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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. letter	Phillip Martin, Chief, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Mack Jimmie, Chairman, pearl River Local School Board, to Secretary Watt, re the principal appointment at Choctaw Central High School (2 pp.)	1/20/82	P6 B6 AM 10/16/2019
2. memo	Mack Jimmie to Agency Superintendent for Education, Choctaw Agency, re request to hire a principal (1 pp.) attachment to item #1	1/7/82	P6 B6
3. memo	from Acting Assistant Director, South and West Education Operations, BIA, to Choctaw Agency Superintendent for Education, re principal appointment (1 pp.) attachment to item #1	12/24/81	P6 B6
4. letter	Director, Office of Indian Education Programs, BIA, to Phillip Martin, re principal appointment (1 pp.) attachment to item #1	12/24/81	P6 B6
5. statement	of teaching experience (1 pp., partial)	11/5/81	P6 B6

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

File

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF



TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING
ROUTE 7, BOX 21
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350
TELEPHONE (601) 656-5251

August 25, 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Thank you for your kind letter of August 19. I thought our meeting of the following day was productive and am enclosing some information on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians which I am sure you will find interesting. The booklet Chahta Hapia Hoke basically outlines historical information and recounts the progress of the tribe over the past twenty years, progress which could not have been made without the Indian Reorganization Act and financial assistance from the federal government. Ours is a success story which should be spread; the wise use of federal funds has improved conditions, developed pride, and contributed to the strengthening of the entire region of east central Mississippi.

I am looking forward to seeing you and Mr. McClaughry at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association September 17 and 18. I will be in contact with you later on specific time and place.

Sincerely,

Phillip Martin
Phillip Martin
Chief

PM:bmw

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 6, 1981

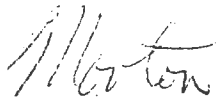
Dear Chief Martin:

Thank you for your letter and again, for your invitation to visit the Mississippi Choctaw Reservation.

I am working on an extended trip in the Deep South area in a few months, and I will plan to visit you then. Unfortunately, I will not be able to come before the end of the year, as we have strained our travel budget, I am forced to keep travel to a minimum.

As soon as final details are made for my trip, I will contact you.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

Chief Phillip Martin
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Tribal Office Building
Route 7, Box 21
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF



TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING
ROUTE 7, BOX 21
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350
TELEPHONE (601) 656-5251

September 5, 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Thank you very much for the invitation for myself and Frankie Chisholm to lunch with you at the White House, the lunch itself, and the tour of the West Wing.

I am very glad you agreed to visit the Mississippi Choctaw Reservation. My calendar looks good for any time during the last two weeks in October, the week of the 19th, or the week of the 26th. Any time during those two weeks that you could make an overnight visit would be fine with us. I think it is important with the position that you hold working with American Indians to visit reservations from time to time to see firsthand not only reservation conditions but also the progress that has been made in recent decades by tribal governments through tribal leadership.

In this day and time when questions have arisen concerning the administrative capabilities of tribal governments, I will be happy to show you one with well-structured accountability mechanisms, with established fiscal, personnel, procurement and other procedures, which is representative of the progressive tribes around the country.

Please let us know whenever you are able to schedule your visit. Again, thank you for your hospitality at the White House; I look forward to our getting better acquainted and working together to resolve Indian policy issues. Along this line, in the not-too-distant future I anticipate that the National Tribal Chairmen's Association will be asking for a brief meeting with yourself and the President.

Sincerely,


Phillip Martin
Tribal Chief

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF



TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING
ROUTE 7, BOX 21
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350
TELEPHONE (601) 656-5251

December 21, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Thank you for your letter of November 6, in response to my invitation to visit the reservation. We are still looking forward to your visiting here at some point. The Mississippi Choctaw reservation provides a good example of the "bootstrap" theory at work, with wide involvement of the people and support and encouragement from the government, which will ultimately lessen dependence on the federal government through the creation of jobs and businesses.

You might consider bringing Ken Smith, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, and John McClaughry with you when you come.

I will be in Washington the first of the year, and will phone you to let you know if I need to come by and talk things over.

Sincerely,


Phillip Martin
Chief

PM:bmw

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THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1-4 LISTED ON THE
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NAME OF AGENCY		PRECEDENCE		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION		ACTION		
		INFO.		
THIS BLOCK FOR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS UNIT		TYPE OF MESSAGE		STANDARD FORM 34 - REV. MARCH 15, 1957 GSA REGULATION 2-11-301.00 14-304 TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE OFFICIAL BUSINESS U.S. GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> BOOK <input type="checkbox"/> MULTI-ADDRESS		
MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED (Use double spacing and all capital letters)				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW AGENCY AGENCY SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350</p> <p>ATTENTION: ALL AREA EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS ALL AGENCY SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>EFFECTIVE 12-18-81, ALL APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND RE- ASSIGNMENT ACTIONS ARE FROZEN. NO VACANCIES ARE TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL. APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY SHOULD BE CLEARED THROUGH ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 100px;">Jones W. Fritz Deputy Assistant Secretary USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs Washington, D.C</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">12-21-81 Rec'd by PST Typed by NI 2:30 p.m.</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;"> DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BEYOND THIS LINE </div> </div>				
NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR (Type)		ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO.		DATE AND TIME PREPARED
I certify that this message is official business, is not personal, and is in the interest of the Government.		<div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">_____ (Signature) </div>		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PEARL RIVER LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

RESOLUTION PRLS 01-82

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT KENNITH YORK AS PRINCIPAL, CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, Kennith York, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, has applied to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the position of Principal of Choctaw Central High School, and

WHEREAS, Mr. York has extensive educational experience on the Choctaw Reservation, has an intimate knowledge of the Choctaw people, and has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration, and

WHEREAS, other candidates for the position are less familiar with the tribe and with the reservation, and

WHEREAS, the position has been subject to the freeze in federal hiring currently in effect, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pearl River Local School Board does hereby request the Agency Superintendent for Education to appoint Kennith York as Principal, Choctaw Central High School, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pearl River Local School Board does hereby request the Agency Superintendent for Education to request a waiver to the federal hiring freeze for the position of Principal, Choctaw Central High School.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Secretary of the Pearl River Local School Board, certify that said Board is composed of 5 members, of whom 5 were present at a Special meeting, thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held this 25 day of November, 1981, and that the foregoing resolution was Adopted by a vote of 3 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained.

Dated this 25 day of November, 1981.

ATTEST:

Mack W. Jimmie
Chairman

Steve Willis
Secretary

Mobile County Public Schools

Box 1327

Mobile, Alabama 36611

STATEMENT OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NOTE: This form should be sent by the applicant to the proper person who will complete it and return directly to the Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County, Division of Personnel, P. O. Box 1327, Mobile, Alabama 36611.

Dear Superintendent

The person listed below has applied to teach in the Mobile School System. We will greatly appreciate your completing this form and returning it in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

I hereby authorize you as a former employer to furnish to the Board of School Comm. of Mobile Co., Al., the following information pertaining to me:

J. R. Martin
J. R. MARTIN

Acting Assistant Superintendent
Division of Personnel

I wish to certify that Kenneth H. York SS No. REDACTED was

employed as a regular Part time teacher in the schools of Mpls. City
Henn. MN, for
County State

the periods listed below:

From Month/Day/Year	To Month/Day/Year	Grades or Subjects Taught
10/20/72	6/30/73	ABE
7/24/73	6/12/74	Proj. Site Coord/Staff Devel.

Total number of scholastic years under my supervision: _____

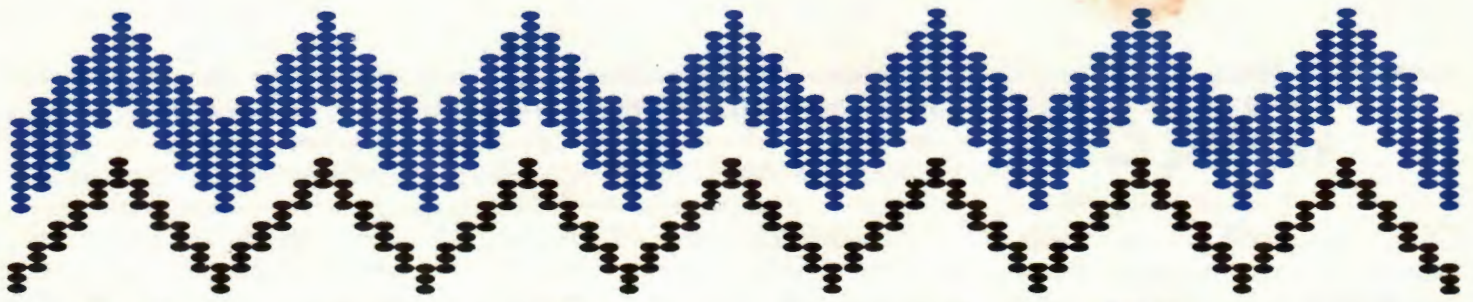
Total number of scholastic years in this school system: 2

His work was satisfactory. ☒
Her work was unsatisfactory. ☐

Mary Ann Allen
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Asst. Director of Personnel

807 Broadway
Mpls, MN. 55413

11/5/81
Date



Choctaw Community News

VOLUME XII NUMBER 7

PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI

JULY, 1981

Choctaw Culture Early Education Program

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the award of a three-year grant from Title IV, Office of Indian Education to the Choctaw Tribe for an early childhood research and demonstration classrooms in the various communities.

During the three years of the grant, classes will hopefully be added through the third grade level to test and validate culturally based curriculum produced by the project, culminating in the adoption of a standard early childhood curriculum for the reservation. A major portion of the work will include extensive surveys and consultation with parents and community members to identify and validate current cultural precepts and values for integration into materials and teaching strategies.

The project will serve children not presently under the HS/PCDP program; in addition, the research aspect will result in a more accurate description of modern Choctaw life. This description of current practices and values will allow school personnel at all levels to build good self-images in Choctaw children by reinforcing parental values and reflecting positively the progress of the tribe.

The establishment of this project, in combination with the new daycare center at Pearl River and



Early in July, the Tribe purchased six buses like the one shown here. They will be used in the new tribal transportation system, Tri-County Transit Authority. Buses will run daily from Bogue Chitto, Tucker, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Red Water, and Pearl River, in conjunction with smaller vans to transport tribal, BIA, and other area employees to work and back for a small fee. Scheduled to begin late in August, buses will run on two schedules: an early morning route for wire harness and greeting card plant employees, and a later one for tribal and BIA employees. For more information, contact Calvin Becton, Edmund Lewis, or Faron Denson. See next month's Community News for tentative schedules and routes.

the existing PCDP, Headstart and Follow Through programs, is the culmination of the Choctaw Conference on Early Childhood Development held in 1971. This conference was entitled "Alla Chopinta Akosk Ummona" ("Little Children First"), and contained a statement which expresses the goals of the newly funded Title IV B program in remarks by the Tribal

Chairman Phillip Martin, who said, "Our reason for choosing early years of childhood as the primary theme was pointed out in the keynote address to conference delegates - ...there is no better place to develop a sense of positive self-image than in preschool children who have not been moved by the hostilities of an alien

Continued on page 9

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE tribal chief

The 32nd annual Choctaw Indian Fair is history now; and I would like to compliment everyone who had a part in making the Fair a success, particularly those employed with the tribal government, and BIA and IHS, and the Choctaw community development clubs. Also the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Chamber of Commerce for their support and cooperation and representatives of the news media contributed greatly to publicity for the Fair. I would like to particularly mention the work done during the Fair by the people manning the ticket gates and monitoring the parking, security, transportation, and exhibit hall coordinators, Choctaw artisans and craftsmen, participants in the cultural programs, the traditional Choctaw dancers from Bogue Chitto and Pearl River, the coordinators of the outstanding temporary Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian, and the stickball teams and players, win or lose. Congratulations to the Pearl River Independents who are the new world's champion Choctaw traditional stickball team. In addition, I would like to thank our distinguished guests Governor and Mrs. William Winter, Chairman Peter MacDonald and Mrs. Wanda MacDonald, Chairman James Billie and his entourage of Seminole princesses and Mike Tiger, Chairman Buffalo Tiger, and Iron Eyes Cody. We are grateful to the Seminoles who participated in so many areas, including emceeing and judging the Princess Contest and presentation of alligator wrestling. Congratulations to Bernadine Hickman, our new 1981-82 Choctaw Princess, and all of the Princess contestants and their sponsors. It was very difficult for the judges to select a winner because of the poise and charm of all the contestants.

We received many compliments

from visitors to the Fair, Indians and non-Indians alike, who were impressed with the progress of the reservation and the Fair, how we were able to organize and carry out a multitude of activities, and how we were able to achieve a high level of involvement of our young people in

new election for the two Council seats at stake in Pearl River should be held. It is my personal feeling that the Tribal Election Committee did a good job of performing its duties in all communities in seeing that the election was conducted in a fair and impartial manner and in accordance



Phillip Martin, Chief

carrying out Fair activities.

As I have often mentioned, Fair success comes about through cooperation and unity of the members of the tribe. I can say without a doubt that this year's Fair was the best organized with activities carried out on schedule due to a lot of detailed planning and comprehension of responsibility assignments being completed beforehand. I look forward to receiving recommendations from you on how the Fair can be improved still more—it is not too early to begin planning for the 33rd annual Fair!

Special Called Tribal Council Meeting

The Tribal Council had a meeting July 3 to hear a complaint from a candidate in the Pearl River community on election technicalities. The Council ruled that the Pearl River Tribal Council election should be voided and a completely

with the tribal Election Ordinance. We need to remember that the tribal election committee, local election committees, and poll workers, because of their interest in the tribe, are taking time off from their jobs and performing what is really a partiotic duty once every two years.

This will be an entirely new election, and eligible candidates will have to go through the entire process again. Not related to the Tribal Council hearing, there will be a Council election in Bogue Chitto and Tucker as well to fill vacancies created by a resignation and the fact that no candidate filed in Tucker the last time around. These elections are all scheduled for September 22.

Choctaw Greetings Enterprise

In my last report I mentioned that the Choctaw Greetings Enterprise would open its doors around September 1. This date has been advanced to August 17 because of

the rapid progress being made in construction. Applications are now being received for several management positions and for production worker positions. If you are interested in working at the Enterprise you can contact the tribal Manpower Outreach Counselor in your community or Henderson Williams, Personnel Director of the Enterprise. Mr. Williams is located at the new Choctaw Greetings Office at 656-8200. The Enterprise will begin hiring and training with around 70 persons and progress toward the full employment level of 350 to 500, within a year.

As soon as operations at the Enterprise are well underway, we will be having an open house, perhaps in October or November, so the public can see what the Choctaw Greetings Enterprise is all about. This is an unprecedented breakthrough for the tribe in industrial development, and we need the support and cooperation of everyone to make our industrial development effort a continuing success. Our major underlying reason for this effort is to create job opportunities for our people locally and develop the on-reservation economy.

We anticipate that the newly-created Tri-County Transportation Authority will be ready to provide transportation to the Enterprise from all communities but Bogue Homa. We are starting off with limited funds; and with only six 25-passenger buses, the Authority may not be able to meet all of the transportation demands of the workers at both the Greetings Enterprise and Chahta Enterprise. We are, however, busy getting organized and serving as many people as we can when the Enterprise opens its doors for employment.

Special Called Tribal Council Meeting

In connection with this economic activity, construction on our day care center for the children of

working mothers is well underway, and completion is expected by August 15. It is estimated that the new facility will house around 90 children, but the exact number is dependent on negotiations on our Title XX proposal with the State Department of Public Welfare. My next report will contain complete details on opening date and eligibility criteria.

Choctaw Heritage Council

The Choctaw Heritage Council held its second meeting July 9 and 10 during the Choctaw Indian Fair, with most of the members attending. The Heritage Council reviewed and approved the bylaws, conducted committee work on the proposed museum layout, discussed archaeological concerns and structured a new advisory committee, which will consist of non-Heritage Council members who either have technical expertise in specialized areas or who have made major donations to the facility. Iron Eyes Cody was selected and confirmed as the first member of this advisory committee because of his interest in American Indians and demonstrated interest in this tribe through many appearances at the Fair, his prominence nationally in environmental protection and cultural preservation.

The Heritage Council discussed at length proposed land alterations projects by the Army Corps of Engineers, and stripmining plans for east central Mississippi and their effect on Choctaw historical and archaeological sites, especially burial sites. The Heritage Council made a recommendation to the Tribal Council that a resolution be adopted expressing the concern of the tribe on the possible loss of these sites (so necessary to researching the history of the tribe in pre-treaty times, many of which contain burials which should not be disturbed) and authorizing the Chief to contact federal, state, and local agencies, as well as mining companies, on the matter. Such a resolution was adopted by the Tribal

Council during its regular meeting July 15. I will have more to say on this subject in later issues.

New Programs Funded

Although the fiscal year 1982 budget looks generally bleak, we have been able to obtain some discretionary grants and contracts which may offset somewhat the anticipated cuts in our regular programs. Among these new programs are a "MIN" program to concentrate and coordinate provision of human services to targeted "most-in-need" children below age 18, a Title IV-B project to conduct culturally-relevant early childhood educational activities, an Ethnic Heritage Studies project to develop materials and curriculum for Choctaw Studies, a Section 18 Surface Transportation grant to establish the Tri-County Transportation Authority, a CETA Title VII grant to provide for costs of training for workers at four tribal enterprises, a T&TA contract from BIA for development and implementing tribal membership policies and procedures, and a contract for the tribe to operate the BIA Revolving Credit program for the remainder of this fiscal year. The majority of these programs will provide much-needed services to our young people, and will be implemented in the next few weeks. Be on the lookout for job announcements.

Regular Tribal Council Meeting

The regular July meeting of the Tribal Council was held on the 14th and 15th, during which new Council members were sworn in the Tribal Council officers were elected. Frank Steve was re-elected as Vice-Chief and Beasley Denson was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. They will serve for two years. Tribal Council committee Chairman were elected and committee members named. The Committee Chairmen are as follows: Health, Maxine Dixon; Economic Development, Albert Farve; Judicial Affairs and

Continued on page 4

TRIBAL CHIEF...

Continued from page 3

Law Enforcement, Roger Bell; Governmental Affairs, Roger Anderson; Education, Luke Jimmie; Community Development, Mattie K. Willis; and Budgets and Finance, Beasley Denson.

Also at the meeting the fiscal year 1982 tribal budgets were presented and approved, as well as several resolutions, one of which authorized a comprehensive on- and near-reservation survey of the Choctaw population to update the 1974 survey and provide more accurate figures and information than the 1980 U.S. Census will.

I had hoped before the Council meeting to begin the second two years of my tenure as Chief with a report on progress made during the first two years; but pressing national budget issues and the Fair did not leave me time to develop it. I will issue such a report in the next few weeks. I am also intending to visit each of the communities in the near future--something I have not been able to schedule for the past several months.

