

Cherokee One Feather

Constitution, People Vote

Red Clay Reunion Plans Underway

The whole procedure over the constitution will continue to operate as a governing document as it has over the past years since the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

The Eastern Band has been governed under an old tribal constitution issued by the State of North Carolina in the late 1800s, but with the acceptance of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 by the Eastern Band, the state constitution is no longer valid. At that time the tribe has continued to use the charter as a governing document, but questions of jurisdiction and sovereignty remain unclear. The acceptance of the proposed constitution and the questions can soon be decided.

Recently, the tribe and state have been joined together in a Governor's Task Force aimed at working out jurisdictional problems between the tribe and the state, but it remains unclear as to which branch of government has authority over the Qualla Boundary. In many areas of Cherokee County, far removed from the Qualla Boundary, questions which rescue squads and ambulance services have authority on Indian lands remain a question. Other concerns such as whether state health officials have authority to inspect permits on the reservation remain a question.

With the adoption of this constitution, these conflicts of authority will be much easier to work out.

The issue, however, in the state's special session of the legislature is not to accept the constitution or to reject it, but to let a vote of the people to decide if they want the document or not. Council will only be voting whether or not to let the members of this tribe accept or reject the proposed

We urge all members of this tribe to read the document for yourself and then call your council representative and let them know you want to vote yes or no on this important matter. It's your right to vote. Don't let your council representatives make that decision for you. Then, be at the council chamber Thursday, January 26, at 8:30 a.m. and make sure they vote your way.

Chief Youngdeer and four Council members traveled to Red Clay, Tennessee this past weekend along with Gillian Jackson and Tom Fraizer to discuss the upcoming reunion between the Western and Eastern Cherokee that will take place in April.

The delegation met with J.W. Bunn the historical area supervisor to coordinate the Eastern Band's involvement in the two day celebration.

the runners who will carry a burning torch lit from the eternal flame at the mountainside theatre to the site of the Red Clay Council at Cleveland Tennessee, a distance of more than 130 miles. The runners, including Jackson who will carry the torch the last 10 miles of the trip, will be selected from members of the tribe. The runners will carry the burning torch in relays with each runner going a distance of 10 miles. A fire tender will also travel with the group to ensure the flame reaches the site.

Tom Fraizer is in charge of the publicity and media representation that is very vital to the event. He will also be in charge of brochures and other printed material and proceeds from these sales will help with tribal expenses during the event.

Chatanooga TV stations met with the Chief and delegation to film the meeting at the Red Clay site Saturday and inserts of the meeting were shown on Chattanooga NBC station Channel 3 later in the evening. Council representatives who attended the meeting with the Chief were; Big Cove Councilman, Wilber Sequoyah, Cherokee County Councilwoman, Glenda Saunders, Snowbird Councilman, Abe Wachacha and Yellowhill representative, Richard Welch.

Red Clay is the site of the last Cherokee Nation council meeting before the removal of 1838. After the state of Georgia made it illegal for the Cherokee to meet in any type of group gathering, the Cherokee moved across the state line into Tennessee to the site of Red Clay which is only a mile from the border between the two states. The site also marks the beginning of the famous Trail of Tears. Today, a beautiful artisan spring marks the spot where U.S. soldiers camped while gathering the Cherokee into stockades to await the removal. Further to the East is Rattlesnake Spring, where the actual site of the last Cherokee council took place.

Red Clay State park is located around the spring where the soldiers camped and marks the



Photo by Rob Huberman

INDIAN ACTOR Iron Eyes Cody has arrived in Cherokee for a 2-day visit and will speak at a Potluck Supper tonight, (Jan. 24) at the High School at 6 p.m. He is visiting to promote Environmental Awareness and will tour the reservation during most of today and Wednesday morning. Cody is a guest of Chief Youngdeer and the Cherokee people. The public is invited to join a Potluck in the High School Commons area at 6 p.m.

this purpose and this year we accomplished this goal. We have established a \$500 scholarship—\$250 each for a male and a female.

We thank you (each and every one of you) for donating to this worthy cause through our raffles, bake sales, etc.

Another project we have taken on and which we will be very active in, is fund raising for the Cherokee Ceremonial Grounds Exhibit Hall. We were sanctioned as the group to spearhead this fund raising project and we want everyone involved in this endeavor.

We thought it would be a

Give All The Cherokee The Right To Vote

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, January 26th, 1984, Tribal Council will convene to vote on whether to accept or not to accept the Constitution. If accepted, a referendum will be called. We urge the Tribal Council to vote "YES" giving us (the people) the right to vote on this very important issue.

Thank you for your atten-

tion.

Sincerely,
Vangie Stephens &
Amy E. Walker

\$2.39
Plenty Fast
Noon Buffet
11:30 - 1:30

Pizza Inn
Per place out. Ka Pizaa Inn.

497-9143

Red Clay Cont'd



ABE WACHACHA, Glenda Saunders and Gil Jackson visit Blue Springs at the Red Clay State park Saturday.

The spring is the site where soldiers camped during the removal of Cherokee Indians in 1838.

spot where the Trail of Tears began. Today a state park is located around the site complete with reconstructed buildings typical of the period. Further to the East, the actual site of the last council meeting of the Cherokee is located and is also owned by the Tennessee state park system but no developments have been built there for historical and archaeological reasons. A museum and am-

pitheatre are also located within the state park.

Plans for the two day celebration will include Indian dances, gospel singing in the Cherokee tongue, craft demonstrations and many other Cherokee related activities. Camping within the park will be permitted during the celebration. Stickball games are planned during the meeting and Western and Eastern Cherokee council representatives will meet

together for the first time since the two facitons were separated more than 144 years ago. A large number of Cherokees are expected to attend the council from each of the two tribes, now located in Oklahoma and North Carolina.

The historical event is expected to draw national attention April 6 and 7.

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