

Crowd travels on tour

By MARYLOU OLSON
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A crowd of over 125 enjoyed the Last Indian Raid tour, a talk by Dr. Richard Little Bear and the buffalo barbecue held on Sunday at the J.R. Ginther farm west of Achilles, sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission.

Calvin Ufford led over 40 carloads of spectators to several sites southwest of Oberlin where the raid occurred. He showed the location where Mrs. Laing and her two daughters escaped and fled on foot to the Keefer place after the Indians used arrowheads to cover them, then set them on fire.

The old Hooker school was among buildings seen on the tour and it has now been remodeled into a garage. Mr. Ufford said it is one of the few country schoolhouses still standing in Decatur County.

At the final site, a white, wooden cross could be seen in a field, marking the grave of George F. Walters, who died in the raid. Sharleen Wurm, director of the museum, said that his body was not found until two weeks after the raid when there was a prairie fire, so he was buried where the body was found. The grave was only marked with stones and a stone marker until this summer when Wayne Larson and his grandson, Colby Larson, made the cross. It is located on land owned by Dale Al-lacher in Bassettville?? Township, but it is only to be viewed from the road, Mr. Ufford said.

The group then returned to the Bohemian Hall, where a capacity crowd heard Dr. Richard Little Bear, president of Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, Mont., give his version of the Indian's side of the raid story.

He emphasized that his story of the event is only his point of view and most of his information came from his family. He said it was not until the 1950's and 1960' that the Indians ever spoke of it outside of their families, since they were still afraid of retribution from the U.S. government.

"There are many stories about the raid, but, of course, ours are truest," he laughed.

In his version, he told of the Northern Cheyennes being sent to Oklahoma by the government. They were not treated well by the Southern Cheyennes, who thought they were intruding. When they asked the government to send them back home, they refused, so decided to leave anyway.

"There was much heroism in the trek," he said. "One young boy and his sister were alone and when the troopers were getting close, he told



DANTE ROBERTSON of Oberlin (above) was all dressed up in his cowboy outfit for a chuck wagon feed on Sunday at the J.R. Ginther farm west of Achilles. The buffalo barbecue was served to more than 100 people by the Brent Ginther family of Menlo to climax a day of Mini Sapa activities. This white cross (below) stands at the grave of George F. Walters, who was killed during the Last Indian Raid. It was made by Wayne Larson and his grandson, Colby Larson.

— Photos by Sharleen Wurm, museum director

his sister to stay completely quiet. He left her and faced the trooper and was killed on the spot, but saved his sister's life."

He said the constitution says that all people should be treated equally, but the Northern Cheyennes did not feel that they were. In their trek to reach their original home, the raid occurred. Of the 960 that left Oklahoma, only 250 made it to Fort Robinson. Those who were killed there were decapitated, he said, and their skulls sent to Harvard University to for a study of their head structure.

Only recently have some of those bones been returned to the North Cheyennes, he said, and a memorial service was held for the remains.

He said that the reservation has a population of 90,500 and they have their own schools. He said after earning his doctor of education degree at Boston University, he worked in Anchorage, Alaska, until 1999, when he felt called to return home to the reservation.

"I married a 'full-blooded white woman' and she is a physician's assistant, but she is as bossy as a doctor," he said. I told her that our marriage was for love and not political and that the only thing that would make it more perfect was if she was Cheyenne. which I felt was a compliment to her. She does not speak our language but I did teach her one sentence, 'I worship the ground you walk on.'"

He said that 1,000 white people have married Northern Cheyennes. They have five children and all of them have college degrees. Dr. Little Bear said he served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

He said he would welcome anyone who would like to visit him in



Montana and he would be happy to show them the reservation and give them a tour of Dull Knife College, where he is president.

"And," he added, "if any of you have \$700 billion, please donate some (to the reservation)."

The word Cheyenne means "great western," he said, and to the white man it meant joy, but in the Indian's life it meant lots of pain and death and most people never heard what happened to the tribe before and after the raid.

In closing, he recited a poem he had written, both in the Cheyenne and English languages, which emphasized that the bones of those who were killed in the raid and finally brought back could now rest and finally sleep since they were home.

