

# THE DOCENT NEWS



For Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Docents

February 2003

## Launching 2003

- Jerry Wagener

Believe it or not the 2003 docent season is almost upon us. In this note I want to call your attention to three important things pertaining to getting the 2003 season going.

### Cleaning up the Winter Accumulation - Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

At our coordination meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> we agreed that the pre-season cleanup was the most critical of the prairie road crew activities throughout the year. Thus we established February 22<sup>nd</sup> as the day we would come to the prairie and do a major cleanup of the roads. The weather could be brisk, so bring warm clothes, gloves, etc. Meet at the visitors center at 9:30 am. Bring your lunch, and we'll assess the progress and see who can eat the most cookies (**cookies and hot coffee provided**). Note that this, and all our known activities, are on our website Calendar of Events [http://oklahomanature.org/OK/tallgrass\\_volunteers.html](http://oklahomanature.org/OK/tallgrass_volunteers.html). (Anyone interested in adopting a mile, and keeping that mile sparkling clean?)

### Docent Reorientation - March 1<sup>st</sup>

Reorientation this year will be March 1<sup>st</sup>, with a backup date of March 22<sup>nd</sup> in the

case of snow/ice. There will be the usual updates, an interesting outside speaker, a brand new docent manual, a golden opportunity to sign up for working at the visitors center, and of course the comraderie of interaction with fellow docents.

### New and Improved Signups

For those of you who want to sign up via the web, you're going to like the new format. This one is simple compared to the last one: select the day, type in your *docentID*, and see your name on the schedule immediately - pretty slick. (Already there are over 40 signups.) **Your default *docentID* is your first-name-lastname, all in lower case with no spaces.** (e.g., I'm jerrywagener, but now don't go signing me up!); I can change your *docentID* to anything you like, if you like. Go to our web page (address above) and select the docent schedule. Let me know if you experience any problems. For those of you not wanting to sign up directly on the web, the old system of contacting Kara Morgan at either [morgan1477@aol.com](mailto:morgan1477@aol.com), or (918) 272-9433 still works.

See you February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and on the schedule.

*Jerry*

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## **Tracks in the Tallgrass**

- Jerry Wagener

About 30 docents attended the January 18<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center. No, attended is too tame a word; participated is a better word, as we had a spirited meeting and just about everybody got into the act. This note comprises the minutes.

Prior to the meeting, I met with Harvey Payne, Bob Hamilton, and Ann Whitehorn to review the agenda topics. What follows is the result of the docent coordination meeting, agenda-item by agenda-item, including any TGP management input.

### **Docent Policies and Procedures**

We clarified our purpose and how do we go about it. We essentially drafted an update of the first four paragraphs of Section C of the docent manual (*The Volunteer Program*), a critical update given the changes of last summer. We agreed that (a) interested docents should send me their suggestions and (b) the 2003 version of the docent manual would be distributed to all docents this year, not just the new docents. The revision is available for review/comment at [www.oklahomanature.org/OK/manual/manualProgram.html](http://www.oklahomanature.org/OK/manual/manualProgram.html)

### **Docent Manual Updates**

David Turner will be updating the docent manual. He gave a report on the

status of that work and invited assistance in (1) helping to update specific chapters (the policies and bison chapters are in good shape, but the other chapters are open for input); (2) designing a new cover. In addition, Bill Rinehart will be working with David to design a new history section, and Andrew Donovan-Shead will assist with the production and copying.

### **New Docent Recruiting**

June Endres has arranged for OETA, NPR, and Tulsa World ads, and is working on having ads appear in other community papers. These are ads for those 18 and older to become VIPs, *Volunteers in Preservation*. Informational meetings will be held on Feb 6, 13, 19, 20, 25, in five different cities. The details will be kept current on the online docent calendar of events. Those interested in helping with these meetings should contact June. At this point we still need to determine how many new docents to recruit.

### **Reorientation Topics (returning docents)**

The group voted to hold reorientation on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with a backup date in case of snow/ice on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The draft agenda includes Bob Hamilton reviewing the TGP role in the TNC Flint Hills initiative and an outside speaker (currently three possibilities). Don Bruner will be fine-tuning the agenda, and will work with Harvey Payne to arrange for the speaker. Contact Don if you

have any suggestions for the reorientation training.

