



Fall 2009

Our Mission:

To preserve and expand the knowledge of our communities about Indian Art and Culture with an emphasis on Comanche History and Culture.



Museum Staff with Commercial Producer Joey Lansdale and Tribal Chairman Mike Burgess.

A Note from Phyllis...

Marxaw! I am fortunate to work with a group of people who take pride in their work and understand the importance of promoting ~~Namannu~~ history and culture. Their dedication and hard work is not going unnoticed. Each year the Oklahoma Museums Association recognizes outstanding achievement by museums and individuals with its annual OMA awards. I am proud to announce the Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center is now a recipient of one of these awards. The museum took top honors in the category "Best Promotional Piece" for a television commercial we produced for the Celebrating Josephine Wapp Exhibit. We were the only tribal museum to receive an OMA award this year. We want to set the bar for tribal museums in the state of Oklahoma and a statewide award like this shows that we're headed in the right direction. We have our work cut out for us but we're up to the challenge. The best thing about the award is that it brings recognition to the Comanche Nation and the positive things the tribe is doing with its gaming money. Our number one goal is to tell the Comanche story. Our work is nowhere near finished. We are a work in progress and excited to see what the future holds.

Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi, *Museum Director*



Top Left: Princesses Jasi Lightfoot, Kimberley DeJesus and Natalie Blackstar **Top Right:** Comanche War Dancer Billy Pewo Jr. **Bottom:** Comanche War Scouts

50 Years of Powwow

September 24th was a commemorative day as the museum celebrated the opening of the national traveling exhibit **50 Years of Powwow**. A special event was held under a big top tent in back of the museum featuring tribal singing, dancing and the recognition of four Comanche Powwow Societies: Comanche Little Ponies, Comanche War Scouts, Walters Service

Club and the Comanche Homecoming. Tribal Chairman Mike Burgess and Tribal Administrator Willie Nelson served as Masters of Ceremonies. After the event, visitors were treated to Buffalo Sandwiches and Grilled Corn. 803 people attended the opening reception. A fun time was had by all.

CNMCC Board of Directors

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Recent visitors, Elgin High School

Do you have an interesting Comanche history subject to share? Call 580-353-0404 or email us at info@comanchemuseum.com.

Visit Soon!

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Admission is free and tour groups are welcome.

Sokobaitu Taa Narumini, Nimi Supanaitu
"Lords of the Plains, know us"

“Is this a great state or what?”



Comanche Woman's Buckskin Dress on display now at CNMCC. Courtesy of LaNora Parker

Happening Now

Our current exhibit, *50 Years of Powwow* is on display through January 3, 2010. *50 Years of Powwow* was conceived and organized by the American Indian Center of Chicago, and developed by The Field Museum. The exhibition consists of photographs that document the traditional gathering of American Indians that has become a tradition in communities nationwide. The photographs depict dancers, drummers, singers, craftspeople, and traditional foods, and explore how American Indians retain their traditional cultures and languages in today's urban world. The exhibit is augmented with items and photographs on loan from the Comanche Nation Community.

What's Next?

The museum is planning an exhibit of Comanche Children's Items. Please contact us if you are able to loan us any of the following items:

- Children's Regalia
- Children's Artwork of all mediums
- Cradleboards
- Historic Toys
- Homemade Baby Quilts

In the Works...

- 26 November '09 – CNMCC Christmas Lighting Display
- Spring '10 – Comanche Children's Exhibit
- September '10 – Fort Sill Indian School Exhibit



The museum was recently featured on Oklahoma City's KFOR-TV News. Reporter Galen Culver stopped by to do a story on a group of Comanche women who volunteered to set up the museum teepee. While the Comanche men hunted buffalo and fought in battles to protect his family and tribe, it was the Comanche women who owned, built and moved their homes. We used the opportunity to educate the public about the role women played among the tribe. Culver featured the event on his news segment “Is this a great state or what?”

Top: Comanche Women raise the museum teepee. Bottom: Hardworking Volunteers.



Early 20th Century Photo of FSIS Students. Photo courtesy of Debbie Little Chief

Calling all FSIS Alumni and Former Staff

We are working on an exhibit about Fort Sill Indian School but we need your help. Please loan us your school photos and memorabilia. Contact Phyllis at 580-353-0404 for more information.

Museum Staff

Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi
Museum Director

Vanessa Tomahsah
Museum Assistant

Candy Morgan
Education and Public Programs Manager

Bambi Allen
Cultural Specialist

Gabrielle Gomez
Director's Assistant



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