Housing Meeting

On July 20 and 21, I attended a meeting in Atlanta sponsored by the Chicago Office of Indian Programs of HUD, headed by Leon Jacobs and Phil Isosie. The meeting was called for tribal leaders and Housing Authority Executive Directors and Commission Chairmen of the Choctaw, Cherokee, and Seminole tribes to discuss how best tribal governments can work with Housing Authorities to resolve housing management problems. This marked the first time that all of these officials had met together to discuss problems and seek solutions. The meeting was timely because of the budgetary threats faced at this point by Indian housing from OMB and some members of Congress. Their main justification for trying to eliminate Indian housing is their perception of inadequate management and supposed inflated housing

construction costs.

In regard to Housing problems, I will be meeting with Tribal Council members and Housing Authority Commissioners in the near future to develop a plan to resolve accounts receivable questions and establish sound day to day operations to prevent future difficulties for the Housing Authority and its tenants. It is essential for the Housing Authority to operate in a businesslike manner; and tenants must keep their accounts up to date, maintain their houses in good condition and cooperate with the Housing Authority Director and Commissioners.

An application has been submitted for 100 new rental units, on which, if approved, construction will begin this fall. If we can resolve the current management difficulties, we will apply for an additional 150 units of Mutual Help Housing, a home-ownership program. I am asking for the cooperation of tenants and reservation employers of tenants to work with the Housing Authority to eliminate accounts receivable so we can remove our tribe's name from the deficit list at HUD. If you have any questions contact the Housing Authority Director, Morris Carpenter, at 656-6617, or Chairman Beasley Denson at 656-3071.

In the housing situation nationally, HUD has abolished the Indian positions of Assistant Secretary and Director of the Office of Indian programs, which appears to be another step toward eliminating Indian housing from the HUD structure. I believe tribes throughout the country have a right to question whether HUD is serious about the provision of Indian housing, or whether tribes need to look for alternate agencies within the government.

I hope to work with other tribes and with HUD on a national level to get this issue resolved and help them develop an internal structure to address the housing needs of tribal governments and Indian Housing Authorities. I will keep you

advised as we progress in this area. The area of housing is one of the areas of greatest need on the reservation and should be given a high priority.

If you have any questions or concerns or recommendations on anything said in this paper or the activities of the tribal government, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chief

Introducing...

We'd like to welcome a new addition to the Legal Services staff at the Tribal Office.

Richard Litsey, a Creek Indian originally from Oklahoma, will be the new attorney with the Choctaw office of East Mississippi Legal Services.

A recent graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Litsey is here under the Reggie Program. The Reggie Program, a part of the Reginald Heber Smith Foundation, provides scholarships and stipends for minority lawyers and those involved in poverty law.

**SHOW PRIDE
IN
YOUR COMMUNITY!
PUT LITTER IN
ITS PLACE!**

New Tribal Council Resolutions

Tribal Council Resolutions acted upon during the quarterly meeting in July include the following. The full text of each is available at the Committee System office in Pearl River.

133-81 A resolution to request the BIA to set aside funds for a boundary survey of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw reservation and to authorize a tribal contract for said boundary survey. ADOPTED

134-81 A resolution to appoint a standing committee and rescind resolution CHO 62-78. ADOPTED

135-81 A resolution authorizing execution of a lease agreement covering housing and urban development project MISS-92-7. ADOPTED

136-81 A resolution to approve tribal indirect cost, trust

fund and court fund budgets for fiscal year 1982. ADOPTED

137-81 A resolution to approve a tribal general revenue sharing budget for fiscal year 1982. ADOPTED

138-81 A resolution to re-apply for BIA contracts currently administered by the tribe for fiscal year 1982. ADOPTED

139-81 A resolution to amend the approved revised personnel policies of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. ADOPTED

140-81 A resolution to support and send representatives to the third national Indian Youth Leadership Conference at Mary Mount College, Arlington, Va. August 9 through 15, 1981. ADOPTED

141-81 A resolution to request assistance in archaeological study and preservation in the face of proposed land alteration projects between the Pearl River and the Alabama state line. ADOPTED

142-81 A resolution to conduct a comprehensive on and near reservation tribal population survey and authorize use of \$13,836 in the fiscal year '81 tribal budget. ADOPTED

143-81 A resolution to amend resolution CHO 46-81, "A resolution to amend resolution CHO 127-79, "A resolution to establish a private industry council." ADOPTED

144-81 A resolution to amend resolution CHO 153-80, "A

Continued on page 9

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians proposes to file a full-application for Community Development Block Grant Funds for Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The primary objective of the program is the development of viable communities by providing, decent housing, economic opportunities, and a suitable living environment principally for persons of low and moderate incomes. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has invited the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to submit a single-purpose full-application in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Notice is further given that public hearings will be held on July 29th at 3:00 p.m. and August 5, 1981 at 3:00 p.m. at the Tribal Council Hall. The purpose of the first hearing is to obtain views and proposals of citizens at the initial stage of application development on community development and housing needs and priorities, and to obtain comments on the applicant's community development performance. The second hearing is to obtain

views of citizens on the proposed application prior to submission of application to A-95 clearinghouses.

During the hearings, technical assistance will be provided to assist citizen participants to understand program requirements and a responsible official will be available to conduct the hearings and to be responsive to questions which may arise.

Notice is further given that any written complaints concerning the proposed full-application will be received by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at the office of Economic Development Planner, Tribal Office Building during normal working hours prior to August 5, 1981, and all such complaints will be treated as a grievance and will be answered prior to the submission of the full-application.

Notice is further given that in making this full-application and in development of project activities the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will practice a policy of non-discrimination with respect to all aspects of the project.

TITLE VII EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE

The Manpower Program is in the process of taking applications for the employment through the Native American Private Sector Initiative Program under CETA Title VII, for Choctaw Greetings Enterprise and Tri-County Transit Authority. Applications will be taken daily, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the Manpower office in the Tribal Office Annex Building. All applications will be screened for eligibility under Title VII.

If you know of anyone who is presently unemployed, encourage them to apply for this. Applicants will need to bring their last paycheck stub and some form of identification, such as a driver's license or birth certificate.

Former Title II-D and Title VI participants are encouraged to apply for Title VII positions.

Follow Through - Thirteen Years of Service

On Monday, June 29, Follow Through received notification that it would not be re-funded for the coming year. The program was given a two month closeout period, with the option of appealing Washington's decision within 35 days. We have submitted an appeal; however, no word has been received yet concerning the decision.

If the program is not re-funded, this will be the last article from Follow Through to appear in the Community News. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us for the past thirteen years.

Anita Fulton, Director
Follow Through Program





The Red Water Community Booth

Fair Director's Report

The 1981 Choctaw Fair was a great success. Several major and minor changes were implemented.

One of the major changes was the transportation system. This system kept the traffic from getting congested at the fairgrounds - I'm sure everyone was pleased that it wasn't necessary to constantly watch out for traffic. Transportation was made available to and from parking lots at the Industrial Park. The only problems we really faced with the system were the mechanical problems, which was inevitable, and a lack of extra personnel to assist with bus repairs.

Another major change we implemented was the internal communications system. It was instrumental in assisting the personnel assigned specifically to overcoming various problems that might occur during the fair. Communications systems personnel assigned specifically to overcoming various problems that might occur during the fair.

Another major change we

Continued on page 12

Red Water Club Booth Takes First Place In Fair Booth Competition

The Red Water Development Club was formed several years ago. At that time, it was called "Oka Homa Development Club." Later, it was changed to Red Water Development Club. The officers are as follows: Kirby Willis, President; Alvin Sockey, Vice President; Nellie Ann Billy, Secretary; and William F. Bell, Treasurer.

Kirby was elected in December, 1976. Under his leadership, several projects were initiated. The club won first place in community booth competition in 1977, the first time ever. It placed second twice, and this year, won first place again.

In 1977 Phyliss John, the club's princess contestant, was selected

Choctaw Princess.

The club also sponsors the Red Water Save the Children Federation project with funds from the federation. Projects included in this activity are arts and crafts, clothing, basketry workshops, student services, and organic gardening. This year, home improvement and cultural heritage projects were added.

The club has sponsored several fund raising activities. \$2,600 was raised in a single project. This past year the club, along with the Save the Children Federation, furnished fruits, nuts, and candy to the school children. The club also assists families in times of emergency.

Fair Exhibit Prizes Awarded

Fair Exhibitors are to be congratulated on the excellent job they did this year. The entries were outstanding, in the Community Booths, the Adult Division, and the 4-H Division.

A particularly outstanding individual exhibitor was Emma Polk, of Tucker Community, who won the most prize money by far. She had several items on exhibit, and ended up with \$224.00.

A breakdown of prize monies awarded as follows:

Community Booth Division:

1st Place - Red Water -	\$300
2nd place - Pearl River -	\$275
3rd place - Bogue Chitto -	\$250
4th place - Tucker -	\$200
5th place - Standing Pine -	\$175
6th place - Conehatta -	\$150

Adult Division Exhibits:

Emma Polk	\$224
Dorsey Clemmons	151
Mary Chapman	94
Marcella Vaughn	94

Continued on page 13



Emma Polk was the fair exhibitor who won the most prize money this year.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TRIBAL COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

There will be a Special Tribal Council Election and School Board Election on September 22, 1981 to elect Tribal Council members from Bogue Chitto, Pearl River and Tucker and to elect School Board members from Red Water, Standing Pine and Tucker. This election will be supervised by the Tribal Election Committee appointed by the Tribal Council. The committee members are Harrison Ben, Chairman, Lena Denson, Member and Wanda Davidson, Member. Alternates are Kirby Willis, Nellie Steve and Jesse Thomas.

Tribal members who are registered to vote will cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the LCEC at the time and place listed for their community.

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Bogue Chitto	September 22, 1981	8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.	Facility Bldg.
Red Water	September 22, 1981	8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.	Facility Bldg.
Pearl River	September 22, 1981	8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.	Council Hall
Standing Pine	September 22, 1981	8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.	Facility Bldg.
Tucker	September 22, 1981	8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.	Facility Bldg.

- 1) One position for Tribal Council in Bogue Chitto with term expiring in 1983.
- 2) Two positions for Tribal Council in Pearl River with term expiring in 1985.
- 3) Two positions for School Board in Red Water with term expiring in 1985.
- 4) Five positions for School Board in Standing Pine with term expiring in 1985.
- 5) One position for Tribal Council in Tucker with term expiring in 1985.
- 6) Five positions for School Board in Tucker with term expiring in 1985.

The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) for each community to conduct this Special Tribal Council Election and School Board Election. Names of the LCEC are posted in each of the communities.

REGISTRATION

All Tribal members of 18 years of age or older who have not yet registered to vote in Tribal Election may register at the Tribal Office, Pearl River community. If you do not register to vote on or before August 22, 1981, you cannot vote in the September 22, 1981 election. If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to register unless you have moved to another community since your date of registration.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified registered voter who is unable to appear at the polls on election day or who resides 50 miles or more distant from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by Absentee Ballot. Request for Absentee Ballot shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Office not later than 12:00 noon on September 7 1981. Request for Absentee Ballots received after this date and time will not be honored.

NOTE: All casted Absentee Ballots should be received at the Choctaw Tribal Office not later than 12:00 noon on September 21, 1981. Any

Ballots received after this specified date and time will not be counted.

CANDIDATES

Persons who wish to file as candidates must:

- 1) Be at least 21 years of age.
- 2) Is a resident of the Choctaw Community which he or she desires to represent for at least six (6) months prior to the date of election (since March 22, 1981).
- 3) Is registered to vote in the Choctaw Community which he or she desires to represent.
- 4) Secures endorsement of at least 10 persons registered to vote in Tribal Election in the Community from which he or she intends to run for office.
- 5) Submit these endorsement signatures on a nominating petition to the Chairman of the LCEC for their community on or before August 22, 1981.
- 6) The Tribal Election Committee must certify all candidates' petitions before the

candidates names are placed on the ballots.

INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Tribal Election Committee or Local Community Election Committee Chairman appointed to conduct election in your community.

DATE: July 17, 1981

Harrison Ben, Chairman
656-4083

Lena Denson, Member
656-5251, Ext. 270
656-9993

Wanda Davidson, Member
656-5251, Ext. 225

LOCAL COMMUNITY ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

1. Odie Jim Bogue Chitto
2. Elizabeth Williams Pearl River
3. Judy Mitch Red Water
4. Leroy Denson Standing Pine
5. Linda Taylor Tucker



Bernadine Hickman, of Bogue Chitto Community will reign as this year's Choctaw Princess. Sandra R. Willis of Pearl River, left, is first alternate. Anita Jim, right, also of Pearl River, was selected second alternate. The Princess Pageant was held on July 8.



Choctaw Manpower Training Center

This is it!

The Choctaw Vocational Project, in its short existence, has brought about a sense of change and need within the Choctaw communities which may be considered unprecedented in the history of the Choctaw Tribe. Since its inception in 1978, the project staff has performed services for the Tribe, tribal members, and other tribal

programs in the areas of electronics, agriculture/horticulture, construction and building trades, and management/business.

Although it may be difficult to measure programmatic services, the services and training that the Choctaw people received will surely reflect the philosophy, goals, and objectives of Choctaw self-

determination throughout the years to come. One success story that everyone can readily visualize is the completion of the 15,000 square feet of building now known as the Choctaw Manpower Training Center. Although funding may have ended, the major hurdles have been cleared.

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS...

Continued from page 5

resolution replacing a limit on salaries for committee chairs. ADOPTED

145-81 A resolution to request the BIA to expedite funding and implementation of the Choctaw Central High School asbestos program. ADOPTED

146-81 A resolution to grant right of way to central electric power association. ADOPTED

147-81 A resolution authorizing the sale of a tribal house to Zula Anderson. ADOPTED

148-81 A resolution authorizing the sale of a tribal house to Jessie Williams. ADOPTED

149-81 A resolution to rescind the freeze on loan awards by the tribal credit

committee and the BIA Credit Program. ADOPTED

150-81 A resolution to approve seismographic operations on tribal land. ADOPTED

151-81 A resolution to designate signatories for the self-determination grant and the tribal council portion of the trust fund budget and rescind resolution CHO 64-78. ADOPTED

CHOCTAW CULTURE...

Continued from page 1

race'...we at Choctaw agree...that early childhood education is the key to instilling in our people the feeling of involvement behind the idea of Self-Determination."

The implementation of the Title IV project and the new daycare center completes the goals of the conference for tribal control of a comprehensive early childhood system on the reservation capable of serving every Choctaw child.



Bogue Chitto School has a new library for this school year. Librarian Julia Shepherd is shown here shelving books in preparation for the beginning of school, which is scheduled to start August 10.

1981 CHOCTAW INDIAN



AN FAIR HIGHLIGHTS



MERIDIAN STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Plans are underway to bus day students to Meridian this fall. College classes begin on Monday, August 24, 1981; but more students are needed if transportation on a daily basis is to be provided by the Tribe. Also, if enough requests are made by part-time evening students, the possibility exists that a bus will make a round trip on specified nights for students attending Meridian Junior College or the Mississippi State University Branch in Meridian.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED IN A STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, TELEPHONE THE TRIBE'S HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY AT 656-8770.

FAIR DIRECTOR...
Continued from page 7

implemented was the internal communications system. It was instrumental in assisting the personnel assigned specifically to overcoming various problems that might occur during the fair. Communications systems personnel held a meeting after the fair to discuss how we could improve services to 1982 fair patrons. As we continue to work out the problems in this area, I'm certain that the system will be even better.

More Choctaw activities are needed daily for next year's program, and **your** input is needed. If you have any suggestions, please come and talk with me.

At this time, I would like to express my appreciation to the people who worked beyond their assigned duties in making this year's fair a complete success. We also certainly appreciate the donation from Chata Enterprise to be used in purchasing the trophies for the Championship Stickball Tournament.

Billy Chickaway

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

We were at the fair and enjoyed every minute of it. We also visited the mounds and the place where the last treaty was signed. You people should be very proud of your Chief. We Choctaws here in Oklahoma don't have anything compared to what you have - we would like to see him Chief of all Choctaw people. Why? Well, we have **one** President.

We would like to receive the Community News. We'll send a donation later. We just got home - **sculla pia taha**.

Norman Wyers
Ada McGee

Keats, Oklahoma

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all concerned voters including all interested people coming out to support and attest the voiding the election held in June 9, 1981.

In my opinion, the following irregularities were of sufficient importance that the occurrence thereof could potentially determine the outcome of the election.

1. Required notices for candidates to file for council were not posted sufficiently or sixty (60) days in advanced as required by the election ordinance in Section 4, Article 6.
2. There were posters and pictures of one candidate next to the door of polling place at Arts and Crafts area and the additional posters were placed within the boundary of 150 feet of the voting area. This is an evidence of violation in the Article IX, Section 3.c.(5) of Revised Tribal Ordinance No. 6.

3. The voting place opened at 8:00 a.m. on June 9, 1981 for the election of Tribal Council of Pearl River Community did not have ballots for the voters. The ballots were not available until 9:45 a.m. In the meantime, approximately ten or more voters were turned away and were told to return later. It is direct violations of Article VII and IV of said ordinance.

4. Pre-election instructions apparently were not adequate and did not instruct Local Community Election Committee members and designated officials as to the manners in which the election is to be conducted. They were not taught to interpret the rules and regulations as required by the election ordinance Section 4, Article VII. (Revised Tribal Ordinance No. 6)

Some of the council members seemed partial to the faulty election system and favoring certain candidates to be selected for Tribal Council seats. Even though there were exhibits of proof that there were direct violations in conduction the election, the council members did not vote unanimously to recall and correct the irregularities.

In my opinion, there is something wrong with elected officials and government systems when the leaders lose sight of their optimal goals and objectives, which are to represent and serve the best interests of their constituents.

Instead, some elected officials seem afraid to voice their opinions on certain issues in the meetings, because they are afraid of the bureaucratic tribal political system.

Linda Farve



The BIA road crew has been working in Tucker Community recently on completion of the roads, in accordance with Tribal Council resolution CHO 137-80, which designates that approximately 6.7 miles of BIA roads be paved in Tucker Community. As of now, about 3.1 miles have been completed this fiscal year, partially by contract and partially by BIA forces. Before this construction season ends, another .5 miles are scheduled to be completed. Future construction funds now anticipated should allow the remaining 3.1 miles (the rest of Tucker Loop and BIA Route 2460 - in front of the school and church) to be completed before the end of 1983.

Fund Raising Tournament

Sponsored by Pow Wow
Committee and Most-In-Need
Program
at

Pearl River Softball Field

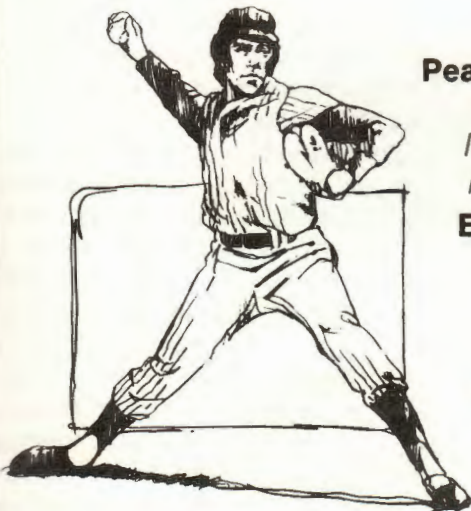
September 8-12, 1981

*Interested teams are
invited to participate*

Entrance Fee \$25.00

Contact
Ken York
or

Bradley Isaac
for more information



Fishing Rodeos

Nelson Henry, Wildlife and Parks Manager, has announced that there will be two fishing rodeos during the month of August, both on Saturday afternoons. The first will be held at Standing Pine Community Pond on August 22. The second will be at the Bogue Chitto Community Pond on August 22. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. All interested parties are invited to participate. There is no charge for entering.