### **Prairie Tour Activity**

Dick Baker outlined his plans for this activity and provided flyers that docents may place in their favorite haunts. These full-day tours are for adults (and families), but not school groups. The suggestion was made that these tours should be advertised at any conventions that come to town. Contact Dick for further information. (Also see the TNC Oklahoma Chapter on-line calendar.)

### **Prairie Work Days (Road Crew)**

Ray Kelley pointed out that the need for frequent large-group outings to clean the roads is not as great now as when the road crew started a couple of years ago (the roads are cleaner now). The big need is after the winter break, and the group decided to have a big road-cleaning effort on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was some discussion of an *Adopt-a-Mile* type of approach for the rest of the season, but we didn't come to any conclusion. Other work day possibilities are trail maintenance, picnic ground and picnic table maintenance, and oil patch cleanup (around oil pumps) after a burn. Dennis Bires will organize a trail maintenance work day. Others interested in organizing a work day should contact me.

### **Book Nook Contents**

Several people have wondered how best to suggest additions to the

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visitors center library. I reported that Harvey and Ann are interested in receiving docent suggestions and that Harvey wants to reply to all suggestions. We decided that any suggestions be sent to me and I'll send them to Harvey and Ann and make the replies available to the docents. We also decided to maintain a list of the suggestions, so that we don't repeat any. The suggestion list is now open.

### **Trail Guide Situation**

Several people have suggested that the elimination of the school-group trail guide program be reconsidered. I reported that Harvey is increasingly concerned, given the TNC pull-back from outreach involvement, with liability related to TGP-sponsored trailguiding of school groups. Therefore the ban stands. That does not mean school groups cannot use the trails, just that docents will not officially lead them. It was pointed out that (a) schools don't currently have funds for such trips anyway and (b) in the *old old days* the teachers had complete responsibility. The weekend trail guide signups continue, but docent training will not include trail-guide training. The weekend trail guiding will be informal, with trail guides taking interested visitors around the trails and sharing their enthusiasm/knowledge in that setting.

### **Awards Review**

Monica Murray received an ovation as she made her way

to the front of the room to report on the awards program. The main questions were (a) do we do this year's awards/recognition like last time, and (b) how do we best recognize those serving over 100 shifts? The resounding answer to (a) was YES, and the tentative answer to (b) was to have some sort of docent hall of fame plaque in the visitors center. Think about that last thing, and we'll discuss it later in the year. Monica is also considering moving the awards dinner earlier in the year, to before the holiday season. Send her any input you might have.

### **Summer Coordination Meeting**

We discussed whether we should have a summer coordination meeting to deal with any needs for mid-course-corrections. One concern was that we might not have enough matters to justify such a meeting. Another suggestion was that we combine any such meeting with a cookout at the Preserve, then we could spend the time partying if we didn't have any business to conduct (or even if we did) – The later was approved by acclamation. <sup>(1)</sup>

### **Other Agenda Items**

Two other agenda items were added after the draft agenda had been published.

The first was Andrew Donovan-Shead's article on the possibility of selling prairie honey in the gift shop. Andrew's article elsewhere in this issue explains why that idea won't

fly. <sup>(2)</sup>

The second was John Fisher's idea of having TGP docent bus trips to other TNC preserves. The group decided give it a try and John volunteered to organize such a trip to the Konza Prairie.

### **Open Forum**

We didn't have as much time for the open forum as I would have liked – maybe that's just as well, as the ideas kept coming. Here's what happened:

### **Mary's Waterfall**

It was suggested we try to find *Mary's Waterfall* on a day's outing. That idea was wildly popular, and Dennis Bires volunteered to organize that event. After the meeting I mentioned this to Harvey Payne; he thinks it's a great idea, and he would like to lead the group on this outing (he claims to know where the waterfall is).

### **Science Project**

It was suggested that some of the docents would like the opportunity to participate in a preserve science project. After the meeting I mentioned this to Harvey; he is receptive to the idea, but a candidate project did not immediately come to mind. He'll discuss it with Bob, and perhaps we'll hear more at the March 1<sup>st</sup> reorientation.

