



November, 2000

THE NORTH VALLEY YMCA GA-SIOUX NATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Thanksgiving Greetings from the Chief

As it's Thanksgiving time once again, I hearken back to days gone by and remember a Thanksgiving I spent with my family. I must have been about 5 years old and we were sharing our Thanksgiving meal at the home of our neighbors and good friends. My mother had made her specialty side dishes (love that wild rice!) and our neighbors made the turkey and a few of their own specialties. I was seated next to my big brother at this large, beautiful table overflowing with the feast.

Now, you have to understand that my brother, even at 35 now, will not eat most vegetables. The most that he will put past his lips without much wincing and whining are corn and potatoes. I remember him taking 15 minutes once to eat three peas, each one placed on the back of his tongue like one would take an aspirin then swallowing a half-gallon of milk to try to work it down. He would then convulse and shake his head and gag. Now, I usually worshipped my older brother, but even I thought he was over doing it.

Flash back to this Thanksgiving dinner. Mom dished us both up a huge plate full of food, and right in the middle of my brother's was a big steaming pile of candied yams. He just laughed and said "Mom, I can't eat this." She smiled, and said "Honey, we're guests here... you'll eat what I've put on your plate." He just shrugged, shook his head and said "Mom, I really can't eat this!" This

time, the smile vanished and she said quietly, "Eat those yams, or you're in big trouble!" He finally said, "Look, Mom, if I eat this, I'm going to throw up!" Mom eyes flashed and she said through her teeth "EAT IT!"

So there we were, Mom on the verge of blowing up, my hero next to me defiantly standing his ground, but losing the battle. He finally shrugged as if to say "I told you so" and took a big forkful into his mouth. I believe it remained in his mouth for approximately 1.32 seconds. Out it came as well as the rest of the food he had eaten that day and the previous. Of course, sitting next to a kid getting sick, made me nauseous and up came my lunch too! Believe me, not only was the last Thanksgiving we spent with these friends, but it was one that I don't think I will ever forget!

My point? Why did I gross you all out? Simple, this little anecdote reminds us of a very important thing that many of us, myself included, tend to forget: Listen to your kids! Too often we get too busy with work and home business that we don't stop down and listen to our children. Not only do they want to talk to us, to be included in our lives, but they also tell us what they really need. Often times, all they need is a hug or some attention... other times they'll let us know when they're about to let loose on your neighbor's dining room table!

Happy Thanksgiving all!
Joe Orr / Ga-Sioux Nation Chief

TRIBAL NEWS

Arapaho

Arapaho Tribe Times

The new member induction ceremony was wonderfully done. The way the fire ignited with smoke will be a memory in our kids' lives that they will never forget. The new indian kids included: Little Acorn (Joshua), Justin, Jason B., Little Iron Horse (Adam F.), Remy, Spencer, Jason R., Grey Wolf (Ryan), Silver Wolf (Joshua), and Adam Z. The new indian dads included: Big Oak (Bruce), Eric, Paul, Big Iron Horse (David), Dodd, Mark, Art, Laughing Bear (Doug), Large Bear (Ben), and Dan. Everyone in attendance had lots of fun. We all look forward to the many new friendships and great memories we will have in the months to come.

Art - Arapaho tribe.

Chumash

WOW! What a great time the entire Chumash Tribe had at the Pilgrim Feast. Yes, it was cold, but the love between fathers and daughters made the evening feel toasty warm. We were glad to induct to our proud tribe Painted Daisy, Blue Sky, Moonlight and Rainbow Butterfly and look forward to a year of fun and togetherness.

Thanks to Black feet for co-hosting the evening with us and for Brave Bears wonderful story. The spirit of teamwork was everywhere and made for a night to remember.

We look forward to seeing our fellow members of the Ga-Sioux nation at the Granada Hills Parade.