The Wildlife and Parks office is now selling State Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Neshoba County. For more information, contact Nelson Henry at 656-5251.



Larry Ferris, of Conehatta Community, is shown here with his pepper crop, to be sold in conjunction with the truck crop projects sponsored by TVA as a fertilizer demonstration. Growers who participate are required to keep records on work time involved and the yield of crops harvested, to be reported to TVA this fall.

Dr. Emery Johnson Retires

Dr. Johnson, who was appointed to the post of IHS Director in 1969, cited personal reasons for his decision, noting that "twelve years as Director of the Indian Health Service is long enough for me personally and long enough for the program."

Dr. Edward N. Brandt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Health, stated that he had regretfully accepted Dr. Johnson's request to retire from active duty. Brandt credited Dr. Johnson with the significant improvement in the health status of Native Americans over the past decade, and said that Johnson "has left a legacy that we will be hard put to replace."

American Indian infant mortality rates and other health indicators have improved dramatically under Dr. Johnson's leadership of IHS, Brandt said.

Jake Whitecrow, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) expressed his regret over Dr. Johnson's decision. "Dr. Johnson has been a driving force in the improvement of the

health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Indian community is going to miss him very much," Whitecrow said.

According to Brandt, a nationwide search for the best qualified replacement will be initiated after consultation with tribal leadership. Brandt said he seeks "a physician with a solid background in clinical and community medicine, proven management skills, and an ability to work with tribal governments."

Dr. Johnson joined the Indian Health Service as a medical officer in 1955, and served in several medical and administrative capacities before being appointed IHS director in 1969. Johnson has received numerous awards during his career, including the PHS Distinguished Service Medal; the Award of Merit from the Association of American Indian Physicians; the Award for Outstanding Leadership from the National Tribal Chairmen's Association; and the Rockefeller Public Service Award.



Kennith York

Ken York Appointed to IRA Committee

Kennith York, director of Choctaw Vocational Programs for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, has been named to the Native American Literacy Committee of the International Reading Association.

More than 40 committees named by International Reading Association President Kenneth Goodman will examine various aspects of reading education and the Association's activities. Committee actions may result in publications, resolutions for the Association's involvement in important reading concerns, or dissemination of information about a particular aspect of reading. Committee members make a valuable contribution to reading education through their volunteer activities for the Association.

Committees began their work at the close of the Association's Twenty-sixth Annual Convention in April. The International Reading Association, with 65,000 members worldwide, is a nonprofit education organization devoted to the improvement of reading instruction and promotion of the lifetime reading habit. Its members include reading teachers, researchers, administrators, reading specialists and others interested in reading education around the world.

Reservation Wide Pow Wow September 24, 25, 26, 1981 In observance of National Indian Week

Traditional Dress Review

Cultural Competitions

Social Dancing

Stickball

Free lunch Saturday, September 26

Prizes

Everyone Invited

For more information, contact

Pow Wow Committee

Linda Farve, Chairman

Thallis Lewis

Ken York

Bradley Isaac

Roseanne Tubby

656-5251

World Championship Stickball tournament



Independents Prevail

The 1981 rendition of the Choctaw Indian Championship Tournament began July 8, with the preliminary games played during the course of the Choctaw Indian Fair. The first game resulted in a forfeit. Standing Pine was scheduled to play Bogue Chitto but failed to show. The following day Beaver Dam squared off against the All-Stars, coached by Raymond Willis. The first three quarters represented stickball at its best. The score remained 2-1 for the full 45 minutes. In the fourth and most surprising quarter (to this writer and the All Stars), Beaver Dam exploded for four easy points to defeat the All-Stars 6-2. A lopsided defeat in view of the players who made up the All-Star team.

The third day presented a championship game on its own merits that exemplified strategy and a physical game. Bogue Chitto, the reigning champs of 1980, met and fell to the Independents, coached by Doyle Tubby. At any other fair, this

would have been the Championship game, but the two teams presented a championship game during the course of the championship games. Randy Jimmie scored all the points for the Independents, outscoring Bogue Chitto 3-2, the final score Randy Jimmie and the Independents 3, Bogue Chitto 2.

With this game, the stage was set for a New World Championship. The fourth game presented Beaver Dam and Conehatta. Through four full quarters the game remained deadlocked at 1-1. Neither of the teams could get the upper hand. In 110-plus degree weather, the game continued into sudden death. Conehatta's Jerome Willis retrieved an overthrown ball and scored unscathed. Thus, the game ended 2-1, sending the first year coach Feldon Shumake and Conehatta into the Championship game scheduled for that same evening. Bruised and battered, physically and mentally, the old hot trick was indeed the priority for Feldon

Shumake, if he was to take the title, trophy, and money back to Conehatta. Strategy and intestinal fortitude were the only definitive words for reporting the championship game. For two quarters, the game was as expected, each team strategically moving the ball and shooting, but to no avail. This game was the Championship game and was to this writer for the first half only. The first half score was 2-0. In the third quarter, Conehatta, in a valiant attempt to secure the advantage of the game, produced their only point. But at that point, fatigue set in and that was their nemesis. The score remained 2-1 at the end of three quarters. In the fourth, Barry Ben opened his bag of tricks and scored and assisted for two more points. The final score, 4-1, established the Independents as

Continued on page 16





Choctaw All Stars: (front row, l-r) Steven J. Lewis, Tony York, Jr., Nickey Charlie, Kenneth Thomas, Gaylor Williams, (2nd row, l-r) Clifton Hickman, Jr., McKinley Steve, Kenneth Simpson, Harvey McMillan, Cedric Williams, (3rd row, l-r) Nelson Henry, Sean Allen, Edward Clemmons, Auburn Jefferson, Daron Isaac, Vandell Willis, William Comby III.

Choctaw Dixie Youth Baseball

The Choctaw Dixie Youth League, composed of teams from Conehatta (Bad News Bears and Redskins), Tucker (Chiefs), Bogue Chitto (Braves), and Pearl River (Beaver Dam), combined last month and made an All-Star team, to participate in the All-Star sub-district tournament in Union. There were three teams included in the tournament; Decatur, Union, and Choctaw All-Stars.

STICKBALL...

Continued from page 15

the 1981 Choctaw Stickball's World Champions.

To the champs went the title, a trophy designating them as such, and \$800.00. To Conehatta went second place, \$400.00 and a successful year for the first year coach, Feldon Shumake. Beaver Dam and Bogue Chitto were each awarded \$200.00. The All-Stars and Standing Pine were extended an invitation to further their attempts at

In the first game against the Decatur All-Stars, the Choctaws won with a score of 14-8. They lost the second game against Union 10-6. However, they managed to win the Runner-up trophy and earned a berth in the District Tournament.

In the District Tournament their opponents, the Meridian Nationals, defeated them with a score of 17-0. Their last chance was the following night, when they played against the

the elusive championship.

The most valuable player for the stickball games was Barry Ben, and so deserving to this writer. The York family, represented by Mr. Ken York, presented the Baxter York Trophy to Mr. Doyle Tubby, coach of the Independents team, for his sportsmanship and contribution to the game, as Mr. Baxter York would have liked to have seen, and the tradition was carried on.

As Coordinator of this year's stickball games, let me take this opportunity to commend the

Jackson American All-Stars. Harvey McMillan went the regulation six innings of pitching and part of the seventh inning before being lifted for another pitcher. The team ran out of steam and was defeated once more 8-5.

In all, our boys showed fine sportsmanship and a lot of determination. Maybe next year, boys!

referees for keeping the game at a cool 98.6 degrees when the weather was 100-plus degrees. Our officials were Head Official Mr. Prentiss "Columbo" Lewis, Assistants Mr. John Walter York, Mr. Enos Joe, Mr. Mack Anderson, Mr. Raymond Willis, Mr. Mack Jimmie, Sr., Mr. Laymon Shumake, and Mr. Carl Willis. Commendation in that the officials were paid not in monetary terms but just by being involved in the carrying on of a prized possession, Choctaw Tradition.

Adolph Jimmie

HEAD START/PCDP ANNUAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

This year the annual HS/PCDP training workshops have lasted from July 21 - July 31. These two weeks of intense training are of benefit not only to our HS/PCDP staff and parents, but also to any other interested parents or tribal employees. The purpose of these sessions is to better train and prepare our staff to meet the needs of the children we serve. For this reason we contacted consultants to speak on a variety of subjects related to the health, education and happiness of our children.

We began with a session concerning parent counseling, documentation of referrals and follow-ups. Our speaker was Dr. Tom McMurrain and his wife, Marsha. Dr. McMurrain is a consultant from the Hunanics Associates in Atlanta, Ga. Also during these two weeks were sessions to help our staff improve themselves and their own life styles.

FAIR PRIZES...

Continued from page 7

Mary Lou Sam	92
Agnes York	87
Louise Chapman	86
Inez Henry	85
Trudy Dool	60
Phoebe York	56
John Mingo Jr.	54
Bernice Frazier	53
Minnie Amos	53
Mary Vaughn	48
Cecil Mitch	46
Terry Ben	44
Bonnie Wesley	44
Beth Thompson	41
Barbara Willis	41
Hattie Joe	39
Maggie Allen	39
Frank Billy	34
Mallie Chickaway	30
Wanda Davidson	29
Nan Isaac	27
Estelline Tubby	25
Martha Ferguson	24
Mattie Thompson	23
Alma Sam	22
Geraldine Isaac	20
Watson Lewis	19
Katie Willis	17
Maxine Bell	15
Leslie Steve	15
Donna Jimmie	14



Headstart Workshop - A fire hazard demonstration by Dr. Jean Barnes.

These included two excellent workshops, The Side Effects of Alcohol and The Side Effects of Tobacco. The trainers were Earline Hickman, Mental Health Counselor at the Choctaw Health Center and Dr. Jean Barnes, Health Education Dept. Chairman from the University of Southern Mississippi. Assisting them were Mike Geouge', Director of Risk Reduction and Olin Williams, Risk Reduction Resource

Developer, both from the Choctaw Health Center.

A large portion of our work in HS/PCDP is insuring that our children receive the proper nutrition. We had two workshops to cover this subject. Nutrition Education and Training was a session specifically for the cooks and was given by Vanessa Taylor from the State Child Care Food

Continued on page 18

Annie L. Alex	12
Christine Amos	11
Hayward McMillan	11
Mattie Smith	10
Linda Carey	10
Lusan Billy	9
Nelson Henry	9
Annie Tubby	6
Annie Clemmons	6
Wagie Robinson	4
Velma Sam	3

Total \$1,936

4-H Division Exhibits:

Scottie York	\$26.50
Jody Edwards	23.75
Jane Lewis	22.50
John Ferguson	19.50
Adrienne McMillan	18.50
Phoebe Tubby	18.00
Bernina Sanchez	14.75
Sally Sockey	13.75
Shirley Jim	10.25
Christopher Willis	10.00
Terry Jim	8.50
Barbara Lewis	8.25
Bobby Henry	8.25
Amanda Willis	8.00
Twana Polk	7.75
Sherill Nickey	7.50
Michelle Sockey	7.00

Shelly Johnson	7.00
Michell Jefferson	6.25
Craig Anderson	6.00
Dorman Sam	6.00
Michell Nickey	5.75
Bobbie Nell Billy	5.50
Richard Henry	5.50
Laura Jim	5.50
Dudley Denson	5.25
Jennie Willis	5.25
Pete Sockey	4.75
Anita Jim	4.00
Raymond Hickman	4.00
Nolan Solomon	3.75
Angie Jim	3.75
Loretta Willis	3.75
Clifton Hickman Jr.	3.25
Karen Jefferson	2.50
Timothy Willis	2.50
Michael Denson	2.50
Sylvia Williams	2.25
Doug Williams	2.25
Angie Smith	2.25
Jonathan Williams	2.25
Eddie Johnson	2.00
Trudy Farmer	1.75
Sanpella Denson	1.75
Warren Comby	1.75
Georgia John	1.50
Sharon Hickman	1.50
Bernadine Hickman	1.50
Total	\$346.25

SUMMER HEAT VS. POOL



How do you beat the summer heat? We suggest a swim in the pool at Pearl River Community for a start! It's open for business and hours are as follows:

Monday & Friday: 12:00 - 6:00

Tuesday & Thursday: 1:00 - 5:00 and 7:00 - 9:00

Wednesday: 1:00 - 5:00

Saturday: 11:00 - 7:00

Sunday: 1:30 - 5:30

Admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$.75 for 17 years and younger.

HEADSTART WORKSHOPS...

Continued from page 13

Service. The other sessions was for the entire staff and related to weight control for parents and children. Our speaker was Karla Bailey, Chief Dietitian from the Choctaw Health Center.

Chief Phillip Martin and members of the Tribal Council spoke to our staff on the importance of early childhood education. Chief Martin commented on the productivity and excellence of Choctaw Headstart/PCDP. The other members present included Frank Steve, Vice-Chief, Mack Jimmie, Research Specialist, Luke Jimmie, Education Committee Chairman, Beasley Denson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribal Council. Each remarked on the importance of continuing education.

The education workshops scanned a variety of activities. Two days were spent with consultant from the Teacher's Center located in Fairfield, Connecticut. These consultants, Sally Austin and Bena Kallick, conducted sessions on language, stories, creative dramatics, time management, guiding behavior and toys parents can make at home with their child.

We also had a bilingual workshop given by Thallus Lewis, Home Extension Service, and children's literature by Dr. Carroll Coley, from the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Both staff and parents enjoyed and participated in these workshops and look forward to another good year.

RED CLAY POTTERY WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Arts and Crafts Program

Linda Farve, Instructor

August 10-15, 1981

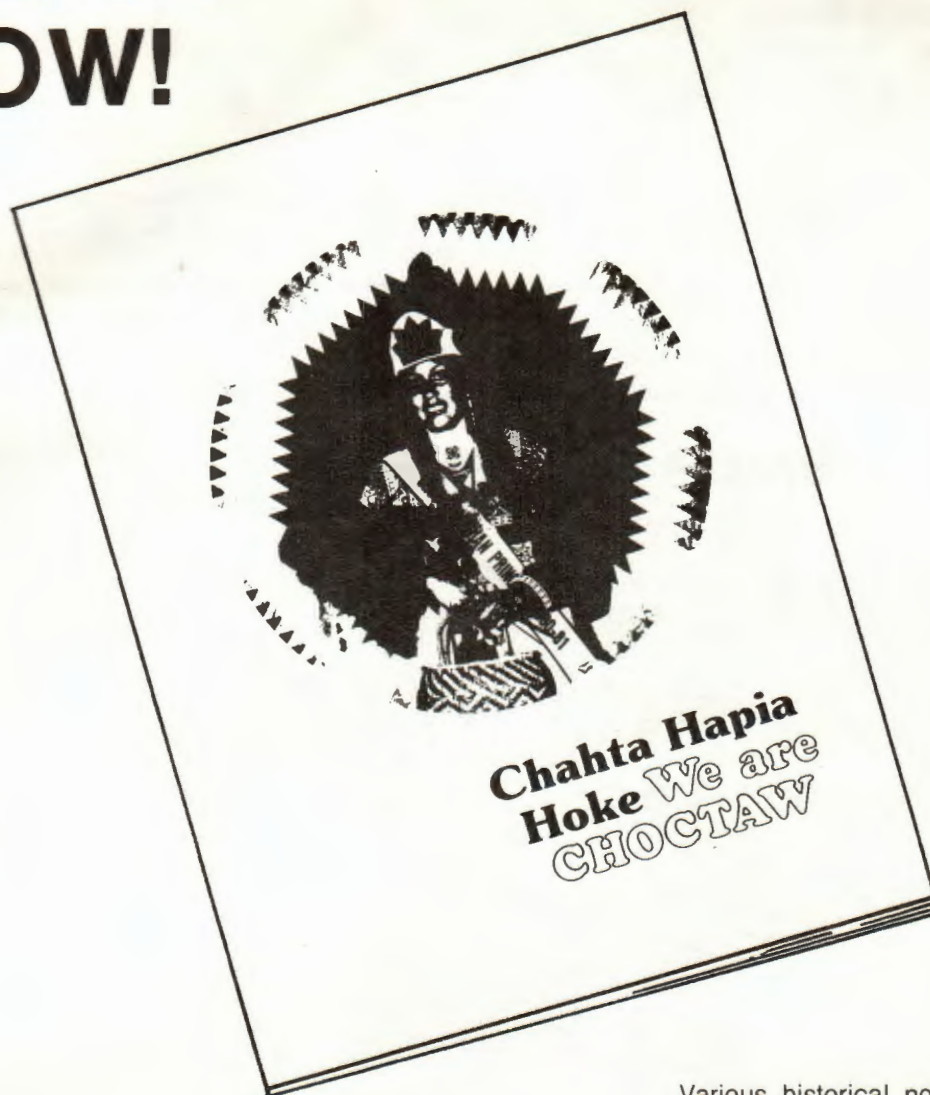
To be held at the Arts and Crafts Enterprise

Materials Supplied

For more information, contact

Linda Farve at 656-5251, extension 244

ORDER NOW!



Various historical notes include sections on Pushmataha and Mushulatubbee.

Order Today!

A new informational booklet researched and published by the Choctaw Tribal Government entitled "CHAHTA HAPIA HOKE We are Choctaw." This booklet contains sixty picture packed colorful pages describing Choctaw History including removal and fraud, establishment of the Choctaw Agency, re-establishment of the Tribal Government and the tribe's modern progress.

Also included are sections on stickball, basketry, dance and other cultural areas.

Please send _____ copies at \$5.00 plus 50¢ per book postage & handling charge. Check of Money Order, please. Do not send cash!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Make payable and mail to: Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Route 7 Box 21, Philadelphia, Miss. 39350.



RETURN REQUESTED
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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Jackson, MS

Special Tribal Election

Please be aware of the upcoming election on September 22, 1981. In order to vote, you must register. My office is open from 8:00 to 4:30 p.m. The deadline for registration is **August 22, 1981.**

Mavis Steve
Registrar

THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

Route 7, Box 21 Philadelphia, MS 39350

Phone 656-5251

There is no charge for being placed on the mailing list for the Choctaw Community News. However, we welcome donations to help defray the cost of mailing and printing.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS.

Edward John Editor

News of interest to the local community or to the Indian community is welcomed. Letters to the editor are accepted only if signed. It should be noted that letters express the views of the writers and not necessarily those of this newspaper.



Chahta Hapia
Hoke We are
CHOCTAW

Chahta Hapia **Hoke** We are **CHOCTAW**

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Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Rt. 7, Box 21
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

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YOH-HALEH...

YOH-HALEH...

