who participated in the parade.

Art - Arapaho tribe.

Chumash

I started in this program a couple of years ago neither I, nor do I believe my close friends who make up our fantastic Chumash tribe, could have anticipated the pleasure we would gain from this experience. From the monthly meetings, to the roller skating, bowling, Pilgrim feat or the Parade, each event provides an opportunity to spend time with those precious children of ours. Moments that in the future we will look back upon not only with pleasure, but with a belief that each such moment, in one way or another, had a positive influence on our child's life. In that same vein, at our December tribal meeting each princess was asked to tell the rest of the tribe in one sentence what she felt was either most memorable or her favorite part about being in the Indian Princesses. Their comments were wonderful, and in their own way tell each Dad in the nation that we are doing our job.

- " I like to go to Camp Whittle and play in the snow."
" I like to be with Dad."
" I like to be like one big family."
" I like being with my Indian friends."
" I like doing things with my Dad and my friends in the tribe."
" I like to go to cool places."
" I like all the energy everyone puts in to the tribe."
" I like the Parade."

Chief Red Bear

Blackfeet

The Blackfeet wanted to thank the Chumash tribe for all of the hard work they did in making the Pilgrim Feast a success. We also wanted to thank the Apaches for their efforts in the Granada Hills holiday parade. We had a great time at both events.

The Blackfeet celebrated their tribal unity on a rainy night at the Oak Tree Gun Club at their monthly meeting hosted by Wild Buck and Two Bucks. The braves learned about gun safety, and how to safely handle a shotgun. All were very attentive and serious about safety. We also discussed our plans for our trip to Camp Whittle; we look for 100% participation.

We then proceeded to the trap range where the braves and their dads each got 10 shots at clay targets. We all learned that breaking the targets takes a great deal of luck and skill. Thunder Cloud was the high scorer for the braves; Two Bucks was the top gun for the dads with Sun Dance close behind. All the braves received a patch from Oak Tree Gun Club to add to their vests.

See you at Whittle.

Assistant Chief Two Bucks

Seminoles

Happy New Year Ga-Sioux, The Seminoles had a super time at the parade. Our 3rd grade braves, Zach "Crazy Buffalo" & David "Bold Eagle" chose to walk the trail with the dads. Our younger braves, James "BBO'd Buffalo", Matthew "Crazy Down Wind", Jason "Running Wolf", Josh "Soaring Arrow", Daniel "Screeching Hawk", and Andreas "Swimming Wold", all rode the flat bed and won the battle of silly string. Our last meeting was at the Pell's "Wind Tunnel". The kids crafted leather canoes to hang on whatever and then filled up on delicious home baked snacks. We wish you all a fabulous holiday season and hope to see you at Camp Whittle.

Until then, Chief Gary "Lazy Buffalo"

Mohawk

Greetings Ga-Sioux Nation

All the Mohawks had a great time at the Pilgrim feast. Although a bit cold, the weather could not dampen the spirits of our braves. The food was good and plentiful and learning when to yell or whisper or jump up and down during the campfire was a memorable experience.

Our meeting at the home of Crazy Horse was a great success and all the Mohawks are looking forward to Camp Whittle and some skiing the day before.

See you at camp.

Chief "Big Thunder" Karl

Mohave

The Granada Hills Holiday Parade was a ton of fun. We really got our revenge when we passed by that bus full of Boy Scouts. We have quite a few sharp shooters. Michael E. and Stevie G. were especially accurate with their Silly String, and I would definitely want them on my team in any type of Silly String War. Then again, every time I turned around it seemed that Justin M. hit me dead center with his quick draw; all I remember seeing was the reflection from his can of Silly String.

Well, we're all looking forward to Camp Whittle, the Mohave's will be co-sponsors/hosts for this event. We are in the process of planning some great activities. And maybe, we just might pre-plan our skit this time. So the rest of the tribes better watch out!

I wish the entire Indian Guide Nation and their families a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year.

Chief Howard T.

