

RECEIVED

JUN 10 1999

PRAIRIE BAND
POTAWATOMI
ELECTION BOARD

Inside this Issue

- * Chairperson Report
- * National Indian News
- * Local Reservation News
- * Tribal Program News

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation
16277 Q Road
Mayetta, Kansas 66509-9114

Prairie Band of Potawatomi

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band of P

Billy Mills presentation on April 15, 1999. Over 300 were in attendance



Former Gold Medal Winner and Lakota Sioux tribal member, Billy Mills came to the Prairie Band of Potawatomi and spoke about cultural values and how it enabled him to fulfill a dream

BILLY MILLS TELLS OUR HOW TO RUN FOR SUCCESS

By Gary E. Mitchell
Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

Over 300 members of the Potawatomi community gathered on tax day, April 15, to hear Billy Mills deliver a presentation on his life, athletic accomplishments and some hurdles along the way. His message of never quitting on life or sports produced a positive reaction among the crowd.

Mills had an emotional, absorbing story to tell. First some history. Mills is the man responsible for one of the greatest Olympic upsets ever. In the 1964 Games, Mills won the 10,000 meter gold medal in an Olympic record time of 28:24.4. This was 46 seconds faster than his previous best.

During this presentation, Mills played a one minute taped broadcast and a film-clip of this magical moment.

Mills had been able to keep with the favorite and world record holder, Ron Clarke. Toward the end of the race, Clarke seemed to be in excellent position since neither Mills nor Tunisian Mohamed Gammoudi, running with Clarke, had ever broken 29 minutes; at the pace they were all running, Mills and Gammoudi were likely to fade at any moment.

Some jostling and shoving at one point broke up the lead pack and Mills dropped back seemingly out of contention. While Clarke and Gammoudi dueled out in front, Mills made a spectacular, unexpected surge on the homestretch and nipped Gammoudi by three yards and Clarke by another second still.

In that one glorious moment in front of 85,000 screaming spectators, history was made and the name Billy Mills became famous world-wide. The next year, to prove he wasn't a one-race runner, Mills broke Clarke's world record for the 10,000 meters.

Since the Olympics, Mills has become a successful businessman and is in great demand as a speaker. In addition, he has received three honorary doctorates and is the recipient of the Distinguished Services Citation Award, the highest honor that the University of Kansas and Alumni Association can bestow upon an individual to acknowledge achievement for the betterment of mankind.

In this presentation, Mills retraced his humble beginnings on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota where he witnessed all the symptoms of Indian childhood – racism, low self-esteem, teenage pregnancy, suicide, alcoholism and an extremely high drop-out rates in the school system – and sometimes those demons do not go away for some.

Throughout the presentation, Mills interlaced examples of how he overcame those childhood obstacles. During the big race, he could have quit when he was thrown off stride, but Mills continued on and eventually won with dignity, character and pride.

Mills talked about how Indian people must constantly deal with outside perceptions and overcome obstacles. For instance at Kansas University he was not allowed to join a fraternity because of his race. The fraternity brothers had the perception that Mills was unable to contribute anything to their organization.

When one of his parents died during this time-frame, his family was denied a \$500.00 loan from the local bank for burial expenses. The perception was that Indians could not repay a loan and the dead person was inconsequential.

Mills stressed that a perception is not right or wrong, but Indian people still need to deal with it.

He advocated for Indian people to use positive desires – in whatever field they go into – which translate into success, self-motivation, and victory. "Without positive desires," Mills said, "Indian youth of today are susceptible to pressures to join gangs. For example, he cited an area in East L.A. that has 615 Indian-related gangs.

Mills called them "lost souls."

As an alternative, Mills challenged the group to conduct themselves like warriors of old. He maintained that concept revolved around self-responsibility, the power of humility, to give respect over oneself and live life centering around spirituality. Mills stressed that we need to return to the values of the warrior in order to succeed in life.

Additionally, Mills said everyone should have a goal such as the "I have a dream" concept of Martin Luther King. Mills said the youth and their leaders should have such a dream.

As for him, Crazy Horse was his idol and he admired the efforts of activists who want to stop the Crazy Horse Malt Liquor beer from doing further business under that name. Mills said other ethnic races would not appreciate seeing their heroes used in this fashion.

Mills admired Charlene Teters, a Spokane Indian, who demonstrated against the Indian mascot at the University of Illinois. Mills said her message was that mascots do not honor the Indian people and is a form of institutional racism.

During the question and answer portion of the presentation, a woman asked how he feels about Indians owning casinos. "It is one of the few opportunities," said Mills in response, "for entrepreneurship."

"Casinos are another perception Indians have to deal with. Some call it bad. Indian gaming can fulfill a dream for Indian tribes," said Mills, "and can turn into an economic empowerment program."

In conclusion, Mills said gaming money can do two other things for tribes. They can push for a constitutional amendment that allows for Indian representation in Congress and it is also essential for tribes to contact the President about appointing an Indian judge to the highest court in the land – the Supreme Court. "Only then can we say we have equal opportunity," said Mills.

Mills left the Potawatomi Reservation shortly afterwards, but not before making a lasting impact on the people present with his over-all message.



Billy Mills




Billy Mills winning the



Billy Mills and Co

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1999
PRAIRIE BAND
POTAWATOMI
ELECTION BOARD



Chairperson Report

Mamie Rupnicki

Greetings once again from the Chairwoman's Corner. This is a short note to remind all Tribal members that our General Council meeting is at hand. The meeting will be held July 17, 1999. In order that we begin the General Council meeting on time, the Tribal Council has requested that the sign-in begin at 8:00 AM.

There are some major issues to be discussed and that we move in a timely fashion. We, the Tribal Council appreciate the Tribal membership input. Our future is most important for our children, grandchildren and the unborn. The here and now will soon be the past, we must make good decisions. With this in mind, we must look towards self-sufficiency as a tribe. We have to come to a balance in taking care of ourselves while not relieving the federal government of their responsibilities to us. Self-sufficiency will bring economic development into our community (by our tribal members) in addition to, increasing our self-esteem as individuals of this tribe. We must begin to take pride in ourselves, our tribe, the tribes accomplishments and our homes. We have much to be proud of.

I hope to see all of you at the General Council meeting. Once again Tribal Council thanks all members for the support that is given.

Notice of Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, July 17, 1999

Tribal Government Center
16281 Q Road
Mayetta, Kansas 66509

AGENDA

8:00 am -Registration - TRIBAL MEMBERS

9:00 am -Invocation

Call to Order
Setting of the Agenda

Chairperson Address

Financial Report

1. Casino Revenue Report
2. Casino Accelerated Payment Plan/Update
3. Tribal Council Budget (1999)

Secretaries Report

1. 1998 Minutes (July & October 1998 Mtgs.)
2. Constitution Amendment Report

Gaming Commission Report

Land Officers Report

Old Business

1. 5 Year Plan
2. Educational Incentive Plan

New Business

1. Wisconsin Satellite Office Request
2. Distribution Plan (Pie Definition)

Announcements

Adjournment

Proposed Amendments

The following are the proposed amendments to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Constitution. These amendments will be voted on in a Secretarial Election by mail-out ballot. All of the changes are shown on the constitutional draft, which you can request a copy from the Tribal Council, 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509. Phone: 785/966-2255

Amendment No. 1 - To change the name of the Tribe from "Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians" to "Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation" and to make other similar, appropriate changes to the constitution to reflect the Tribe's name change to Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation or Nation. (For example, change "Tribe" to "Nation" and "Band" to "Nation".)

>The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 1. The name change will make it clear that the Tribe has the legal status of a sovereign nation.

Amendment No. 2 - To amend Article I, Territory and Jurisdiction, to clarify the Tribe's jurisdictional power to include all authority and jurisdiction to the fullest extent possible.

>The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 2 to strengthen tribal sovereignty, which is constantly being threatened by state and local non-Indians governments. This change clarifies that the Tribe has all of the jurisdiction and authority to the full extent permitted by law, including jurisdiction over non-Indians on the Tribe's reservation. This will also make it clear to the federal government that the Tribe has jurisdiction over its reservation territory to administer environmental protection programs.

Amendment No. 3 - To amend Article III, Section 1(b), to require 25% Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian blood for tribal membership for all new members.

>Amendments No. 3 is recommended by Tribal Council to prevent the uncontrolled expansion of tribal membership. This amendment will help to avoid the substantial dilution of tribal services and benefits, which can result if tribal membership increases too rapidly. This amendment would not affect current tribal members. It would apply only to persons born after the date of the amendments.

Amendment No. 4 - To amend Article III, Section 4, to delete the requirement that the Tribe's membership ordinance be approved by the BIA.

>Amendment No. 4 is recommended by the Tribal Council because federal law does not require that the ordinance to be approved by the BIA, and the current requirements for approval is unnecessary.

Amendment No. 5 - To delete Article IV, Section 3.

>The Tribal Council recommends the deletion in Amendment No. 5, because this section is unnecessary. It is unnecessary because tribal sovereign powers are inherent powers. Tribal powers exist and will exist without the need for the constitution to state that they exist.

Amendment No. 6 - To amend Article V, Sections 1(b), 1(g), and 1(i) and add sections 1(s) through 1(v) to clarify the Tribal Council's powers.

>The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 6. Section 1(b) would require BIA approval of the Tribe's attorneys only as long as current law requires it. The proposed changes to Sections 1(g), 1(i) and 1(s) through 1(v) delete the constitution's reference to State jurisdiction and will help to strengthen tribal sovereignty. The change to Section 1(s) will make it clear that the Tribe can tax non-Indian businesses on the reservation.

Amendment No. 7 - To amend Article VII, Section 4, to clarify that the tribal Treasurer may make disbursements "by check or by other commercially appropriate means".

>The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 7. Under today's banking system, some tribal disbursements can more easily be made by wire or electronic transfers. This amendment would clarify that wire, electronic and other commercially appropriate money transfer methods are permitted. (Continued on page 8)

Regulatory News

Summer, 1999

Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

Page 3

Gaming Commission Report on Regulation

The Gaming Commission is providing this brief report on the mechanics of regulation for the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Casino. A longer version will be distributed at the General Council meeting in July or tribal members can request a copy by mail.

The purpose of regulation is to provide a statutory basis for the operation of gaming as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments. Furthermore, regulation is needed to shield the Tribe from organized crime and corrupting influences to ensure that the Tribe is the primary beneficiary of the gaming operation, and to ensure that gaming is conducted fairly and honestly by the operator and players.

The ownership and operation of casino gaming is subject to extensive state and local regulation, each of which has the authority to suspend or revoke licenses. As a condition of obtaining and maintaining a gaming license, the Casino must comply with the terms of the Compact.

The purpose of the Gaming Commission is to regulate all gaming activities or operations under Title 12, Potawatomi Law and Order Code; Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Tribal-State Compact. The Gaming Commission is comprised of five members. They are elected to four year staggered terms. The current Commission members are: Gary E. Mitchell, Chairman; Milton LaClair, Vice-Chairman; LaVeda Wahweotten, Secretary; Shawna Wabaunsee, Treasurer; and Calvin Evans, member.

The Commission is recognized as a political sub-division of the Tribe. The Commission is not subject to oversight control of the Tribal Council except as specifically required or allowed under the Code. The Gaming Commission has its own operating procedures. The approval granted to the Tribal Council over certain actions of the Commission only creates a check on certain powers.

The operations of the Commission are to be conducted solely on behalf of and for the sole benefit and interest of the Tribe. The Tribal Gaming Commission is clothed with all the privileges and immunities of the tribe, except as specifically limited by Title 12 or other tribal law, including sovereign immunity from suit in any state, federal or tribal court.

Under the Commission there are 12 Gaming Inspectors. At least one inspector is present in the gaming facility at all times. They have access to all areas in the Casino for the purpose of ensuring compliance with all governing directives. They report all gaming violations to the Gaming Commission.

In addition, there is a compliance department that reports directly to the Gaming Commission. They perform a qualitative and quantitative analysis of information on disclosure forms, notify applicant of missing information, and submit completed disclosure forms to regulatory agencies.

The Surveillance department in addition to the services provided to the casino works with the Tribal Gaming Commission. They record and log all daily activities throughout the casino and provide daily reports to the Gaming Commission.