YOH-HALEH...

YOH-HALEH...

Yoh-haleh. Yoh-haleh. There is strength in Prentiss Jackson's voice as he sings out the chant known to other tribal members as the song for the *itimolubbee hithah* -- the Stealing Partners Dance of the Mississippi Choctaws. The occasion for this dance is the annual Choctaw Indian Fair, held on the Choctaw Reservation six miles west of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Thousands of spectators crowd football stadium bleachers watching the traditional Choctaw dancers as, forming a circle, they move in step. The stadium is only part of the modern building complex built by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1963 and known as the Choctaw Central High School. Before the high school, together with an elementary and middle school, dormitories,



cafeteria and gymnasium were constructed, Choctaw students wanting to attend high school had to go to Oklahoma or elsewhere. Now the school is a major source of present and future Choctaw strength.

Prentiss Jackson's proud chant pierces the evening air as a young male breaks from the group and runs across the ring they have formed toward a pretty female dancing on the other side of the circle. Seeing him approach, she feigns surprise and breaks free of the other dancers to flee. First running outside the circle, she cuts suddenly back through the dancers and then sets out on a zig-zagging course between the circling dancers as the distance gradually narrows between her and her pursuer. Behind this scene and blending with the treeline is another building complex including two low profiled buildings with large tinted glass windows and dark, natural wood. The larger of the two is the Tribal Office Building and since its completion in 1975, it has housed the principal Executive Branch Offices of the Tribal Government. Although largely unnoticed for the moment by the Fair's spectators, in recent years national focus has increasingly centered on this developing government. The newer adjacent building, completed in 1978, is the Tribal Council Hall and serves the Legislative Branch of this same tribal government. Its spacious Council Meeting Room resembles a formal courtroom with its elevated, semi-circular podium. Facing the panel, federal and state officials and employees, consultants, educators, attorneys, industrialists, tribal leaders and tribal members themselves offer their solutions to the many issues of this advancing government. Here individuals may observe the democratic proceedings and witness the governmental activities which have led to the phenomenal tribal growth and development. Here the tribal government has adopted as its

goal "Indian Self-Determination" -- a concept which includes self-management of resources, increased tribal assumption of responsibility for the administration of federal program operations, and decreased federal dependency through economic development.

The dance continues as the young man catches and proudly leads his captive back to the ring of dancers and a second young male breaks from the group to repeat the ritual chase, this time in pursuit of an elderly lady in the dance group. Fair spectators express surprise and delight that the elderly woman in her flight demonstrates such energy, vitality and endurance. In decades past such chases of the young after the old were less frequent, for fewer tribal members survived middle age to be part of the dances. A nationwide influenza epidemic of the World War I era killed one of every five Mississippi Choctaws and caused the federal government to finally abandon its policy of removing Choctaws to Oklahoma and to establish an agency and a 35-bed Indian hospital in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Still, it was not until 1930 that the death rate among Mississippi Choctaws dropped below the birth rate as health care improved. Now a new 43-bed Choctaw Health Center hospital, no longer in Philadelphia but on-reservation and under greater tribal control, is within walking distance of the Dancing Arena. Because of the tremendous strides in health care, the audience is seeing a larger number of older tribal dancers than could have been seen in years past.

Itimolubbee Hithah - continues with the young pursuing young and old, and old pursuing old and young. The audience sees striking contrast through the many combinations of bright colors of the dancer's traditional clothing. Bright yellow, blues, reds and greens are often the basic colors. Carefully



Administrative and deliberative offices are clustered conveniently at the Pearl River headquarters of the Choctaw Tribe.

stitched "rattle snake design" trim on the long women's dresses and men's shirts add decoration, give identification and express meanings seldom explained to those not of the tribe. Brighter contrasts are offered through beadwork jewelry, which together with stickballs of woven leather strips, stickball sticks, basketry of native cane, blow guns and pottery, represent the traditional arts and crafts. Contrasts are important to the tribe as is the contrast between the age-old dance and the contemporary operations of the nearby Choctaw Industrial Park. There hundreds work in tribal construction or manufacturing operations developed through the tribal government's creative and aggressive economic development activities.



Prentiss Jackson



And while the fair runs its four-day course and the future of the national economy and of federal commitments to Indian tribes are uncertain, tribal leaders are stepping up efforts to secure another industry. Success will result in an innovative and unprecedented alliance among the Tribe, the State of Mississippi, and the City of Philadelphia and serve as a prototype for tribes nationwide. It is still another contrast and another parallel; an alliance with a state government which as early as 1829 passed laws making this tribal existence unlawful and as late as 1978 refused legal recognition to the tribal government.



Assembly operations in the Chahta Wire Harness Plant, a vital, non-polluting, economic resource of the tribe.

Many reasons for the triumph of Choctaw survival can be seen and understood through *itimolubbee hithah*, perceived through strength of the chanter's voice and the endurance of dancers young and old. Choctaw success is the blending of young and old as well as contrasts. Endurance, pride, and commitment through a centuries-old struggle to preserve

culture, identity and existence itself produced a persevering tribal government of an ancient heritage that dynamically presses forward through great adversity. The pages that follow seek to provide information on the tribe's past, present and future and endeavor to acquaint the reader with the strength and spirit which, like the *itimolubbee hihtah*, is truly Choctaw.

Choctaw Yesterday

The Choctaw story is derived from archaeology, oral tradition, and written history. Human presence in "Choctaw Country" has been traced back as far as 7,000 B.C., and permanent residence as far back as 5,000 B.C. When the Choctaw people came is not known; but future archaeological study should reveal this.

The Oral Tradition

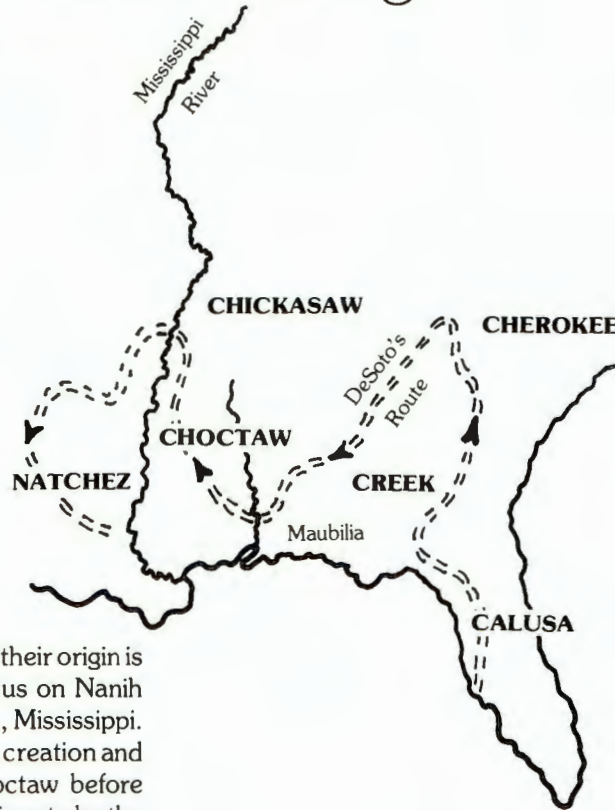
Choctaw people have been here so long that their origin is known only through legends. These legends focus on Nanih Waiya - the Mother Mound located near Preston, Mississippi. This mound is connected by legend with both the creation and migration of the Tribe. The center of the Choctaw before advent of the white man, it was considered by Indians to be the birth place of their race. Out of the mound ages ago, they believe, came first the Creeks, Cherokees and Chickasaws, who sunned on ramparts of the mound and moved eastward. Emerging from Nanih Waiya last were the Choctaws who sunned themselves until dry to settle around the mound - their "Great Mother" who told them that if ever they left her side, they would die.

Another legend relates Nanih Waiya to Choctaw migration in the tribe's search for a new homeland. A tribal elder gives one account:

"Many years ago, the ancestors of our people lived in the northwest. In time their population became so large that it was difficult to exist there. The prophets of the tribe announced

that a land of fertile soil and abundant game lay in the southeast and that the people could live there in peace and prosperity forever. Under the leadership of Chahta, our people set forth.

"At the end of each day's journey, a sacred pole was planted erect in front of the camp. The next morning the pole would be found to be leaning one way or another; in that direction the tribesmen were to travel for that day. For months our people followed the sacred staff. One day when the tribe stopped on the west side of a creek, Chahta planted the pole; heavy rain began to fall. The next day, the staff which had



Nanih Waiya today -- the mother mound of the Choctaws. It is a typical truncated temple mound of the Mississippian era.



burrowed itself deeper in the ground stood straight and tall for all to see. Chahta proclaimed that the long sought land of Nanih Waiya had been found. Here we would build our homes and a mound as the sacred burial spot for our ancestors."

Today Nanih Waiya is surrounded by fields and pasture. Nature's wind and water erosion and man's farming have reduced the mound to a fraction of its former size. Several years ago the State of Mississippi developed a small state park at the site of Nanih Waiya which included a trail to the legendary Nanih Waiya cave, a picnic area, and a small meeting hall. Although figuring in the Choctaw legends, Nanih Waiya as it exists today is not under the ownership or control of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The Historic Record

Gold seekers were the first Europeans to come to Choctaw Country. These lands stretched from offshore islands in the Gulf of Mexico, north central Alabama and central Mississippi; and from the Mississippi River to eastern Alabama.

A Spaniard, Alonzo Pineda, was the first known European to enter Choctaw territory, although before his arrival in 1519 the coastline had been charted by an unknown cartographer. Pineda reported seeing long-haired Indians who wore dramatic clothing of marten and lion skins. (He also told tales of pygmies and giants, and Indian princesses laden with gold.) These were Mauvillans (Mobilians) a division of the Choctaw hegemony for whom a city, a county, a river, and a bay were named.

A meeting of more consequence came in 1540 when Hernando de Soto, a cruel and powerful man, came into Choctaw territory. He brought with him about 600 well-armed men, 200 of them on horseback. The well-trained Spanish army enslaved, looted, and killed Indian people on a bloody trek through the southeast. In Alabama they came to the town of the Choctaw Chief, Tuscaloosa, a giant of a man, regal in bearing and conduct. The Spaniards demanded to be supplied with women and carriers.

Women were promised for delivery at Maubila, described as a large Indian town possibly near the site of present-day Mobile. When the Spaniards arrived at Maubilia with Tuscaloosa in ill-disguised captivity, they were confronted by a large number of Choctaw warriors. A fierce battle was fought, but the Indian weapons were no match for Spanish steel and



Spanish horses. Indian dead were numbered in the thousands, and the Mobilians, who had been a powerful tribe in the Choctaw hegemony, were crushed. However, the Mobile Choctaws fought with such ferocious courage and inflicted such hurt on the Spaniards that de Soto retired from the territory, leaving behind his baggage and booty stolen from the Indians.

Choctaw people lived free of the white man's direct influence for nearly 150 years. About 1700, the French came intending to stay, followed by the Spanish and English. Beautiful, fertile Choctaw Country became pivotal in the struggle of the three powers to gain economic and political control of the vast Mississippi Valley.

At first, Choctaws became allies of the French, whose influence spread from the Gulf northward. On behalf of the French, Choctaws allied themselves against the Creeks and the Chickasaws, who were allies of the English, whose influence was spreading south and west from the Eastern Seaboard colonies. From the start of Queen Anne's War in 1702, the southern tribes were involved in frequent conflict. In the middle years of the century, Choctaw leanings became divided between the French and the English; the Choctaw Nation was divided in a tragic civil war resolved in 1750 by a treaty that united the tribe under French dominion.

In a secret treaty, France in 1762 gave the Louisiana Territory to Spain. A year later the gift was formalized by the Treaty of Paris which ended French colonial ambitions in North America. By this treaty, France gave up all of its territory in the Southeast to Spain and Spain ceded the portion known as West Florida to the English. West Florida stretched from the Perdido River east of Mobile to the Mississippi River encompassing almost all of the southern portion of Choctaw territory. Suddenly, the Choctaw people found themselves subjects of their old enemy, the British, and neighbors of the Spanish who held the territory west of the Mississippi River. As a result of 60 years of European-induced wars, the Choctaw Nation's social structure was severely shaken.

With the Choctaw Nation nominally within British territory and with the Spanish on the west, both Spain and Great Britain courted Choctaw favor. The British continued the French custom of annual gift-giving. The first British gift-giving was held in Mobile in 1763 for both Creek and Choctaw. A chronicler of this event relates that the town bulged with Indian people who were feted so lavishly that the British administration was placed near bankruptcy. The British Governors of Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia held a council that same year in Augusta, Georgia, with the chiefs of the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees and Creeks.

In 1765 the British and Choctaw signed a treaty in Mobile that defined an eastern boundary for the Choctaw Nation and codified relations between the two nations. Despite their overtures, the British were not successful in earning Indian loyalty. The Choctaws took little part in the Revolutionary War, but some Choctaws served as scouts under American generals in Washington, Morgan, Wayne, and Sullivan.

With American independence Choctaws found themselves again the object of power politics. Having declared war on England during the American Revolution, the Spanish moved eastward across the southern part of the Choctaw territory and regained control of the Floridas, including West

Florida.

The United States signed its first treaty with the Choctaw Nation at Hopewell, South Carolina, in January, 1786. This treaty established trade relations, reaffirmed the eastern boundary of the Choctaw Nation as defined by the British in 1765, and, most important, recognized the Choctaw as an independent nation.

Spain and the Choctaw Nation also signed treaties of friendship, and the Spanish were allowed to build a fort on the Yazoo River in the west, and another on the Tombigbee River in the east. Spain wanted Choctaw lands to serve as a buffer state against American expansion. But, in quick shifts of power, Spain ceded the Louisiana Territory to France in 1800, and France sold the territory to the United States in 1803, ending European influence. American settlers poured into the area.

Choctaw leaders aligned themselves with the United States through these "great-power" maneuvers. Rejecting the appeals of the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh to join a general Indian offensive against the United States, the Choctaws joined forces with General Andrew Jackson. The Creek war faction allied itself with Tecumseh. Choctaws were with Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend that ended the Creek participation in the war. Significantly, Choctaws under the leadership of Chief Pushmataha also fought beside Jackson



Tribal Government Formalized

On August 5, 1826, the Choctaw Council adopted its first written constitution. The first law adopted under this constitution provided for a Council House which was located south of the present city of Starkville on the Noxubee River near the Noxubee County Line. The constitution provided for an annual general council consisting of representatives from each of the three districts and a plural executive, composed of the three district chiefs with each elected by his district for a four-year term. Thus the first constitutional executive office was shared by three Chiefs.

District chiefs to Removal time were:

Northwest District (or *okla falaya*).

1802-1824 — Apukshunnubbee

1825-1826 — Robert Cole

1826-1830 — Greenwood Leflore

Northeast District (or *haiyip tuklo*).

1803-1809 — Hoomastubbee

1809-1826 — Mushulatubbee (son of Hoomastubbee)

1826-1830 — David Folsom

Southern District (or *okla hannali*).

1803-1824 — Pushmataha

1824 — Oklahoma (nephew of Pushmataha)

1824-1828 — General Thokonktho

1826 — Samuel Garland (Elected, but refused

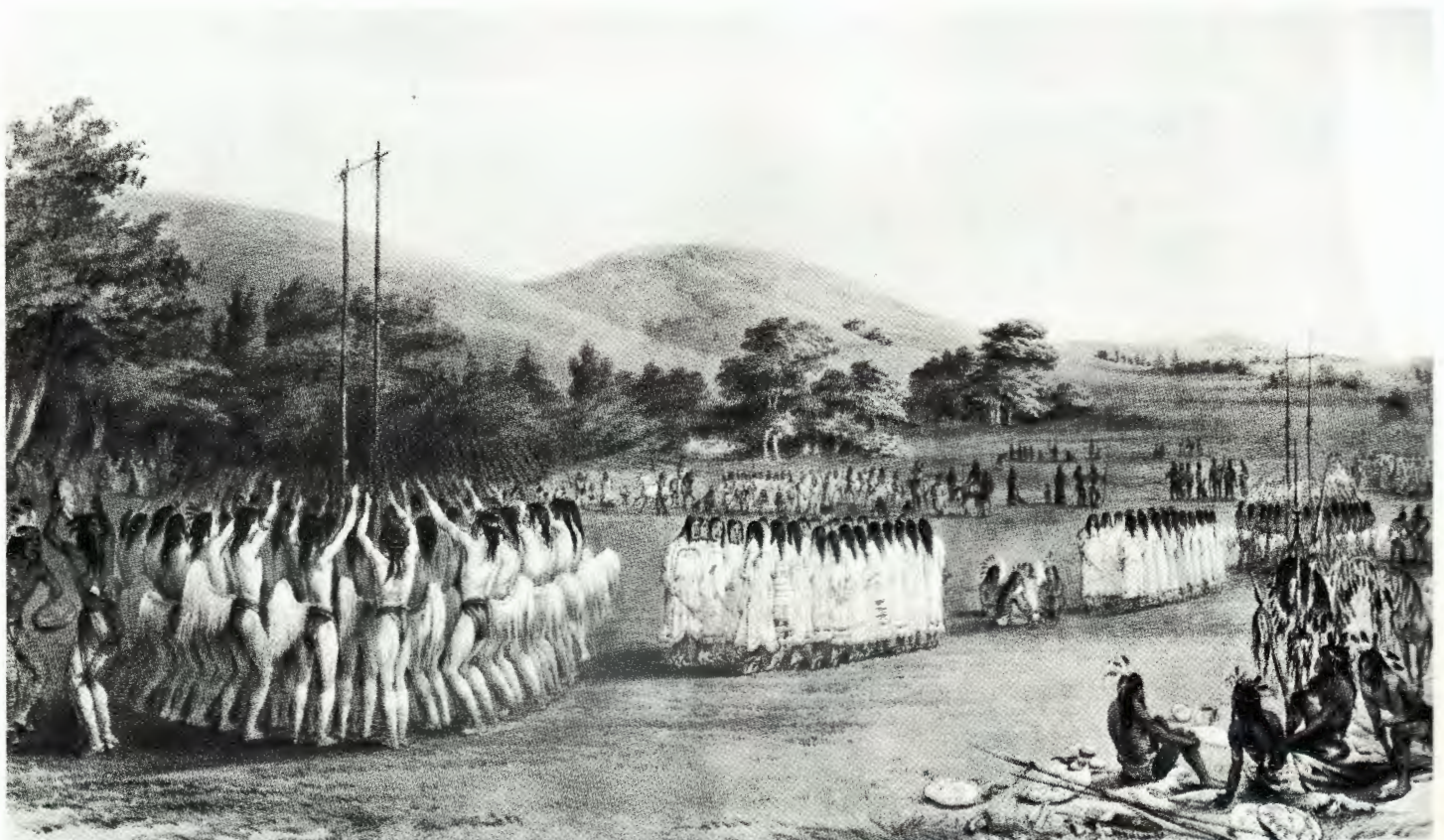
recognition by either Thokonktho or Nitak Achi)

1828-1830 — Nitak Achi (nephew of Pushmataha)

against the British at the battle of New Orleans in 1814.