### **RSVP**

Someone wondered if we qualified for RSVP. Most of us did not know that stands for *Retired and Senior Volunteer Program*, and that one benefit is volunteer insurance. I checked the web,

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and after getting by all the RSVP dating services (hmm...) I finally found and contacted the Tulsa office at [www.rsvptulsa.org](http://www.rsvptulsa.org), (918)280-8656. TGP docents 55+ do qualify for free RSVP membership, which provides liability insurance driving to/from the Preserve and while at the Preserve doing volunteer service, as well as \$2500 accidental death insurance, all at no cost. They're sending me more information, so keep tuned.

**(1) - Related to the Summer Coordination Meeting**  
Harvey also suggested a cookout afterward, and that early May would be a good time of year. I'll suggest that Dennis coordinate with Harvey.

**(2) - Spin-off from the Prairie Honey Discussion**  
The idea for selling prairie honey in the gift shop sparked a spirited discussion along the lines of are advocacy articles appropriate for the docent newsletter. Persuasive arguments ensued that such material could be educational. The group definitely wanted to continue to air all ideas/suggestions/questions. But in the end we decided to handle these in such a manner that the response/answer to an idea/suggestion/question is included in the newsletter along with the original idea/suggestion/question. Thus such material first comes to me, I get the answer, and then publish the combination in the

newsletter.

Since the meeting I've received several ideas/suggestions/questions. As per our decision, I will attempt to get some sort of resolution to each, and will publish them all in a future newsletter.

Whew! How's that for a three hour meeting? It makes me tired just to think of all our physical and intellectual undertakings. Is this a great group of docents, or what?

In the meantime, see you on February 22<sup>nd</sup> when we hit the ditches, and on March 1<sup>st</sup> when we kick off the new season.

*Jerry*



## **Reference Books Needed**

**- Doris Mayfield**

The new Visitor's Center at the Nichol's Preserve is in need of reference material for public use. This would include books on Oklahoma flora and fauna, geology and history of the Illinois River area, etc. If you have anything you would be willing to donate, please drop off at the Visitor's Center or The Nature Conservancy's Tulsa office.



## **Mark Your Calendar with These Important Dates!**

### **New Docent Recruitment**

Bartlesville

February 19<sup>th</sup> 6-8 p.m.

Tulsa

February 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Ponca City

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-3 p.m.

Edmond

February 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### **Prairie Road Crew**

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:30 a.m. TGP

### **TGP Returning Docent Reorientation and Kick-off**

March 1<sup>st</sup> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Senior Center, Pawhuska

### **TGP Visitors Center**

Reopens March 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **TGP New Docent Classroom Training**

April 5<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce Media Room, Pawhuska

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 4 p.m. Chamber of Commerce Media Room, Pawhuska

### **TGP New Docent On-Site Training**

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. TGP

### **Prairie Road Crew**

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., TGP

### **Cook-out and Waterfall Hike**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 12 p.m.

For more information visit the on-line calendar of events @ [www.oklahomanature.org/OK/tallgrass\\_volunteers.html](http://www.oklahomanature.org/OK/tallgrass_volunteers.html)

## TNC Membership Dollars

- **Tim Grogan**

TNC is very proud of the fact that between 85% and 90% of its dollars go directly to conservation programs, one of the most efficient rates of any non-profit organization. To keep this high proportion of your dollars going directly to conservation, the Conservancy always searches for ways to minimize administrative costs.

One way to greatly reduce costs was to centralize membership mailings and administration at TNC's worldwide headquarters. With over a million members worldwide, TNC wanted to serve everyone as effectively as possible.

Unfortunately, this change means that in general members will get less news about local TNC activities. However, we in the OK Chapter will strive to continue to keep you informed of the many exciting projects now underway through occasional mailings and e-mails. And we certainly are always glad to take your calls with any questions or comments.

A number of supporters have asked how to ensure that their entire membership dues and contributions stay in Oklahoma. Anyone who wishes to do this can mail their checks directly to our Tulsa office and indicate on the check or in an accompanying letter that

they want their contribution to go to the Oklahoma Chapter.

For further information, please contact Deirdre McArdle, Director of Philanthropy at (918) 293-2912.