Assistant Chief - Music in the Air

Blackfeet

The Blackfeet celebrated their tribal unity at the teepee of Lightning Foot, Lightning Bear, and their forebear, White Lightning. The braves built actual transistor radios that really worked when hooked up to the antenna at the Lightnings' teepee. These radios are similar to those dropped by US pilots to those behind the Iron Curtain so the people could listen to Radio Free Europe and the Radio of the Americas. Our radios picked up Radio Disney, among other local AM stations. We discussed our great showing at skate night and made plans for the pilgrim feast. Our next tribal meeting will be hosted by the Hawks-- Thunder Hawk and Fire Hawk.

Assistant Chief Two Bucks

Seminoles

Greetings Fellow Ga-Sioux,

The Seminoles had a festive time at the Pilgrim Feast. Thank you to the Chumash & Blackfeet in arranging for such a delicious spread. The moon was shining bright and it was such a cold night. "Blowing Wind & Crazy Down Wind", "Screaming Wolf & Swimming Wolf", "Growling Bear & Screeching Hawk", "Wild Wolf & Dancing Cat", "Old Eagle & Bold Eagle", and "Crazy, Lazy & BBQ'd Buffalo", all gathered, feasted, and sang with you all. Our last meeting was at the Eagle's nest, hosted by the "Old Eagle & Bold Eagle". The kids built weather identifiers and they enjoyed a great snack. We hope to see all of you at the parade.

Until then, Be Well.

Chief Lazy Buffalo

Apache

BURRRRRRRRRRR... Well the apache all enjoyed their nice warm welcome to the nation the pilgrim feast was fun for all. Thanks to the warmth of friends and new braves and their nuclear night sticks we all survived. the winds of the north must have crossed with the spirit of the great cold and frozen one reminding us the winter is upon the nation. Winter a quiet and reflective time for holding friends close and celebrating growth of the tribe, we hope to see you all at the Christmas parade. Until the frozen winds bring us together around the warmth of the Ga-Sioux fire.

Tom-a-hawk Tom

Chinook

The Chinooks once again showed a strong turnout for the Pilgrim Feast. Our returning members braved the chilling evening to see new Princesses Rebecca and Shana formally become part of the tribe. Many thanks to the Chumash and Blackfeet for a great meal! Our next meeting will be held this week at the Teepee of Little Dancing Bear, with Little Flower and Shooting Star being co-hostesses as we make plans for the Christmas Parade and begin preparations for Camp Whittle. This promises to be an exciting and noisy night as our twenty Princesses prepare to pound in the holidays with our newly rediscovered tribal drum!

Chief Star Gazer

Sioux North

The October Sioux North tribal meeting held at Thunder Cloud's teepee was very successful in that two of our new tribal member teams were present. Broken Wing and Beauty Pony as well as Big Buck and Little Dear have officially joined our tribe. The meeting was held to the subtle beat of neighboring hip-hop music. The girls thought it was very funny. Crazy Horse did a great job captivating the attention of the tribe during the reading of a short

story about an Indian and a snake. The girls then participated in a discussion about what the story meant. It was a lot of fun.

Although it is still Autumn, it sure is beginning to feel a lot like Winter real fast. This was evident by the way all of the tribes were shivering at the Pilgrim Feast. (I should have brought some extra blankets and gloves and made some extra money selling them.) Wow, was it cold. I was afraid to clap during the camp fire songs for I thought that my hands would shatter from the impact. Overall, we all had a great time. The food was excellent and my hands smelled like ribs the entire evening. The Sioux North Tribe was out in force supporting this event. Present and accounted for were Flying Elbow and Bright Star, Running Rabbit and Little Bunny, Laughing Bear, Singing River and Shooting Star, Thunder Cloud and Golden Dove, Red Sky and Red Feather, and Broken Wing and Beauty Pony. The girls had fun singing along and performing all of the hand and body gestures while the dads grabbed the extra blankets and tried to keep warm.

Looking forward to the Granada Hills Parade. Until next time.

Flying Elbow

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Parade	12/3/00
Camp Whittle	1/5 - 1/7/01

A note about the Christmas Parade... at the time this newsletter was put together, we still didn't know our position in the parade. As soon as that is learned, we'll let the chiefs of every tribe know and they'll disseminate that information to everyone.

See you at the parade!