Determined Choctaw efforts to gain friendship and fair treatment from the United States eventually failed. Concessions granted the Indian Nation at the Treaty of Hopewell rapidly assumed the form of token gestures. An alien credit system left the tribe deeply in debt to English trading houses. At the treaty of Mount Dexter in 1805, the Choctaw Nation gave up more than 4,000,000 acres, including the Gulf

Coast, for \$50,000 and an annual payment of \$3,000. From this award, \$48,000 went directly to an English trading company. Other large areas of land were ceded to the United States in treaties signed in 1816 and again in 1820. Finally, by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830, the Choctaw Nation was forced to cede its remaining land to the United States. The Removal to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) began.



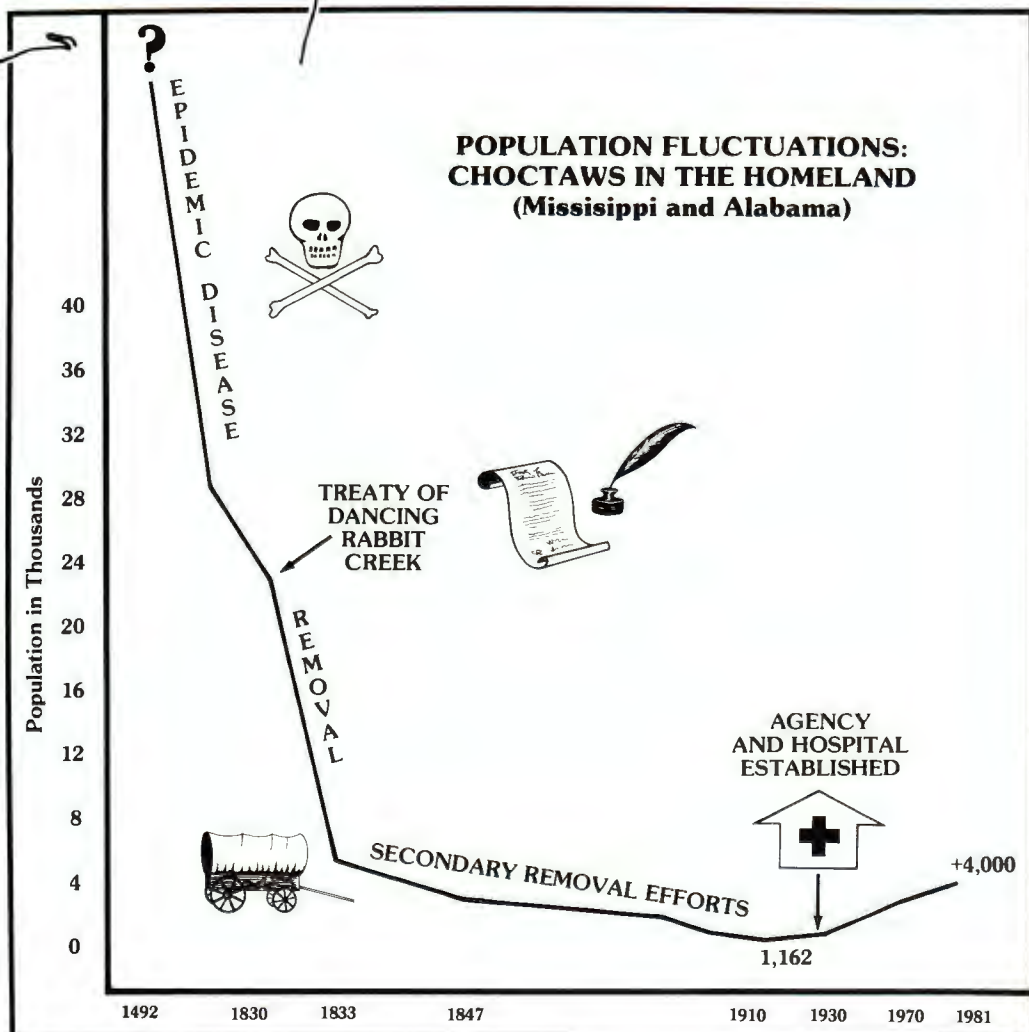
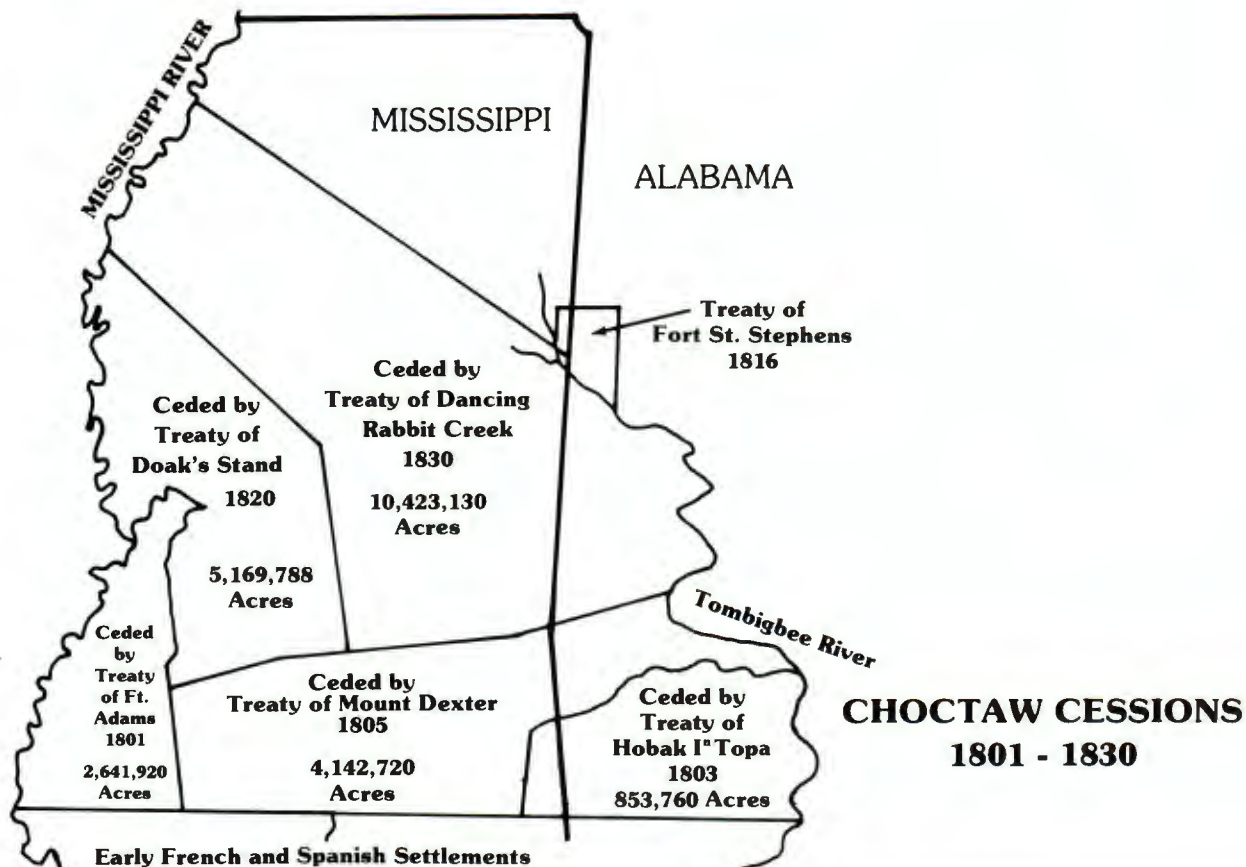
The Ball Play ritual and dance continued throughout the night preceding a game. Painting by George Catlin, 1836.



Eagle Dance of the Choctaws, painted just after Removal to Indian Territory.



A warm day in the Choctaw Nation. Two teams, one painted with white clay, captured in action by the brush of George Catlin. Goalposts are precursors of modern-day football goals.

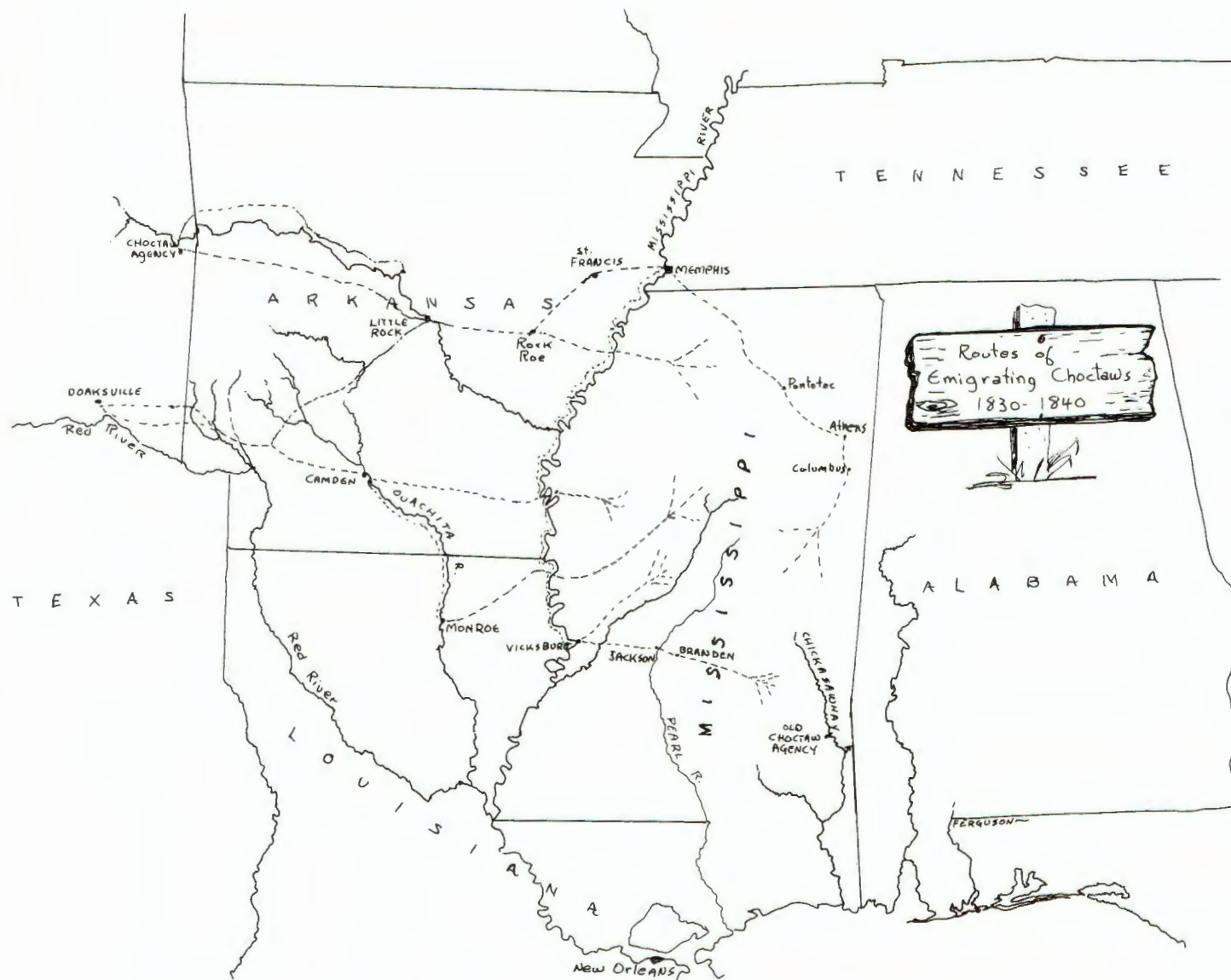


Removal and Fraud

Thomas Jefferson's 1803 message to Congress urging that the huge Louisiana Territory be purchased from France, included the proposal that Indian nations be moved to less desirable lands west of the Mississippi. Accordingly, the Louisiana Territorial Act of 1804 empowered the President to move tribes off their land to make way for American settlers. But removal was delayed for a generation during which Choctaw people sought to accept non-Indian customs. For 30 years the Choctaw people made an effort to please the United States by adapting their governmental and social institutions and were successful, until the tragedy at Dancing Rabbit Creek.

The succession of treaty agreements had restricted Choctaw land to east central Mississippi. In 1829, encouraged

by President Andrew Jackson, the State of Mississippi declared all members of the tribe to be citizens of the state, and attempted to obliterate the tribal government through laws that imposed severe punishment on any Choctaw who accepted tribal office. Spokesmen for President Jackson, claimed the federal government, in spite of treaties could not prevent the state of Mississippi from enforcing its new laws. Threatened by the armed might of the United States, the Choctaws in 1830 were coerced into accepting terms of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The treaty was signed, however, only after many of the tribal negotiators had left in disgust. The last of the Choctaw land was lost. Provision was made for individuals to stay and claim the land, but strong inducement was given the tribe to move to lands set aside for





A Choctaw cemetery now surrounds the large stone monument at the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty site.

1830
1831

Treaty
with the
Choctaws

27. 1830
(And 28. 1. 1831)
Ratified Feb 24. 1831.



Attest,

Walter Lowrie

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Now, therefore, be it known, that I, J. J.
President of the United States of Ame-
ric and considered said Treaty, do, in fu-
lfillment of the twenty-first day of Febru-
ary, and content of the Senate, as express-
ed in the hundred and thirty-one, accept, re-
ception of the Preamble.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused
this Treaty to be hereunto affixed, having
signed with my hand.

Done at the City of Washington, this
first day of February, in the Year of our Lord
one thousand and thirty-one, and of the
United States, the fifty-fifth.

Andrew Jackson

By the President,
Morgan B. Brown
Secy of State



Indians and non-Indians gathered at the site of the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty negotiations September 27, 1981, where tribal leaders and historians discussed its impact on history.

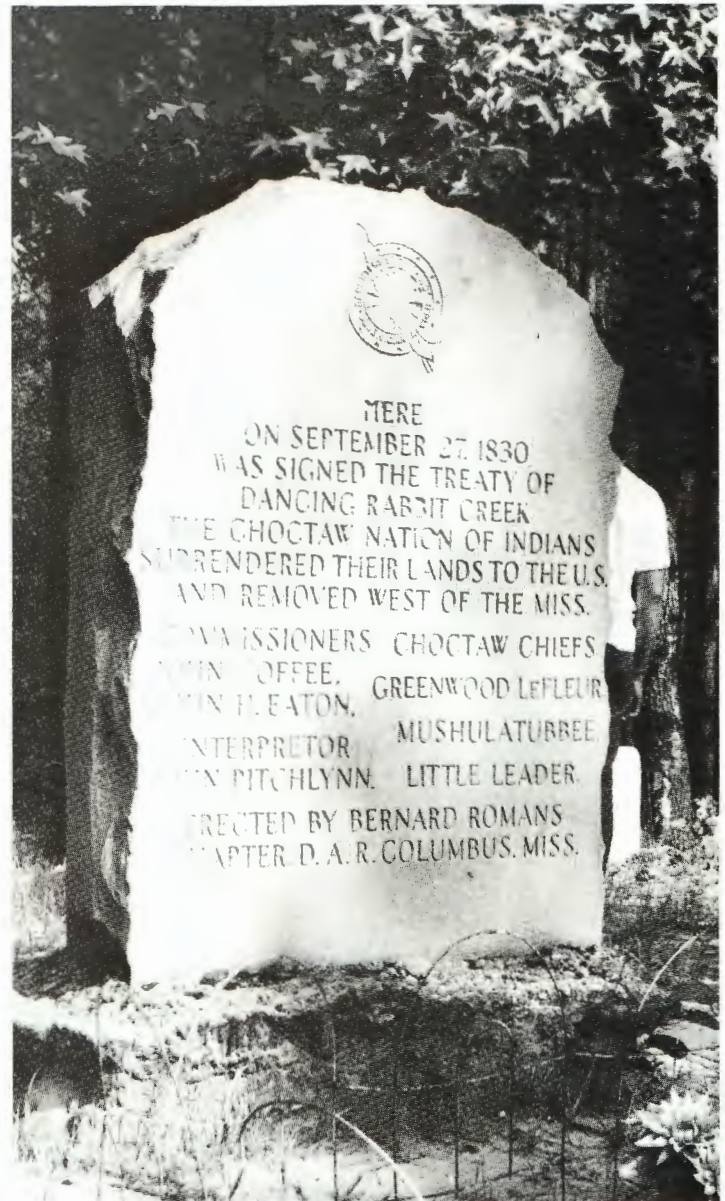
them in Oklahoma. The trek to Oklahoma was marked with hardship, heartbreak, and disease. Many died.

Over 8,000 Choctaws remained in Mississippi, relying on the promise of allotments of land and other considerations. For them treachery came soon, and hope died fast. Those few who acquired allotted land were forced out with the approval, often with the active support, of state and federal governments. In the years after 1830, harsh, constant pressure to move west was placed upon Mississippi Choctaws. From a pre-Removal population of 19,200, 1,253 remained in 1910. During this period, concerted federal efforts to remove the tribe to Oklahoma took place in 1831, 1846, 1849, 1853, 1854, 1890, and 1903.

From the beginning of Removal until after the American Civil War, Choctaws lived as squatters and sharecroppers on the land that once was theirs.



Choctaw Indians read a copy of the original treaty at sesquicentennial activities marking its signing.



Establishment of the Choctaw Agency 1915-1930

Choctaws in Mississippi quietly scored a critical victory in 1918 when governmental authorities at long last acknowledged that this tribe was not going to leave Mississippi.

Sporadic, strong pressures over 80 years had failed to force removal of those who chose to stay in their homeland. Prejudice, neglect, and injustice had left many Choctaws destitute. About 20 per cent of the tribe in Mississippi died in the influenza epidemic during World War I. Then, the boll weevil appeared and was destroying the cotton economy of east central Mississippi.

The Congress was informed of the plight of the Choctaw people through hearings conducted by a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in Union, Mississippi, in 1917. Congress learned that Choctaw people in Mississippi eked out a living from sharecropping and day labor at 50 cents a day. A few owned tiny farms, but most lived in poverty in shacks.

Unscrupulous white farmers added to their troubles. In testimony before the committee, an Indian reported that a white farmer had sold him a cow and had taken it back. Asked by the chairman if all white people acted like that, the Indian replied, "No, not all of them. Might few. But them that wears the fine collars is going to beat you every time."

Findings of the House committee were a principal factor in establishing the Choctaw Agency in Philadelphia in 1918. The opening of the Agency was the first real sign of positive federal interest since 1830. The Bureau of Indian Affairs assigned the Indian Agency to help Choctaws in three areas: economic aid, education, and health.

Economic aid was intended to free Choctaw people from the sharecropping system by helping them become independent farmers, and to concentrate tribal members in population centers. The second goal was achieved; the first was not.

Beginning in 1921, the Agency purchased land, most of it submarginal, that was sold to full-blood Choctaws on loans to be repaid from farming income. These purchases were in seven major areas which evolved into today's seven Mississippi Choctaw communities. Little plots of poor land could not produce enough to support families, much less pay off the loans, and many were defaulted. By a 1939 Act of Congress, these lands in default reverted to the trusteeship of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Together with subsequent land purchases by the BIA, the present Choctaw Reservation of some 17,000 acres is held in trust for the benefit of tribal members. Meanwhile, many Choctaws continued to exist as well as they could in share-cropping, day labor economy until sharecropping practically disappeared in the early 1960's. The realities of poor land and dramatic changes in the agricultural economy made successful execution of this economic plan impossible.

