

Kiowas Purchase Landmark Indian City

The Saturday May 17, Grand Opening of Indian City USA Cultural Center was a historical event because it signified the Kiowa Tribe's purchase of a landmark tourist's destination, to honor the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota and it coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremonial.



Close to 350 people attended the grand opening which included a delegation from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, the Kiowa Business Committee, the Indian City USA Cultural Center Board, the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society, the Kiowa War Mothers-Chapter 18, the Kiowa Victory Club, the Kiowa Black Leggings Auxiliary, the Kiowa Princess, Amie Tah-bone and other tribal and organizational princesses, representatives from the Anadarko Chamber of Commerce and the former Indian City U.S.A Board of Directors, Linda Poolaw, Carolyn McBride and George F. Moran, the son of the founder of Indian City U.S.A.



Shakopee Secretary/Treasurer Keith Anderson assists as Kiowa Chairman Billy Evans Horse cuts ribbon opening Indian City under Kiowa Tribe ownership.

The first phase of the grand opening, officiated by ICUSA Board member, Lyndreth "Tugger" Palmer, took place in front of the Indian City USA Cultural Center. An invocation was given by Deloris Harragarra. Following the invocation, Kiowa Chairman Billy Evans Horse and Shakopee Secretary/Treasurer Keith Anderson officially opened up the 53-

year-old Oklahoma landmark with the cutting of the ribbon. Two plaques were unveiled and dedicated in appreciation of all that occurred to secure Indian City USA. One plaque to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux of Minnesota for their generous donation of one million dollars to help secure the purchase of Indian City USA, and one plaque to the KBC and the ICUSA Board for all of their hard work in negotiating and preparing Indian City USA for public access. The two plaques will be permanently displayed because each one is secured on its own small boulder sitting within a few feet of each other to the right side of the cultural center's entrance. Located to the cultural center's left side entrance is the flagpole with the American, Kiowa and Shakopee flags. The reason for the flying of the Kiowa flag is to indicate the Kiowa Tribe's ownership of Indian City and the flying of the Shakopee flag is in honor of the Shakopee's generosity and to honor the friendship that's been formed between the Kiowa and the Shakopee people. □



Ageless We Dance
We Kiowas are old, but ageless we dance; in endless procession our forefathers' deeds mark us; the folk memory remains, as the elders speak of now of forever.
James Auchiah

James Auchiah was the son of Mark Auchiah who was the youngest son of Santanta/Seit-thi-dey (White Bear). Auchiah was known for his eloquent words and as one of the the Kiowa Five who achieved international acclaim in the late 1920s.

Billy Evans Horse Honored

The end of June marked the many years Billy Evans Horse has served the Kiowa Tribe as a Kiowa Business Committee member and the Kiowa Chairman for more than four-terms. Horse has set a record of being elected by the Kiowa Indian Council as Kiowa Chairman. Horse is a life-time resident of Carnegie. He was actually born in rural Carnegie seventy-seven years ago.

Although he was born to Sarah Tanedooah and Edgar (Doyebi) Horse who were both full-blood Kiowas, he was raised as an orphan by his grandparents the late Bessie (Eoneah) and William "Cornbread" Tanedooah. His grandparents gave him his Kiowa name, "The One Who Sits in the Middle", and he took the English name "Hunting Horse", then "Billy Evans Horse".

For more than seventy years, Horse continued to fulfill the prediction made by his grandfather, Tanedooah, decades ago. As a self-trained businessman, consultant, and cultural broker, he has been instrumental in the lives of many people, including educators, scholars, and local and national leaders. His dedication to the plight of American Indian people has, perhaps more than anything else, placed him at the center of some of the most profound (and controversial) transformations in Native America. In the early 1980's, he became discouraged by the



Former Kiowa Chairman Billy Evans Horse

rapid and adverse changes in Indian Country, and was asked to run for Kiowa tribal chairman, he agreed and plunged head-first into tribal politics. He began his first two-year term as Kiowa Tribal Chairman in 1982. By 1986, after being elected to another consecutive two-year term in 1984, Horse's Economic Leadership had increased tribal assets by several million dollars. New tribal-owned businesses helped spur the economy in southwestern Oklahoma (where unemployment at the time ran near 50 percent), and it so impressed the Governor of Oklahoma, George Nigh, that he proclaimed June 28, 1986 as "Billy Evans Horse Day".

One of the most highly published law

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Tofpi Elected Chairman

Donald "Donnie" Tofpi was elected to a two-year term as the Chairman of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Tofpi won by 57 percent of the voter turnout. The Kiowa Election had a record-breaking turn out of registered voters at the polls and by absentee ballot. The Saturday, June 7, 2008, Kiowa Tribal Election was historic because of the number of candidates running for office and the number of Kiowas who registered to vote. The highest voter turn out was at the Anadarko precinct and a close second was at the Carnegie precinct.



Chairman Donald "Donnie" Tofpi

Tofpi was sworn into Office on Monday, June 30th at the Kiowa Headquarters in Carnegie. He took his Oath of Office in front of his family, friends, Kiowa Indian Council members and Kiowa officials from the Business Committee, Hearing Board and Election Board. By reciting the Oath of Office, Tofpi pledged to protect and promote the best interests of the Kiowa Tribe and to support and defend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma.

When approached for information on his goals and his personal information, Tofpi without hesitation offered his information, thereby demonstrating his goals of practicing open government for the Kiowa people. He said he believes in the Freedom of the Press. Tofpi is set to begin his term of office in serving and meeting the Kiowa people's needs. He said he looks forward to working with all elected and appointed Kiowa officials and Kiowa employees in order to better the lives of the Kiowa people.

"My goal is to work with the business committee to seek new programs that will create new jobs. Establish Kiowa culture and language programs. Increase our burial funds and establish more funding for education programs. Work with HUD to resolve our housing issues. Work to improve our relationship with our local city governments, state governments, other tribal governments, and the federal government. My other goals include working for a more stable tribal government, job stability and training for our employees. Expand and improve our economic development ventures and constitution reform. Establish satellite offices and Veterans Affairs Office. Establish an open government and fiscal accountability," said Tofpi.

Tofpi previously served as the Chairman of the Kiowa Constitution Revision Committee. In the 2006 June Kiowa Tribal Election, an Issue was passed by the Kiowa Indian Council. The Issue required the Kiowa Business Committee to appoint a committee to revise the Kiowa Constitution. In the latter part of 2006, the KBC appointed Tofpi along with other Kiowa tribal members to serve on the KCRC. The KCRC held public meetings and conducted surveys with the Kiowa people so that they would have an input in revising the Kiowa Constitution. According to the KCRC, the findings of the survey will be presented in

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