



Arkansas Cherokee Phoenix

Cherokees of Arkansas and Missouri
P.O. Box 1322, Dover, AR. 72837-1322
Phone: 479-331-0322 Fax 479-331-0323
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Moving of Tribal Headquarters at Dover to Conway

The Tribal Headquarters office was moved without notification to the BIA, to our local representatives, and one of the Headmen. An interview was conducted with those who were not notified and the following are the results of those interviews:

Councilman **Jim Davis**

Q: Were you notified that council was going to move the Tribal Office outside of the Old Reservation to Conway?

A: No, I was not notified.

Q: According to BIA regulations, is a vote of the full board required for such a move?

A: Yes. A resolution passed by the council for the move must be signed off by the full board.

Q: Would you have supported such a move that would have put the tribal headquarters outside of the Old Arkansas Reservation?

A: No, because maintaining an office inside the boundaries of the Old Reservation is very important to our federal recognition.

Councilman **Phillip Hubbard**

Q: Were you notified that council was moving the Tribal Office?

A: No, I was not.

Q: Would you have supported such a move that put the Tribal Office outside the Old Reservation?

A: No, I would not.

Q: It has been rumored that the reason for the move was to save money. Do you believe this was the real reason?

A: No, I do not.

Q: Do you feel the move was a legal move and does it meet the requirements of the BIA?

A: No, I do not feel the move was legal because the BIA requires a resolution and the resolution has to be signed by the full board.

Q: Would you be opposed to moving the office to Conway?

A: If the Corporation wants their office in Conway, that is fine, but the Tribal Office needs to remain inside the Old Reservation area.

Q: Are you concerned about the fact that files that were out at the time were simply thrown in boxes without regard to contents?

A: Yes, I am concerned about how everything was thrown together. However, I am more concerned about how this will affect our federal recognition and our ability to have the information that is necessary to answer our requirements by the BIA.

Q: Several people have stated when they called the Conway number that was listed in the newsletter, and spoke with Harrell Helton, that he stated he authorized the moving of the office. To your knowledge, does he have the authority to direct such a move?

A: No, he does not. He is not a council member, nor has been given any authority by the entire council to act on behalf of the council. In fact, it was voted unanimously by the council to retrieve all properties belonging to our tribe from Harrell Helton. I have no confidence in Mr. Helton at all.

Q: As a spiritual leader, what do you think of the white signs that were posted at the entrance of the ceremonial grounds?

A: They are inappropriate, and I will not lead any sweats where they are put up.

Q: As a spiritual leader, have you received any additional complaints?

A: Several women have called me who was very dissatisfied with the spiritual guidance they were receiving. I am proud to announce that Judy Cotter and Diane Davis will lead the women's sweats for this ceremony. I feel that they are more qualified than any of our women, past or present. The sweats will be held Friday, July 28 and Sunday, July 30. Preparation for sweats will begin about 6:30pm and the sweat will start between 7:30 and 8:00pm on July 28, 2006. The times for the Sunday Sweat will be announced on Saturday, July 29, 2006.

Councilman Doug Cotter

Q: Were you aware of the move of the Tribal Office to Conway?

A: No, I was not notified.

Q: Were you aware that the police were called because personal property was being taken without the owner's consent?

A: I was notified by another councilman that this had happened.

Q: Would you have supported such a move?

A: No, I would not. The Tribal Office needs to stay within the Old Reservation boundaries.

Q: Are you concerned this may have put our federal recognition in jeopardy?

A: Yes. On regular day to day activities, a quorum of the board is all that is necessary but on an important issue such as moving the office, it requires a vote of the full board.

Q: Do you feel that the real reason for the move was lower rent?

A: No, I do not.

Headman Dub Maxwell

Q: As one of the three headmen, were you notified that such a move was going to take place?

A: No, I was not.

Q: Are you concerned about the way everything was moved and did they move items that belonged to you?

A: Yes, I am very concerned about the way the files were slammed together and files that were out on desktops being worked on were thrown in boxes. This was wrong. Right is right, wrong is wrong, and this was wrong. They did not move personal items belonging to me or my wife, Janice.

Q: Do you feel that the time has come to separate the Corporate Office from the Tribal Office?

A: Yes, I do. I feel the Tribal Office has to stay within the Old Reservation boundaries.

Q: Did you speak to the BIA? How do they view the move?

A: Yes, I did. The move was an illegal move because it did not have a resolution and was not signed off by the full board.

Q: Will you be at the Green Corn Ceremony in Dover at the end of July?