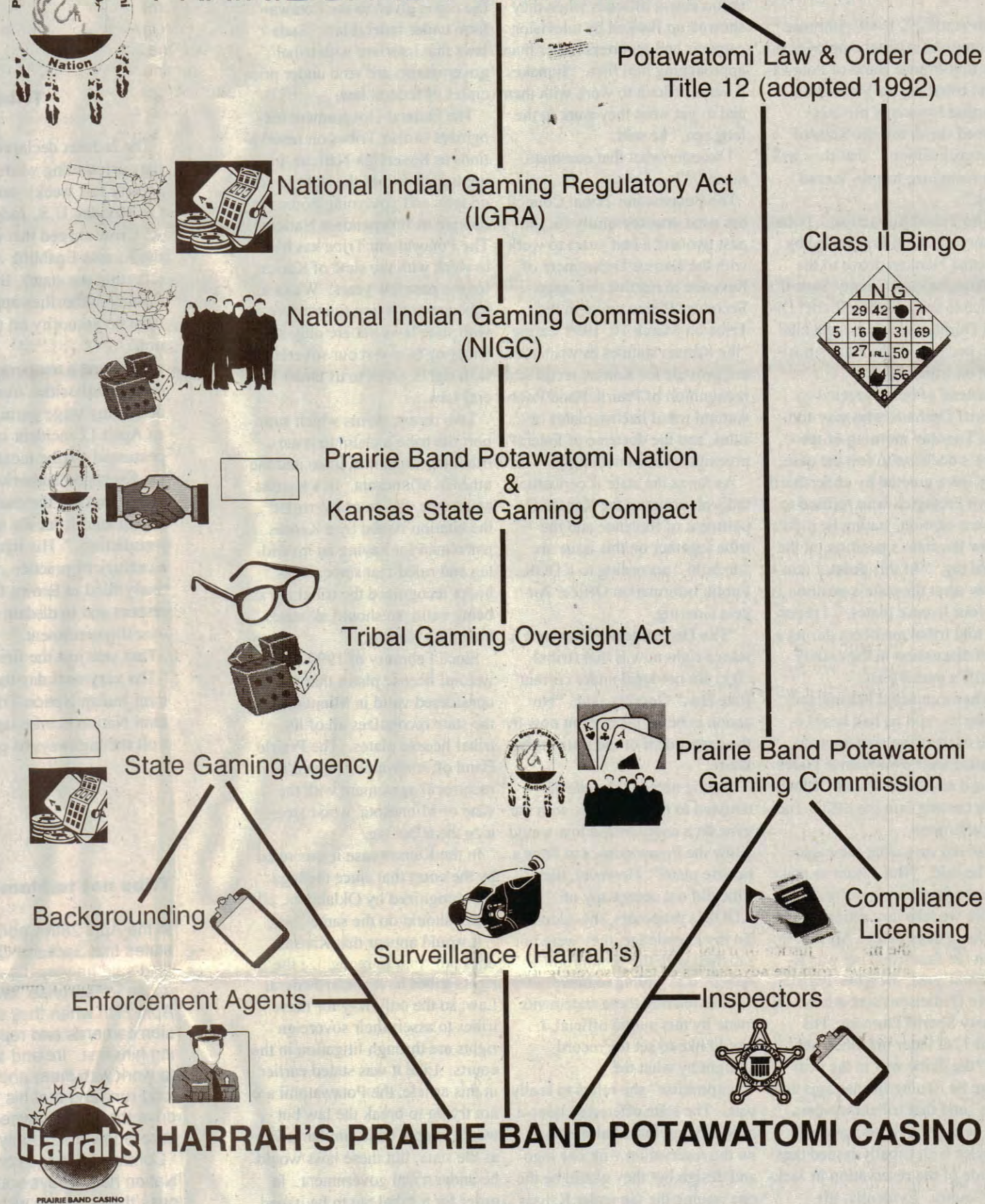
The Tribe, through gaming revenue, has not only improved the level of services provided to the reservation and its membership, but has also enhanced and developed entirely new services that once were not available.

The Casino has created over a thousand jobs, generating several millions in wages and revenue. The Tribe is the largest employer in Jackson County through its casino.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation can once again look optimistically to the future and to the preservation of a valued culture. This is the benefit and the impact of Indian Gaming on the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Reservation.



PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION



Tiers of Regulation

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988

In 1987, The U.S. Supreme Court recognized Indian gaming rights when it ruled states had no authority to regulate gaming on Indian land, if such gaming was permitted outside the reservation for any other purpose (California v Cabazon). Congress established the legal basis for this right when it passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act on October 17, 1988.

National Indian Gaming Commission

The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) is responsible for monitoring and regulating 198 tribes operating 310 gaming operations in 28 states. The NIGC is responsible for, among other things; 1) monitoring gaming operations on a continuing basis; 2) approving all contracts for the management of gaming operations by non-tribal parties; 3) conducting background investigations on individuals and entities with a financial interest in, or management responsibility of, a Class II or combined Class II/III gaming management contract; 4) approving all gaming related tribal ordinances; 5) reviewing background investigations of key gaming employees and primary management officials conducted by the tribes; 6) reviewing and conducting audits of the books and records of the gaming operations; and, 7) initiating

enforcement actions to help ensure the integrity of Indian gaming operations. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was amended in 1997 to permit the assessment of Class III gaming activities. The Commission's ability to collect fees was spread from Class II alone, to Class II and III.

Tribal-State Compact of 1995 (Public Law 100-497, 102 Stat. 2426)

This agreement authorizes Class III gaming and regulation on the Potawatomi reservation pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In the spirit of cooperation, the Tribe and the State agreed to carry out the terms of IGRA regarding any Class III gaming conducted on Indian lands.

Tribal Gaming Oversight Act

The Tribal Gaming Oversight Act, designated by Executive Order 95-177, established the State Gaming Agency as a part of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. The budget of the State Gaming Agency, the number and qualifications of employees of the state gaming agency and expenditures by the state gaming agency for expenses of dispute resolution pursuant to a tribal-state compact is subject to approval by the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. The act created an Executive Director who handles all the administration of the agency.

Kansas State Gaming Agency Background

The compacts provide for the State to establish the State Gaming Agency. The purpose of this agency is to carry out the duties of the State as set forth in state and federal law, as well as the Tribal-State Compacts. To this end the agency has five (5) enumerated goals which it uses to guide its actions in regulating and monitoring Native American Indian gaming: 1) To ensure the Native American Indian casino gaming in the State of Kansas is conducted in accordance with the Tribal-State Compacts, the Tribal Gaming Oversight Act and any other applicable state and federal laws. 2) To protect the citizens of the State of Kansas and the gaming public from criminal activity within the Native American Indian gaming arena. 3) To ensure accurate and complete information is provided to the different tribal gaming commissions for licensing purposes and to review all gaming license decisions to ensure compliance. 4) To conduct thorough background investigations on all gaming employees, management contractors, manufacturers and distributors seeking licensure at Native American gaming facilities located in the State of Kansas. 5) To investigate any alleged violations of the Tribal-State Compacts and the Tribal Gaming Oversight Act.

The State Gaming Agency budget is funded solely from the Indian tribes of northeast Kansas and not from taxpayers of the State of Kansas

Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS)

Internal controls, or good business practices, form the basis for effective minimum internal controls standards. Our internal control system is designed to reasonably assure that: 1) Assets are safeguarded; 2) Financial records are accurate and reliable; 3) Transactions are performed in accordance with the Tribe's general or specific authorization; 4) Access to assets is permitted only in accordance with the Tribe's specific authorization; 5) Recorded accountability for assets is compared with actual assets at frequent intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any discrepancies; 6) Functions, duties and responsibilities are appropriately segregated and performed in accordance with sound practices by competent, qualified personnel so that errors will be disclosed and corrected in a timely manner; 7) The efficiency of operations is increased; 8) Fraud is prevented or exposed; 9) The safety of employees and the public is enhanced; 10) Competency of staff and ability to comply with the stipulated policy and procedures is promoted thru training.

Surveillance

The Surveillance Department in addition to the services provided to the casino works with the Tribal Gaming Commission. They record and log all

daily activities throughout the casino. Surveillance officers are trained in procedures of each department in the casino. Officers duties never varies. Those duties include: 1) Protection of Property Assets; 2) Protection of Property Integrity; The integrity of the casino is, in large measures, the reputation of the facility and it's employees. Surveillance provides its services to all the other departments and to the customers impartially. Integrity also mean soundness and wholeness. 3) Operations; Operations is and around the cashier cage are obvious. That's where the largest aggregate of liquid assets is concentrated. That's why the controls are so strict regarding the flow of those assets both for the protection of the customer, employees, and the property. 4) Count Process; The count process is critical to the operation of the casino. This is an area that is most rigid in established controls, as this is where liquid assets are converted to the property accounting records. Everything that happens as a part of the count and the gathering of the funds to be counted is scrutinized closely from beginning to end. Surveillance is required to observe and all movement of cash, gaming chips, drop boxes, and drop buckets. We are, required by law, to report any irregularities that may occur. 5) Other Areas; Such areas as the Tribal Gaming Commission designates can be broadly defined as anything that happens, or may be expected to happen, or hopefully be prevented from happening.

Local Reservation News

Summer, 1999

Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

Page 4

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Tribe Tests State of Kansas Right to Deny Tribal Tags

By James Jackson

On April 27, 1999, Ambrose Thompson, a tribal employee put the first Prairie Band of Potawatomi tribal tag on Vice-Chair Vestina Nonken's privately owned car to test the State of Kansas position, "that they will not recognize tribally issued tags."

The Tribal Council and Tribal Attorney David Prager, led by Vestina Nonken drove to the Holton Jackson County Sheriff's office to see whether Sheriff Diana Durham would issue a citation because of the state's position on tribal tags.

Instead of being greeted by Sheriff Durham, who was notified Tuesday morning of the tribe's decision to test the case, they were greeted by undersheriff Steve Frederick who refused to issue a citation, stating he didn't know the state's position on the tribal tag. "At this point, I don't know what the state's position is on your license plates," Frederick told tribal members during a brief discussion in the county sheriff's parking lot.

When contacted beforehand, Frederick said he had heard a little of the tribe's attempts to legalize their own license plates but did not know Tribal Officers were coming into the office Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm not sure what their issue is," he said. "But I want to make sure we know what we're doing before we take any action."

Fifteen days before April 27th when the first tribal tag was issued and used, the tribal registrar (Dave Danielson) sent a letter to County Sheriff Durham. His April 12th letter informed her that "the Tribe will in the near future be issuing license tags and titles" and that tribal members will be driving these personal vehicles with tribally-issued tags outside of the reservation in Jackson County. Evidently, the County Sheriff never called Secretary Pierce or asked County Attorney Michael Ireland for an opinion.

Ireland said he was disappointed

the tribe chose to "surprise" law enforcement officials when they showed up flanked by television cameras and reporters rather than approaching him first. "It makes it very difficult to work with them and to get what they want in the long run," he said.

I wonder what that comment means???

The Potawatomi Tribal Council has tried unsuccessfully for the past two and a half years to work with the Kansas Department of Revenue to resolve this issue. Secretary Pierce wrote to the Tribe on March 10, 1999 stating "the Kansas statutes as written do not provide for Kansas reciprocal recognition of Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal license plates or titles, and the doctrine of federal preemption does not apply."

As far as the state is concerned, talks on bringing the Kansas Department of Revenue and the tribe together on this issue are "on hold," according to KDOR Public Information Officer Angela Goering.

"The Department of Revenue's stance right now is that (tribal tags) are not legal under current state law," Goering said. "No action is being taken right now by the department or the state legislature."

Goering noted "the state attempted to make inroads with the tribe on a compromise that would allow the Potawatomi's to have a license plate." However, the tribe did not accept any of KDOR's proposals, she added. To my knowledge, they were not satisfied with the "compromises" KDOR was willing to make.

After reading these statements made by this public official, I would like to set the record straight by what the "compromise" she refers to really was. The state offered to issue a specialty tag for tribal members on the reservation with our logo and design but they would be the one issuing the tag under Kansas law. They would not permit the tribe to do anything but design the tag. This was the "compromise" referred to in our local paper. This compromise is

just another tactic to infringe on the rights given to the Potawatomi under federal law. State laws that interfere with tribal governments are void under principles of federal law.

The Federal Government recognizes Indian Tribes on reservations as Sovereign Nations, giving Indian Tribes the right to set up laws and governing bodies to operate as Independent Nations. The Potawatomi Tribe has tried to work with the state of Kansas for the past few years. We as a tribe are not trying to interfere with state laws but are only attempting to assert our sovereignty with rights given to us under Federal Law.

Two recent events which support the tribe's claim to issue tribal tags, one in Kansas and the other in Minnesota. In a Kansas court case, the court overruled the citation issued by a Kansas patrolman for having an invalid tag and ruled that since Oklahoma recognized the tribal tag as being valid, so should all states, including Kansas.

Since February of 1999 Potawatomi license plates that are considered valid in Minnesota, as the state recognizes all of its tribal license plates. The Prairie Band of Potawatomi signed a reciprocal agreement with the state of Minnesota, who recognize the tribal tag.

In the Kansas case it was ruled by the court that since the tags are recognized by Oklahoma, all states should do the same.