## Two Prairie Road Crew Dates Set!

- **Dennis Bires**

Come help clean up the winter accumulation of debris on the preserve on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Crews will work until noon, then break for lunch. Bring your own grub and TNC will provide hot coffee and cookies for the traditional cookie-eating contest. All crews will be finished by 3:00 p.m.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the second Road Crew date from 10 a.m. till noon. Crews will pick up any beverage containers or other assorted debris that may have sprouted along the preserve roads since the February Road Crew day. At noon, we'll have a cookout under the trees at the Stucco House. Burgers and other food and drinks will be provided.

Harvey Payne has offered to lead a hike to the elusive *Mary's Waterfall*, which some volunteers to this day suspect doesn't actually exist. The hike will start after the cookout on May 3<sup>rd</sup> around 1:30. We'll drive to an undisclosed location to begin the hike, which

should take at least an hour and a half. It is our hope that Mary Coley will be along with us to provide pinpoint directions.

All docents and staff are invited to both Road Crew events, and the cookout and hike. Prospective hikers should notify Dennis Bires by Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> of their intention to attend, for food planning purposes. He can be reached at [dennisbires@lycos.com](mailto:dennisbires@lycos.com) or by phone at 631-2443 (office), or 341-3908 (home).



## New Docent Recruitment

- **June Endres**

New docent recruitment efforts are under way for 2003! Meetings are being held in the public libraries of Pawhuska, Bartlesville, Ponca City, Edmond and Tulsa, (downtown library) The specific dates and times are listed in the Calendar of Events here and on the web.

Promotional ads were run on OETA and NPR and in the various city newspapers. These are public information meetings. Video clips of the preserve will be shown and docent representatives will provide information and answer questions about the docent program.

All docents are welcome to attend these meetings to share your love of TGP with prospective new docents.



## Visitation Summary

- **George Meyers**

### December 2002

Only 140 visitors signed-in at the Visitor's Center in December. 56 were from 15 states other than Oklahoma, 22 were from 9 other countries and 62 were from Oklahoma. Total visitors were down 69%, foreign visitors up 633%, other states were down 60% and Oklahomans were down 81% from last December. The first time count was: foreign 100%; other states 89%; Oklahomans 34%. The top states represented were Maryland (10), Kansas and New York (6) and Ohio (5). China with 9 visitors topped the list of foreign visitors. Germany had 5, and Denmark and Malaysia had (2) each. There were 9 days with no visitors, 1 day with 1, and 5 days with 2 visitors. On the heaviest day were had 17 visitors.

Some comments from December visitors were, "Great! We came to check out our adopted buffalo *Wildfire*", "Didn't know land like this in OK", "Had to bring Mom and Sis - beautiful still!", and "Keep up the good work".

### 2002 Totals

For the year we had 9,010 sign-in visitors, the lowest year we have had to date. There were 2,809 from 49 other states and Washington D.C., 435 from 53 other countries and 5,766 from Oklahoma. For the year,

Texas with 305 visitors, Kansas with 272, California with 171, Missouri with 160 and Florida with 123 topped the list of other state visitors. Germany with 73, England with 44, France with 40, Canada with 27 and Switzerland with 25 topped the foreign country list. We had the fewest visitors from Rhode Island (3), and North Dakota and Nebraska (4 each). For the year, 65% of visitors came between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and 45% came on Saturday and Sunday.

### Statistics To Date

For the nine years we have recorded visitation, there have been a total of 97,933 sign-in visitors. 29,779 were from other states, 2,970 from other countries, 23 from US possessions and 65,161 Oklahomans. A rough projection indicates that we probably will reach that magic number of 100,000 visitors in May 2003. A celebration should be held for that 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor. Visitors have come from all 50 states, 4 US possessions and 118 other countries.



## Returning Docent Reorientation and Kickoff

- **Don Bruner**

The TGP Docent Reorientation and Kickoff program will be held at the Pawhuska Senior Center from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. on March 1<sup>st</sup>. A snow/ice date is tentatively scheduled for

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program agenda follows.