Creation of the seven communities was more successful, with tangible, long-range benefits for the Choctaw people, because service delivery from Agency programs in health and education could be focused.

Limited by funds, an education program moved slowly, but between 1920 and 1930, schools providing elementary



The Choctaw Agency, Philadelphia, Mississippi, today.



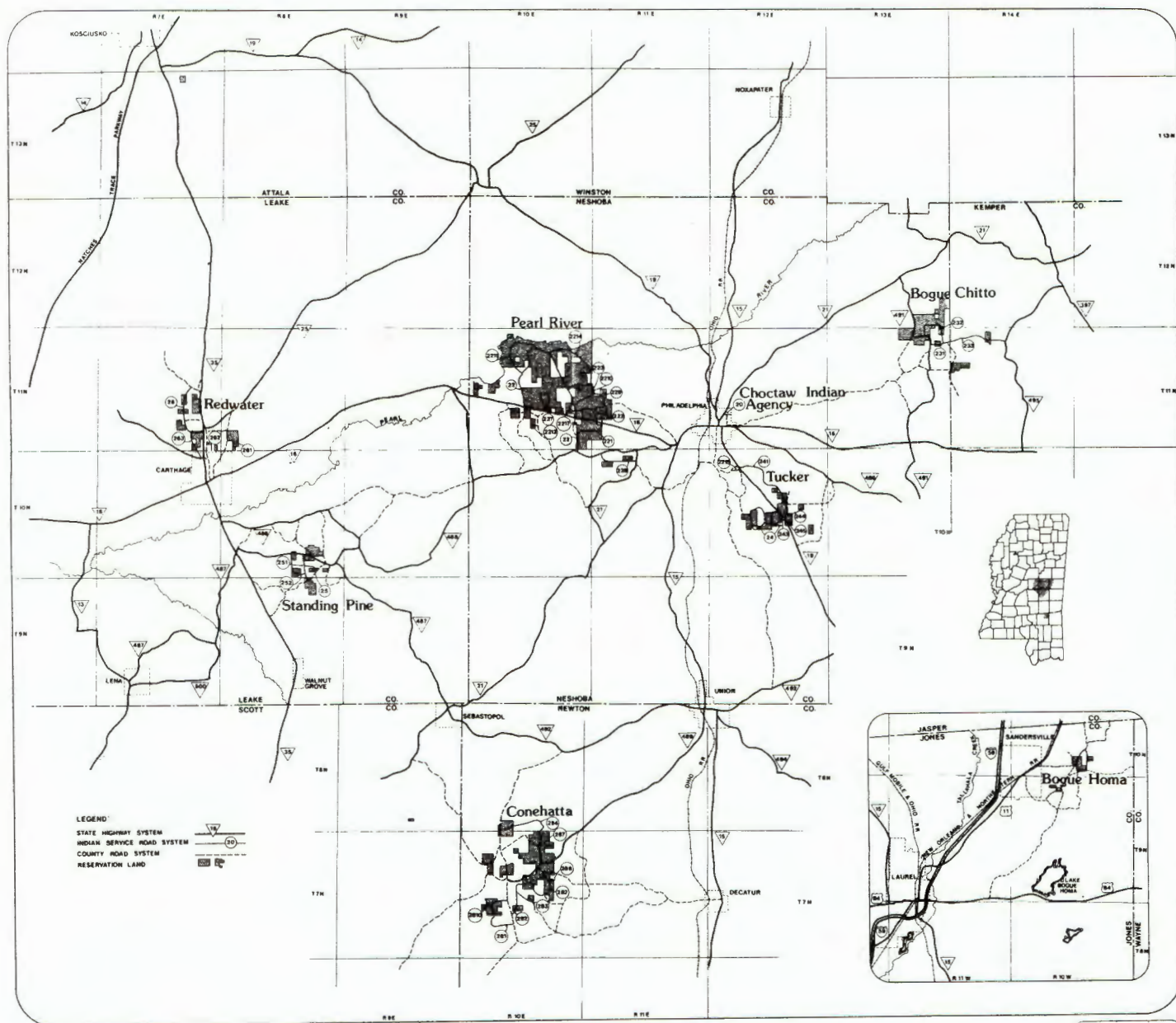
Robert Benn, Superintendent of the Choctaw Agency, is the first "native son" to hold this critical Bureau of Indian Affairs position.

education were built in all seven Choctaw communities. Gradually, parent's long-standing and well-founded suspicions of the federal government were overcome, as children went to schools which became centers of both education and community life. The schools went no higher than grade eight, and only a very few Choctaws received a high school education at out-of-state Indian boarding schools.

When the Congress established the Choctaw Agency in Philadelphia, the population of the tribe was declining. A first function of the agency was to give health services. Outpatient clinics were established, and in 1926 a 35-bed Indian hospital opened in Philadelphia. By 1930, the death rate dropped below the birthrate.



The first Choctaw Hospital was built in Philadelphia in 1926. This picture was taken soon after.



Choctaw Indian Communities



Tribal Government Re-Established

The effective tribal government that exists today is a result of the determination of the Choctaw people to bring the tribe from poverty and dependency into prosperity and independence. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 made possible the re-establishment of tribal government. A constitution was approved and a Tribal Council was elected in 1945. Although legally this Council had governing powers, in practicality it functioned only as an advisory committee at the beginning. The Council met four times a year in the kitchen of the Choctaw Agency to pass on routine matters and approve resolutions prepared by the BIA staff, and had no quarters or administration of its own.

As late as 1959, the Council was accorded little importance. Council members went to Washington to check on a claim case filed in the early 1950's, and found that the Supreme Court had refused to hear the case some three years before. The tribe's attorneys, and the government, had neglected to inform the tribe of events, and had, in fact, kept the tribe in the dark.

In 1963, the Tribal Council used funds from the sale of tribal timber to engage one of its members as business manager, the first tribal employee. This marked the beginning of the establishment of a tribal executive branch which since has grown into a sophisticated administrative structure, providing services to Choctaw people. The Tribal Council worked to replace key BIA staff of the Choctaw Agency with

persons more sensitive to Choctaw needs. Competent, educated Choctaws gradually replaced non-Choctaw staff in positions of authority. In 1973, the BIA was persuaded to appoint a qualified Choctaw as head of the Agency. (The BIA's final argument against his appointment was that he was Choctaw and his appointment would establish a conflict of interest.)

The 1960's was a time of great change in the South, and a time of accelerated progress for Choctaw people. Social legislation offered funding and programs to improve conditions of poverty and neglect and gave an opportunity for Choctaw people to improve their own social and economic conditions. Passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with its emphasis on equal opportunity had enormous impact on job opportunities for Choctaws.

Under strong leadership the tribe began to move. Working without precedent, often against bureaucratic opposition, tribal government moved forcefully to improve the quality of life on the reservation.

Plans long in the works led to establishment of a high school in the Pearl River Community in 1963. A modern, well-equipped educational facility, the high school today has over 300 students. Overall, there are well over 1,100 students in the Choctaw elementary and high school system, kindergarten through grade 12. A 43-bed health facility opened on the reservation in 1975. Jointly operated by tribal government and



Choctaw Tribal Office buildings today.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING
ROUTE 7, BOX 21
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350
TELEPHONE (601) 656-5251



TRIBAL COUNCIL ROSTER (1979-1981)

Phillip Martin, Tribal Chief	Pearl River
Frank Steve, Vice Chief	Conehatta
William E. York, Secretary-Treasurer	Pearl River
Vacant	Bogue Chitto
Houston Bull	Bogue Chitto
Henry Bell, Jr.	Bogue Homa
Carol Martin	Conehatta
Catherine Solomon.....	Conehatta
Mack Jimmie, Jr.	Pearl River
William R. Bell	Pearl River
Maxine Dixon	Red Water
Mattie K. Willis	Red Water
Clarence Comby	Standing Pine
Clifton Lewis	Standing Pine
Albert Farve.....	Tucker
Grady Henry	Tucker



the U.S. Public Health Service, the hospital is fully accredited and is one of the most modern in the state.

In 1965, the Choctaw Housing Authority was established in order to be able to take advantage of federal housing programs. A tribal enterprise, Chata Development Company has built over 400 homes. Today there are 900 housing units on the reservation.

A community center has been built in each of the seven Choctaw communities, providing recreational facilities, meeting rooms, and program offices; an 80-acre industrial park was constructed, attracting industry that in a two-year period (1979-1981) created over 500 jobs. Tribal government programs provide job training, adult education, pre-school and early-school education; and numerous other human services programs have been instituted.

These improvements are a direct result of growth in self-government.

When the federal government finally adopted Indian Self-Determination as official policy in 1970, Mississippi Choctaws were already leading the way. Over 70 programs were shifted to partial or complete tribal control.

Tribal government was restructured in 1975. The year before, by referendum, the tribe approved a revised Constitution and Bylaws that called for election of a Chief by the entire tribe, rather than a Chairman appointed by the members of the Tribal Council. Council members are elected to represent specific communities on a one-man, one vote basis. The Chief presides at Council meetings and serves as chief executive and administrative officer of the tribe. Separation of powers between the Chief and the Council is spelled out in the Constitution.

Conclusive judicial recognition of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as a tribe, and conclusive judicial recognition of its lands as "Indian Country," came in a decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in June, 1978. In a case styled *U.S. v. John* the Court established that the tribe was indeed a federally-recognized tribe, that the tribe was correctly organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, that Choctaw lands in Mississippi are Indian Country under federal law, and that the tribe exists with the degree of sovereignty established by law that other federally-recognized tribes possess.

Principal Tribal Leaders Since Re-Establishment of the Tribal Government

On April 20, 1945, a Constitution and Bylaws was adopted by referendum by the Choctaw people, and approved by the Department of the Interior May 22, 1945. The original signers of the Constitution were Nicholas Bell and Baxter York. Oscar L. Chapman, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, signed for the Department. Under this original Constitution, the Tribal Chairman was elected by the 16 members of the Tribal Council at the first meeting of their two-year terms, and was charged only with presiding over meetings and exercising authority delegated to him by the Council.

As the tribal government grew, it became apparent that demands were growing on the office of the Chairman and that an executive branch needed to be created. A Revised Constitution and Bylaws was ratified by the voters December 17, 1974, and approved by the Department of the Interior on March 28, 1975. The Revised Constitution established the position of Chief, elected at-large, as principal executive officer of the tribe. Terms of Chief and Tribal Council members were set at four years, with half of the Council members elected every two years.

The Chairmen - 2 year terms

1945-1947	Joe Chitto	Standing Pine Community
1947-1949	Joe Chitto	Standing Pine Community
1949-1951	J.C. Allen	Red Water Community
1951-1953	J.C. Allen	Red Water Community
1953-1955	Joe Chitto	Standing Pine Community
1955-1957	Emmett York	Pearl River Community
1957-1959	Emmett York	Pearl River Community
1959-1961	Phillip Martin	Tucker Community
1961-1963	Phillip Martin	Tucker Community
1963-1965	Phillip Martin	Tucker Community
1965	Robert Benn	Red Water Community
1965-1967	Clay Gibson	Pearl River Community
1967-1969	Emmett York	Pearl River Community
1969-1971	Emmett York	Pearl River Community
1971-1973	Phillip Martin	Pearl River Community
1973-1975	Phillip Martin	Pearl River Community

The Chiefs - 4 year terms

1975-1979	Calvin J. Isaac	Pearl River Community
1979-1983	Phillip Martin	Pearl River Community

Priority on Economic Development

The goal of the economic development effort has been to provide as many jobs as are needed to make Choctaw men and women self-sufficient, and to provide income for the tribe. Since 1979, highest priority has been placed by the tribal government on industrial and business development. Goals are being realized. The success of economic development on the reservation is a demonstration of Self-Determination as practiced by the Mississippi Choctaws. For example:

In early 1981, tribal officials announced contracts had been



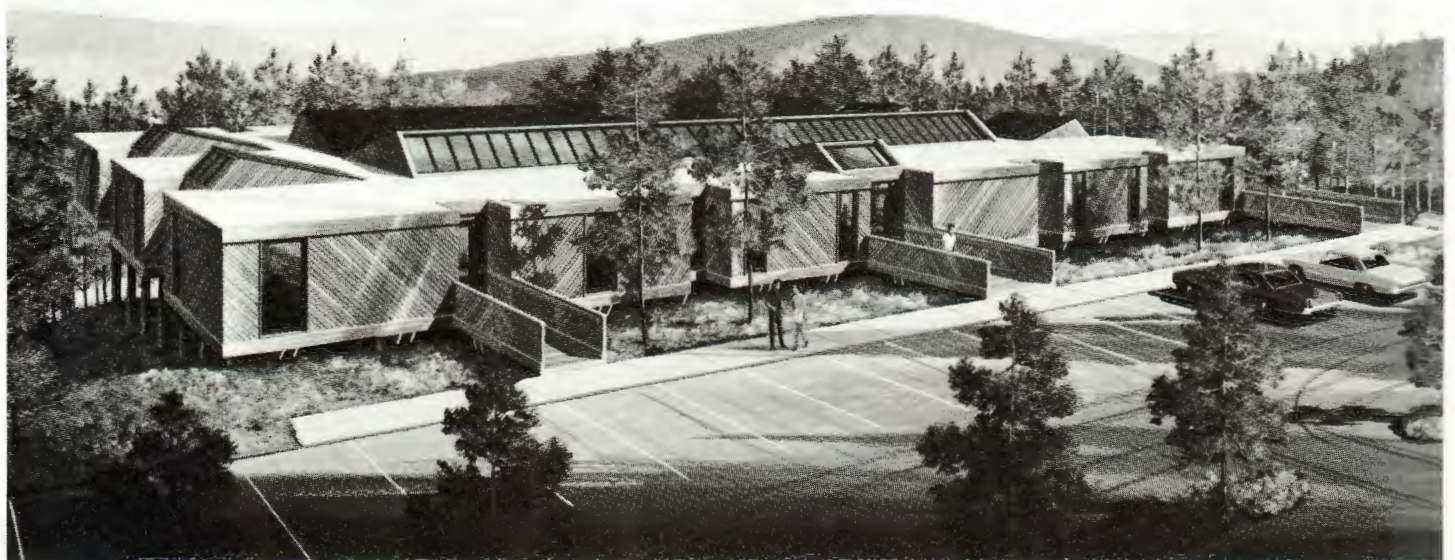
completed to bring a blue-chip industry to the Choctaw Industrial Park. They also announced that an existing automotive instrument wiring industry was being expanded, and that negotiations were well under way to bring third and fourth industries to the reservations. All of these industries are tribally-owned and operated.

The new industry is Choctaw Greetings Enterprise and will employ 350 to 500 people. The company will be under contract to the American Greetings Corporation to handfinish quality greeting cards. Operating in a plant with some 120,000 square feet of floor space, Choctaw Greetings Enterprise will be the third largest



greeting card production company in the world in terms of volume. The company is the first business on an Indian reservation to be financed with state industrial revenue bonds. Bonds were issued under a tripartite agreement involving the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the American Greetings Corporation, and the city of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

American Greetings will purchase cards from the Enterprise on a labor hour basis, and will provide management assistance to Choctaw Greetings Enterprise until the new business develops its own management personnel. Contractors for



construction of the card finishing plant are Chata Development Company, a tribal business, and an outside firm.

In early 1979, the first tribally owned industry was established in the Choctaw Industrial Part, the Chahta Enterprise automotive instrument wiring plant. As a dedicated supplier to the Packard Electric Division of the General Motors Corporation, the enterprise assembles wiring harnesses for Chevrolet trucks and Buick LeSabres. The plant produces high quality harnesses, with the lowest rejection rate of any of Packard's





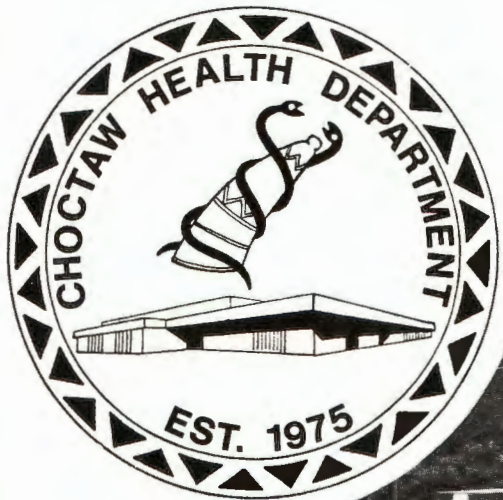
dedicated suppliers. Because of this, the workload has been increased, bringing employment to over 215 people.

Economic progress dates back to 1969 when the Tribal Council authorized creation of Chata Development Company. As a construction company, Chata has built over 400 homes and renovated and repaired over 200 existing homes. The tribal business has constructed classroom facilities and numerous offices, community buildings, an adult corrections center, and the Choctaw Health Center. The company's work has been widely recognized.

The recently-constructed Choctaw Manpower Training Center has provided facilities adequate for skills training, while the 80-acre industrial park still has plenty of space available, and necessary water, sewer, and parking for additional industrial sites. Economic development plans in the making include a day care center for the children of working parents, a transportation network among the Choctaw communities, and a commercial shopping center. Dynamic, democratic tribal government is making things happen.



Health



At ground-breaking ceremonies for the Choctaw Health Center in November, 1974, Congressman G. V. Montgomery, Chairman Phillip Martin and Dr. Emery Johnson discuss construction.

"My earliest recollections of the Mississippi Choctaws are of the many things they needed. Now you've established schools, tribal offices, tribal enterprises, and now the medical facility. Health is the basic foundation for all human potential. A man may be poor, a man may be uneducated, but if he has health he still has a chance." — Dr. Emery Johnson, Director, Indian Health Service, at the dedication of the Choctaw Health Center, April, 1976.

A major concern of the tribal government is improving the health status of the Choctaw people. Health problems are severe; studies show that the incidence of some illnesses is substantially higher than the national average. But at Choctaw Health Center the problems are under attack.

Provision of health services is a joint effort of the tribe and the Indian Health Service, an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service in the Department of Health and Human Services. The tribe is currently planning the taking on of IHS functions in the near future. The Choctaw health care system has four components: the Hospital, Community Health Services, Environmental Health Services, and Planning and Evaluation. The four divisions are located in or are directed from the Choctaw Health Center.



The Health center, completed in 1975, is a 58,000 square foot facility that includes a modern 43-bed general hospital, a three-chair dental suite, and office space for administrative and supportive services. In addition to the Health Center at Pearl River, there are satellite field clinics at Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, and Red Water. The department's Community Health Services program includes health, education, community nursing services, patient transportation including ambulance service, mental health/alcohol/substance abuse programs, and a community health technician program. Environmental Health Service monitors reservation living conditions. Its primary concerns are clean water and the prevention of environmentally-related disease. The function of the Planning and Evaluation Division is to serve as a resource for the Health Department. It provides consultant services for planning, development, and evaluation, and is responsible



for training and career development.