It would appear that Kansas does not want to recognize the rights tribes have under Federal Law, so the only way for these tribes to assert their sovereign rights are through litigation in the courts. Like it was stated earlier in this article, the Potawatomi are not trying to break the law but would simply have similar laws as the state, but these laws would be under tribal government. In order for a tribal tag to be issued, members would still have to go through a process similar to the state to receive a tag and the member would have to reside on the reservation.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING About Potawatomi Tags

Tribes fight back

The Indians declared war on the surrounding white man's society last week - and won. On Monday U.S. Judge Sam A. Crow agreed that under the Kansas Enabling Act (creating the state), Brown County authorities appear to have no authority on the Kickapoo Indian Reservation.

He issued a temporary injunction restraining the county authorities from repossessing vehicles and delivering wage garnishment. The case stems from an April 12 incident in which a sheriff's deputy repossessed a tribe member's minivan without notifying Kickapoo authorities.

Crow agreed the enabling act "appears to exclude Indian land from the territorial boundaries and civil jurisdiction." His injunction put a kink in more than a century of practice, under which claims were routinely filed in Brown County District Court "without respect and in disdain for the tribe's sovereign right to self-government."

That was just the first shot.

The very next day the vice president of the Potawatomi Indian Nation Tribal Council affixed a Potawatomi Nation license tag to her car and went out to troll the highways to provoke a reaction from state

At long last, Native Americans are finding some measure of justice in American Courts.

authorities, since the Kansas Department of Revenue has no authority to recognize such a tag. So far the state hasn't bitten. The trolling results from a pair of recent court decisions - one in Kansas, the other in Minnesota - holding Indian tribal license tags legal. In the first case, the court said since Oklahoma recognized a tribal tag, all states must do likewise. In the second, a Minnesota court found a Potawatomi plate legal.

This is certain to cause various bureaucratic headaches for officialdom and perhaps even a few more court trials, but the trend is clear.

Native Americans are finally holding their own, and it's about time.

For more than a century and a half, the invading white society has pretty much done what it wanted with Indian land, Indian property, even Indians themselves.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is supposed to be the guardian of the various tribes under terms of the many 18th and 19th century treaties. But the BIA's incompetence is so extreme it remains a joke.

Now, with the aid of a few sympathetic courts and a re-examination of some original source documents, a few Indian entities are finally getting some measure of justice.

Source: Topeka Capital Journal
Saturday, May 1, 1999

Tribe not to blame for the "surprise"

In the April 28th Capital Journal, your article states that Jackson County Attorney Michael Ireland said he was disappointed the Potawatomi chose to "surprise" law enforcement officials on April 27th when they showed up flanked by television cameras and reporters rather than approaching him first. Ireland said "it makes it very difficult to work with them and to get what they want in the long run" and that his "suggestion is that they drive through Shawnee County at 80 m.p.h. I'm sure Shawnee County would be happy to oblige."

Contrary to these comments, the Potawatomi Nation has always sought to constructively discuss these issues with the state and the county. The Potawatomi have been discussing tribal tags and titles with the Kansas Department of Revenue since the summer of 1997. We met with former Secretary John LaFaver in June 1998 and explained the nation's legal position and the reasons for it. After another year of fruitless discussions, Secretary Pierce wrote to the nation on March 10 stating, "the Kansas statutes as written do not provide for Kansas reciprocal recognition of Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal license plates or titles, and the doctrine of federal preemption does not apply."

Fifteen days before April 27 when the first tribal tag was issued and used, the tribal vehicle registrar sent a letter to Jackson County Sheriff Durham. His April 12 letter informed her the "the nation will in the near future be issuing license tags and titles" and that tribal "members will be driving these personal vehicles with tribally-issued tags outside of the reservation in Jackson County." In the letter, the registrar suggested that the sheriff call Secretary Pierce or her attorney to form an opinion. If the county was surprised by all of this, it was through no fault of the Potawatomi. The Potawatomi have bent over backwards to cooperate with the state and county.

The real issue here is whether the state of Kansas can come to grips with the fact that some state laws are invalid because they are prohibited by the federal recognition of tribal sovereignty. State laws that interfere with tribal government

are void under principles of federal Indian law.

In the face of the state's opposition, the Potawatomi decided to exercise their sovereign right to issue tribal tags. It appears that the state has little respect or understanding for the sovereign rights of Indian people and that the courts will have to be the ones to educate them about tribal sovereignty. Litigation by the Indian nations is simply their reasonable reaction to state encroachments on tribal sovereignty, which have been going on for the past 150 years since the Potawatomi were driven from their homelands in the east by broken treaties, force of numbers, and unscrupulous land speculators. Under these circumstances, Mr. Ireland, who is the one who is being difficult.

David Prager, III,
Mayetta

County attorney writes on tag issue

In response to the letter written about the license tag issue and my "callous and stupid remark," perhaps the writer can understand how uncooperative and uncompromising the Potawatomi's were in showing up at the sheriff's office with television stations and the media to record their unwanted ticket.

They never bothered to contact my office of the sheriff's about what they wanted to accomplish. Had they done so, arrangements could have been made to cooperate with them to achieve the desired result without the "in your face" attitude exhibited by their actions. Please explain to me how this is "cooperation and compromise."

Whether or not the Potawatomi can display tribal tags and legally operate vehicles with those tags is an important question. But don't be offended when you take an "in your face" attitude and someone calls you on it, then makes you wait until it's done properly without either side trying to embarrass or show up the other. I would suggest that is the true spirit of cooperation and compromise you want. Wouldn't you.

Michael A. Ireland, Jackson County Attorney
Holton

Tribal Court Judges Participate in National Tribal Judicial Conference

The Honorable Dennis Reiling of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court participated in the National Tribal Judicial Conference from March 21-24, 1999, in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference,

which is hosted by the National American Indian Court Judges Association ("NAICJA") was "30 Years of Strengthening and Enhancing Tribal Judicial Systems Through Education." The conference honored NAICJA's

founding tribal judge members: the Honorable Betty Laverdure (Turtle Mountain Chipewewa), the Honorable Josephine D. Neuman (Confederated Tribes of the Salish and Kootenai Reservation), the Honorable Cranston Hawley (Confederated Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation) and the Honorable Virgil Kirk (Navajo).

Conference participants were updated on the activities of the Congressional Native American Caucus by Congressman Dale E. Kildee, the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Senators Daniel Inouye and Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the U.S. Justice

Department by Janet Reno, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs by Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Kevin Gover.

Conference participants received training in the substantive areas of Indian Housing Law, Child Support in Indian Country, Drug Court in Indian Country, the Indian Child Welfare and Safe Families Act, the Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocates

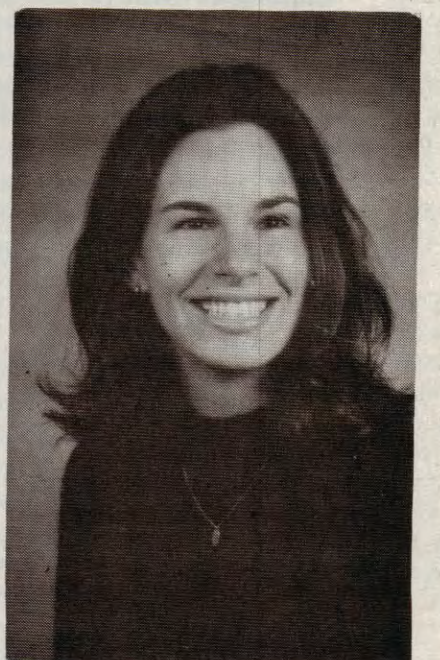
Program (CASA), and the Violence Against Women Act

(VAWA)

Over one hundred tribal judges, peacemakers, tribal attorneys, tribal court personnel, tribal council members, and others interested in the funding, operation, and enhancement of tribal justice systems attended the conference. Judge Reiling's participation in the Conference was part of NAICJA's national endeavor to support and enhance the operation of tribal justice systems and Judge Reiling's efforts to develop tribal staff skills through training and receipt of current information on laws and policies attempting to enhance or limit tribal sovereignty.



Dennis Reiling with United States Attorney-General Janet Reno



Nicole Lynn Fitzsimmons, Fayetteville, PA., has been awarded the Board of Governor's Scholarship at West Chester University, West Chester Pennsylvania.

Nicole is the daughter of Dale and Kim Fitzsimmons, Fayetteville, PA. She is the granddaughter of Jane Fitzsimmons, Fayetteville, PA, and the late Mark (Floyd) Fitzsimmons.

The award is a four-year scholarship given to a performing arts major with academic excellence, community involvement and leadership.

Nicole is an honor student at Chambersburg Area Senior High School where she is a member of the marching band, concert band, jazz band, steel band, glee club, bell choir, and performs in the pit orchestra for the drama department. She also performs with the Chambersburg Community Band, the Cumberland Valley Jazz Band, and the Capital Theater Band. At the high school Nicole is first chair as well as band secretary. She represents Chambersburg in All-County Band for the past four years and District Band this year. Nicole plays the alto, tenor, and bari saxophone, flute, clarinet, and piano. She will major in music this fall at West Chester University.

Tribal Program News

Summer, 1999

Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

Page 5

News from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Enrollment

By: Joe Hale

Hello everyone. Everybody wants to be a Potawatomi lately, I wonder why? The enrollment office has been very busy the last few months processing enrollment applications for membership into our great Nation. Those assigned to this task are Grace Wahwassuck, enrollment officer. Grace oversees the entire operation of the enrollment department on a daily basis. Besides her office duties, Grace must sign off on all official documents. T.J. Kitchommie is the clerk/receptionist for the department and assists wherever needed. Joe Hale is employed as a contract worker. Joe receives all applications for paper documentation, calculates the blood quantum using the 1940 census roll to establish descendency and total blood quantum. He must verify all other blood claims by the applicant. This verification consists of either a copy of that person's CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) from that particular tribe with the blood degree shown or it can be a certification of degree of Indian from that particular tribe with the tribal letterhead on it.

The review committee consists of Orlando P. Green, Alberta

Wamego, and Cecilia Jackson. This committee gets the final products from the enrollment staff. They review the applications to assure the paper process has been completed to determine the eligibility and to approve an application. The last stop for an application must go through the Prairie Band Tribal Council who pass a resolution to accept those applicants and become a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

As of this writing we have a total of 4,559 members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the applicants keep on coming. With this Nation progressing at an alarming rate the enrollment department is taking steps to screen all applications thoroughly to determine the eligibility of a person wanting to become a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

One positive change in the works is a constitutional amendment to require that all applicants must possess 1/4 Prairie Band Potawatomi to become a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, whereas as in the past it was 1/4 total Indian blood. Once the amendment is approved, it should limit the enrollment numbers and we can continue on and preserve our way of life. For us to

maintain as a separate entity, a tribe, a nation, we must realize that our grandparents and great grandparents blood will not carry on forever. What is an easy way to say "to marry into your own tribe" or another tribe, that is what is necessary for us to continue on as a nation of people.

All of those applicants who are applying for enrollment with the Prairie Band Potawatomi, please read the instructions carefully and submit all documents required listed on the application. If you are claiming blood from another tribe, you must provide the documentation. It is up to the applicant to sent in all paperwork and our staff will verify all paperwork submitted to our office. We will return all applications not completed and this of course will delay your request for membership.

The enrollment staff is working hard to upgrade the enrollment process and are working to correct errors we may have made and ask that you be patient when applying for enrollment with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Enrollment Office is open to all tribal members at anytime.

Office Number: 785-966-2962
Fax Number: 785-966-2986

Per Capita Update

By Doris Potts

We have made a commitment to keep you posted about what is happening in the per capita department so here I am, again, to present you with a few thoughts/facts from finance. We have just completed the entering of data for all of the minors' files. That was the most condensed information available so that is why we entered that first. Now begins the tedious task of entering adult files, which is pulling information from numerous sources. This will be a bit more complicated. Getting to the point of the matter—this is where I am desperately in need of your help.

A major problem in this department has been being able to read the information, which is sent in as address changes/updates. We simply can't read some of the information which is handwritten and this is time consuming because we have to stop and make phone calls or research the changes. So by just taking the time, on your part, to write clearly and give complete information you speeds up and makes our work a lot easier. We are trying to set up this database to eliminate a lot of the problems that we've had to iron out from the past two payments. Yes, we are still handling problems of the special assistance pay-

ment of 1997.

That brings to mind the next issue at hand and that is making sure that we have your correct social security number. From the 1997 special assistance payment, we are currently solving in-correct social security number issues which could have, if left unresolved, cost the Tribe \$50,000.00 in fines from the IRS. Good ole Phil Tatum has been taking care of this issue and he is now down to nineteen names which he still needs correct social security numbers for. Please fill out the W-9 form as it does serve a most useful purpose.

It will take some time for IRS to weight us down with our next penalty in this payment process! Quoted directly from our advisement letter from IRS, "If an account has an incorrect name or TIN, and you can't correct it, the law requires you to notify the payee (by sending a B Notice) that you will begin withholding at 31%. Reminder, use corrected information on future Forms 1099 you file." Just a thought, can you imagine getting your next per capita payment and it is minus 31%—not a pleasant thought.