- 9:00 Opening Comments  
- Don Bruner
- 9:15 Welcome Back and  
Preserve Update  
- Harvey Payne
- 9:35 Science Director's  
Update  
- Bob Hamilton
- 10:25 BREAK
- 10:45 Visitor Center  
Procedures Update  
- Ann Whitehorn
- 11:00 History of Osage  
County  
- Jenk Jones
- 12:00 LUNCH  
- Senior Center
- 1:15 Bison and Cattle  
- Jay Kerby, OSU
- 1:45 Prairie Song Birds  
Wade Harrel, OSU
- 2:30 BREAK
- 2:45 Workdays and Other  
Outings  
- Dennis Bires
- 3:00 Docent Manual  
Overview  
- David Turner
- 3:15 Unclaimed Awards  
Presentation  
- Monica Murray
- 3:30 Sign Up Schedules  
- Kara Morgan
- 3:45 Other Business  
- Jerry Wagener



**Lichens**

- Van Vives

We have all walked the trail and noticed rocks with gray/blue/green lichen on the surface. Rarely, if ever, do we get down on our hands and knees and take out a magnifying glass to look at these strange life forms. It could be rewarding.

There is no such thing as single lichen plant. This is one thing that makes it so interesting. Lichens are only formed from a symbiotic combination of a fungal partner and an algal partner. The fungal filaments surround and grow into the algal cells and the combination becomes lichen.

Lichens will grow almost anywhere, from the arctic to the desert. One requirement is that there be abundant light. It will grow on soil, rock, or trees. When we see it growing on trees we tend to regard it as a parasite, but it is not. Although it may absorb some mineral nutrients from the substrate, it generally is self-sufficient in feeding itself through photosynthesis in the algal cells. Lichens growing on rocks, however, may release chemicals that speed the degradation of the rock, and thus promote production of soils. These hearty forms of life can live over 100 years.

When the weather is hot and dry the lichen can dry out completely and become very brittle. Pieces that break off can then form new lichen in other places when moisture returns.

The growth forms that we are most likely to see at the Prairie are crust-like or *Crustose*, growing tightly against the substrate, or freestanding branching tubes, or *Fruticose*. If you see lichen that is light green to white and rough textured it probably is the second growth form.

As hardy as they are, lichens are very susceptible to air pollution, especially urban and industrial pollution. Because they are so sensitive, they are now being used to quickly and cheaply assess levels of air toxins in Europe and North America.

The next time you come across lichen on the trail, stop and take a close look at this not-so-simple life form and ponder its age.



**Bees Buzz Off**

**Andrew-Donovan-Shead**

In the last Docent News I talked of bees. At the Docent Coordination Meeting Jerry Wagener reported the result of his discussion on this subject with Management of the Tallgrass Prairie.

Honeybees are as welcome on the prairie as *Serizea Lespedeza*. Bob Hamilton explained that no subspecies of honeybee *Apis Mellifera* are native to the prairie; they are active, enterprising insects that will compete with the indigenous insect pollinators, ultimately taking over and altering the characteristics of the ecosystem. The mission of

The Nature Conservancy at the TGP is to restore the prairie ecosystem as close as possible to its condition prior to the arrival of Europeans. Honeybees will, therefore, be told to buzz off.

Like the Honeybee, I too am not native to these parts, yet welcome more or less. The degree of my welcome varies, which brings to mind an experience I had at the Visitor's Center last year. One afternoon during the week, an elderly trio of Native Americans arrived at the Visitor's Center. I greeted them, answering their questions. They listened attentively while I prated about The Nature Conservancy and the wonders it performs. Soon they began edging toward their car. As they were getting ready to depart, we were talking about the Osage Nation, the gentleman said: "Where you from? You ain't from Pawhuska."

Nowadays, in England I'm mistaken for an American; in America I can be from England, Australia, or Boston, though the lady who thought me Bostonian was well liquored as I recall. Anyway, I admitted to being English. In response to this, the gentleman asked: "What d'you know about the Osage, then?" I roared with laughter. Recovering myself, I said: "Not much, but I'm learning." On parting company they extended an invitation to me to attend the next public tribal gathering.



## **Osage, Children of the Middle Water**

(Part II in a III Part Series)

- Nicholas R. Del Grosso

The 19<sup>th</sup> century brought continued change to the frontier. The new century saw the Americans in Osage Country replacing Spanish and French influence. The Osage world was changing. They were losing their position as middlemen in the fur trade, their lands were coming under increased pressure from white settlers, and eastern Indian tribes were being moved west onto their traditional hunting lands.

