

## NOTES TO THE NATION JANUARY 9, 2009

### OSAGE NEWS – WILL IT EVER BE AN INDEPENDENT PRESS?

Many people read my letter published in the Osage News in the last issue of 2008 and wrote or called about it. Most were curious as to how I ever got them to publish anything; to be honest, I was surprised about it myself. If you have been receiving the Notes you will recall that the Executive Branch had sent out an email, in October 2008, concerning a pending vote on some LLC legislation; that email contained misinformation that appeared to be an attempt to turn public opinion against Congress. I felt I should defend the Legislative Branch. The email had been sent using tribal resources and we had demanded to know who had authorized it; we didn't get an answer and we don't expect that we ever will, but at least, by December, we did get a letter of rebuttal in the Osage News.

In the same issue of that paper it was mentioned that an editorial board was going to be appointed and the appointees were named. People I respect have said that the recommended board members are people who would likely resign rather than submit to pressure to compromise their editorial integrity. I don't think any of them are currently receiving the Notes to the Nation directly; so, I am adding each to our mailing list so that they will at least be exposed to points of view that never get in the Osage News; also, so you will know that they have been told.

A free press with an independent editorial board established by law is tied up in our Osage court system and may come before our Supreme Court later this year. Apparently, public opinion is having some effect and has influenced an attempt to establish a board in anticipation that the court may require it anyway.

I am suggesting the appointees review past issues of the Osage News to determine: if there has been bias against the Osage Congress; to see if the majority of letters that have been accepted contain aspersions against individual members of Congress or the Legislative Branch in general, and to consider if issues have been challenged on their merits, or instead, by discrediting the motives of individuals with differing ideas. In my opinion, the pattern is established.

Some members of Congress have been seeking a truly independent press—an Osage News whose editorial balance is not controlled by elected officials—in any branch of the government. I believe the overwhelming majority of our Osage citizens want it. I certainly support it.

The board members may not know about the “Mail Marshall” or the fact that all mail to the Osage Nation email is subject to being monitored; in time the News may get their own secure email address as the Congress wants to do. For now, I am giving you their direct email address so you can let them know what you want the Osage News to be.

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The talk of an editorial board may confuse people into thinking that one exists. **You need to know that is not the case—there is no editorial board in place.** Even the next issue of the Osage News may be slanted against the Congress. The day that an Osage citizen can pick up the Osage News and have confidence they are getting the whole story is still not here.

### MORE THOUGHTS ON THE INDEPENDENT PRESS

The author of the Independent Press Act is Congresswoman Faren Anderson. I asked her to submit some of her ideas about the Act and she has sent some thoughtful comments that are included as an attachment with this issue of the Notes.

I invite you consider what she has written and to contact her directly if you have comments or questions.

The Independent Press has wide support in the Congress and we were able to muster enough votes to over ride the Chief's veto. Even though the Act was law, it was never implemented and is now tied up in the Osage Court system.

#### **FUNERAL SERVICES FOR BRAD DAILEY**

Louis Bradley "Pah-hus-Kah" Dailey, II, passed away Friday, January 2, 2009 in the Integris Baptist Medical Center, Oklahoma City, Ok. He was 49 years old.

Brad was born March 2, 1959 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, the son of Louis B. and Marilyn K. (Hopper) Dailey. On September 25, 2007, he married the former Kelly Walter in Las Vegas, Nevada. Brad loved OU football and the Hominy Bucks. While in school, he excelled in track, and his abilities earned him a track scholarship to OU. He also coached track for many years. Brad served as Whip Man for the I-Lon-Shka, Zon-Zo-Li district. He was the Director of IT for the Osage Nation.

Surviving family include: His wife: Kelly Dailey; His son: Louis B. Dailey, III, and wife, Jennifer; His daughters: Kiersten Lynn Dailey and her spouse, Brandon Wallace, Rebekah Katherine Dailey, Kourtney Marie Dailey and Story Girl Walters; His mother: Marilyn K. Dailey; His brothers: Scott Lohah and wife, Carolyn, Gunther Dailey and wife, Melissa; His grandchildren: Ella Jo Wallace, Rayven Wallace, and Terence (TJ) Piercy, Jr.; His nieces and nephews: Amos, Rachel and Chelsea Dailey, Jess and Jennifer Lohah, and a host of other family and friends. Brad was preceded in death by his father, Louis B. Dailey, Sr.

Traditional services were held on Monday, January 5, 2009 at the Dailey family home in Hominy, Oklahoma. Everett Waller and Ben Killion officiated.

<b>NEWS ARTICLES FROM THE PAST</b>
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These articles are taken from Kansas newspapers from the late 1800's. The news was written from the white man's point of view and sometimes the Osage didn't get treated fairly. These excerpts are passed on for their historical value only.
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#### **ARKANSAS CITY THE LATE TROUBLE IN BUTLER COUNTY.**

ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS, December 9, 1870.

As most of your readers will know, this new city is built between the Walnut and Arkansas Rivers, within a mile and a half of their confluence. It is also within a few miles of the southern line of the State, dividing our territory from that of the Osage Indians. The extract I enclose from the *Arkansas Traveler*, will give a correct idea of the present state of these natives.

