

SHOOTING STAR



MAY 1986

Newsletter of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

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FROM THE CHIEF

May 1986

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has lived in this area since 1832, some one hundred and fifty four years. Our tribe has had many homes, as the Shawnees were always at war with other tribes or the French, English, or Americans. The first real contact with the white world took place near Plymouth, PA., as a matter of fact, their High School football team is known as the Shawnees.

In recent weeks I have been corresponding with Mr. Fred J. Zint of Wapakonetta, Ohio. (Before the removal of all Indians west of the Mississippi River, Wapakonetta was the capitol of the old Shawnee nation in Ohio) Mr. Zint has sent me photos of plaques located in various locations of Wapakonetta that depict Shawnee history. We are publishing four photos at this time and will follow with four more. Mr. Zint sent me some photos of Shawnees that were found in an old house that was being destroyed. He has indicated that he will send more information about the Shawnees as it becomes available to him. We are indebted to Mr. Zint for the information we have received and again Mr. Zint, we thank you very much.

Many of our famous chiefs and tribal leaders were present in the Wapakonetta area before the Indian removal to this part of the country.

Let us remember some of these leaders, who took their place in history, even in defeat to preserve a way of life that was precious to all Indians. It was a way of life that allowed a freedom that will never be known to man again, in this age and time. I wonder who was right?

How about Blackhoof, or Catahecassa, a bitter foe of all white man. In later years he had the wisdom to realize that the Indians way of life had to change and they must learn to share their way of life with all people and adopt new ways and even new religions.

Not all Shawnee chiefs agreed with Blackhoof. The most famous of these chiefs being TECUMSEH and his half brother "The Prophet" a medicine man. As we know Tecumseh was killed in the battle of the Thames, he was a Brigadier General in the British Army. The day of this battle, Tecumseh resorted back to Indian dress and was killed in action. A great man in every way, a statesman, soldier and warrior who gave his life to preserve the freedom that he believed in. In later years the prophet died a peaceful death near Shawnee Mission, KS.

TRIBAL MEMBERS VISIT

Another great chief was Weh-Yah-Pih-Ehr-Sehn-Wah, or better known as Bluejacket. Chief Bluejacket, of white ancestry, was captured by the Shawnees as a youth and was raised by them. Chief Bluejacket became a great warrior who believed in the Shawnee way of life and was an outstanding leader.

The Bluejacket family has contributed many chiefs to the Eastern Shawnees, such as Walter, Clyde, and Julian Bluejacket, and Jim Green-feather. At the present time Darrell and Jeff Bluejacket are members of our Business Committee.

Sylvester (Buck) DeWeese from Safford, Arizona is back here for a visit. His daughter, Carol Jean Clark, and grand-daughter, Tawana, came up from Killeen, Texas and they all set up camp in the Twin Bridges area.

While here they came by the office a couple of times to visit and look the tribal complex over. They were very enthusiastic about the progress the tribe has made.

From their coversation I gather they had a marvelous time fishing, camping and visiting. We sure enjoyed meeting and visiting with them.

EASTERN SHAWNEE BABIES QUALIFY FOR STATE PAGEANT



TOPS in the 2-to-3-year-old division of the Baby of the Year Pageant in Miami was Macy Lee McWatters, 27-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ranny McWatters, Quapaw, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. George McWatters Sr., Quapaw, and Mrs. Evadall Kirk, Baxter Springs. She also won Most Photogenic in her division.



WINNER in the 7-12 month division of the local Baby of the Year pageant was Stephanie Nicole Henry, daughter of Darren and Melanie Henry, Fairland. She will compete in the state Baby of the Year pageant next month in Stillwater. Stephanie is the granddaughter of Joe and Norma Kraus and greatgranddaughter of Jessie Strickland all of Fairland, Okla.

THE SHAWNEE INDIANS WERE DRIVEN FROM THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES IN THE LATE 17TH AND EARLY 18TH CENTURIES BY WHITE SETTLERS AND THE CATAWBA, CHEROKEE AND CHICKASAW NATIONS. THE SHAWNEES WERE GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE MIAMIS AND WYANDOTS TO SETTLE IN OHIO AND FOLLOWING THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, THE MIAMIS LARGELY WITHDREW FROM OHIO LEAVING THE SHAWNEES AS THE DOMINANT INDIAN POWER IN THE REGION. IN 1782 THE SHAWNEES OCCUPIED WAPAKONETA AFTER BEING DRIVEN FROM PICKA BY GENERAL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK IN RETALIATION FOR SHAWNEE RAID ON OHIO RIVER TRAFFIC AND FRONTIER SETTLEMENTS IN KENTUCKY.

KIWAHIS CLUB

DURING THE LATE 1820'S PUBLIC OPINION CONCLUDED THAT "CIVILIZATION" OF THE EASTERN INDIANS HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND THIS OPINION RESULTED IN ENACTMENT OF THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830. THE ACT AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT TO EXCHANGE PUBLIC LAND WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI FOR ALL REMAINING INDIAN LAND IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES AND TO REMOVE THE EASTERN INDIANS TO THE WEST AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

CONSEQUENTLY, TREATIES WERE CONCLUDED WITH THE SHAWNEES IN 1821 PROVIDING FOR CESSION OF THEIR OHIO RESERVATIONS AND SHAWNEE REMOVAL TO KANSAS. THE LEWISTON AND WAPAKONETA SHAWNEES MIGRATED WESTWARD IN 1832 AND THE MOS CREEK BAND FOLLOWED IN 1833 THIS BRINGING TO A CLOSE THE SHAWNEE ERA IN OHIO.

AMONG THE MANY PROMINENT SHAWNEES WHO LIVED AT WAPAKONETA WERE THE FOLLOWING.

TECUMSAH, THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL SHAWNEES. THIS SKILLED ORATOR, STATESMAN AND STRATEGIST ORGANIZED AND LED THE LAST GREAT INDIAN RESISTANCE TO THE AMERICANS IN THE OLD NORTHWEST. COMMISSIONED A BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE BRITISH ARMY, HE WAS KILLED WHILE LEADING HIS WARRIORS AGAINST THE AMERICANS AT THE BATTLE OF THE THAMES IN 1813.

WEH-YAH-PIH-EHR-SEHN-WAH, OR BLUE JACKET, A WHITE CAPTIVE WHO BECAME A WAR CHIEF OF THE SHAWNEES AND WHO, WITH LITTLE TURTLE OF THE MIAMIS, LED THE INDIANS IN THE ANNILATION OF GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR'S ARMY IN 1791. ST. CLAIR'S DEFEAT IS REMEMBERED AS THE WORST EVER SUFFERED BY THE U.S. ARMY IN CAMPAIGNING AGAINST AMERICAN INDIANS.

CATMECASSA, OR BLACK HOO, AN UNRELENTING FOE OF THE WHITE MAN FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE. HE MADE PEACE WITH THE AMERICANS AT THE TREATY OF GREENE VILLE IN 1795 AND THEREAFTER, UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1831, WAS A FIRM ADVOCATE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH THE WHITE MAN.

SPAMAGELABE, OR CAPTAIN JAMES LOGAN, WHO LOST HIS LIFE WHILE SERVING WITH THE U.S. ARMY DURING THE WAR OF 1812. EARLY IN THE WAR HE SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED A PARTY OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS FROM FT. WAYNE TO PICKA AND IT WAS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES ON THIS OCCASION THAT LOGANSPOUT, INDIANA WAS NAMED.

YOUTH ANTI-POLLUTION LEAGUE

Pictures of plaques found on various office buildings in Wapakoneta.