With the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, it became evident that the new United States Government had three broad objectives in mind when dealing with the Indian Tribes in these new territories. First, Thomas Jefferson wanted to treat each tribe equally in matters of trade. Second, it was preferable for American traders to deal directly with each tribe, bypassing established middlemen. And finally, Jefferson was convinced that the removal of all eastern Indian Tribes to this new western area was humanitarian and would contribute to their development and advancement.

As the United States Government matured you see a progression in how it dealt with Indian relations. In 1789, the Constitution gave

Congress the power to regulate trade with the Indians. An interesting point, which probably helped to advance the policy of Indian removal, was that Indians, who were not taxed and who were living in established states, were not counted as a part of the population when determining state representation in the national House of Representatives. This had an adverse impact on the power structure in the House of Representatives, especially in the new frontier states. A quick solution to this problem was Indian removal and the opening up of these Indian lands to white settlement. This addresses two problems; first, white settlement increases representation in the national legislature, and second, property-owning settlers increase the tax base within the state.

Federal relations with the Indians were in the hands of the Secretary of War until 1849, when the Indian Bureau was transferred to the newly established Department of Interior. As a result of this institutional structure, the War Department enforced early Indian removal. This policy led to the permanent relocation of eastern tribes to lands west of the Mississippi River. Seeds of this policy would reap a bitter harvest in coming years. As part of this relocation effort a band of Cherokee expressed a desire to move west. This plan was

approved and these Cherokee were granted a large tract of land on the White River in Arkansas by the treaty of 1817. This was Osage land and the Cherokee relocation led to conflict between the Cherokee and the Osage. In fact Fort Smith was built in 1817 to protect the Cherokees and keep the two tribes apart. This did little to resolve the conflict. In the fall of 1817 the Cherokees and their allies launched a raid against the Osage near present day Claremore. In that raid 83 Osages were killed and 103 were taken prisoner and sold into slavery. This raid was called the Battle of Claremore Mound and in fact the village of Osage chief Clermont was wiped out. After this raid there was constant retaliation between the two sides. Things got so bad that Governor Clark was ordered to make peace between the tribes. The Cherokees demanded what is now eastern Oklahoma, for its wealth and as an outlet to the buffalo grounds. They claimed that President Monroe and Secretary of War Calhoun promised this to them. The treaty was imposed upon the Osage on September 25, 1818. Article I of the treaty stated "...that the Osage Nations had been embarrassed by the frequent demands for property taken from citizens of the United States by war parties and other thoughtless men of their several bands and their chiefs being ineffectual in recovering the property, in conformity with the conditions of the 9<sup>th</sup> article

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of the Treaty of 1808 and deduction of annuities in conformity, would deprive them of any for several years." This Treaty was made to punish the Osage for actions the government felt challenged its removal policy and to insure that those the government felt were wronged were made whole. It was evident that the Osages could not compensate the injured parties from their annuities. Therefore they were forced to cede a tract of land bounded by the Arkansas River in the south, to the mouth of the Verdigris River up to the falls four miles from the mouth to a line running northeasterly to the Saline on the Neosho River (about to present day Salina, Oklahoma). This treaty resulted in the Osage Tribe ceding 7 million acres of land to the Federal Government.

The retaliation continued even after this treaty. The government came to realize that it could not effectively protect the eastern Indians, in eastern Indian Territory, from Fort Smith. So in 1824 Fort Gibson was established with the mission of suppressing the conflict between the Osage Indians and the western Cherokee and their allies. Finally, in 1825 the Federal Government forced the Osage Tribe to cede all Osage lands in what is now northern Arkansas and Oklahoma to the United States. The Osage were removed to a reservation in southern Kansas in the Neosho River Valley. This

became their allotted land but by tradition they still hunted bison on their extended hunting territory and in fact depended upon their two yearly hunts to survive. The Osage fiercely defended this area of western present day Oklahoma and this brought them into conflict with their traditional enemies, the Comanche and the Kiowa. This bad situation was made worse when in 1830, President Andrew Jackson approved an act of Congress that formally adopted the policy of removal of the eastern tribes and assigned them lands in the western part of the Louisiana Purchase. In common parlance the area lying west of the Missouri and Arkansas territories became known as the Indian Territory. This was bounded on the north by the Platte River and on the south by the Red River going westward to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. This area was also the traditional Buffalo hunting grounds of the Osage Tribe. As eastern tribes increasingly populated this area, hunting pressure and settlement decreased the availability of game and brought these newcomers into conflict with the Osage tribe defending their hunting territory.