The Osages are all out on the hunt yet. Chetopah's band are up near the head of the Nenescah. Hard Rope and Beaver are on Shawacospa and Little Salt Plains. The Big Hill's are on Salt Fork and Medicine Lodge. The Black Dogs are still further south. The Cheyenne and Arapaho are hunting on the Salt plains, and seem friendly. The Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Caddo, Wichita, and other plains Indians held a grand council on the north fork of the Canadian about ten days ago, at which they all agreed not to go on the warpath this fall

provided the Osage behaved themselves. All the plains Indians were represented except the Comanche. This report comes from good authority: Mr. O. P. Johnson, an old scout and plainsman.

Two of Hard Rope's little chiefs were in town last week. They brought in a number of wolf skins, buck skins, furs, etc. Some of the wolf skins (brought from the Timber Mountains) measured near seven feet long, and were the finest we have ever seen. They were the White Mountain wolf.

The land in this region is quite similar to that throughout the States excepting the sand mingled with the soil along the Arkansas bottoms. This improves it for tilling, and defends it somewhat against the consequences of both floods and droughts. For Irish and especially sweet potatoes, and all kinds of vines, melons, etc., it is superior. Fruits likewise flourish, and will in a few years greatly enhance the comforts and health of the people, if they will but take the pains to rear orchards. Strange, however, to say, that this luxury is about the last which enlists the attention of the settlers.

Near Manhattan I asked a thrifty farmer why he had not grown a young orchard during the five years he had lived on his farm, and he replied that cattle growing would pay much better. While somewhat thankful that he said cattle rather than swine, yet I could not avoid the sad reflection that he was missing the chief end of his life. Let it not be so with the readers of the Union. Since a thriving orchard of well selected fruit will bring more luxury into a family than all the stock, and the more money it brings, ever can. In this little city people are paying five cents per apple, and will do so for years, unless they at once begin to plant the seeds and the young trees. Inasmuch as their lands have not been surveyed, leaving them in uncertainty as to their future lines, they have a better excuse for delaying their orchards than others. But this obstacle is soon to disappear, since the Government surveyors are now in the field.

This city is but six months old, and has now attained to 63 houses and some 400 inhabitants. Considering the difficulties of getting lumber and other building material, the success of the settlers is indeed commendable. Nearly all are comfortable and still improving. Two saw mills are now running day and night which with good timber nearby begin to supply the demand, and make it much easier and cheaper to erect houses. A kinder, more hospitable, or on the whole, better class of people, I have nowhere found in Kansas.

But on the western frontier of Kansas, extending as it is said from Junction City into the Indian Territory, there is an organization of *thieves*, constituting the greatest of all draw-backs to the peace and prosperity of this, otherwise, most prominent region. For years the desperate reign of these desperadoes has been undisturbed, seldom has the law even so much as arrested them, and never, it is said, placed the first one in the place appointed for thieves & robbers. Two of them four or five weeks ago, at Emporia, stole the last dime (\$65) a poor teamster had, and at the trial for the crime, were promptly turned loose to resume the practice of their profession. The next thing I heard as they returned to Wichita and Douglass was of the detection of four of the gang, two Booths, Corbin, and Smith. In two or three weeks after this a number of honest citizens were arrested, charged by one of the thieves (as is generally believed) with murdering his four comrades. About the same time one Quimby, a leading merchant in Douglass, Mike Dray, his partner, Dr. Morris and his Son, were arrested, tried, and held to bail for stealing horses. While being guarded that they might procure the bail, Quimby and his wife made strong threats of raising their clan and taking vengeance upon the citizens, who were staking their all on cleaning out the thieves. On Thursday night, 2nd inst., some seventy men came to relieve the guard, and end the practices of these wretched men. They were hung a mile and a half south of Douglass. This makes eight of the band that have been put out of the way lately, and I am assured by the best of citizens, that the battle being joined, never will they hold up, nor cry enough till it is decided whether thieves or honest men are to rule the valley, and upon this frontier.

Last May I wrote you of the slaughter of two unknown men near Wichita, labeled when found Horse Thieves. It has since transpired that they were honest emigrants from Knox County, Illinois, and were murdered by this band for their team and money.

Now while all good people deeply deplore the necessity for this violence, but few can fail to see that this is the only available remedy. Honest citizens must surrender their homes and their all, and flee for refuge in quest of protection, or remove these thieves and robbers. The law, as I have said, and as all may know, has failed for years to regulate them, and there is now little hope of its doing so.

Corbin confessed and gave the names of some 50 of his clan, told where would be found stolen stock, and so it was. Hence it would seem, since they have deliberately and persistently outlawed all order and law, they have no right to complain that honest citizens deal to them summary justice, though not in accordance with the forms of law. W. P.

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### **BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR**

I always have to stop and gather up receipts and records for the closing calendar year and prepare for a new tax year for personal business, even though the Osage Nation operates on a fiscal year from October 1 to September 30. Like most everyone, I pause to reflect on the past year and consider the challenges and opportunities facing us in the coming year.

Today, I googled the 10 Commandants; hoping, I suppose, that they might have shortened the list—no luck there: it's still 10.

I wish you the best in this New Year 2009.

Kugee