

## Osage Nation 25-Year Visioning Session

January 9, 2007

Osage Nation – Health and Welfare Departments  
Afternoon Session

### Attending:

Silas, Karee Kleier, Kelly Eaton, Hester Ferguson, Joyce Lowe, Linda Thomas, Debbie Davis, Joe, R. E. Yarbrough, Deedee, Katy, Linda, Andrea, Donni, Linnet, Brandy Baker, Kathy Baker, Laban Miles, Shana Walker, Lynda Barnhill, Melody Kirk, Leah Bighorse, Dawna Bowman, Daisy Collins, Terri Gillett, Dana Swan

### A 200-Year History of the Osage Nation

Osage land in Missouri was diminished in the Treaty of 1808. Under the Treaty of 1818, the Osages ceded lands situated in Arkansas and Oklahoma. In the treaty of 1825, more land was ceded in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The Tribe agreed to sell the Kansas reservation in 1869, for a reservation in Oklahoma. A reservation formed on land purchased from the Cherokees in 1872, this is part of the land that was ceded to the US in 1818. More Osages came from Kansas to Oklahoma in 1877. The first National Council was held in 1881 and had the first constitutional convention.

Oil was discovered around 1900, with a lease auction in 1912. 1906 saw the passage of the Allotment Act and the Tribal Roll was closed in 1907. The Osage Reservation was divided into allotments. The first Oklahoma Governor was Bill Murray, a Chickasaw. By the 1920s there were many oil lease sales. Osages became U.S. citizens in 1924.

The late 20s and early 1930s were the time of the Osage Murders. An Osage census was taken in 1953. By 1978, Osages were beginning to take care of their own health with a medical clinic. Home health and a diabetic program came in the 1980s. Children have had a special focus with the Head Start program and the WIC program (started in 1995). The National Council, an Osage form of government that was instituted by the 1994 U.S. vs. Fletcher court case, was closed when the case was overturned in 1997 by the U.S. Court of Appeals. NAHASDA, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act was passed in 1996 and the Osage took a grant in 2000. The Tribe began Osage language preservation in 2005, and a sovereignty bill was passed that same year. The self-government movement arose again early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a new constitution that went into effect in 2006. The first Congress was elected in 2006 and Chief Gray was reelected in June of '06.

Telling the story of the Osage people: We were always known as big and tall. The Tribe was organized under a structure based on the clan system with a war chief, and a peace chief. A Medicine man and a special woman society were also included. There was a group of elders known as the little old men. The tribe was divided into three divisions, the sky, the earth and water. Each of the clans fit into one of these elements. The moves disrupted the clan system and way of life and many people died on the trail. The Kaw brought the drum to the Osage in 1880's. After the dance was organized the drum was passed to Ben Mashunkashay. Later the Ponca brought drums to the districts of Hominy and Grayhorse. The allotments weren't necessarily related to clans. Family and organizational ties went with your district. Cultural ties were brought back with the drum and dance organization. Then oil was discovered and we became the richest people on earth at that time. This led to alcoholism, and gamblers and prostitutes moved in. They brought opium with them also. These are known as the bad people. With the Bureau of Indian Affairs came Guardianships. After 1924 is when they felt we were incompetent of handling our affairs. There was

a lot of mismanagement of funds, graft, and corruption along with loss of head rights and our land base. When elders starting passing away, we lost more land.

Finally, in the 1970s the BIA said that only Osages could inherit headrights. This bought back some head rights. There is an interesting area of non-Osage head right owners. We're not going to stand back and let history repeat itself. We are already the largest employer on the Osage Reservation. We know health, education, and welfare are an important focus, as is cultural preservation. Our museum, which was built in 1934, is the oldest tribally-owned museum in the state.

## **A 25-Year Vision for the Osage Nation**

Participants envision **Cultural Preservation through Education** by providing educational opportunities whether someone is attending college or wants a trade skill. This might be through a Tribal college or free higher education. They also see a Language department in all districts, a new cultural center, more Osage language speakers, and Osage education implemented in schools for ages 0 and up.

Their vision of **All Inclusive Health Care** means free good health care, a hospital equipped with a dialysis unit and an urgent care clinic, plus more accessible and permanent out-of-town clinics. There will also be an EMS system, a nursing home, and a 24 hour fitness facility. These would all be Tribal health care facilities.

In a **Financially Self-Sufficient Tribe**, there will be better pay, the capacity to invest more money. With a diversified investment portfolio and better technology, the Tribe will have the capacity for better management to allow less travel and more room to grow.

