

## **OTES TO THE NATION 6-26-07**

### **HOMINY DANCES ENDED SUNDAY NIGHT**

At 10:00 PM Sunday night the dances ended with a prayer and closing remarks by head committeeman Harry Red Eagle. The dance was a great success even though the Friday night dance had to be cancelled because of the rain. The cancellation was because there was so much water standing that all our visitors would have to wade water to get to the arbor. It has been about 15 years since any of the dances have been cancelled.

The next day Harry said that he was sorry to have to cancel. He said that he had gone to the advisors and asked their opinion. He said he expected an argument or a least a discussion but they all said "it up to you." He jokingly said that he thought they were called advisors because they were supposed to give advice.

A few years ago someone came to the advisors and suggested that the dance had become so crowded that we should tell the women that they couldn't dance in shawls any longer and would have to dress in their Osage clothes only. They said that was a good idea and they agreed but they said "you tell 'em". That idea has never come up again.

This year was the largest Saturday night ever for Hominy. I didn't count the dancers but you can judge the size by the number of extra benches that have to be brought in when the regular seating is filled. For the committee dinner, in addition to the 22 cooks on the committee there were 25 additional women who volunteered to help serve. Donations and pledges of hind quarters, hogs and beefs were more than any of the first two years that my nephew, Billy Proctor, has been drumkeeper.

There is a good natured competition between the districts. When Hominy enlarged their arbor it was only a short time before Pawhuska added to theirs. When someone asked "how long is the Pawhuska arbor now?" the answer was "I don't know the exact measurement but it is 6 inches longer than Hominy's". Harry Red Eagle said he told the Pawhuska head committeeman

that “you will need every inch of it because we’re bringing a lot of dancers to Pawhuska next week”.

The pictures I sent go to Osages all over the country and I found out this method of cooking is not done everywhere I got a couple of questions that I will answer: the barbeque doesn’t fall between the slats because it is first dried for a day or two and the other meat is boiled in wash tubs.

People that know how to prepare food like this get very good at it and seem to be able to sense the proper amount to cook. About 20 years ago we had a meeting at Wakon Iron Hall in Pawhuska. Dan and Marian Cass and their family cooked the meal. They came prepared and were able to start the fires and cook over open flames enough for 500 people in 2 hours.

## PAWHUSKA DANCES START THURSDAY

The Pawhuska dance starts at 2:00 PM Thursday. They will dance twice a day Friday and Saturday and on Sunday they will have their individual songs. I am guessing they will start about 2:00 PM Sunday and dance until about 9:00 PM.

Bruce Cass is the new Drumkeeper. He will pay off at 2:00 PM Thursday. I know he and his family and committee have been working all year for this day. I hope as many as possible can attend to witness this.

I might mention something about the Committee dinners. This dinner is for members of the committees from each district. In Hominy the rule is that the committee member can bring no more than one guest. This usually fills the available space. I don’t know if Pawhuska is different or not. I know we will follow Hominy rules and bring no more than one guest. Someone will always show up with 3 or 4 people not on any committee. No one says anything but everyone notices it. Just a word to the wise.