Mohican

As our tribe continues to multiply, we have abandoned hosting our meetings at our own teepees. It seems to be less stressful on the wives. God knows we don't need anymore stress with our wives. Our November meeting was held at the fire station. I think the firemen were a little overwhelmed as a continuous stream of Mohicans entered their station. And our tour guide wasn't quite sure how to respond when Madison tried to talk him out of that last piece of chocolate cake left over from dinner. Our December meeting was hosted by the world renown John W. & his assistant, John S. at the Sherman Oaks Castle Park. It's amazing what an endless supply of tokens will do for a bunch of screaming Mohicans. We look forward to another huge turnout at Camp Whittle from the Mohicans & a little hope for snow. A merry Christmas to all!

Chief Ball Sack

Chinook

The Chinooks arrived in force to walk in the annual Granada Hills Holiday Parade with the names of Snow Flower and Blond Cub newly added to our tribal banner. The increased pace, forward positioning, and front and back vehicles all made for a more enjoyable parade experience. Thanks to the Apaches for the parade preparation.

Our meeting was held this month at the tepee of Cheynea with the help of co-hostesses Little Cub and Baby Bear. Big Foot and Hungry Bear provided fine crafts and refreshments. Our new Talking Stick, a necessity when dealing with 19 princesses, made its debut after Black Feather applied finishing touches. We began planning for what will hopefully be a snow-filled weekend at Camp Whittle!

Chief Star Hunter

Sioux North

What a load of fun the Granada Hills Parade was. I have never seen so many smiling faces at the same time as I did during that march down Chatsworth that day. The weather was perfect and the Silly String was plentiful. Now I no what Silly String is made out of based on the fact that I had a chance to taste it during the parade. Believe me when I tell you that it does not taste like chicken. I actually felt sorry for the people that were tasked to clean up the trail of string left behind by our nation, especially at the poor guys house in front of which we were parked before we got started. The best part of the parade was that our entire tribe was able to attend the event which was great. We all had fun.

Our December tribe meeting was held at Tiny Cloud's Teepee with a festive touch. The girls each explained what holiday traditions their family participates in at this time of year. From decorating trees with lights and ginger-bread house making to playing holiday games and family gatherings, it was intriguing to know what other people do during the holidays. Present and accounted for that evening were Flying Elbow and Bright Star, Tiny Cloud and White Cloud, Running Rabbit's stand-in ("Laughing Penguin") and Little Bunny, Thunder Cloud and Golden Dove, Big Buck and Little Deer, Crazy Horse and Tiger Lily, Red Sky and Red Feather, and Broken Wing and Beauty Pony. The meeting was topped off with the tribe participating in decorating their particular portion of the Sioux North Totem Pole. It was fun watching and helping the princesses draw pictures representing their Indian names on their piece of wood. This included stars, clouds, animals, and flowers. It will be interesting to see how these Totem Pole sections develop and come together over the year. Time to get out the wood working tools.

See you all at Camp Whittle.
Until next time, Peace.

Flying Elbow

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp Whittle	1/5 - 1/7/01
Cosmic Bowling	2/3/01
Camp Fox	3/16 - 3/18/01

Remember that you need to sign-up for Camp Whittle no later than January 2, 2001. Camp should fill up so it would behoove you to sign-up early. Also, make sure to let Josie know if you are in more than one tribe, to ensure that cabin assignments are made accordingly.

(see the attached flyers for more information)

CRAFT IDEA

This is the spot where you'd normally see a craft idea. The Craft Idea guy took an early Christmas vacation. Tune in next month for more exciting craft ideas!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Here's the entire Nation contact list. Please let me know if I've made a mistake on any of it.