The base for the financial security will be a **Diversified Economic Structure**. Businesses to explore are a pipeline, trucking their own oil, an oil refinery, ranch and farming, a Tribally-owned and operated funeral home, restaurants, hotels, day cares, general store and ware house, all pointing to new economic growth.

To create **Self-Sufficiency for the Families**, the Tribe will have eliminated unemployment and have less need for social services, having drug-free youth and health promotion. Housing and rehab will be available as well as assisted living and a hospice.

**Land Based Expansion** will have occurred through buying back the land. This will have allowed for larger district arbors and Tribal facilities with more room.

Finally, all of the above will rest upon **True Sovereign Unity**, where there is a strong judicial system, no nepotism, and complete control of our own destiny.

Original Brainstorm Data

Health & Welfare Departments January 9, 2007 PM Session

**Osage Nation 200-Year History**

1806	1856	1881	1906	1931	1956	1981	2006
<p>Diminished MO land 1808</p> <p>1818 ceded land in Oklahoma &amp; Arkansas</p> <p>1825 Missouri to Kansas</p>	<p>Reservation formed bought it from Cherokees 1872</p> <p>Kansas Reservation sold 1869</p> <p>Osages come from Kansas to Oklahoma 1870's</p>	<p>First National Council 1881</p> <p>Land run 1887</p> <p>Between 1881 and 1900's Osages had the first constitutional government.</p>	<p>Oil lease sales 1920's</p> <p>Tribal Roll closed 1907</p> <p>Lease auction 1912</p> <p>Allotment act 1906</p> <p>Oil discovered around 1900's</p> <p>Osage county divided into allotments 1906</p> <p>First Oklahoma Governor was Bill Murray a Chickasaw.</p> <p>Osage become us citizens 1924</p>	<p>Osage murders</p> <p>Osage Census 1953</p>	<p>Medical Clinic 1978</p>	<p>Home health Casinos 2000</p> <p>Diabetic program</p> <p>Head Start program</p> <p>WIC program 1995</p> <p>National Council closed 1996</p> <p>NAHASDA 1996 Osage nation took grant in 2000</p> <p>1994 US vs. Fletcher overturned in 1996 by the court of appeals</p> <p>Began Osage language preservation 2005</p> <p>Sovereignty bill in 2005.</p>	<p>Chief Gray re-elected 6-06</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Congress elected 2006</p> <p>New constitution 2006</p>

When did you first become aware of or involved in Osage Tribal life?

*Silas 1963, Karee Kleier 2006, Kelly Eaton 2004, Hester Ferguson 2006, Joyce Lowe 2004, Linda Thomas 2004, Debbie Davis 1988, Joe 1956, R. E. Yarbrough 54, Deedee 1970, Katy 1994, Linda 2002, Andrea 1977, Donni?, Linnet 1995, Brandy Baker 2004, Kathy Baker 2002, Laban Miles 1980, Shana Walker 1980, Lynda Barnhill 2004, Melody Kirk 1997, Leah Bighorse 1978, Dawna Bowman 1978, Daisy Collins 2005, Terri Gillett 1975, Dana Swan 2000.*

**Osage Nation 25-Year Vision**

*In the year 2032, what do you see in place for the Tribe, especially in your departments, as a result of your actions?*

<b>Cultural Preservation Through Education</b>	<b>All Inclusive Health Care</b>	<b>Financially Self-Sufficient Tribe</b>	<b>Diversified Economic Structure</b>	<b>Self-Sufficiency For The Families</b>	<b>True Sovereign Unity</b>	<b>Land Based Expansion</b>
Tribal college  Osage education implemented in schools ages 0 and up  Free higher education  Language Dept. in all districts  Provide education opportunities whether attending college or trade skill  More Osage language speakers  New cultural center	Free good health care  Dialysis unit  Hospital  Urgent care clinic  EMS system advanced healthcare  Nursing home  Tribal healthcare facility  24 hour fitness facility  More accessible and permanent out-of-town clinics	Better pay  Invest more money  Retirement fund  Diversify investments  Better technology to allow less travel and more room to grow	Pipeline  Trucking our own oil  Oil refinery  Tribally owned and operated funeral home  Economic growth  Restaurants, etc.  Ranch and Farm  Hotel  Industrial Parks	Eliminate unemployment  No need for social services  Drug-free youth  Health promotion  Housing and rehab  Assisted living  Hospice	Strong judicial system  No nepotism  Complete control of own destiny	Buying back the land  Larger district arbors  Tribal facilities - more room