In closing this article, we are still pondering the issue of distributing minors' checks to parents/guardians. Letters have been written to financial institutions, requesting suggestions and options in handling these minors' funds. The fact is, a major portion of parents handle their minors' funds in a most efficient way as to benefit the minor. But, many family members are still concerned about minors not benefiting from their per capita monies. When the Tribe starts mandating regulations for these checks, it puts the tribal government system into the social service aspect where the family is concerned. The economic welfare of the child should be the responsibility of the family and that is the view the Tribe strives to maintain. We are still needing social security numbers for the following tribal members. If you can help with social security numbers for the following people, please contact us at the toll free #877-715-6789.

Amber Renee Cox
Travis Shayne Darnall
Lupe Ramon Gamino, Jr.
Charles Harrison
Madaline M. Harrison
Patricia A. Harrison
Cheryl L. Jessepe
Mary Jo Jessepe
Donna Marie Kortbein
Donice M. L. Hoopaugh
Lori Ann Lang
Vernon Nanaeto
Ramona J. Ramirez
Lily Ann Rice
Brian F. Roberts
Billy Gene Smith
Nancy Jane Walsh
Jacqueline Dawn Watkins
William Joseph Williams



Photo submitted by Elizabeth Tye

Billy Mills meets Jane Puckkee, who recently turned 90 years old, after his recent speaking appearance on the Potawatomi Reservation.

Streambank Stabilization/Cedar Tree Revetment

By Greg Wold

Streambank Stabilization/Cedar Tree Revetment to Take Place on Crow and Big Soldier Creeks

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Planning Department and Office of Environmental Protection, Kansas State University, Royal Valley High School, and Haskell Indian Nations University will be working the week of March 22-26 on a streambank stabilization/cedar tree revetment project.

The project uses willow cuttings transplanted from another site on Tribal property as well as sycamore cuttings and cedar trees cut from pastures. The cedar trees will be anchored by cables on the banks down next to the creeks and placed in the stream so that the silt and sand that wash downstream and continues to erode off of the banks can be deposited in the branches causing a build up making them gently sloping once again.

The group also hopes to build some catfish habitat into the banks on Big Soldier Creek during that phase of the project. This project will serve several purposes. It will incorporate plantings of trees, employment of students, provide Tribal members with improved streambank conditions along Crow Creek and Big Soldier Creek (initially), and also provide Tribal members a place to harvest red elm, walnuts, and pecans, some of the trees selected for planting along the creeks.

Other trees selected are cottonwood, sycamore, willow, hackberry, and green ash. Shrubs

and bushes selected for planting are red twig dogwood, chokecherry, Nanking cherry, American plum and Golden currant.

Students involved in the project will come from both KSU and HINU. The Haskell students, Daniel and Ryan Dyer, are both Tribal members and are working towards completion of their bachelors degrees from Haskell. Noah Wahquahboshkuk and Mike Potts are the Royal Valley students who are college bound next year and will be working on the tree planting phase of the project. It is hoped that this work will provide them with the experience of working in the field and gently nudge them into one of the sciences.

The project, which we hope will serve as a demonstration project for other individuals and organizations, will address erosion and reforestation needs along the Creeks. Much of this problem has happened over the past 150 years and is a result of removal of the native vegetation (native prairie grasses and trees) and flood control work performed downstream after the 1951 flood. Eventually, we would like to include all streams in the watersheds within the exterior boundaries of Potawatomi Indian Country in projects such as this so that Big Soldier and the other Creeks can return to health. (It is also hoped that it will serve as inspiration for people involved in agriculture living outside the boundaries.)

This article was written in early March and since then the project has been nearly completed. What follows is an update on the

project. 5/12/99 The streambank stabilization project on Crow Creek and the tree planting work on Big Soldier Creek are nearly complete. The weather was ideal during the 2 weeks of March 22-26 and March 29, 30, 31-April 1 & 2. We had exceptional young people to help on the projects as well. There was much to be done and they all, without exception, worked hard to make the project a success. The first week, the cut cedar trees, willow and sycamore poles were placed with the aid of the college students. The second week, the trees were planted at both sites with the aid of the high school students.

Despite recent heavy rains, the cedars are holding, the willows have leafed out, and the little saplings are also leafing out. We had a lot of trees left over from the initial planting and they were given away during the Earth Week celebration. My thanks go out to Tim Ramirez, Roads and Bridges Director, Hardy Eyteeyan and Joe Shobney. Without them, we would still be down in the creek digging the holes for the willow and sycamore poles.

Special thanks also go out to the students who spent their Spring breaks working hard; to HINU (Bill Welton and Barb Corneliuss), KSU (Charlie Barden), and Royal Valley Faculties (Anita Evans); to the Great Woodsman for providing us with great weather, to my coworkers in the Planning Department for helping out and to everyone else who helped make this project a success.

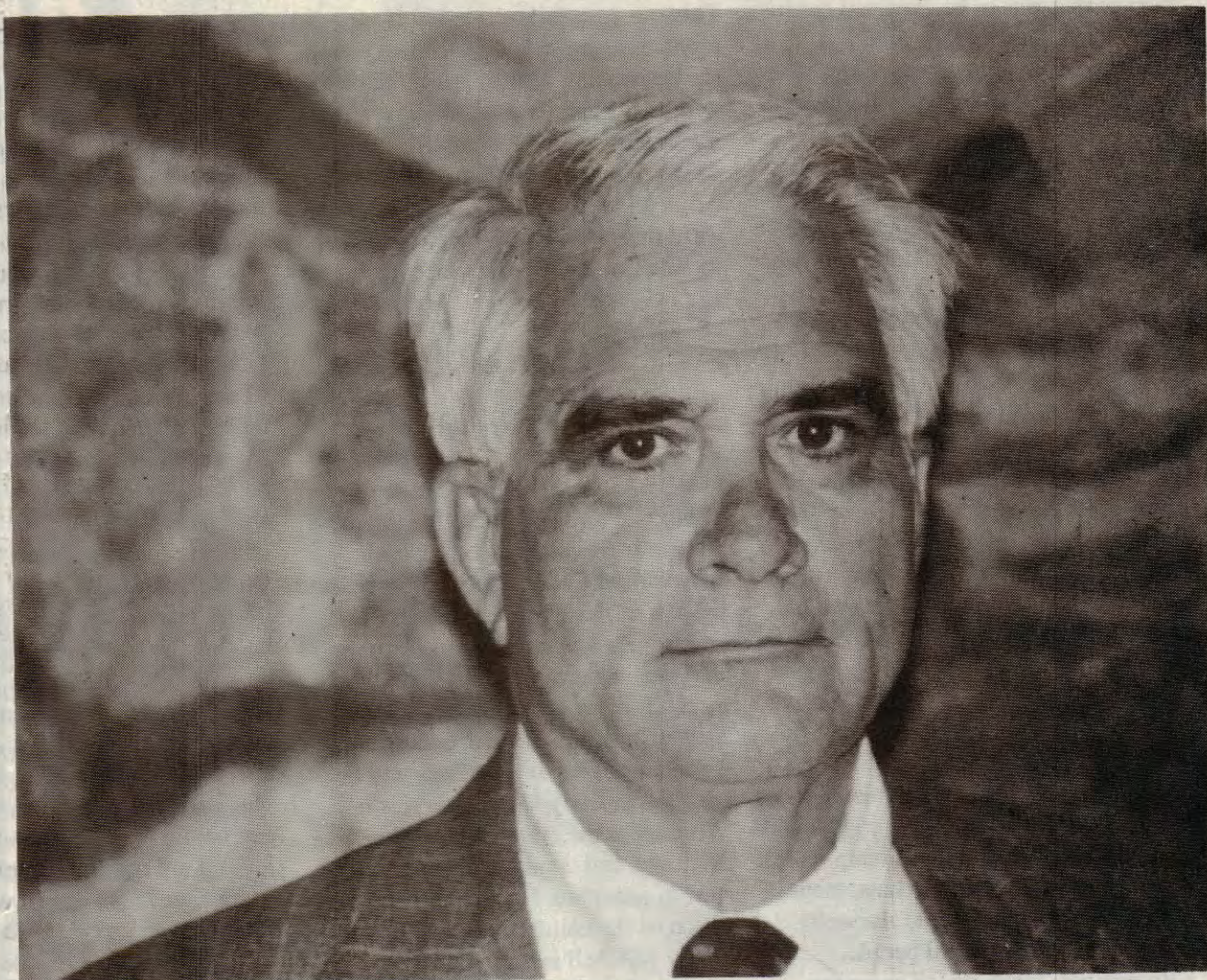


Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

Montie R. Deer, recently appointed Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission made a site visit to the Potawatomi Reservation on May 19. His visit was meant to introduce himself and to relay his expectations on regulation. Field Agent Steve York accompanied Deer. York's office is located in Tulsa and plans on making regular visits to Kansas.

Human Resource Report

BY DALE DELG, DIRECTOR

The Human Resources Department has been extremely busy the first quarter of 1999. So far this quarter I have interviewed 132 prospective employees and hired approximately 18 for our tribe. These jobs were either pre-existing positions or newly created positions to accommodate the Tribe's growing personnel needs. Our Tribe has been consistently expanding our work force since the Casino opening in January of 1998.

As usual, we exercise Indian preference in filing vacancies and preference is given to qualified Indian candidates in accordance with the Indian

Preference Act of 1934. We currently have 153 employees working for the Tribe, and less than 1% are non-Indians. Within the scope of Indian Preference, all candidates will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or other non-merit factors. The Tribe can now offer competitive starting wages, with full a benefit package. For more details on job openings, you can either call us direct at 785-966-3060/fax# 785-966-3062, or contact our web page at, www.flinthills.com/~pbphr, or just stop by the office. We will be moving offices sometime in late June, our new location will be in the old Bingo Hall on Q road.

Letters, Faxes, and E-Mail

Taxation Response

I have just read the Spring 1999 issue of the Potawatomi Newspaper. Your article concerning the Taxation issue on Indian Gaming was excellent and interesting.

Although, I have never taken an active part in the destiny of our tribe, I strongly support everyone who is working to improve the quality of life of our people.

The success of the casino has no doubt caused certain members of the Kansas political scene to react in a negative yet not unexpected manner toward Indian gaming. The same situation exists in Oklahoma and other states where economic progress has flourished. When the Potawatomi are successful the entire state benefits.

Most state governments do not want to recognize tribal sovereignty. For whatever reason, they feel the sovereignty issue is not real.

"The state is losing millions of dollars in revenue because of these Indian smokeshops, gasoline stations, and casinos."

This rallying cry is echoed in state government assemblies throughout the land. They should be reminded.

"One can not lose that which they have never had." Simply, the right of taxation on Indian land was never an inherent right of the state government.

There are state legislators and US Congressmen who openly oppose any rights Indian Nations enjoy with the federal government. Some are seeking to extinguish all treaty obligations of the federal government. I can only speculate they represent a very narrow minded and dangerous constituency. They will no doubt go to their graves kicking and screaming to "Tax those Indians profits"

My Mexican-Kickapoo grandmother used to have a phrase for such Anglo-Americans. It's difficult to translate exactly the interpretation. She basically states the aggressive greedy behavior of such people was to be expected because "that's just the way they are".

Unfortunately, my grandmother also states, such people will always be with us.

I guess my whole point is, don't give up. Regardless of the ever-present obstacles, remember our people have an unshakable belief in the divine guidance of our destiny.

All things come to the Potawatomi people as gifts from the Great Creator, even Harrah's. For more than a century we have suffered and we have endured. The tribe's current economic success is a blessing to our people by spiritual design.

We can be proud that our achievements were obtained with honesty and integrity. None of our gains were by theft, duress, extortion, misunderstood treaties or fraudulent documents. Nor, did we subjugate and trample the basic human rights of a weaker people to insure the success of our lifestyle.

Chairperson Rupnicki and members of the Tribal Council are to be commended for their foresight and leadership. We are extremely fortunate to have members who are committed to the well-being of our Potawatomi people.

Remember, when the "Kansas tax hounds" come barking for the profits of our tribe treat them with kindness and respect. Persons with such limited vision of mankind's reason for being are to be pitied.

Share your food and drink - Above all, pray for them.

-Robert Ketcheshawno, Shawnee, OK

Unity and Strength

Thank you for the editions of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi News and the Potawatomi Chapters in Time.

Both informative and important in these changing times and the celebration of a new century for our people in which we can again show our unity and our strength.

Respectfully,

-Robin S. Barnes - Milwaukee, WI

Wisconsin Concerns

I am a tribal member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi who resides in Wisconsin. I look forward to receiving the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Newspaper each quarter. As you know, there are many Prairie Band Potawatomi members residing in Wisconsin. The newspaper is a great communication tool that links the off reservation tribal members to our reservation and government. The newspaper staff does a good job in relating the local activities as well as how our tribe is involved nationally.

