



Sac and Fox Nation Rodeo September 13



Phone: 918-968-3526 • 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A • Stroud, OK 74079 • Vol.35 No. 9 • September 2014

Tribal Member Accepts National Position

Museum civilian soon to join Fort Sill history *By Ben Sherman*

Courtesy of the Cannoneer
Mark Megehee will soon become part of the fabric of Fort Sill history after working here nearly 10 years.

A collections specialist for the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum, Megehee has long appreciated the post's history before the turn of the 20th century.

"The Army museum artifacts tell us so much about the way that a Soldier on the plains interacted with his surroundings, whether it was in battle or garrison life; exploration or the Army hospital; because it was a big part of the American experience. Knowing how the Army did business, what the Soldier carried with him, what he used and how he fought, is a fascinating story. And, it has been a pleasure working with the museum collections especially, which has encompassed the greater part of my career," he said.

"I came to Fort Sill in March 1992 I was transferred from the Frontier Army Museum at Fort Leavenworth, (Kan.), where I was director and curator for three and a half years," said Megehee. "Before that I worked in with the Army as curator of collections for the Noncommissioned Officer Museum at Fort Bliss, Texas, way back in 1984 Then I was the curator of the Air Defense Artillery Museum at Fort Bliss, from 1985-88; and then I became the Field Artillery Museum specialist."

Along the way, he earned a master's in history from the University of Oklahoma, to add to several other degrees, which have given him a broad spectrum of expertise.

But, his work with Army museums will now end as he accepted the staff curator

position for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, since he is a member of the Sac and Fox Nation. He grew up around Okahoma City, spending time on tribal land near Stroud and Shawnee, Okahoma.

His grandmother was full-blood Sac and Fox and his grandfather was Irish. His mother was a half-blood member of the tribe.

"One of the dimensions that we have here at the historical museum is the Native American collections. I would be remiss if I didn't say, as a tribal member myself, that this is an area that the Army has gone into here at Fort Sill with tremendous success. That's because of the credibility, and commitment to safeguarding the treasures of the tribes. Whatever it is we have here from the affiliated tribes and beyond, people feel good that they have entrusted their heirlooms to the Fort Sill Museum," Megehee said.

He pointed to two pinnacles of work in his career. One was working with artifacts.

"You spend a half-day or a day, and you concentrate on it. You clean it and stabilize it. At the end of the day you have nothing to show except that you have one little piece of history that you hold in your gloved hands, that is in a better condition than when you found it. You have turned back the clock of time, so the current generation, and next will be able to enjoy, learn and benefit from that artifact. That's a great satisfaction," Megehee said.

"The other pinnacle of my time here is interacting with an audience. Whether as a living history re-enactor, or an interpreter in plain clothes, I could capture people's attention and introduce them to characters from the past. When we are done they will feel that they know them. Those are the two pinnacles: one is lonesome work the other very social."

Each year Megehee portrayed the Rev. Frank Hall Wright during the museum's annual Candlelight stroll in December. He felt a close kindred spirit with the reverend.

"Wright was mixed blood, and I am mixed blood. He had a strong spiritual background, and I prepared for the ministry in school down in Texas, where I got a bachelor's degree in (Continued on Page 3)



Mark Megehee portrays a 19th century chaplain during the annual Fort Sill candlelight stroll. He was a regular in the cast of volunteers who made the Victorian-era holiday season come to life. Soon, Megehee will accept the staff curator position for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Museum Programs, near Washington, D.C.

(Photo Courtesy of the Cannoneer)

Chief's Address To The Nation

Tribal Members,
The Labor Day weekend/holiday has passed, school has started for many of our students, and Mother Nature is cooperating with a relatively mild and bearable summer.

We made a decision to reschedule our annual Governing Council a week later out of respect to a family in their loss of a family member. I believe tribal members who had made plans to travel great distances to attend will understand.

I wish to address the use of modern technology by our government by asking that tribal

members access our website www.sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov; Facebook and telephones whenever traveling to our Capitol Complex for any reason. We strive to keep information up to date as to closings, cancellations, planned events, and contact information.

This month I am devoting the majority of my article to news and sharing information to keep you informed of affairs of our tribal government and items of interest. Please keep submitting news about you and your family's accomplishments so our whole membership can celebrate and rejoice with you.

Local News

We have hired and added to our team a Policy Analyst, Melissa Peros, Edmond, OK. Ms. Peros is a licensed practicing attorney. In her current position, she utilizes a skill set that covers the complete range of variations in the legal profession. She is an accomplished legal researcher and writer, a trial attorney and a transactional attorney. She has participated in legal processes in federal court, state court, administrative agencies and with investigative agencies such as OIG, the U.S. Attorney and the Federal Trade

commission.

She has been working on claims under the Federal False Claims Act where she works actively with the Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Attorneys to make sure that fraud on the government is prosecuted civilly. This requires a deep and detailed knowledge and reading of both federal law and the administrative regulations which govern all interactions with the government. She will be able to perform an analysis of the laws and policies which are currently in place and being proposed, work with the Nations members to implement a program and direction for action and engage Legislators and lawmakers to realize that program. Her skills at persuasion have been tried time and again, both in jury trial and as an attorney before the Okahoma Supreme Court.



Melissa Peros

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Meskwaki Nation Celebrated 100th Annual Pow Wow

Interview by Sandra Massey NAGPRA

On August 7 - 10, 2014 the Meskwaki Nation celebrated its 100th annual pow wow at the Meskwaki settlement near Tama, Iowa.

"It's the 100th anniversary of when we started calling it a pow wow," said Johnathan Buffalo, the Meskwaki Historical Preservation Officer.

The dance originated as the Green Corn Dance, a celebration of the corn harvest.

The first pow wow was held in 1913 at the old village site and moved across the river in the 190s. In the 190s it moved to its present location.

The pow wow is held in two public sessions per day and allows the spectators to witness the tribal cultural event. Each session offers all the tribal dances such as the Meskwaki, Buffalo, Bean, Pipe, Swan, Shawnee, War, Rabbit, Shield, Friendship, and Victory.

"We're not re-enacting anything," Buffalo said. "We're letting people watch what we'd be doing anyway."

Tribal history is present not only through the songs that have been handed down from generation to generation but also through the history tent Buffalo sets up each year. The

tent features tribal artifacts, photographs, and information.

The pow wow originally started as a way to share tribal songs and dances but now interwoven into the tribal dances are the intertribal dances that feature contemporary songs.

The Sac and Fox of the Mississippi reunited again with the participation of Sauk dancers, elders, spectators, and veterans.

"The 100th is an event itself," Buffalo said.



New Concession Stand: Russell Saunders work on cabinets as the Sac and Fox Nation Maintenance Department completes the interior of the new concession at the Sac and Fox Rodeo Grounds.

Upcoming Events

ATTENTION

Tribal Members Only
Sac and Fox Nation
Excess Property
Available at the
Sac and Fox Nation
Juvenile Facility
September 10, 2014
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Open To The Public
Sept 10 1:00-3:00

September 2

Sac and Fox Elders
Olympics & Conference

September 3

Sac and Fox Nation
Rodeo

October 8

Sac and Fox Elders
Monthly Meeting
Shawnee