Culture-specific, efficient health care given Choctaws today is a far cry from the neglect that followed Removal and continued through the first two decades of this century. Until the Bureau of Indian Affairs built the Indian Hospital in the 1920s, Choctaws in Mississippi received virtually no medical attention. But now, the modern Choctaw Health Center has been fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals. This Health Center was achieved with the aid of many members of Congress, especially Julia Butler Hansen, Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator John C. Stennis, and Congressman G. V. Montgomery.

Self-Determination in this important area of tribal life has improved the health of the Choctaw people and promises greater improvement in the years ahead.



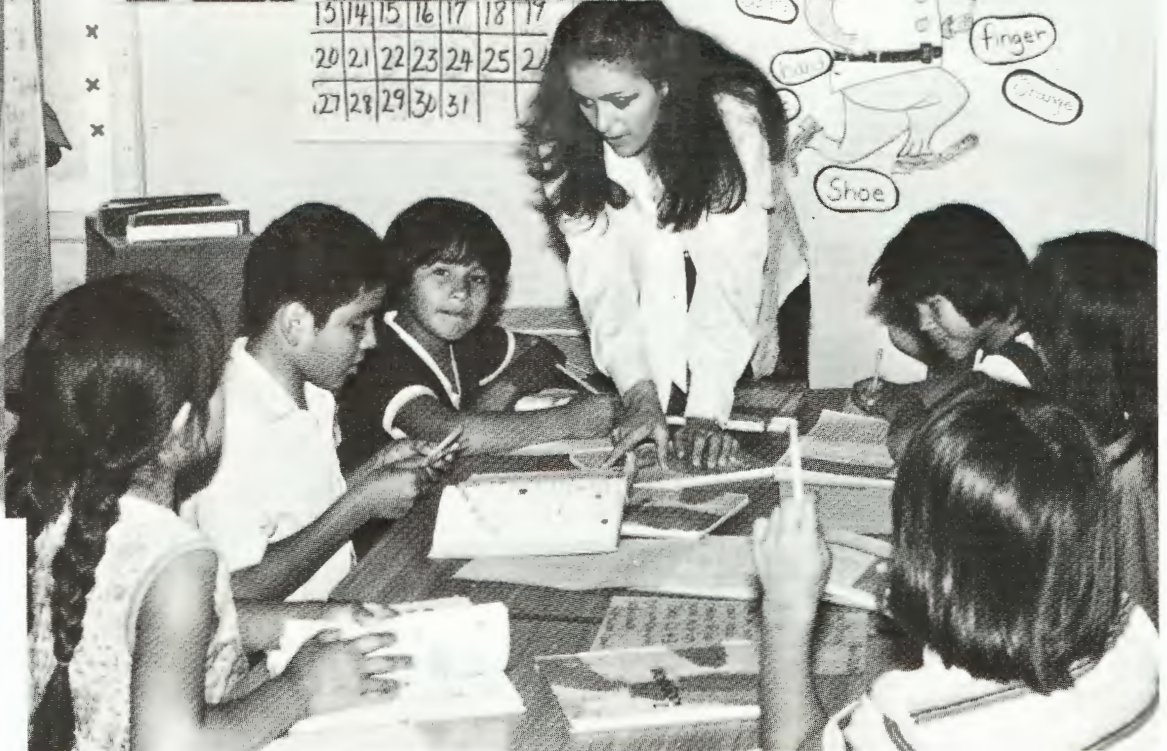
Education

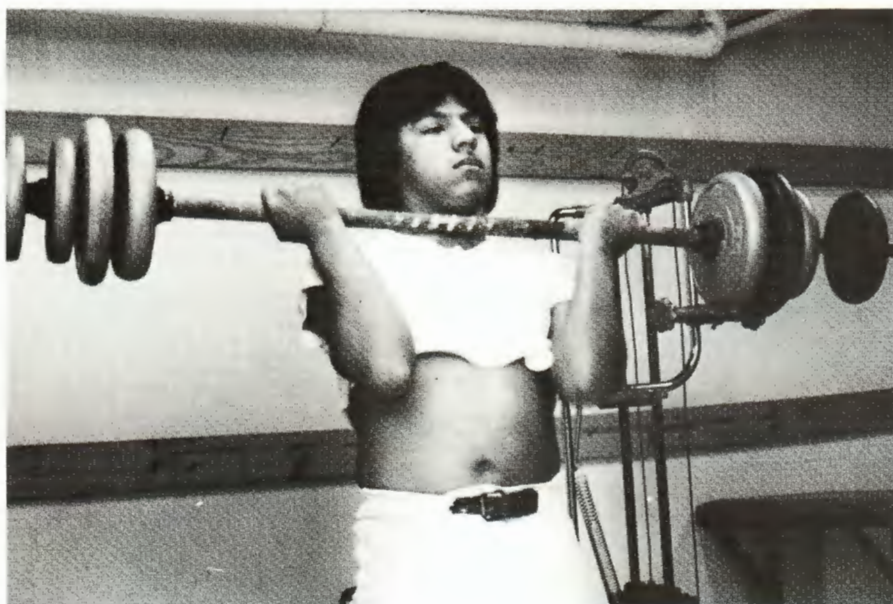
Choctaw yearning for education is historic. Fifteen years before Removal, Protestant missionaries established a school system in Choctaw territory. Twenty-two schools were closed by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Removal pressure through the years destroyed schools established by the churches, an elementary school at a Catholic mission founded in Tucker in 1884 being the only educational institution to survive the turn of the century. The peculiar pattern of segregation that developed in east central Mississippi deprived most Choctaws of any opportunity for school: not until 1930 were there elementary schools in all seven communities; and not until 1963, when Choctaw Central High School was built at Pearl River, did Choctaws have any real opportunity to attend high school.

Even a generation ago, in 1950, few Choctaws had completed more than a year or two of school. Fifteen years ago there were virtually no Choctaws in high



school and far too many had not completed elementary school. Educationally, today, the tribe has graduated 486 persons from high school, and has given high school diplomas to 233 adult members of the tribe, through the Adult Education Program.





Two hundred thirty-six Choctaw young people under 5 are being served by the tribal Comprehensive Early Childhood Education program. From 1952 until 1974, 30 Mississippi Choctaw students received their BA/BS college degrees with financial aid through the BIA Higher Education Grant Program. Operation of the Grant Program by the tribe since 1974 has resulted in an additional 32 students obtaining college diplomas, for a grand total of 62 college graduates. The Tribe





annually assists approximately 70 full-time and 75 part-time college students with their college-related expenses, and is working on the establishment of a Reservation-based Junior college.

The Tribe's adult education program has received national recognition for its excellence and effectiveness. Day and night classes are conducted in all seven Choctaw communities to give adults the opportunity to work for eighth grade certificates and high school diplomas. The program also offers enrichment courses in health, nutrition, consumer economics, driver education, Choctaw history, and arts and crafts.

Groundwork has been laid for a broad range of educational services for mentally and physically handicapped Choctaw children. The program will provide bilingual language instruction for children through their eighth year. The program is coordinated with special education programs already in place in the BIA elementary schools.



A principal reason for successes of Self-Determination among Choctaws east of the Mississippi is demonstrated by the care taken in planning and executing education programs. Existing programs of education, those conducted by the BIA and the tribe, were closely examined recently by outside research specialists. A comprehensive report was given on the status of education with input from students, staff, and parents. Successes, failures, deficiencies, hopes, and ambitions of all those involved in and affected by BIA and tribal education are considered, as the groundwork for educational improvement is laid.

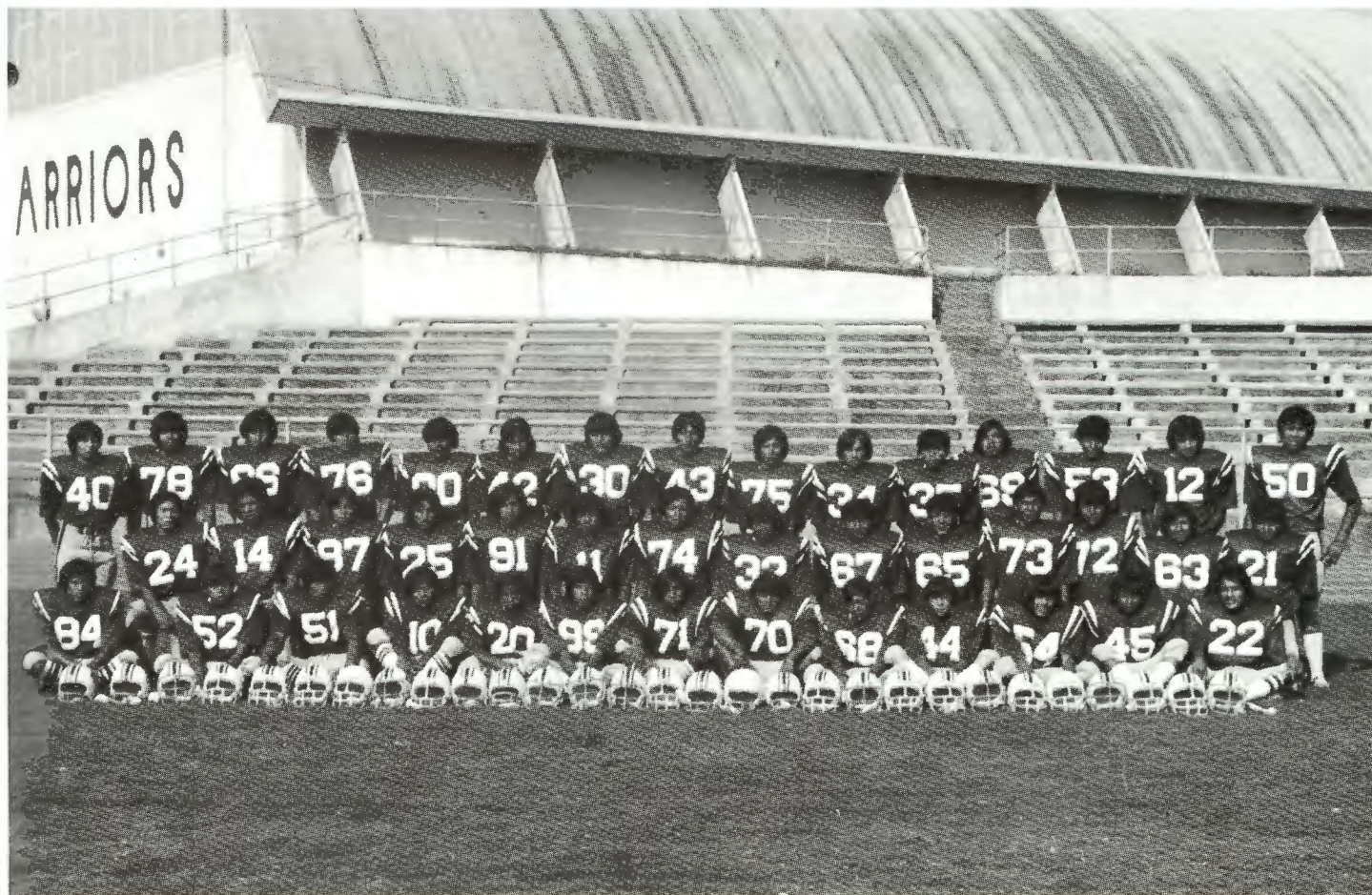


Mushulatubbee and the Early Choctaw Schools

On April 19, 1819, the first school opened in the Choctaw Nation with ten children. Several schools followed. Chief Mushulatubbee, accompanied by other leading men, brought two of his sons and a nephew to leave as members of a school. They were delighted with the facility. The Chief addressed the school children (about fifty in nine different classrooms) as follows:

"When I was young such a thing was not known here. I have heard of it, but never expected to see it. I rejoice that I have lived to see it. You must be obedient to your teachers, and learn all you can. I hope I shall live to see my council filled with the boys who are now in school; and that you will know much more than we know, and do much better than we do."

At the time of the Removal following the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (1830) the Choctaws were said to have had the best school system in the south. It would be almost a century before the Choctaws of Mississippi could again boast their own educational system.



Human Services

The tribe currently administers a broad range of programs designed to develop Choctaw communities, strengthen Choctaw families, and improve the living conditions of individual members of the tribe. These programs, divided between the tribal departments of Family Services and Community Development, interact with social development programs operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Choctaw Agency. In the area of human services, perhaps even more than in others, Self-Determination is essential to the improvement of family and individual life.

A major recent impact on Choctaw family structure, and all Indian families, was Congressional enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which outlines responsibilities of Indian tribes; state







courts; and the Indian child, parent, or custodians in child custody proceedings. The law was passed after much involvement by outraged tribal leaders trying to convince the Congress that the treatment of Indian children had to be changed and tribal governments had to be involved. In the past, state courts and social workers arbitrarily placed Indian children in non-Indian homes ignoring the fact that a child's identity with his relatives and his maturation with culturally acclimated peers were the most important factors in healthy development. The Act has now placed a barrier to arbitrary placement--the involvement of the tribe of which the child is a member.

In working with Choctaw families, the tribe and the BIA Division of Social Services concentrate on the family unit as a whole, combining the resources of several categorical programs with concentration in specific areas such as juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment, child protection, services for the elderly, emergency nutrition, commodity food distribution, and recreation.

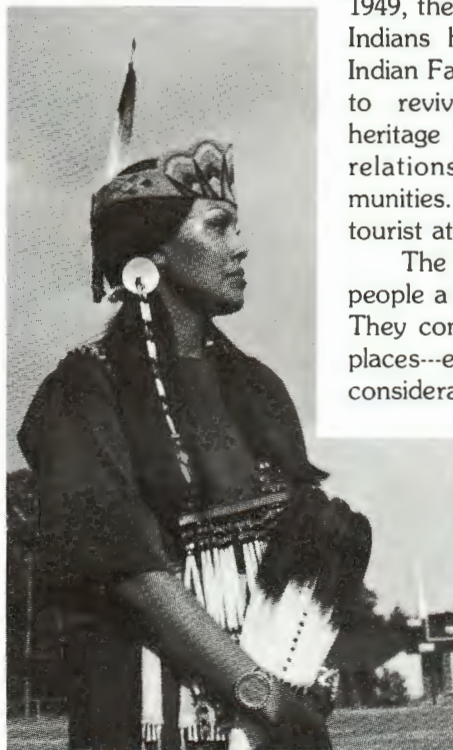
These efforts aimed at protecting the integrity of the Choctaw family are matched by tribal government efforts to develop the Choctaw communities in carrying out community improvement projects. A Wildlife and Parks program develops unpopulated reservation areas as wildlife habitats and controls and encourages hunting and fishing on the reservation.

These family and community programs have a wider focus than aiding the needy; they serve to demonstrate the "bootstrap" aspects of the Self-Determination policy and the progress that can be made through united tribal effort.





Choctaw Indian Fair



Every year in mid-summer since 1949, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has presented the Choctaw Indian Fair as a major social gathering to revive and preserve Choctaw heritage and to promote public relations with surrounding communities. It has grown into a major tourist attraction.

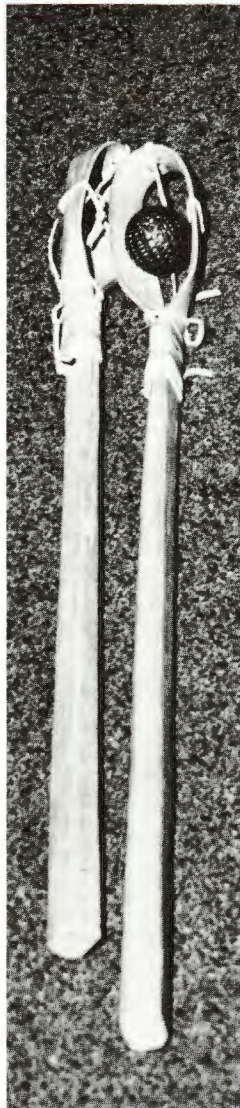
The Fair attracts over 20,000 people a year in four days of the Fair. They come from nearby and faraway places—even Europe, where there is considerable interest in Indian culture.



THE CHOCTAW FAIR



Stickball



The stickball game as it is played today is a living memorial to the game as it was played in earlier times. The playing field approaches the appearance of a football field with goal posts at each end. A point is scored when the ball strikes the opponent's goal post. The ball is about the size of a golf ball and is made by weaving leather strips around a round core. Ball sticks are about a yard long with a shallow, leather-laced scoop at one end. Players may not touch the ball with their hands but may bat, throw or run with the ball as long as the ball sticks are used. There is no set number of players but teams are evenly matched. The ball is thrown in the air at the start of the game, and after each point, and the players simply go at it.

The following description of a game of stickball is given by George Catlin, a painter of Indian life, and is based on a Choctaw game he saw in Oklahoma in 1836, just after Removal. His account parallels earlier reports by European travelers, and he adds that the only firm rule was that deadly weapons were not allowed on the playing field.

Catlin wrote: "On the day before the game several thousand Indians arrived to camp in two points of timber a half mile apart on either side of an area of flat prairie. At sundown the game area was measured and goals erected fifty rods apart, and goods for betting (knives, blankets, dresses, pots, kettles, dogs, horses, and guns) were set down on either side of a line. Soon after dark and at intervals throughout the night the ball dance was held to solicit the favor of friendly spirits. Although the Sioux and other northern tribes carry only one stick, the Choctaw ball players carry one in each hand. The ball is caught in the small net at the end of the stick and is thrown from the net without being touched with the hands. The only clothes a player is permitted to wear is his breechclout, supported by a beaded belt, a "tail" of white horsehair or eagle feathers and a "mane" around his neck that is made of horse-hair dyed various colors."

Catlin further describes the start of the game at nine in the morning: "The two parties and all their friends were drawn out and over the ground; when at length the game commenced by the judges throwing up the ball at the firing of a gun; then an instant struggle ensued between the players, who were some six or seven hundred in numbers, and were mutually endeavoring to catch the ball in their sticks and throw it home and between their respective stakes; which, whenever successfully done, counts one for game . . . in these desperate struggles for the ball, when it is up (where hundreds are running together and leaping . . . and darting in every possible manner, and every voice raised to the highest key, in shrill yelps and barks!) there are rapid successions of feats, and of incidents, that astonish and amuse far beyond the conception of any one who has not had the singular good luck to witness them. In these

struggles, every mode is used that can be devised, to oppose the progress of the foremost, who is likely to get the ball; and these obstructions often meet desperate individual resistance, which terminates in a violent scuffle, and sometimes in fistfights. No man is allowed to intervene or to go for a weapon, all of which are laid away in the two camp grounds."

In addition to being an occasion for betting, stickball was also used to settle inter- and intra-tribal disputes, as a form of diplomacy. In its role as a peacemaker it was often called the "Little Brother War."

Today's stickball game is played for sport. But it is still rough and tumble, and the teams are out to win. It is a living element of Choctaw culture.