Since the Newspaper is a communication tool, I would like to share a perspective with the readers. Some of the tribal members from Wisconsin have been meeting to discuss how the Wisconsin membership can strengthen our connection to the parent tribe. Most of the Wisconsin members have been disconnected from the parent tribe for sometime, due to the geographical distance. We have met with Tribal Council members to discuss future services to the members in Wisconsin. We also discussed how the tribal members in Wisconsin can specifically help to strengthen the Tribe.

In our many discussions in Wisconsin, it has become apparent that there is a dire need for health insurance assistance for tribal members who are elderly or for the very young. It is in the hope that the Prairie Band of Potawatomi will be able to provide this assistance to tribal members on and off the reservation. This is a very large task, but if we work together to provide for our own people, the outcome, a healthy nation of people, will be far greater than the time and effort it will take to accomplish the endeavor. It is my hope that this letter will lead to some thought and action toward this end. I look forward to attending the General Council meeting on July 17, 1999.

Sincerely,

-Yvette Lokotz, Poynette, WI

Child Care letter

The Early Childhood Education Center would like to thank the following programs for their continued support:

The Tribal Council for their continued support of the Early Childhood Programs. The center currently enrolls sixty-six students in Child Care, Part C Infant/Toddler services, Head Start and Early Childhood Special Education. Twelve children and families will be enrolled in Early Head Start this fall.

Parents of the children that attend the programs and continue to support the staff in providing for the care and education of the children here at the center.

Gary Mitchell and James Jackson for the newspaper that provides communication and important information to all tribal members.

Buffalo program for the buffalo hide for the classrooms and the buffalo field trips.

Maintenance Department for their continued upkeep of our building and grounds.

Human Resources for their assistance in personnel matters.

Road and Bridge Department for their assistance with our transportation need

such as gravel on student roads and continued maintenance on our vehicles.

Fire Station for there ongoing help with fire safety in the building.

Police Department for the safe roadways that our travel on daily.

Seniors for their knowledge and sharing.

Language Program elders who continue to share their language with the staff and students.

Indian Health Clinic and Community Health Representatives for their help with our health fair and other health related needs.

Tribal office support staff that helps with the fiscal and other needs of the Early Childhood programs.

Policy Council and Interagency Coordinating Council for their help with the ongoing planning and implementation of services for children of the Potawatomi Reservation.

Education Department for supporting staff development and education.

Environmental Protection Agency for providing on-site environmental education in the classrooms.

We Ta Se for help in family activities such as pow wows.

Royal Valley Indian Club for providing child care during Traditional Parenting classes.

Johnson O'Malley for purchasing books for the children.

Traditional parenting presenters for sharing their knowledge and experience.

A special thank you to all members of our community for their support in helping make our program the wonderful place that it is for children, families and staff.

-Jackie Mitchell, Mayetta, KS

Educational Concerns

I am pleased to see our Tribal Newsletter and feel that "our" tribal revenues need to be spent more wisely.

As a former finance department employee and a concerned tribal member, I was continually upset to see how foolishly monies were spent. It is a great thing to see that we can now be informed about issues concerning the tribe. We as tribal members do not see how each tribal program spends "our" monies, whether it may be BIA grants or supplemental funds from gaming revenues. I feel that we need to be more focused on our future generations and those to come. Our education is a main factor that needs more financial help!

I am currently a full time student in college and an enrolled tribal member. First of all, I would like to thank Sharon McLane for her efforts and think that she has been very helpful in seeking my college education. Thank you Sharon! On the other hand, I feel that not enough of our monies are spent to help out our people that are wanting to further their education, not to Sharon's fault but to those Tribal Council members that limit education revenues. Not enough emphasis is put into our education! Our people need to realize how easily our youth can be discouraged from going to college. I am continually discouraged when I see tribal employees making high salaries with no college degree to back them up and sometime non-tribal members at that. What is this telling our youth? Don't worry about education when you can work for the Tribe with no education and make good money. Is this what we want our children to know?

As I said once before I was a tribal employee working in our finance department and I am witness to how our monies are being spent. For example, right after we had our last election one of our new Tribal Council Members made it mandatory for all of his employees to attend a maps reading workshop in Las

Vegas, Nevada. Between the four of them this trip was roughly around \$8,000.00 for airfare, rooms, workshop fees & stipend, for only four days of training. I am expected to pay tuition, books, incidentals, with two grants I receive. The first is a BIA grant of \$1,200.00 and the second is a 20% grant of \$750.00 and this money is not given to all of our tribal members because it is so limited to how many individuals that meet requirements and fit guidelines to receive the grants. This is what I am expected to work with during a semester. A semester consists of an estimated 3 1/2 months to 4 months. As you can see there is no comparison. Those tribal employees whom went for training in actuality received more money than I do while attending college. Where are our priorities? I would also like to say that this is just one of many incidents that occur in our Tribal Government.

I was truly excited to see that Jackie Mitchell, Director of Child Care and Headstart program is working with her employees to receive an associates degree. This type of encouragement is needed by all Directors that work for the Tribe. The Directors need to quit spending money on foolish trips and training seminars that don't amount to nothing. If a vacation is needed, then pay for it out of your own pocket!

During my efforts to further my education, Kickapoo Nation has helped me with school thru their Adult Ed. Fund, which is under the direction of Dr. Dennis Arnold. At this time I would like to say, thank you Dr. Arnold and Kickapoos! Not that I do not appreciate what my tribe does for me, but in reality it is not enough. In fact, the Kickapoo program has helped out more than my own tribe. Unfortunately the Kickapoo program is out of revenue and may not be funded again.

I hope this is an eye opener and that we can change this problem. For the benefit for our future, we as a Tribe need educated individuals on Tribal Council. Remember, we are no longer dealing with nickels and dimes and need people on Council who can run our Government wisely!

With this in mind, hopefully matters concerning our education can be addressed in the future. Again I say, not enough emphasis is put into our education!

Thank you.

-Jona L. Potts-Rupnicki, Mayetta, KS

Likes Testing Program

I am hoping you will receive this letter in time to print it in the upcoming edition of the tribal newspaper. I recently applied for a position with the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation. I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride in our Human Resources Department. I was given a typing test, a spelling and punctuation test, as well as an office knowledge test. I was pleasantly surprised by the testing practice, but proud as well. The only time I have ever been tested for a job is with the Civil Service when I worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Topeka, KS. This type of testing ensures the Potawatomi Nation will hire competent, professional employees for our Tribe.

Another tribe feels it owns the bragging rights for being the "most progressive Tribe in Kansas" - I feel we own them for being the most business-oriented and professional. I am so proud to be a member of the Potawatomi Nation (and the per-cap ain't bad either!)

Sincerely,

-Carol A. Wahwasuck, Horton, KS

Thank You Letter

I would like to thank you both for printing the article about my company, C.W. Construction Services & Materials, Inc. I received the Prairie Band of Potawatomi News yesterday. The article made Mom very happy.

Even though I do not get home very often, it is nice to know that I have not been forgotten. I appreciate all press and acknowledgment and again thank you both.

Sincerely,

-Cecil Walker, Longwood, FL



CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR NAME

RETURN TO:

**Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indian Tribe
Attention: Finance/Per Capita Division
16277 Q Road
Mayetta, Kansas 66509**

LastName _____

First Name _____

MI _____

Maiden Name _____

Other Names Used _____

Current Address _____

City, State, & Zip _____

Social Security # _____

Birthdate _____

PBP Tribal Enrollment # _____

Home Phone Number _____

Work Phone Number _____

This form can be faxed in to 785-966-2462 or 2144. Our toll free number is 877-715-6789 and our local number is 785-966-2848. Currently that line is quite busy, so be patient and keep trying to phone if you have per capita questions.

Rupnicki selected as President of Haskell Indian Nations University Board of Regents

Mamie Rupnicki was selected as the President of the Haskell Indian Nations University Board of Regents during the 1999 May board meeting. The members of the Board of Regents felt strongly that their selection to fill this position would be a continuance of the work thus far achieved and also provide strong leadership for the transition into the new millennium for Haskell. Congratulations Mamie!

An aerial view of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Casino (photo by Midwest Photography, Inc. Dearborn, MO)

The casino is a \$37 million dollar project of the Potawatomi Tribe. It encompasses 63,000 square feet featuring 703 slot machines, 35 table games (blackjack, poker, roulette and craps, Let-it-Ride Bonus and Caribbean Stud), a 350 seat bingo hall, Fresh Market Square Buffet, Prairie Pub, and gift shop. Adjoining the facility is a 100-room hotel. There were 1.3 million visitors to the casino in 1998.

Over \$7 million benefited local government by this increased economic activity. \$3.8 million went to the State of Kansas and \$3.2 million annually to the Federal Government. In addition, the 1998 vendor purchases were \$30 million (of which \$6.2 million was spent in Kansas).

The casino has approximately 1,045 workers, 177 of which are Potawatomi, Indian or married to tribal members. The annual payroll is \$23 million a year.

The casino is managed by Harrah's Kansas Casino Corporation, a subsidiary of Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. It is located in the southeastern quadrant of the Potawatomi Reservation at the junction of Highway 75 and Road 150. The casino is approximately 15 miles north of Topeka, KS.



BIA Amending Land Into Trust Policies

Interior Department to Streamline Policies for Taking Land into Trust for Indians

(Washington D.C.)

The Department of the Interior is proposing to amend the federal regulations used in determining whether to take land into trust on behalf of Indians.

The proposed amendments will be published in the Federal Register on Monday, April 12. Their publication will open up a 90-day period of public comment.

Historically, tribal ownership of lands set aside as Indian reservations was seriously eroded by the federal government's allotment policies in the late 19th century. Recognizing the loss of tribal lands had resulted in serious degradation of the social welfare and economic opportunity for Indian people, Congress in 1934 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of Indians. Since that time, however, only approximately 8 percent of the lands

lost through allotment have been reacquired. The overwhelming majority of applications to take land into trust are for lands located within the boundaries of Indian reservations and involve small parcels of land, on average about 30 acres.

Federal regulations governing the process by which the Secretary of the Interior decides whether to take land into trust for Indians were first published in 1980 (25 C.F.R. Part 151). The department now proposes to amend the Part 151 regulations to provide tribes and their non-Indian neighbors with a clearer understanding of how the department reviews requests to take land into trust.

"In restructuring the regulations, we believe that the decision-making process will better reflect the present-day needs and concerns of Indian tribes and surrounding non-Indian communities," Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt said.

The proposed revisions underscore clear differences in policy regarding the need to reacquire land in trust on reservations versus trust

land off reservation.

—On reservation: The policy of the Department is to assist tribes in the reacquisition of land within reservation boundaries. To accomplish this, the process by which land may be returned to trust status has been streamlined and there is a strong presumption established in favor of the applicant.

—Off reservation: The Department is committed to addressing the impact on non-Indian communities affected by proposed acquisitions of off-reservations lands. Jurisdictional, economic, zoning and other related concerns must be adequately resolved within an application to take off-reservation land into trust under the new proposed regulations before the Department considered acting favorably on the request.

In addition, the proposed regulations clarify how the Department will address a number of more specialized issues related to taking land into trust. For example, the proposed amendments to part 151 delineate the procedure by which the Department will process "mandatory

acceptances of title." Mandatory acceptances of title are trust acquisition where Congress, by explicit direction in statute, requires the Secretary to take lands into trust for Indians through the administrative process.

Finally, the proposed regulations address the unique difficulties encountered by tribes that do not have a reservation. New propositions are included that set out a process using Tribal Land Acquisition Areas approved by the Secretary to give tribes without reservations access to same policy benefits within the new regulations for on reservation trust acquisitions.

After the regulations are published, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Gover plans a series of regional meetings with tribes and other outreach opportunities during the public comment period. Information on his activities can be obtained through Nedra Darling in the Bureau of Indian Affairs at 202-219-4150.

Information materials on the proposed regulations are available on the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs Web sites.

Investors test Indian housing market

By Philip Brasher
Associated Press

Washington — Nowhere is good housing more in short supply than on the nation's Indian reservations. Banks and other private investors have been reluctant to help

because of the difficulty in foreclosing on Indian property and the political turmoil on some reservations.

But now a major investment firm, Raymond James Inc. of St. Petersburg, Fla., announced recently that it would sink at least \$20 million into reservation housing projects,

starting with the Red Lake and White Earth reservations in Minnesota and the Menominee reservation in Wisconsin. Projects in other states are in the works.

Indian housing advocates hope this is the start of a major private investment on reservations, where there is a shortage of up to 200,000 homes and apartments.

"The fact that they (Raymond James officials) want to brag about the work they are doing in Indian country is phenomenal," said Chris Boesen, executive director of the National Indian Housing Council. "If businesses were afraid of the business they were doing in Indian country, they wouldn't come out and brag about it."