A: Yes. I and my family will be there and I encourage everyone to come. We do plan a question and answer session at our Dover headquarters at 5:00pm on Friday, July 28, 2006..Dinner will be served at 6:00pm on Saturday, July 29, 2006 prior to the evening activities.

Q: Do you remember in the meeting in Oklahoma when someone asked Cliff Bishop if the tribe had an office in Conway and Bishop answered, no they did not and that the office was going to stay in Dover? If so, what is your comment in regard to that question?

A: You really do not want to know my comment to that one.

Q: One last question that does not relate to the move of the office. Is it true that the Lost Cherokee has inherited land and money in Arkansas?

A: Yes, they have. It is currently in probate court.

Q: Has there been any discussion on how the land will be used? Or how the money will be spent?

A: Not to my knowledge

We wish to thank all of you councilmen and Headman Dub Maxwell for having answered our questions.

Cherokee Women's Meeting

A meeting of the Cherokee Women's Association was held on June 30, 2006 at the tribal headquarters in Dover, Arkansas. There were discussions that the ladies should have a meeting on a monthly basis, or more often as needed, to address issues that are of importance to the women of the Cherokee tribe.

At the meeting that was held on June 30, a motion was made and was carried to remove Connie Bishop and Mary Brown as Spiritual Leaders of the women. Therefore, at the Green Corn Ceremony on July 28-July 30, 2006 we encourage all women to come to the sweats, pray about this and voice any changes they would like to see. This should be a time of prayer and self reflection and study of our Cherokee Culture. We have asked the Spiritual Leaders of the men to participate and guide us in the proper observance of Cherokee Culture.

A second meeting was held on July 14, 2006. In that meeting, discussions were conducted regarding a Cultural Library, starting at the Dover headquarters, with possible branches in other towns and counties. Other agenda items included classes or demonstrations for shawl making, basket weaving, and traditional tear dress making. Decisions will need to be made as to when and where these classes will be conducted. The ladies of the Dover district would like to meet and visit with ladies from other districts. Field trips were also discussed as a means to understand and learn more about our cultural heritage.

The Cherokee Women's Association is in the early stage of development. As we become organized, meeting dates and additional information will be provided. Participation in these meetings is encouraged with the eventual election of officers.

Article written by Councilman Phillip "Buffalo" Hubbard

Some months back, several members of the council were appointed to the River Valley Methamphetamine Coalition to represent the Cultural Diversity section of the project. This is a group that meets in Russellville, Arkansas monthly. The group is composed of various community leaders that include law enforcement, juvenile services, mental health, real estate and other agencies and businesses throughout the state. The program's focus is on all aspects of methamphetamine related problems. The group not only addresses the issue of how to keep methamphetamine out of our communities, but how to rehabilitate and reestablish the reformed methamphetamine user back into the work force and into society in general. The coalition is always looking for new ways to combat this growing plague that destroys all races of people. Coalition members are presently conducting community research within the River Valley area in pursuit of new ideas. It was a great honor for our council to be asked to serve in such a capacity. We look forward to working as part of this coalition to make our state and Old Reservation a safe and drug free environment.

Notice:

The address on this newsletter is for the newsletter only. It is a P.O. Box that has been designated for our people to send news articles, comments, and questions regarding the newsletter.

If you wish to subscribe to this newsletter, the cost will be \$20.00 per year made payable to the Arkansas Cherokee Phoenix and may be mailed to the address on the front page of this newsletter. Additional newsletters will be published to keep you informed as to the progress your local representatives are making in trying to resolve this issue.

Below are photos taken on Sunday, July 16, 2006 during the illegal move of the Lost Cherokee tribal files at 281Camp St. Dover, Arkansas.



U-Haul moving van provided by Bill Helton showing use of Lost Cherokee logo on door.



Mary Brown (l) and Bill Helton.
Bishop's vehicle.

Some contents of office in Cliff



Curtis Smith

Cliff Bishop's Suburban in background.
Harrell Helton's pickup in foreground.



Harrell Helton's pickup; Cliff Bishop's suburban



Harrell Helton in doorway.



**Vehicles left to right:
Cliff Bishop's suburban
Harrell Helton's white pickup
Curtis Smith's 2-tone pickup
Morris Chiles' tan pickup**

The following were there:
Don and Kathy Harness,
Morris and Diane Chiles,
Cliff and Connie Bishop,
Mary and John Brown,
Harrell, Leon, Bill, Jennifer
and Chris Helton and Curtis
Smith.

The ones who knew nothing of the move were: Dub Maxwell, Jim Davis, Phillip Hubbard, and Doug Cotter.