In the stickball championships held each year at the Choctaw Indian Fair, community teams compete for the title of world champions. For the last 22 years, the champions have been:

1980	Bogue Chitto
1979	Independents
1978	Independents
1977	Pearl River
1976	Pearl River
1975	Bogue Chitto
1974	Conehatta
1973	Conehatta
1972	Conehatta
1971	Conehatta
1970	Pearl River
1969	Conehatta
1968	Conehatta
1967	Conehatta
1966	Conehatta
1965	Conehatta
1964	Conehatta
1963	Conehatta
1962	Conehatta
1961	Conehatta
1960	Conehatta
1959	Conehatta





Entertainment is a mixture of modern and traditional songs and dances, ranging from raucous rock-and-roll to the moving songs and dances of Choctaws.

The Choctaw cultural heritage is presented to a fascinated public. Skills in archery, the blow gun, rabbit stick throw, basket weaving, and bead work are demonstrated near a neon-lit, modern midway. A traditional stickball game is played each day by community teams, and is a major attraction of the Fair. It is in this setting that visitors see the oldest ball game in America.

The Fair reunifies the tribe annually, giving people the opportunity to meet old acquaintances, a type of homecoming in which Choctaw people are proud to share with the non-Indian public their unique cultural past and progress made to date in human and community development.

Choctaw Indian Princess

A tribal princess is chosen every year during a pageant on the first day of the Choctaw Indian Fair. Contestants are sponsored by various tribal organizations in the seven communities of the reservation. A panel of judges chooses the Choctaw Indian Princess on the basis of an interview, a written essay, poise and appearance, and personal accomplishments. During her year-long reign, the Princess is a central figure at many tribal activities, and is the tribe's ambassador at off-reservation functions.

The Princess Pageant began in 1955 and has continued each year since. The Princesses of modern Choctaw history have been:

1955	Patsy Sam
1956	Abbie Gibson
1957	Shirley Chapman
1958	Shirley York
1959	Donna Jean Farmer
1960	Earline Hickman
1961	Annie Ryan Bell
1962	Loretta Steve
1963	Sally Ann Bell
1964	Mary Ann Henry
1965	Ruth Ann Farmer
1966	Doris Thompson
1967	Lois Willis
1968	Susie Henry
1969	Joanne McMillan
1970	Jane Morris
1971	Laurine York
1972	Ellen Gail Farmer
1973	Linda Willis
1974	Patricia Martin
1975	Alma Willis
1976	Velma Sam
1977	Phyliss John
1978	Brenda Billie
1979	Karen Lillie
1980	Dee Ann Gibson

The current Princess is Dee Ann Gibson, who is a senior at Choctaw Central High School and a member of the National Honor Society. Dee Ann, whose reign will conclude with the 1981 Choctaw Indian Fair, is planning to attend the University of Mississippi, majoring in Pharmacy.





Clothing



Few tribes in the United States have held so tenaciously to the dress of 100 years ago as the Choctaws of Mississippi. Origin and time of adoption of this distinctive dress is not certain, but it is similar to traditional peasant dress in France's Brittany province.

Worn daily by many older women, the handmade Choctaw dresses have a full skirt requiring up to six yards of colorful material. Their pattern is of yesterday. Bright design and decorative aprons and multi-colored ribbons normally adorn this costume, with beaded necklaces added for dress-up occasions.

The colorful shirts for men are trimmed in ribbon and worn with ribboned black felt hats and ribboned belts at special tribal events. Beaded sashes carry on design ideas native to the Choctaws -- designs which trace their origin to the fabled Mississippian period in southeastern Indian prehistory. The costumes represent many hours of careful design and hand work.

Some of the persons proficient in needlework who are carrying on this tradition and teaching the young are:

Mollie Anderson
Mary Williams
Mary Lou Farmer
Zuline Shumake
Rosie Hickman
Emma Polk
Nellie Willis

Winnie Isaac
Mary Lou Sam
Sally Isaac
Corine Willis
Willie B. Willis
Nan Charlie
Phelia Allen





Choctaw Language

Nearly all of the Choctaw people in Mississippi are bilingual, speaking both Choctaw and English. The language is a bond which has been and continues to be an important factor in the cultural integrity of the tribe. *Chahta hapiakat Chahta ilanompuli hikat nayuppa hapia oke*, which means "We are Choctaw and we speak the Choctaw language gladly." Choctaw is spoken as the primary language in over 90 per cent of the Choctaw homes.

Choctaw is a Muskogean language and therefore related to Creek, Chickasaw, Miccosukee, Alabama-Coushatta. It was the trade language of the Southern Indians. There are many place names borrowed from Choctaw including states, rivers, cities, counties and towns. Some of these colorful names and their meanings are:

Oklahoma	Red people (<i>okla homa</i>)
Tombigbee	Coffin maker (<i>itombi ikbi</i>)
Tuscaloosa	Black warrior (<i>Tushka lusa</i>)
Neshoba	Wolf (<i>Nashoba</i>)
Bogue Chitto	Big River (<i>Bok Chitto</i>)
Bogalusa	Black River (<i>Bok lusa</i>)
Tiak O'Kata	Pine Lake (<i>tiak okhata</i>)
Tulahoma	Red Rock (<i>Tuli homa</i>)
Conehatta	Pale Skunk (<i>Kani hatta</i>)
Chunky	Game stone (<i>chunki</i>)
Yalabusha	Tadpole (<i>yaloba ushi</i>)
Achafalaya	Long River (<i>Hucha Falaya</i>)
Talahina	Railroad (<i>tali hina</i> - "rock road")
Tougaloo	Two (<i>tuklo</i>)

Traditional Choctaw Dance

As other elements of Choctaw culture, Choctaw music expresses the Indian value of living in harmony with nature, the "deep and different spirituality" that other Americans find difficult to understand.

In ancient times, the most important dance of the year occurred in late July or early August, at the Green Corn Festival, lasting three to five days.

Today, dances in three categories have been preserved: social dances, animal dances and the war dance. Among the creatures depicted in the animal dances are the duck, the quail, the snake, and the raccoon. Social dances include the jump dance, the wedding dance, the stealing partners dance, the friendship dance, and the walk dance. Unlike with other tribes, the unique Choctaw war dance is danced by both men and women. War dances in former times would last for eight days prior to battle.

The musical instruments traditionally used by Mississippi Choctaws are drums and a pair of striking sticks. A good deal of traditional dancing skills were lost during a period of social inactivity during and following World War II. The advent of the annual Choctaw Indian Fair and the teaching of dance in the Choctaw Schools have revived dancing on the reservation.

Songs for dances are led by a chanter who may also dance if he is a young man. If he is older, he stands in the middle of a circle of dancers. He begins with a "shout" appropriate to the category of dance song, and the others join in.



Basketry

Nothing better illustrates Indian friendship with the land than the practical art of basketry.

An abundance of cane in the low-lying areas of east-central Mississippi gave Choctaws a plentiful supply of the best basket material, and the making of baskets with cane is among tribal crafts practiced today by Choctaw people. Choctaw women produce both single and double weave baskets. Double weave baskets, using one of the most difficult and tedious techniques of plaited basketry, requires skillful weaving of one basket inside another with one continuous weave of material. The basket makers produce their own dyes from roots and bark.

Until the establishment of the Choctaw Arts and Crafts Enterprise, basketry was a dying skill. Now the art is being maintained through sales of baskets. Young people are once more becoming interested in preserving and perpetuating Choctaw basketry.

Some of today's master basket weavers, carrying on the tradition and teaching younger members of the tribe are:

Leila Solomon	Celia Isaac
Susan Denson	Frances Polk
Jeffrie Solomon	Zula Chitto
Christine Cooper	Adell Polk
Sally Mae King	Flora Monk
Esbie Gibson	Phoebe York
Mollie Smith	Lolee Jim
Beauty Denson	Melvin Henry
Willie B. Willis	Sophia Willis
Arie Willis	



Choctaw Heritage Council

In part because of the interest generated by the 150th Anniversary of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the Tribal Council established the Choctaw Heritage Council on October 14, 1980. This group of tribal members and historical and anthropological experts was charged by the Tribal Council with maintaining a firm connection between tribal members and their past history, providing a means for archival and other historical preservation, conducting education activities, and planning and constructing a museum complex on the reservation.

In the face of longstanding efforts to eradicate the Choctaw presence in Mississippi, the Heritage Council is especially important to Choctaw people in preserving a living past and to non-Indians in becoming acquainted with southeastern Indian history and culture.

The Choctaw Heritage Council is a Mississippi nonprofit corporation, and contributions are tax deductible. We are accepting donations from organizations, corporations, and individuals who want to assist in the development of the museum and archives facility. When the facility is completed, our aim will be to make it one of the best Indian museums in the Southeast, to preserve the past and educate young people of all races to better understanding of Mississippi history — Choctaw history and the history of the Southern Indians. When the building is completed we will give proper recognition to all donors to this large undertaking. People wishing to contribute should make checks payable to the Choctaw Heritage Council and mail them to the Choctaw Tribal Finance Office, Tribal Office Building, Route 7, Box 21, Philadelphia, MS 39350.



Pushmataha: His Last Speech

The Choctaws allied themselves with the young United States, seeing their future as part of the new experiment in democracy. Indeed, Benjamin Franklin, and others of the founding fathers, drew heavily on the native American confederacy pattern as they shaped the Union. Franklin said, in effect, if the Indians can do it so can we.

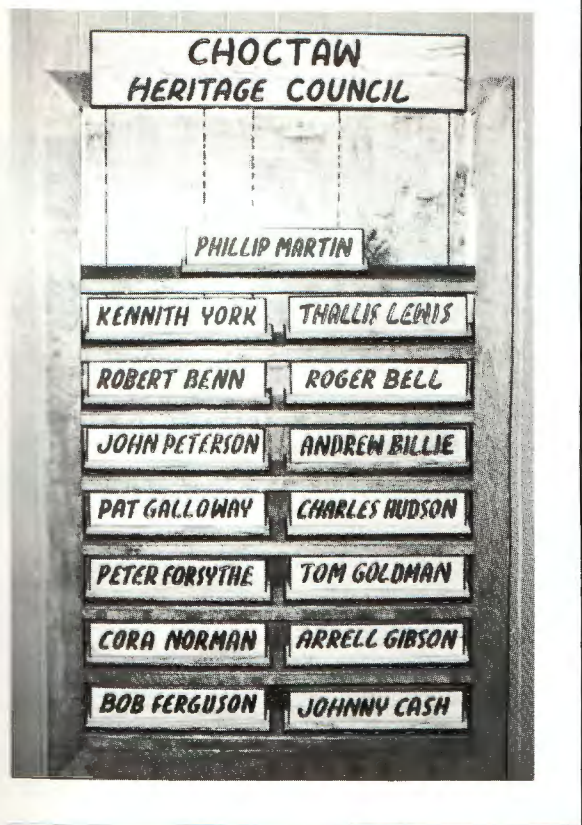
A great confederacy in the South, the Choctaws were composed of many sub-tribes, allies, and satellite groups.

In 1824, Pushmataha and other Chiefs journeyed to Washington City to call on the President. His opening speech was to the Secretary of War. At that time the Indian Service was in the War Department. His opening speech was to be his last. In it he reaffirmed the alliance of the Choctaw Nation with the United States:

"I can boast and say, and tell the truth, that none of my fathers, or grandfathers, nor any Choctaw, ever drew bows against the United States. They have always been friendly. We have held the hands of the United States so long that our nails are long like the talons of a bird and there is no danger of their slipping out."



the Pushmataha Monument



Pushmataha was buried in the Old Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. John Randolph spoke in the Senate:

"In a late visit to the public graveyard, my attention was arrested by the simple monument of the Choctaw Chief, Pushmataha. He was, I have been told by those who knew him, one of nature's nobility; a man who would have adorned any society. He lies quietly by the side of our statesmen and high magistrates in the region--for there is one such--where the red man and the white man are on a level. On the sides of the plain shaft that marks his place of burial, I read these words: 'Pushmataha, a Choctaw Chief, lies here. This monument to his memory is erected by his brother chiefs, who were associated with him in a delegation from their nation, in the year 1824, to the government of the United States. Pushmataha was a warrior of great distinction. He was wise in council, eloquent in an extraordinary degree; and on all occasions, and under all circumstances, the white man's friend'."

The monument itself has now been returned to the Chief's Mississippi homeland and can be seen in the Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian. A replica stands in its original place.

**STICKBALL
AMERICA'S OLDEST FIELD BALLGAME**



Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Philadelphia, Mississippi

**1979
WORLD CHAMPION
STICKBALL TEAM
(THE INDEPENDENTS)**



the first Choctaw Constitution

On August 5, 1826, the Choctaw Council adopted its first written constitution. The first law adopted under this constitution provided for a Council House, which was located south of the present city of Starkville on the Noxubbee River near the Noxubbee County Line. The constitution provided for an annual general council consisting of representatives from each of the three districts and a plural executive, composed of the three district chiefs with each elected by his district for a four-year term. Thus the first constitutional executive office was a triumverate.

District chiefs to removal time were:

Northwest District Upper Towns (or *Okla Falaya*).

1802-1824 Apukshunnubbee
1825-1826 Robert Cole
1826-1830 Greenwood Leflore

Northeast District Lower Towns (or *Haiyip Tuklo*).

? -1809 Hoomastubbee
1809-1826 Mushulatubbee (son of Hoomastubbee)
1826-1930 David Folsom

Southern District Six Towns (or *Okla Hannali*).

1803-1824 Pushmataha
1824- Oklahoma (nephew of Pushmataha)
1824-1828 General Humming Bird
1826- Samuel Garland (Elected, but refused recognition by either Humming Bird or Nitak Achi)
1828-1838 Nitak Achi (nephew of Pushmataha)

Choctaw Veterans

Although Choctaw's have served in the United States armed forces, most have not received proper recognition. Some gave their lives; practically all served with honor. In recognition, we list those Choctaws who participated in the major armed conflicts of this century.

Our records are not complete. If you know of any persons missing from this list, or if you know of stories or particulars such as decorations, POWs, etc., please contact the tribal office as we would like to add the information to our Archives.

World War I

Ben, Tom	Army
Chickaway, Kelly	Army
Comby, William	Army
Farve, Bennett	Army
Farve, Paul	Army
Ingram, Dave	Army
Tubby, Anderson	Army
Wallace, Henry	Army

World War II

Allen, J. C.	Army
Allen, Solomon	Army
Allen, William	Army
Anderson, Irvin	Army
Anderson, Phillip	Army
Benn, Hurbert	Army
Benn, Jimpson	Army
Benn, Wilson	Army
Billy, Earl	Army
Billy, Frank	Army
Billy, Gibson	Army
Billy, Ike	Army
Charlie, Charley	Army
Chickaway, Michael	Navy
Chitto, Leo	Army
Comby, Gus	Navy
Comby, Jones	Army
Comby, W. C.	Navy
Davis, John	Army
Denson, Charlie	Army
Denson, David	Army
Dixon, Marie	WAC
Farmer, Henry	Army
Farve, Phillip	Army
Gardner, Elton	Army
Gibson, Homer	Army
Gibson, John Lee	Army
Henry, Dolphus	Army
Henry, Frank	Army
Henry, I.D.	Army
Henry, Jasper	Army
Henry, Melvin	Army
Henry, Norman	Army
Isaac, Edwin	Air Force
Isaac, Joe D.	Air Force
Isaac, John D.	Army
Isaac, Tom	Army

Isaac, Wilburn	Army**
Isom, Billy	Army
Jackson, Carson	Navy
Jackson, Emmitt	Army*
Jackson, William	Army
Jim, Vernon	Army
Jimmie, Mack Sr.	Army
Joe, Billy	Navy
John, Bilbo	Army
John, Eigbert	Army
John, Oden	Army
John, Smith	Army
John, Vardaman	Army
Johnson, Nathan	Army
Lewis, Ben H.	Army
Lewis, Easland	Army
Martin, Edmond	Army
Martin, Phillip	Air Force
Martin, Raymond	Army*
McMillan, A. J.	Army
McMillan, Gibson	Army*
McMillan, Jimpson	Army
McMillan, John	Army
McMillan, Smith	Army
McMillan, William	Navy
Mingo, Arch	Army
Mingo, Otis	Army
Mingo, Prentis	Army
Mitch, Gilmore	Army
Phillips, Riley	Army
Sam, Abel	Army*
Sam, Ellis	Navy
Sam, Beaman	Army
Sam, Harmon	Army
Sam, Louie	Army
Smith, Clay	Army
Sockey, Homer	Army
Solomon, Murphy	Army
Steve, McKinley	Army
Steve, Maurice	Navy
Stoliby, Wilbanks	Army
Thomas, Isaac	Army
Thompson, Fommie	Air Force
Thompson, Tubby	Army
Thompson, Willie	Army
Tubby, Eugene	Army
Tubby, Henry	Army
Tubby, Hudson	Army

Tubby, J. C.	Army
Tubby, Jack	Army
Tubby, McKinley	Army
Tubby, Rufus	Army*
Tubby, Steve	Army
Tubby, Sullivan Sr.	Army
Tubby, Tex Wes	Army
Tubby, W. C.	Navy
Tubby, Willie	Army
Wesley, Benny	Army
Willis, A. J.	Army
Willis, Boy	Army
Willis, J. C.	Army
Williamson, Arnold	Army
York, Beamon	Army
York, Hester	Army
York, J. B.	Army

Korean Conflict

Bell, Henry	Navy
Bell, Roger	Army
Benn, Robert	Navy
Billie, Egburt	Army
Comby, William J.	Air Force
Dan, Bonnie	Marines
Davis, Michael	Army
Denson, Hector	Marines
Farmer, Frank	Army
Farve, Hamilton	Army
Isaac, Calvin	Army
Isaac, Harold	Army
Isaac, Preston	Army
Isaac, Vann	Army
Martin, Harry	Army
Martin, Robert	Army
Morris, Champ	Army
Steve, Curtis	Army
Willis, Haywood	Air For/Mar.
Willis, John B.	Army

Vietnam Conflict

Anderson, Hurley	Army
Sailor, Anderson	Army
Bell, Frank Jr.	Army
Ben, Harrison	Air Force
Benn, Charlie	Army
Billie, Hugh Jim	Army
Chapman, Clifton	Army
Comby, David	Marines
Davis, Louis	Army
Denson, Billy J.	Army
Farmer, Ervin	Army
Isaac, Carleton	Army
Isaac, Carlston	Air Force



Isaac, Jessie	Army
Martin, Anthony	Air Force
Nickey, Blondell	Army
Shumake, Felton	Army
Smith, Delmas	Army
Smith, Hamilton	Army
Smith, Roger	Army
Sockey, Homer J.	Army
Solomon, Hilton	Air Force
Solomon, Howie	Army
Solomon, Murphy	Army
Steve, Cecil	Air Force
Stoliby, Frederick	Air Force
Thomas, Billy Wayne	Army
Thomas, Ray C.	Army
Thompson, Doris	Air Force
Thompson, Henry	Army
Tubby, Alfred	Army
Tubby, Dorman	Marines
Tubby, James	Army
Williamson, Milburn	Marines
Willis, Harold E.	Marines
Willis, Irvin	Army
Willis, Lewis	Army
Wilson, Sammie Jr.	Marines
York, Glenn	Army

* Killed in Action

** Prisoner of War

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