The investment fund will finance 50 new

homes on the Red Lake reservation, 28 at White Earth and 19 at Menominee.

"It's real difficult on the reservation to get any kind of private investment," said Kaare Haadeland, the tribal housing director at White Earth. His tribe has as many as 170 families waiting for homes at any one time. Construction on the new houses is to start in June.

Another 85 to 90 families are waiting for housing on the Menominee reservation. Many are now living doubled up with other families. The new three-bedroom, two-bath houses will rent for \$195 to \$230 a month. After 15 months, the families will have an option to buy them.

"It's a new area for us. We need to take advantage of it," said John Seignemartin, director of the Menominee tribal housing department.

Raymond James is putting up \$1.1 million of the project's \$1.6 million cost. The rest is coming from federal grants that the tribe receives.

The key to the investment fund is a tax credit that Congress enacted in 1986 to encourage the construction of public housing. Banks and other businesses that invest in housing funds such as Raymond James receive the valuable tax credits in lieu of interest or dividends. The tax credits can then be used to cut the investor's overall tax liability.

Each state has a limited allocation of such credits, so competition among investors can be stiff. The tax credit has become a major way of funding public housing na-

tionwide, but it "has essentially bypassed Indian country for years," said David Bland, a housing consultant in St. Paul, Minn., who arranged the deals with Raymond James.

"We have to be innovative in dealing with Indian housing. ... This is another possibility that we ought to pursue with an expectation that it could be beneficial to our reservations," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-SD.

The tax-credit funds promise attractive returns. Investors in Raymond James' new Indian fund can expect to make 7 percent to 7.5 percent a year after taxes after taxes, said Ron Diner, president of Raymond

James Tax Credit funds. Most of the fund's investors are likely to be banks, because the money they put in would count toward meeting government requirements that they would invest in poor communities.

Over the years, Raymond James has invested \$300 million into non-Indian housing projects but until now has put nothing into reservation housing.

Raymond James was willing to take risks that other banks and investment firms weren't, said Bland. Raymond James will own a majority interest in the projects but can't foreclose on the land because it is held in trust for the tribe by the federal government.

Photo submitted by
Mamie Rupnicki

**Pow-Wow Days
In
The 1970s**



Miscellaneous News

Summer, 1999

Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

Page 8

Earth Day Celebration

The first Earth Day in 1970 rallied over 20 million Americans from around the country and on college campuses to get involved in environmental "teach-ins." Conceptualized by Gaylord Nelson and organized by Denis Hayes, Earth Day events featured the largest grassroots mobilization in US history. Out of these events emerged what has come to be known as the environmental movement and the first environmental legislation - the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

For the 20th anniversary in 1990, Denis Hayes again led the effort and more than 200 million people in 141 countries participated worldwide. Due in large part to the efforts of hundreds of local organizers, Earth Day is now an anticipated annual event in April.

The Tribal Council, marked the day of Saturday April 24, 1999 as the day, which the community will recognize as this years Earth Day '99. The Prairie Band of Potawatomi reservation community and tribal departments joined together to volunteer their time to making the Earth Day celebration a successful one.

"It's not just a day, It's a way of life" was the theme for the reser-

vation communities participation in celebrating the National event.

A week long collection of material was scheduled for the days of Tuesday 4/20/99 through Friday 4/23/99, and fliers were mailed out to residents and posted in office buildings on the reservation.

Tuesday 4/20/99 was dedicated to collecting scrap metal around the reservation. Approximately 4 truckloads of material were collected and disposed of at a scrap metal yard in the City of Emmett.

Wednesday 4/21/99 was dedicated to collecting unwanted furniture. A 40 cubic yard container was used in disposing of the unwanted material. The containers were stationed in the first and second cluster areas.

Thursday 4/22/99, was dedicated to collecting unwanted white goods (appliances), which approximately five dump truck loads were collected and disposed at the salvage facility located in the city of Emmett.

Friday 4/23/99 was dedicated to collecting unwanted tires, approximately six dump truck loads were piled temporary at the ball field parking lot, located in the third cluster. When the weather clears up the tires will be moved to the

C & D landfill for storage, for future constructional projects to be planned by the Environmental Planning Department.

Saturday 4/24/99 was dedicated to the recognition of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Community Earth Day '99 Celebration. The day started with the registration for the predictor's walk/run, which participants had to guess the time it would take them to get from the Prairie Peoples Park to the Fire Station, a total distance of three miles. The predictor's walk/run had a turn out of thirty participants, who all completed the course between 41 minutes and an hour and a half. Raymohd Nioce came in first for male participants, with a difference of 2 minutes. Hedy Noland came in first for the female participants, with a difference of 6 minutes. Ribbons were given for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and participants ribbons to everyone for the event.

The day was concluded with a cook out and door prizes were drawn. The Earth Day '99 celebration was a successful one and hope that we, the reservation community can build on to make future celebrations as or more successful for years to come.

PRAIRIE BAND OF POTAWATOMI NATION FILE SUIT

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court of Kansas today. The complaint seeks to enjoin the Kansas Department of Revenue from imposing state motor fuel taxes with regard to the Nation's retail gas station, which will be open soon at its casino on 150 Road near Mayetta, Kansas.

The Potawatomi Nation already imposes its own tribal motor fuel tax. Under tribal tax law, tribal fuel taxes are used by our government to construct and maintain roads, bridges and rights-of-way on or near the Reservation. The imposition of Kansas fuel taxes on fuel sold on the Reservation would impair our sovereign right of self-government. The resulting double taxation impairs our ability to impose tribal taxes and impairs our ability to fund our government.

Kansas was admitted to the Union in 1861 with the express condition that the rights of Indians not be impaired. (Act for Admission, Sec. 1) The state motor fuel tax impairs Indian rights and breaks this promise that was made by the State to us more than 100 years ago. These state motor fuel taxes also violate the U. S. Constitution, which protects the right of Indians to maintain their own sovereign governments.

The Potawatomi Nation is hopeful that the courts will understand the problems created by state taxes and will prevent these state motor fuel taxes from being imposed. We are also hopeful that the State of Kansas at some point will come to understand that its insistence on strictly applying state law violates our federally-protected right to finance and operate our own government.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Mamie Rupnicki, Tribal Chairperson at 785-966-2255. This was released on May 14, 1999. - David Prager, III

For Native Americans, a louder political voice Medical care, education, law enforcement among issues being promoted on the Hill

WASHINGTON - Medical care is so bad on his reservation, Montana Blackfoot George Horse Capture Jr. says, that a friend had to wait three years to find out his constant stomach pains were caused by cancer. By the time his friend went to a doctor outside the reservation for the diagnosis, the cancer was terminal, Horse Capture says.

Horse Capture and more than 400 other Native Americans traveled from around the nation to the west steps of the Capitol this week to protest what they say is continued poor federal spending on medical care, education and law enforcement on tribal lands. Native Americans are also angered that legislation has popped up in Congress that could erode the ability of tribes to govern their own reservations and make money through ventures such as gambling.

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., the only Native American serving in Congress, says the National Congress of American Indians rally shows that once-marginalized Indians are now flexing political muscle. Gambling and other economic activities on Indian lands have also given some tribes the money to get involved in politics, he says.

After the rally, group members planned to pace the halls of Congress, urging lawmakers to turn back legislation that may harm the interests of Native Americans. They are asking lawmakers to honor Native American treaties - many of which date back more than a century - that promise the government will respect Native Americans rights.

"The corporate boardrooms and the law degrees are the new way for us to protect ourselves," Campbell said at the rally.

The nation's Native Americans make up less than 1% of the U.S. population. But unemployment on some reservations hovers well above the national average at almost 50% and social problems such as alcoholism and high infant mortality are rampant.

But Native Americans are also becoming more concerned by legislation in Congress and state gov-

ernments that may erode their sovereignty rights.

Perry Beaver, principal chief of the Muscogee Creek Nation near Okmulgee, Okla., accuses his state of trying to get the power to administer wills on tribal lands, something that is now handled by tribal governments. Oklahoma officials maintain the change is needed because tribal governments have not been quick and efficient in settling wills.

Although federal and state lawmakers have said legislation targeted at Native Americans is designed to make positive changes on reservation, Indian officials are suspicious. They accuse Congress and states of trying to steal their rights just at a time when Indians are trying to wield real political and economic power.

According to National Congress of American Indians officials:

4Legislation is included in the fiscal 1999 supplemental spending bill that will likely make it more difficult for American Indian tribes to settle disputes with states over gambling issues. The National Gambling Impact Study Commission next month is also scheduled to give a report to Congress that Native American officials said may be biased against gambling on American Indian reservations, opening the way for restrictive legislations, the group claimed.

4There have been calls in Congress to levy federal taxes on the revenue of tribal governments, which could hamper the ability of tribes to provide much-needed services to their members.

4Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., this year will introduce legislation to allow state government officials to go on tribal land to collect taxes owed on cigarette and fuel sales to non-tribe members. Indian tribes have said this legislation would violate their sovereignty.

"They are not looking for a handout."

Printed with permission USA Today



Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

Head Start Program at Gage Park, Spring, 1999.

Proposed Amendments (Continued from page 2)

Amendment No. 8 - To amend Article III, Section 4, to delete the requirement that the tribal Treasurer's surety bond be approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

> The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 8. BIA approval of the bond is an unnecessary intrusion on tribal sovereignty. The surety bond for the Treasurer will still be required.

Amendment No. 9 - To amend Article VIII, Sec. 1, to increase the time from 10 to 30 days for the Tribal Council to give notice of the General Council annual meetings and special General Council meetings.

> The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 9 to allow more time for the tribal members to plan to attend General Council meetings.

Amendment No 10 - To amend Article VIII, Sec. 1, to require that the annual General Council meeting precede the regular Tribal Council election by at least two weeks.

> The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 10. It will enable the Tribal Council members who have served up to that time to preside and answer questions at the General Council meeting.

Amendment No. 11 - To amend Article X, Sec. 1(a), to require a quorum for the General Council to vote to fill a Tribal Council vacancy.

> The Tribal Council recommends Amendments No. 11. The current constitution does not require a quorum. Filling a Tribal Council vacancy is an important matter, and the Tribal Council believes a General Council quorum should be required to do this.

Amendment No. 12 - To amend the Bylaws, Article I, to state that the Tribal Council may propose bylaws and amendments to the bylaws, subject to General Council ratification.

> The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 12.

Amendment No. 13 - To revise the constitution to make several minor editorial changes which include:

(a) Changing the name of the "Constitution and By Law" to simply the "Constitution".

> The Tribal Council recommends these minor editorial changes because the Tribe is not a fraternal organization and the word "by-laws" is not appropriate for a sovereign nation.

(b) Making several other minor editorial changes to:

the Preamble (lines 1 and 3)

Article II, Section 3 (line 3)

Article III, Section 3 (line 5)

Article V, Section 1 (r) (line 2)

Article VI, Section 2 (line 4)

Article VI, Section 4 (lines 1-2)

Article VIII, Section 2 (line 5) and Section 4 (lines 1-2)

Article IX, Section 1 (line 6)

Article XII (lines 2 and 12)

Article VIII (lines 9 and 12)

> The Tribal Council recommends Amendment No. 13.



Photo submitted by Mamie Rupnicki

Liza Bear

Potawatomi Language Scholar's College

July 12, 1999 – July 24, 1999
Haskell Indian Nations University
Lawrence, Kansas

The Scholar's College is a summer language program designed to develop new speakers and teachers of the Potawatomi language. College sessions teach students basic conversational Potawatomi, grammar, writing and teaching methods. Students who complete the program will be awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their efforts.

The length of the conference has been reduced this year to allow for adequate travel time to this year's Potawatomi Gathering which will be hosted by the Pokagon Band July 29-August 1st. We will continue our language discussions during the gathering.

There is travel assistance and small honorariums available for elder language speakers interested in participating in this year's language college. Scholarships covering travel to and from the Potawatomi Language Scholar's College and room and board are also available for two students from each of the following Potawatomi communities: Hannaville, Forest County, Prairie Band, Citizen Band, Pokagon Band and the Huron Band. Those scholars who wish to be considered for a scholarship should fill out and return the Scholarship Form immediately.

If you do not come on a scholarship you will need to provide for your own travel, meals and lodging. Students attending the Scholar's College will reside in campus housing which is available to all participants at

a very reasonable cost. Once you are enrolled in the college, we will send you travel information, as well as information on how to sign up for campus housing and a meal plan.

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. If you plan to attend, please fill out a registration form and return to the following address as soon as possible:

Venida Chenault – On-Site Coordinator
Potawatomi Language Scholar's College
Haskell Indian Nations University
155 Indian Avenue
Lawrence, Kansas 66046
(785) 749-8494 or (785) 749-8428
FAX: (785) 832-6643
vchenault@ross1.cc.haskell.edu

If you are applying for a scholarship assistance, please contact Loretta for assistance with your travel plans.