Name	Tribe	Email
Danny Ross	Iroquois	Dross4re@aol.com
Gary Zidell	Seminole	Mangs@gobi.com
Tom Bogusz	Apache	Rreadynuse@aol.com
Chris Wiacek	Sioux North	Chris.wiacek@trw.com
Dave Milkovich	Cherokee	Dnmilk@earthlink.net
Howard Teichner	Mojave	gweind@aol.com
Jon Irvin	Commanche	Highcmd@aol.com
Sal Sciortino	Navajo	Salws@aol.com
Scott Stanley	Chinook	Sstanley@sch.moog.com
Doug Aberle	Chumash	Dsacas@aol.com
Tom Ricks	Chippewa	Rickstnp@aol.com
Craig Galanti	Blackfeet	Craig.galanti@unistudios.com
Art Rosen	Arapaho	Jasonsueart@cs.com
Joe Allegretti	Asst. Nation Chief	Allegretti@msn.com
Joe Orr	Nation Chief	Jorr@socal.rr.com
Josie Rea	Program Director	Josierea@ymcala.org

STORY TELLING

This is another great story from the tradition of the Cherokee.

How The Rabbit Stole The Otter's Coat

Cherokee

The animals were of different sizes and wore coats of various colors and patterns. Some wore long fur and others wore short. Some had rings on their tails, and some had no tails at all. Some had coats of brown, others of black or yellow. They were always disputing about their good looks, so at last they agreed to hold a council to decide who had the finest coat.

They had heard a great deal about the Otter, who lived so far up the creek that he seldom came down to visit the other animals. It was said that he had the finest coat of all, but no one knew just what it was like, because it was a long time since anyone had seen him. They did not even know exactly where he lived, only the general direction, but they knew he would come to the council when the word got out.

Now the Rabbit wanted the verdict for himself, so when it began to look as if it might go to the Otter he studied up a plan to cheat him out of it. He asked a few sly questions until he learned what trail the Otter would take to get to the council place. Then, without saying anything, he went on ahead and after four days' travel he met the Otter and knew him at once by his beautiful coat of soft dark brown fur. The Otter was glad to see him and asked him where he was going. "Oh," said the Rabbit, "the animals sent me to bring you to the council, because you live so far away they were afraid you might not know the road." The Otter thanked him, and they were on together.

They traveled all day toward the council ground, and at night the Rabbit selected the camping place, because the Otter was a stranger in that part of the country, and cut down bushes for beds and fixed everything in good shape. The next morning they

started on again. In the afternoon the Rabbit began to pick up wood and bark as they went along and to load it on his back. When the Otter asked what this was for the Rabbit said it was that they might be warm and comfortable at night. After a while, when it was near sunset, they stopped and made their camp.

When supper was over the Rabbit got a stick and shaved it down to a paddle. The Otter wondered and asked again what that was for. "I have good dreams when I sleep with a paddle under my head," said the Rabbit.

When the paddle was finished the Rabbit began to cut away the bushes so as to make a clean trail down to the river. The Otter wondered more and more and wanted to know what this meant.

Said the Rabbit, "This place is called Di'tatlaski'yi (The Place Where it Rains Fire). Sometimes it rains fire here, and the sky looks a little that way tonight. You go to sleep and I'll sit up and watch, and if the fire does come, as soon as you hear me shout, you run and jump into the river. Better hang your coat on a limb over there, so it wont get burnt."

The Otter did as he was told, and they both doubled up to go to sleep, but the Rabbit kept awake. After a while the fire burned down to red coals. The Rabbit called, but the Otter was fast asleep and made no answer. In a little while he called again, but the Otter never stirred. Then the Rabbit filled the paddle with hot coals and threw them up into the air and shouted, "It's raining fire! It's rain- king fire!"

The hot coals fell all around the Otter and he jumped up. "To the water!" cried the Rabbit, and the Otter ran and jumped into the river, and he has lived in the water ever since.

The Rabbit took the Otter's coat and put it on, leaving his own instead, and went on to the council. All the animals were there, every one looking out for the Otter. At last they saw him in

the distance, and they said one to the other, "The Otter is coming!" and sent one of the small animals to show him the best seat. They were all glad to see him and went up in turn to welcome him, but the Otter kept his head down, with one paw over his face. They wondered that he was so bashful, until the Bear came up and pulled the paw away, and there was the Rabbit with his split nose. He sprang up and started to run, when the Bear struck at him and pulled his tail off, but the Rabbit was too quick for them and got away.



"Grandmother Moon"Artist: Debra Colburn