Tribal Member Asked To Revisit Berkeley

My memory of 1990-1991 and Indigenous Peoples' Day is all about the thirty to thirty five Indian organizations around the Bay Area. Out of thousands of Indians in the Bay Area, there were only a few dozen of us who had been thinking about this for a decade. My memory goes to Betty Cooper, chairperson of the Bay Area American Indian Alliance, a loose coalition of Indian organizations, mostly government-funded agencies concerned with the social welfare of Native peoples. Betty Cooper was progressive and far thinking, an Alcatraz veteran from the 1960s. Betty recruited and stood firmly behind Millie Ketcheshawno.

Sac and Fox Tribal member Dennis Jennings as Head Man Dancer in Berkeley California during the Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, also pictured is Leslie Deer (Creek) daughter of Millie Ketcheshawno (Photo courtesey of Berkeley Times)

Millie was an organizer of first order. She herself talked about how she had come out of Oklahoma on the government sponsored relocation program, how she arrived on the train with no support services. All those Native Peoples who had been removed and depopulated from their own homelands in the 1950s had arrived in various big cities with no support services, no community organizations. Betty and Millie and my own Wahpepah relatives had fought tooth and nail for services away from the land, for help with training and jobs and employment and health and school books and clothes. Now it was that thirty plus Native American organizations could have an alliance after decades of organizing and fighting for their rights. Betty said at least once in those days that Dennis was my left hand and Fred Short was my right hand. To me it was Betty Cooper who sent us to Berkeley.

In the rest of the Bay Area there was a lot of confusion and chaos about how to proceed, but there appeared in Berkeley an organized group of people who genuinely wanted to accept some ideas of what could be done with the old worn out concept of Columbus Day. To my knowledge, this was an outgrowth of the Berkeley Citizens' Action. They had even sent a representative to Quito, Ecuador to the meeting of all meetings on the whole continent to discuss this question. Personally I did not go to Ecuador, but I had helped raise money and make decisions on who should go and how to make decisions on who should go. It was in Quito that a multinational decision was made to change Cristobal Colon Day into Indigenous Peoples Day. In Berkeley we met non-Indians who did not have to be taught this concept. We met and appreciated political people who were experienced, brainy, down to earth, and organized.

After much planning and after the decision of the City Council, we were prepared to work! What really helped is that Millie and the Mayor Loni Hancock seemed to me not just on the same page but like good friends. Because of Millie and Betty and the Berkeley Committee, I got to work in City Hall, an office overlooking the park for several weeks. My memories of those fast moving days and weeks in 1991 and 1992 are now a haze with brilliant flashes of highpoints jumping out. I know that much argument and debate preceded our primary slogan, our preeminent concept, "Tell the children the truth!"

We knew we did not just want one day to do this so we planned for the whole year. We worked on exhibits for all the public and private galleries of art for the visual public aspect of anticipation. We had school programs in various local schools to promote reading about the true history of this land. Some of us were contracted to work on exhibits in the Livermore Museum, which were then copied and shipped to six other major educational museums elsewhere, including the Smithsonian. A group of us with the help of a Berkeley resident and professional theater artists, produced a play from oral histories available to us from UC about a fishing struggle case that twenty years earlier had gone to the US Supreme court. Many other efforts occurred far and wide. I promoted a public speaking activity called "Soapbox-Chautauqua," which I recorded and edited and put on KPFA. I am very thankful that I got to work in and for the City of Berkeley and for my brand of people

I am exceptionally proud that twenty years later somebody remembered me well enough to ask me to come back and be a Head Dancer in an activity that I had but a small part in starting.

(photo by Stella Nullake)

Special Veterans Day Service held at the Sac and Fox Nation Chapel: From Left Don Tiger, Robert Letka, Norwood Masquat, Paul Wolf, William Fritts and Don Abney.

Happy. Active. Life as usual.

I am not *a diabetic.* I am a mother, auntie, sister, friend . . . *a person with diabetes.*

I am not defined by diabetes. I have learned to manage it, and my life goes on in a good way.

I am strong and confident. I will live a long, healthy life with diabetes.

November is National Diabetes Month.
Clip out this ad, keep for yourself, or give to a loved one.

Produced by IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, www.diabetes.ihs.gov

December 13, 2012

Family and friends will be having a

71st Birthday Gourd Dance

for James Walker/Sac and Fox Senior Man of the Year

Sac and Fox Community Building 2:00pm.

James served in the US Army and US Air Force Reserve. He is a Certified Ordained Minister.

Besides holding the honor of Sac and Fox Senior Man of the Year and turning 71 years old, we would like to honor him for his longitivity in life. Our father Willard "Margrove" Walker and our brothers (Leroy, Henry, Leonard, Benny and Marlin) did not reach the age of 60.

Come on over to the Sac and Fox Community Building and enjoy the afternoon with Bones!!!

Sponsored by Sac & Fox Elders Advisory Committee and Title VI Elders Program

WINTER POW-WOW

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Sac and Fox Nation Gymnasium
6 miles south of Stroud - east of Hwy 99 across from the tribal office

HEAD STAFF:

Master of Ceremonies	Frank Carson
Head Singer	Forrest "Kisko" Walker
Head Gourd Dancer	R. Sam Spang
Head Man Dancer	Billy Bemo
Head Lady Dancer	Lyndee Jon McClellan

2:00 pm—5:00 pm	Gourd dance
5:00 pm—6:00 pm	supper
6:00 pm—7:00 pm	gourd dance
7:00 pm—10:00 pm	inter-tribal Dancing

- Big ticket raffle drawing !
- Cake walks + Raffles !
- Concession + Fun fun fun!

There will be a Special "Scrub" Contest sponsored by Lyndee Jon McClellan. Two Age Groups: 1-45 years; and 46 & over. 3 finalists will be selected from each group. Trophy to be given to the 1st place winners.

For more information or questions, please contact: Gloria Ellis, Elders Advisory Chairman at 405-878-8534; Joyce Wolf at 405-275-6587; Georgia Blanchard at 918-968-3526, ext. 1014; or Anita Stevens, Title VI Elders Coordinator at 918-968-3526, ext. 1054.

Not responsible for accidents, or theft. No alcohol or drugs permitted

MONTH of DECEMBER 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Pinto Beans Cabbage Corn Bread Fruit Cup	4 Salisbury Steak Mashed Pots Carrots Fruit Cup	5 Hot Link Mac-n-Cheese Green Beans Fruit Cup	6 Catfish Fries Cole Slaw Fruit Cup	7 Cereal Boiled Egg Toast Milk
10 Polish Sausage Sauerkraut Green Beans Fruit Cup	11 Spaghetti Corn Green Salad Fruit Cup	12 Steak Fingers Wild Rice Carrots Fruit Cup	13 Chicken Salad Fresh Veggies Crackers Apple	14 Cold Cut Sand Pasta Salad Fresh Veggies Cookie
17 Chicken & Rice Steamed Veggies Crackers Fruit Cup	18 Pork Chop Mashed Pots Creamed Corn Fruit Cup	19 Lima Beans Potato Wedge Corn Bread Fruit Cup	20 Ham Dressing Yams Fruit Cup	21 Biscuit/Gravy Sausage Hash Brown Juice
24 **Offices Closed**	25 **Offices Closed**	26 **Offices Closed**	27 Hamburger Potato Salad Chips Fruit Cup	28
31 Fried Chicken Scalloped Pots Carrots Fruit Cup				