Loretta Wandahsega – Scholarships/Travel Coordinator
Hannaville Visions Center
N14911 Hannaville B-1 Road
Wilson, MI 49896
(906) 466-2959
FAX: (906) 466-7350

4th of July

by: Linda Tecumseh & Jim Darnall

Plans are underway for this year's Prairie Band Potawatomi Community 4th of July Celebration. This event is held each year on the grounds of the O'Ketche-Show-O-Now Center and the Potawatomi Community Fire Station on K Road. The 4th of July celebration is attended by more and more people each year. Tribal members from Topeka, Holton, Horton, and other surrounding areas and also our local community neighbors come on over to enjoy the activities, feast, watermelon and fireworks.

This year we have tentatively scheduled to start at 3:00 pm the indoor activities such as Bingo (in the meal site room), carnival games in the gym and bike decorating. A parade is also planned later in the afternoon. The feast is at 6:30 pm. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Community Fire Department crew will once again supply the pit-roasted beef and pork with plenty of barbecue sauce. We will be requesting each family to bring a salad or dessert. The evening activities include a horseshoe contest, turtle race, sack race, tug-of-war and many more fun events. Cold watermelon will be served before the fireworks display which is usually at quarter to dark!

We wish to thank the Harrah's Prairie Band Casino for the generous donation that will make this year's 4th of July celebration a very grand event.

So if you have no plans, the lake is too crowded, that special Pow-Wow is too far away or if relatives are coming for the weekend, then come on over to the Potawatomi Rez for this year's 4th of July Celebration.

Contest Winners

Amerind is a risk pool insurance company. Most tribal housing authorities makes up this insurance company. Amerind holds a poster contest annually. Contestants' are from kindergarten to eighth grade.

The first phase of the contest was held locally. William Evans and Nolan Pahmahmie were the only contestants. Housing had the fire station employees judge these two posters. First place went to Nolan, second place going to William. Housing awarded first place with a \$75.00 dollar gift certificate and second place with a \$50.00 gift certificate from Westridge Mall.

Second part of the contest was held at Southern Plains Indian Housing Association (S.P.I.H.A.) regional meeting on May 5-7, 1999. Twenty-four posters were entered at this meeting, the association judging these posters. Three places were chosen, Nolan's poster placed second. S.P.I.H.A. will award Nolan with certificate and \$100.00 check. Nolan's poster will be going to Amerind to be judged on the national level, the winner will be announced at a later date. Amerind's first place winner will get to take their family to San Diego, CA on October 18-20, 1999. The winner is recognized and awarded at this conference. Housing hopes to have more contestants next year.

Housing Commissioners and Staff would like to give a special thanks and a great job to Nolan Pahmahmie and William Evans.

1999 Graduates

Kris Davis
University of Kansas
B.S. – Business Administration

Crystal Greemore
Emporia State University
B.S. – Sociology

Paul Nioce
Washburn University
B.S. – Business Administration

Edie Wamego
Washburn University
B.S. Criminal Justice

Joy Yoshida
Washburn University
A.A. – Legal Assistant

Kori Alexander
Haskell Indian Nations University
A.A. Liberal Arts

Ryan Dyer
Haskell Indian Nations University
A.S. – Natural Science

Richard Grinnell
Haskell Indian Nations University
A.A. – Liberal Arts

Jean Wagner
Haskell Indian Nations University
A.A. – Indian Law & Advocacy

G.E.D.

Mark Matchie
Jessica Shuckahosee
Justina Solis
Joseph Wishteya

Royal Valley High School Graduates

Shon Daniels
Robbyn Goslin
Lucas Kitchkommie
Nikki Mahkuk
Mi-Kes Potts
Cheri Micol Smith
Noah Wahquahboshkuk

ROYAL VALLEY 8TH GRADE GRADUATES

Amanda Lynn Daniels
Miyah Monique Danielson
Jamie Renae Degand
Jake Houston
Justin Christopher Jackson
Wett-Ke-Te Joseph Alvin Jackson
Thomas R. Jim
Rose Elise LeClere
Saleena Rae Masquat
Josie Lynn Pahmahmie
Nez-Zat Jean Shipshee
Amber Lynn Tecumseh
Kristina Lynn Throssell
Amber Nicole Wahweotten
Ashley Pauline Whitetail

Fund-raising work start for Hawaii trip

A Holton student at the Kickapoo School in Powhattan has been invited to play basketball in a national tournament in Hawaii, but in order to get there, she will need a little help.

Enedina Cervantes of Holton, a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe attending the Kickapoo school, was notified earlier this year by officials that she had been nominated as one of a few high school junior girls from Kansas to represent their state in this year's Hoopsmart USA Hawaii Classic. The tournament is set for July 20-24 on the BYU-Hawaii campus, located on the north shore of Oahu.

However, in order to participate in the tournament, Cervantes, must raise \$2,360 — for travel, lodging, meals and tournament expenses — by mid-June. Therefore, her grandmother, Velma Wahwasuck, has organized a fund-raising campaign to enable her to participate in the tournament.

Wahwasuck noted there will be different means of raising money for her granddaughter to participate in this year's tournament. She will sell hand-crafted goods at local businesses, accept donations at the home of her daughter, Dorothy Cervantes — who has recently diagnosed with terminal cancer — and plans to open a savings account at Denison State Bank.

American high school basketball coaches are sent nominations forms, in which they select their best juniors. Hoopsmart officials receive about 5,000 nomination forms for each of the boy's and girl's tournaments, they then select the top 800 to 1,000 players, making up the top 4 percent of high school basketball juniors and athletes in that nomination pool.

Those players, like Cervantes, are sent actual invitations to the summer classic. Out of those invited, Hoopsmart will take approximately 225 participants, representing many of the players in the top 1 percent of the junior basketball class in the country.

The tournament also gives players like Cervantes an opportunity to be recognized by coaches and talent scouts from NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA teams. She added she would like to go on to Oklahoma University or the University of Kansas to continue her post-high school basketball career.

Initial donations may be sent to Dorothy Cervantes, Box 287, Holton, KS 66436.

Scates to speak at National Center for Family Literacy Conference

The Family and Child Education Program (F.A.C.E.) located at Kickapoo Nation School is announcing that Melinda Scates, parent Educator for F.A.C.E., will be speaking at the Eighth Annual National Center for Family Literacy Conference. The conference is being held in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 18-20, 1999. Melinda will be recognized at that time for her success in the Kickapoo F.A.C.E. Program.

Melinda is a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe of Kansas and resides on the Iowa Reservation in White Cloud. She is married and a mother of four children. Melinda became involved in the Homebase component of F.A.C.E. as a parent in 1994. When her youngest child turned three, she came to Kickapoo Nation School Centerbase with her daughter. During her time at Centerbase, Melinda became both a leader in the classroom for other parents to flow and a positive role model for all the children in the F.A.C.E. Program. The F.A.C.E. Program hired Melinda as a Parent Educator in October 1998.

Centerbase staff members Stacey Nochtomick-Hess-Adult Educator, Sara Henry-Early Childhood Teacher, and Betty Brown-Early Childhood Co-teacher will also be attending the conference in support of Melinda's recognition. This is an honor for Melinda and the F.A.C.E. Program. Congratulations are due.

Giwemen

Seventh Annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations

Hosted by: Pokagon Band Of Potawatomi Indians
901 Spruce Street
P.O. Box 180
Dowagiac, MI 49047
Telephone: (616) 782-8998

Please join us with our celebration on:

Date: July 29, 30, 31, and August 1, 1999
Place: Gage Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Time: July 29th Opening Ceremonies

Mini Pow Wow

Friday, July 30th and Saturday, July 31st
Open Drum
Authentic Native American Arts and Crafts only
(limited booths available)

Host Hotel:

Quality Inn, 2860 M-139, 1-94 Exit 28, Benton Harbor, MI
Telephone (616) 925-3234
Red Roof Inn, 1630 Mall Dr., 1-94 Exit 29, Benton Harbor, MI
Telephone 1-800-843-7663
Inn of Niles, 930 S. 11th St., (US-31) Niles, MI 49120
Telephone (616) 471-1354
Village Inn, 9008 US-31, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Telephone (616) 471-1354

Rustic Camping Available

For more information contact:

Lucinda Graverette Smith, Gathering Comm., Co-Chairman
(616) 782-0887
Val Baker, Gathering Comm., Co-Chairman
(616) 463-3669
Loraine Gideon, Gathering Comm.
(616) 782-1763

Website@w.w.w.pokagon.com or E-Mail: pokagon@pokagon.com

****Please-NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, NO PETS-Thank you****

Volunteers and Donations Welcome!

Community Building Background

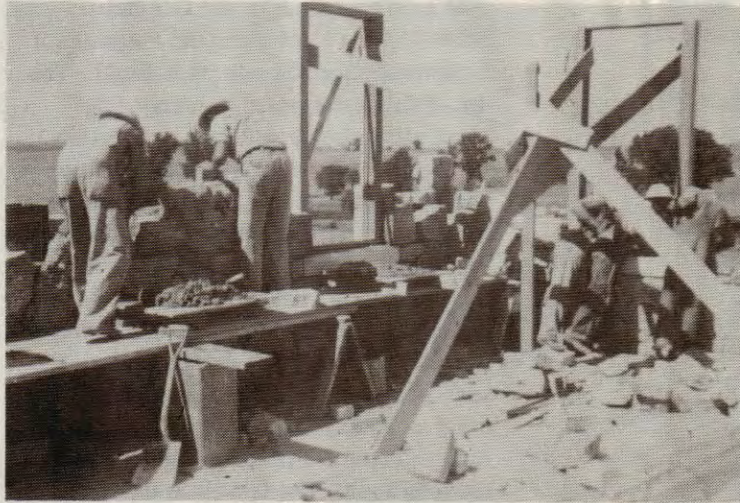
By Gary E. Mitchell

The Community Building was completed about 1940 for a cost of \$8,546.15. All work was done by Potawatomi tribal members who worked under the Civilian Conservation Corp Program – a work program during the Great Depression. Men worked on this project part-time, because most projects were shut down during the summer grain harvest and again during inclement winter months.

The exterior was a native limestone and hauled from the Big Soldier area. In exchange for the native stone extracted from various tribal members' land, the government would terrace their land, thus improving it for future rent. This way, both parties benefited.

The Community Building turned into a 36 by 60 building used for tribal gatherings such as political meetings, funerals, social events like Pow-Wows, dances, weddings and other tribal functions. Before this, tribal events were held at the homes of tribal members.

In the year 2000, this building will be transformed into a museum, housing tribal artifacts, pictures and exhibits showing Potawatomi life.



Pictures: These pictures were provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office at Horton, Kansas for this newspaper. Our sincere thanks to their staff for allowing the Potawatomi tribal members to view part of their history.

Leaders of the Past



Photo submitted by Mamie Rupnicki

1898 Delegation to Washington. Peter Curley (Top left) acted as interpreter. Wakwabushkuk (top right), the Kickapoo leader Kiwakouck (bottom left) and Nibakwa ("Walks at Night") acted as spokesmen for the resistant elements of their people in Kansas. (Photograph by De Lancy Gill, 1898. Courtesy of American Ethnology)



Photo submitted by Mamie Rupnicki

A Potawatomi Chief (Photograph by De Lancy Gill, 1898)

Union Talk in Casinos Rattles Tribes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a move reminiscent of the labor campaigns that empowered auto, steel and farm workers decades ago, unions are trying to organize employees at casinos on Indian reservations, a campaign that could test the limits of tribal sovereignty.

Indian casinos have witnessed striking growth over the past 10 years, pulling tribes out of poverty and creating jobs for an estimated 80,000 Indians and others. Unlike other employees, though, workers on reservations are not protected by U.S. labor laws, including the right to organize, since reservations are nominally independent.

The outcome of the organizing may help define a muddled concept that was challenged courts and lawmakers since tribal treaties were first signed centuries ago: What rights come with Indian sovereignty?

"These workers exist in this legal no-man's land," said John Wilhelm, national president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

Efforts are under way to organize workers in California, Connecticut and

Wisconsin, although unions have only now begun to make their presence felt at some of the nation's 310 Indian casinos.

Union leaders say that if tribes won't let them organize, they may pursue federal legislation that would bring labor law — such as a minimum wage — to the reservations. Many tribes would see such a move as a violation of their independence.

So far, the tribes have shown some willingness to at least negotiate with unions, although not with the hotel and restaurant workers union, which has wages a costly legal battle with California tribes.

Tribal leaders insist they are not opposed to unions. The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, for instance, agreed to let the Communication Workers of America organize at its casino, northeast of San Diego, and the majority of the food, beverage, housekeeping and maintenance employees voted for a union earlier this year.

Negotiations are under way between that union and other tribes, including the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

The San Manuel casino

was the site of a scuffle in February between tribal security and organizers of the hotel and restaurant union. The organizers claim they were beaten when they tried to speak with workers, and have filed a civil lawsuit against the security officers.