(see the attached flyers for more information)

CRAFT IDEA

Wampum Pouch

I spoke in the last Smoke Signals about building up your Tribal treasures. One such item that can be created as a tribe is your Wampum Pouch. Or each Guide or Princess could make their own. We (the Apaches) have used our Wampum pouch now for several years. Not only is it a symbol of our tribe, but it allows us to gather our Wampum from our monthly meetings and keep it all in one place. We then use the cumulative wampum at the end of the year for our Tribal party, or as a donation to the YMCA. I found a craft website that has a kit for the pictured wampum pouch. The site is <http://www.nativeessence.com/>



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
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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

I thought this was a neat story from the tradition of the Cherokee.

What The Stars Are Like

Cherokee

There are different opinions about the stars. Some say they are balls of light, others say they are human, but most people say they are living creatures covered with luminous fur or feathers.

One night a hunting party camping in the mountains noticed two lights like large stars moving along the top of a distant ridge. They wondered and watched until the light disappeared on the other side. The next night, and the next, they saw the lights again moving along the ridge, and after talking over the matter decided to go on the morrow and try to learn the cause.

In the morning they started out and went until they came to the ridge, where, after searching some time, they found two strange creatures about so large (making a circle with outstretched arms), with round bodies covered with fine fur or downy feathers, from which small heads stuck out like the heads of terrapins. As the breeze played upon these feathers showers of sparks flew out.

The hunters carried the strange creatures back to the camp, intending to take them home to the settlements on their return. They kept them several days and noticed that every night they would grow bright and shine like great stars, although by day they were only balls of gray fur, except when the wind stirred and made the sparks fly out.

They kept very quiet and no one thought of their trying to escape, when on the seventh night, they suddenly rose from the ground like balls of fire and were soon above the tops of the trees. Higher and higher they went, while the wondering hunters watched, until at last they were only two bright points of light in the dark sky, and then the hunters knew that they were stars.



"Elk Moon Dreamer "....Artist: Nancy Wood Taber

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

Announcing the 2000 / 2001 North Valley YMCA World Tour! This exciting 'round the world tour (okay, 'round Southern California) began in October of 2000 and will continue right into June of 2001. And now, we are excited to announce this one-time, one-of-a-kind offer to purchase a T-shirt commemorating this incredible event! You can purchase one or more T-shirts in sizes ranging from Child's medium through Adult's XXX-Large! The following page shows the incredibly expensive and custom artwork will be included on the back of each T-shirt at no extra cost to you!

If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these shirts, please fill out the following form and bring it with your check, money-order or cash to the North Valley YMCA, care of Josie Rea. All T-shirts will be passed out at Camp Whittle Jan 5-7, 2001. If you are not attending Camp Whittle, you can pick up your T-shirt(s) at the YMCA following the event.

Name: _____

Tribe: _____

Child's Sizes:

Adult's Sizes:

Quantity

_____ Medium
_____ Large

Quantity

_____ Large
_____ X-Large
_____ XX-Large
_____ XXX-Large

Total Childrens' Shirts @ \$7.00 each _____

Total Adult's Shirts @ \$7.00 each _____

Total due to YMCA _____

*** Apache * Arapaho * Blackfeet * Cherokee ***

North Valley YMCA
Indian Guides and Princesses
2000/2001 World Tour

*** Chinook * Chippewa * Chumash * Comanche ***

October 5, 2000	Skate Night, Northridge, CA
November 11, 2000	Pilgrim Feast, Northridge, CA
December 3, 2000	Granada Hills Christmas Parade, Granada Hills, CA
January 5-7, 2001	Camp Whittle, Fawn Skin, CA
February 3, 2001	Bowling Night, Northridge, CA
March 16-18, 2001	Camp Fox, Catalina, CA
April	Nation Picnic, TBD
May	Sports Night, TBD
June 8-10, 2001	Family Campout, El Capitan State Beach Santa Barbara, CA

*** Navajo * Pueblo * Seminole * Shawnee * SiouxNorth ***

*** Iroquois * Mojave * Mohawk * Mochican ***