These problems continued and in an effort to resolve the Osage land claims Brig General M. Arbuckle negotiated another treaty with the Osage Tribe in 1839. In that treaty the Great and Little Osage gave up all titles or interest in any

reservation previously claimed by them within the limits of any other tribe. In return for this promise the United States agreed to pay the Great and Little Osage Indians \$20,000 for the term of twenty years. This was to be paid \$12,000 in money and \$8000 in goods, stock, provisions, or money as the President may direct. In addition to these terms, the treaty also made provision to provide blacksmiths and millers for the tribe, to supply 1000 cows and calves, 2000 breeding hogs, 1000 ploughs, houses worth \$100 each to the Chiefs and other benefits to the Chiefs. These provisions were an effort to make the Osage less dependent upon a nomadic hunting culture.

The 1839 Treaty was the 7th treaty negotiated with the United States Government and in each treaty the Osage ceded more lands. Finally, by 1839 they had no lands left to cede. They were reduced to their small reservation in Kansas. From an estimated population of 17,000 in 1680, they had been reduced to some 5,300 in the 1830s. War with the displaced eastern tribes and their traditional enemies, disease and constant relocation had taken its toll. By the 1850s, the Osage tribe was described in the memoirs of Watson Stewart, a Kansas settler, as *blanket Indians*. By this time they had been reduced to living in a tract of land lying along the southern boundary of the state 50 miles wide, north and south, by over 200 miles

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east and west. The government effort to make the tribe totally dependent on agriculture had failed. Stewart says that the Osage subsisted mainly by hunting. They still made two general hunts each year, going out far to the west, for buffalo meat and hides. They exchanged dressed hides with traders for flour, sugar, coffee, blankets and other stuff, which was used to make their clothes.

As settlement continued to advance in what is now Kansas, the Osage Tribe again came under increased pressure. This became serious in 1854 when Kansas was organized as a territory under the Kansas - Nebraska Act. This area became embroiled in the slavery issue. The south was fighting to keep the area as a slave state and the north was battling to make it a free state. The bill contained the provision that the territorial settlers would decide the question of slavery. This provision caused both the pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces to encourage settlement of the Kansas territory. This in turn created problems for the Osage Indians, who had to deal with the encroachment of white settlers on their Kansas lands. This increased white settlement and the resulting political pressure brought by the territorial legislature precipitated the government to again become active in attempting to negotiate a new treaty with the Osage Indians. In 1855

Major Andrew J. Dorn, United States Neosho Agent, reports he met with the Osage to negotiate a treaty and failed to do so. In 1858, Dorn reported to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs "...that the Osage corn crop failed while the tribe was away on the summer hunt where they were unable to find buffalo. He once again suggests that now is the time for the government to renegotiate a treaty with the Osage and reduce their land area." By 1859 the Osage Nation received their last annuity from the Treaty of 1839. This had amounted to \$400,000 over 20 years. However, Dorn reports that the Osage were dissatisfied because they had not received all of their stock and agricultural implements due them under this treaty. The Osage leadership had learned a lesson from the previous 50 years of treaty making and they were aware that the agent and the government did not have their best interest at heart. They began to become more astute at preserving the tribe's interests when discussing issues and avoided making decisions when it was not in their interest to do so. During the latter part of the 1850s as the great bison herds began to diminish, it became increasingly difficult to subsist through hunting. The tribe began following more agricultural pursuits. As Kansas moved toward statehood, the Osage were troubled by increased intrusions of their reservation by white

neighbors. At this time Dorn again suggests that the government take advantage of the Osage troubles to reduce the extent of their reserve and advance white settlement.

As the nation moved towards war the Indian Nations took sides. The Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws and Seminoles went largely with the South. The majority of the Osages remained loyal to the government. White settlers in Kansas benefited from the Osage loyalty as their reservation helped to protect them against raids from unfriendly Indians in Indian Territory.