San Manuel Vice Chairman Ken Ramirez described the lawsuit as frivolous. San Manuel provides employees with excellent benefits, he said.

"The issue as hand has never been with labor but only with (the union) as they attempt to force our employees to submission by using strong-arm and scare tactics," he said.

Other tribal leaders insist their employees are well taken care of and they resent efforts by the hotel and restaurant union to make the right to organize a component of the gambling agreements required between states and tribes.

Some disgruntled employees disagree. They echo labor leaders' concerns that an impartial body should look out for workers and handle complaints.

Others complain of a lack of sick leave, high costs for health insurance

and forced overtime.

"I think that the union can help you to stop the discrimination at work," said Isidro Ramirez, a 33-year-old dishwasher and cook at the Pechanga casino in Temeculah, between Los Angeles and San Diego. "I want the company to respect us and to let us work in a free environment. The same rights that they should have, we also should have."

Ramirez makes \$7.35 an hour at the casino and speaks no English. He said workers have been told not to speak Spanish or to talk to union organizers.

Connecticut state Sen. Edith Prague has heard similar complaints from workers in that state, where the hotel and restaurant union is working to organize the Foxwoods Resort Casino, the country's largest Indian casino.

"I've had workers call me and say, 'Why do I pay taxes to the state of Connecticut if I lose my rights when I step onto the reservation,'" said Prague, a Democrat. "I'm not opposed to sovereignty as long as it is used as a tool and not weapon."



Photo submitted by Mamie Rupnicki
Curtis Pequano



Photo by submitted by Mamie Rupnicki
Susie Wahnosah and her beadwork

County bets on increased tourism

Casinos draw eyes to Holton area

HOLTON — A 1-year-old reservoir, road improvements and a raceway renewed enthusiasm for tourism in Jackson County and have culminated in a guide designed to get visitors out of the casinos and into the community.

In the past five years, Jackson County has seen major improvements to US-75 highway, bringing an increasing number of visitors to Thudershill Speedway, Banner Creek Reservoir and Harrah's Prairie Band Casino.

The Jackson County Tourism Council estimated there were about 1.5 million visitors to the county in 1998. According to information provided by Cathy Byers, communications manager for the casino, about 1.3 million people visited Harrah's last year.

Jonathan Wimer, executive director of the Jackson County Development Corporation and member of the Jackson County Tourism Council, said those numbers inspired a new, comprehensive recreation guide to replace the existing fold-out brochure that highlighted Holton area attractions.

"We knew we needed to do something high quality," Wimer said. "We hadn't done anything like this and wanted to take it to the next step."

The next step turned out to be a 36-page, full-color guide to nature trails, historic sights and museums, in addition to information about health care services and business opportunities in the county.

The free guide became available May 10 and will be distributed in hotels, restaurants, the state visitors center and at the tourism council in Holton.

Although it brings in most of the tourism revenue in the county, the casino is mentioned in only one article on page 16 of the guide. The photograph accompanying the article is of a barn on a country road.

Marling White, a Holton lawyer who wrote for the guide, said the downplay was intentional.

"It was a deliberate thing not to make the guide focused on the casino," he said. "They didn't want it to turn into a big casino ad."

Wimer said most of the attractions profiled were

nonprofit or do little self-promotion. He said Harrah's and other nearby casinos didn't need to be profiled.

"We thought those businesses would be best represented by the advertising medium," he said.

Vestina Nonken, vice chairwoman of the Potawatomi Tribal Council, said Wimer was scheduled to present the guide to the Tribal Council Tuesday. She said the tribe was pleased to be included in the guide.

"Just remember this is our first one," she said. "Next year maybe we'll get more economic development in town and on the reservation in the

We want folks to think of this as paradise, not just a pair of dice.

— Marlin White, Holton Lawyer who contributed to tourism guide

guide."

Wimer said the tourism council spent about \$20,000 for 10,000 booklets. The cost was covered by the council, advertising and the Jackson County Development Corp.

Joni White, innkeeper of the Parsonage Guesthouse bed and breakfast, said she spent a major portion of her advertising money for the year on a full-page advertisement and hoped for high returns from the guide.

"I think the brochures will get into the hands of those who wouldn't otherwise know we were here," she said.

Wimer said the guide contained information on health care, schools and economic development because it was intended not only to attract people to come to Jackson County but also to persuade them to move permanently.

Marlin White said to help accomplish that goal, the tourism council has to convince consumers there is more to Jackson County than casinos.

"Hopefully there are other things here that would interest people," he said. "We want folks to think of this as paradise, not a pair of dice."

Printed with permission — Topeka Capital Journal



Photo submitted by Mamie Rupnicki
A Potawatomi Lady at Leisure in the Early 1900s



Photo by submitted by Mamie Rupnicki
"Wild Bill" Wahnosah getting ready for winter

The Back Page

Summer, 1999

Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

Potawatomi Pow-Wow Message

By Gary E. Mitchell

The Potawatomi welcome you here to our reservation for this year's Pow-Wow. Over the weekend, we can't help but be excited, and it will be the same for you, many of the songs and dances are meant for the enjoyment of all. Our tribe lives wholeheartedly in the here and now, but our beginnings were born in the long ago.

Over the years, the Potawatomi have many captivating stories to tell, at every bend, twist and turn of our history. The stories of old say we were originally located on the eastern sea-board and slowly migrated westward over the years. The Potawatomi were once allied with the Ojibwa and Odawa tribes, in the 1500s, using this coalition for mutual benefit in hunting, territorial expansion and defense against other tribes. In time, the Potawatomi went off to form their own tribe, which is why the tribe also uses the name "People of the Place of the Fire."

During this time, the tribe was an autonomous group living on what the land could produce, such as the rich hunting and fishing resources of the Great Lakes and prospered, but that changed with the expansion of the 13 colonies or "13 Fires."

Land became a central issue with the colonies and removal of Indian tribes from their original homelands became the governing policies of the United States Government. This led to the Potawatomi making temporary stops in Missouri's "Platte Country" in the mid-1830s, and the Council Bluffs area of Iowa in the 1840s. The tribe controlled up to five million acres at both locations.

In the year of 1846, the Potawatomi tribe arrived in this area known as the "Great American Desert." At that moment, the reservation was thirty miles square including part of Topeka, and promised by treaty to be the home of the Potawatomi for all time.

Tribal members did what was necessary to remain a tribe and survive historical challenges such as removal, poverty, social ills, the Great Depression and several major wars along the way, and showed the character of our people that marked the following generations.

Rich in cultural tradition, the tribe currently resides on 77,440 acres, in an 11 mile square area, in Jackson County, Kansas. Non-Indians residing within the reservation boundaries own approximately 52,486 acres, all of which are on the Jackson County tax rolls. 1999 tribal membership totaled 4,559 members with 480-500 living on the reservation, another 1,000 within state boundaries, and the remainder living across the United States.

Over 180 reservation children between pre-school and high school attend the Royal Valley School system in nearby Hoyt and Mayetta. Some children are bused 45 minutes away to the Kickapoo Nation Indian School. Another 50 tribal members attend college throughout the country, with many other tribal members having successfully attained bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in all manner of study.

Within the last decade, the tribe has experienced a revitalization - improving social, educational, environmental, infrastructure, and cultural leadership programs, due in no small part to the introduction of gaming activities. Through an agreement with Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., the tribe opened a 63,000 square foot gaming facility on reservation land, in January 1998. The new facility has created over 1,200 jobs, generating several millions in wages and revenues. The Tribe is the largest employer in Jackson County through its casino.

Now, the tribe has the economic empowerment program and resources to effect change to a crumbling infrastructure and the means to create more jobs and improve existing programs on and off the reservation.

It is also now possible to restore cultural events such as this annual Pow-Wow. With those thoughts in mind, the Potawatomi again welcome you and sincerely hope you enjoy the activities of this weekend.



Pow wow picture of the past

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Pow Wow '99

Contest and Drum Money

Grand Entry

Friday - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday - 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday - 1:00 p.m.

Host Drum

Potawatomi Singers

Invited Northern Drum:

Menominee Chiefs

Invited Southern Drum

Yellow Earth Singers

Master of Ceremonies

Dean Whitebreast, Mesquaki

Head Man Dancer

David Cornelius, Oneida/Potawatomi

Head Lady Dancer

Addie Jessepe Horn, Potawatomi

Head Teen Dancer's

Male

Thunderchild Thomas, Potawatomi

Female:

Rachael Deo, Potawatomi/Creek

Color Guard:

We Ta Se, Post 410, Mayetta, Kansas

Arena Director:

Joe Hale, Potawatomi

Camping Facilities Available

Supper meal served Friday & Saturday - Brunch on Sunday

Sponsorship contact: Camilla Chouteau 785-887-0982

Vendor Contact: reykitchkumme@juno.com & Ruth Ramirez 966-3014

Pow Wow contact: phouston@prairie.harrah.com & Curtis Masquat 966-3097

P.O. Box 2, Mayetta, KS 66509

General Admission Buttons \$3.00 per weekend

June 11, 12 & 13, 1999

Mens Fast Pitch Tournament Contact John LeClere - 785-966-2335

Prairie People's Park, Mayetta, Kansas

Prairie Band Potawatomi is not responsible for theft, lost items, or accidents

Join us for an alcohol & drug free celebration!

**Sponsored by: 1999 Pow Wow Committee
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**



Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

**Derek Otero and Zeek Mahkuk
dancing at the 1998 Kickapoo Pow-Wow**

Haskell Hosts Discussion on Native American Gaming

By Paul Bryant

A panel discussion on Native American gaming, hosted by Haskell University on March 1, concluded that the eleven year old Native American Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) has had a positive impact on the Native American nations. The four-member panel, comprised of representatives from various tribes that allow Las Vegas style casino gambling, reported good progress toward Congress' stated goals of promoting "tribal economic development, tribal self-sufficiency and strong tribal government."

Approximately 50 people, mostly Haskell students, attended the event, which began with Lawrence attorney and Former Kickapoo Attorney General Lance Burr outlining the history of legalized gaming on reservations.

The Native American Reorganization Act established constitutions for the reservations during the 1930's. But these limited council governments have made little progress toward tribal economic development and independence from US state and federal governments, due in part to lack of experience with both Constitutional government and business management among tribal leaders.

Beginning with high-stakes bingo gaming in Flor-

ida and California during the 1970s and the 1980s, however, some tribes enjoyed rapid economic growth, leading Congress to pass the IGRA in 1988. A long series of legal battles between various tribal and state governments then ensued, resulting in several agreements, being signed between the states and tribes who wished to host casino gaming. According to Burr, the lawsuits may have been avoided by requiring the tribes to negotiate compacts directly with the U.S. Department of Interior rather than with the states, which have traditionally been antagonistic toward the Native American nations.

Panelists Laura Soap of the Kickapoo Nation, Mark Gilfillan, representing the Sac and Fox, and Gary Mitchell of the Prairie Band Potawatomi each reported economic success with Native America gaming, although some were concerned that profitable casinos might become the sole foundation of tribal economies. They would prefer to see gaming used as a temporary measure, using revenues to encourage education, restoration of ancestral culture and private business development which could one day make the casinos unnecessary.

Burr and Mitchell see revenue from gaming as

providing a "window of opportunity" for tribal governments to strengthen the Native American nations before some states simply legalize gambling and collect casino profits for themselves. Mitchell echoed the sentiments of others, saying "I wish there was another way for Native Americans to do it other than gambling-but I've never seen it."

Laura Soap was especially pleased with the benefits gaming has brought to her 1440 member Kickapoo tribe, while acknowledging that some other reservations with casinos are not doing nearly as well. Benefits to the Kickapoo include development of new museums, historic and cultural preservation offices and stronger tribal government. Still, she would like to see tribal constitutions rewritten to resemble for managing tribal business including the casinos. Soap also noted that some tribes have been able to decline federal subsidies because of new casino income, but cautions tribal leaders not to break ties with the US government completely.

Likewise, Gilfillan says that gambling revenues have generally improved conditions for the less than 400 Sac and Fox Native Americans on his reservation, half of whom are under age eighteen. They are now enjoying new trading posts and truck

stops, and Gilfillan looks forward to restoration of tribal artifacts, language and culture that were lost in the previous century.

When asked whether casino gambling had brought increased gambling and alcohol addiction to the reservation, panelists unanimously responded that addiction had not been as much of a problem as had been expected, given that alcoholism has always been a serious problem on the reservations. Most tribes had some form of counseling available to assist those with problems.

At the conclusion of the discussion, moderator Dan Wildcat asked each panelist what message they would most like to convey to the Haskell students present. The consensus of the panel was that young Native Americans who leave the reservation to pursue an education need to return to the reservation and strengthen their tribes with strong leadership while setting an example for young people.

-Reprinted with permission
The Kaw Valley Independent News