The day was climaxed with the trip to Achilles, where a bountiful buffalo barbecue was served by the Brent Ginther family and several friends in the pasture on the J.R. Ginther farm while their 80-head of buffalo roamed freely nearby.



Home Time

By Tranda Watts
Multi-county Extension Agent

'Great Pumpkin' can live longer

Nowadays, pumpkin displays go up at stores, stands and markets before Labor Day. So, shoppers have to decide whether buying Halloween pumpkins several weeks early is OK to do or rather foolish.

The pumpkins that last longest are:

- Fully mature. You can test for this by trying to pierce the rind with your thumbnail. If that's easy, the pumpkin is too young to harvest. If one like this is on the market, pass it up. If the rind is hard, the pumpkin is ripe and ready to buy or pick. Then try picking the pumpkin up (but not by its stem!). Fully ripe pumpkins almost seem too heavy for their size

- Soft spot- and blemish-free. Bumps and hard "pimples," on the other hand, have no impact on how quickly pumpkins lose quality. As with pumpkin shape and rind color, they're just how some varieties grow.

- Stemmed. Outdoor pumpkins, in particular, need a stem to avoid having a water-collecting, spoilage-promoting depression on top. So,

don't chance breaking that stem off by carrying a pumpkin around by its "handle." Stem color is no longer a clue to maturity -- almost all stems now are green. But, a "ripe" stem will be too dry to leak sap.

- Dry and cool - indoors or out. Harvested pumpkins don't like to be wet. That's why gardeners in the early 1900s stored their harvest in the attic, rather than the damp basement. You have to remember, though, that cool doesn't mean cold. Pumpkins start to degrade at temperatures below 50 degrees. They can become garbage overnight if they freeze.

- Whole. Carved jack-o-lanterns rarely last more than a week. To extend a jack-o-lantern's life, paint the face.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.

Koshare Indian dancers to perform on Saturday

The Koshare Indian Dancers from La Junta, Colo., will perform in Oberlin on Saturday during the Mini Sapa celebration and later that night at The Gateway.

They will be dancing in the parade at 10 a.m. and at the museum during the day, then perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Gateway in complete costume of the Koshare Indians.

The dancers are the members of a Boy Scout troop in La Junta.

The appearance is sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. Admission to the evening show will be by season ticket or \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For details, call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel at (785) 470-0218.

Kansas West Area Aglow to hold fall retreat Oct. 18

The Kansas West Area Aglow will be the host for the annual Fall Retreat at Dodge City on Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$25, which includes the noon meal.

The speaker will be the northeast Kansas Aglow president, Linda Woodworth of Topeka. Worship

will be led by Vicki Taylor of Lawrence.

To register, send the registration fee, your name and address to Linda Anderson, Route 1, Box 88, Hoxie, Kan., 67740, or call her at (785) 687-2272.

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Members discuss proposal

Two members of the Oberlin City Council invited the Decatur County commissioners to a meeting about a proposed emergency-responder training facility at the former Sappa Valley Youth Ranch on Tuesday after the Oberlin Rotary Club meeting.

Council members Marcia Lohoe-fener and Jay Anderson met with the commissioners last Tuesday morning to tell them about the meeting this week.

Mrs. Lohoe-fener said a community committee has been working on the project, which will benefit the airport project, the Kansas National Guard, emergency workers and first responders of all kinds.

After the Rotary meeting, she said, the committee will show a slide presentation about the project. She said they would like the commissioners to attend and others to give any feedback on the project and presentation. There might be things the committee members haven't thought about, said Mrs. Lohoe-fener.

She said she would appreciate if the commissioners would invite the sheriff, dispatch and emergency management directors, road and bridge supervisor, fire chief, county attorney and ambulance director.

It might be smart to call and invite state Rep. John Faber and Sen. Ralph Ostmeier to the meeting, said Mr. McEvoy. Dr. Anderson agreed.

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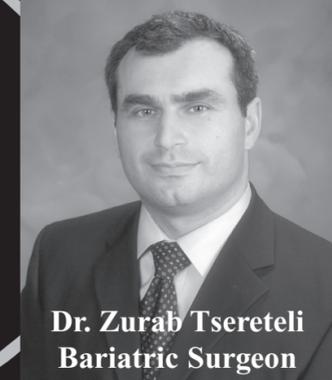
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