During the Civil War the Osage Indians essentially remained loyal to the Union. Only the bands under Black Dog and Arrow-Going-Home agreed to fight for the Confederacy. In 1862 United States Agent to the Osages, Peter Percival Elder, reported, "Of all his wards only the Osage remained" on the reservation.

In May of 1863 Confederate General Kirby Smith, commanding at Little Rock, Arkansas conceived the idea that the Plains Indians could benefit the Confederate cause by causing mischief in the west. He sent 22 officers up the Arkansas and up the Verdigris into the Osage Reserve. There they confronted the warriors of Hard Rope and Little Beaver of the Osage Indians. In a running gun battle the loyal Osages killed 20

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Confederates at a cost of only two of their number.

By 1864 the Osage Bands, which had sided with the Confederacy, were drifting back to the reservation in response to a general amnesty declared by Agent Elder. Agent Elder could state with pride that he was able to keep the Osage loyal to the Union. Just as the Civil War pitted brother against brother in the white world it did the same to the Indians on the frontier. The Osage Nation suffered great property loss when the lands in southeastern Kansas were overrun by guerilla bands of white soldiers in the ensuing Kansas border fighting. In the end the sacrifices made by the Osage Nation helping to defend the Union and the state of Kansas were soon forgotten.

After the war white settlers turned their attention to lands in the west. An editorial appearing in *The Emporia News* on January 26, 1867 sums up white attitudes towards the Osage in Kansas. It said, "The Earth belongs to the workers. These human weeds have no right to withhold from tillage and improvement the magnificent domain they now occupy. We are glad to chronicle their approaching removal." This editorial was a harbinger of things to come. In 1867 the Osage Nation gave to the United States one portion of their Kansas reservation. The Osage had been able to resist repeated government request

to cede this land for a decade. However in the end they were paid a sum of \$300,000 for this land. This sum was invested and the interest was paid to them annually in money, clothing, provisions, or such other articles of utility as the Secretary of the Interior may direct. An interesting aside was that this was all paid for by the sale of the ceded land and even the government costs for the survey and sale was reimbursed to the government. After the Osage were paid the \$300,000 the balance above this figure less costs owed to the government was placed in the Treasury to the credit of something called the civilization fund, to be used to educate and civilize the Indian tribes.

Even as the government was reducing their reservation lands in Kansas the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was being assisted by Osage Scouts in the campaigns against the plains tribes in western Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). The Osage Scouts participated in the battle of Washita on November 27, 1868. In that action General Custer and the 7<sup>th</sup> attacked the Cheyenne village of Black Kettle killing him and 140 other Indians.

The Osage continued to come under increased pressure from white settlers wanting more Indian land. On July 15, 1870 the rest of the Osage land in Kansas was sold to benefit the tribe. All remaining lands were sold to the Leavenworth, Lawrence,

and Galveston Railroad Company for \$100,000 cash to be paid within three months of the ratification of the treaty and \$1,500,000 in bonds with interest payable each year for 15 years. Thus financially armed the Osage bought a new reservation in the Indian Territory. The tract lying in the eastern end of the Cherokee Outlet and consisting of all present day Osage County became their new home. By 1872 they were settled on this new reservation. Indian Agent Isaac Gibson established their new agency in Pawhuska. The capitol of the Osage Nation grew up around this new agency. The main settlement areas were at Pawhuska, Hominy and Gray Horse.

The Treaty of 1870 had ended 61 years of treaty making with the United States Government, which resulted in the diminishment of the Osage homeland. Over 100 million acres of land was ceded to the federal government. This last reservation established in Indian Territory was previously in the traditional Osage hunting lands. This land was well known among the tribal leadership. It is ironic that the Osage had to purchase this land from enemies they once fought, the Cherokee.

Next month I will bring this journey to a close as we explore how the Osage entered and prospered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century



Mar 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<u>2</u> Jean Wagener Jerry Wagener TG	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Don Bruner TG
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Jim Deming John Fisher TG
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Dave Dolcater	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Van Vves TG
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<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> Dave Dolcater	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> John Fisher TG
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Frank Lacey	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Van Vves TG
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<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Frank Lacey	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Dave Delcater	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> John Fisher TG
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<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Frank Lacey	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>

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