



75 Years

Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk

November 2009

My Fellow Tribesman,

My name is Jake Vass and I have the honor of serving as your 2009-2010 Chief. My fellow officers this year will be Jeff Melton as Vice Chief, Nathan "Hippie" Smith as Secretary, Tony Edmonson as Treasurer, Koert Huddle as Past Chief, and Joe Siefken as Tribal Coordinator.

As many of you know, this year marks the 75th Anniversary of our tribe. For 75 years the spirit of the circle has yet to be broken; therefore, it is only fitting and proper that we give thanks to the Great Spirit for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon our great lodge. Furthermore, my officers and I are going to be working extra hard to make this year one that will be talked about for many moons to come. We have begun to plan many special events and activities to celebrate our anniversary. During the summer, one day will be solely for the purpose of gathering in fellowship, brotherhood and sharing in the 75 years of rich history and memories of our tribe at Camp Eastman. This day will be Saturday, July 17, 2010 at Camp Eastman. I hope everyone will be able to attend.



As we celebrate this year and remember the days of old, we must keep in mind that this is not the end; there is still much more to go on the trail of life. While we may pause to honor and remember those precious memories and traditions, we must not stop moving forward. Therefore, it is imperative that tribesmen come to workdays and other events throughout the year in order to prepare as much as possible for summer camp. A wise man once said that the world is a stage and we must each play our part, so do not miss your cue. Come out to all the tribal events this year to continue keeping this great lodge strong.

I would like to thank you for the great honor of choosing me to carry on the Silver Tomahawk.

And now I pray upon each and every one of you, the blessings of the Great Spirit, both now and so long as your feet may trod the trail. And I charge you to keep your eyes open, your ears open, but above all else, your hearts and your minds open!

Yours in Brotherhood,
Jake Vass, Chief Leaping Otter

Service Projects and Festivities of Fall Conclave

Though the main purpose of Fall Conclave is to elect the new officers and to begin the new year for the Tribe, it has also been a time where laughter swirls all around and the camp gets revitalized with several work projects, and this year was no different.

After many of the tribesmen spent the night under the stars or in Silver Tip, the day began early, starting with a focus on several work projects. While there were many minor projects undertaken during the day, the more notable projects were the sanding and washing of the exterior of Burg Hall and the removal of the archaic roof



that covered the rife range shelter. The stripping of the roof was truly a sight to see, with a fleet of tribesmen attacking the decrepit roof with 2-by-4's, hammers, pry bars, and any other "tools" that could be used to expedite the process.

After all the tribesmen had soaked their clothes with sweat from their toils, the pool was the next attraction. Following some relaxation and cooling off, the annual game of paint-station greased-watermelon began. With no reservations, the two sides toiled to get the elusive fruit on the side, the older youth drastically outnumbered by the younger tribesmen. While both sides would argue contrary, the results were about even, thus ending the epic battle in a draw, leaving both sides to gather their casualties and nurse their wounds (no major injuries were sustained, only a minor bloody nose).



The day ended with the elections of the new officers. Breaking the mold of many prior years, no candidate was uncontested. On the contrary, there was a large quantity of candidates for nearly every office. The main event being the election of Chief was between Joe Siefken and Jake Vass. Jake Vass won in the end, and after the ceremonies were complete, Joe Siefken was appointed the new Tribal Coordinator.

Rob Myatt, Runner Swiftly Flying Falcon, Son of Striking Copperhead

Work Days and Service Projects

I, Tribal Coordinator Joe Siefken, have talk to make.

As most of you know camp is currently closed due to the hunting season. So there is not much work that can be done during these winter months.

HOWEVER, there are two weekends currently open that we can be down at camp working and I intend to get as much work done as possible during that allotted time. Therefore it is imperative that you be there to help out. These workdays

include **Saturday November 28th**, and **Saturday December 19th**.

During these workdays the plan is to continue work on spreading rock on the road to Far Trails. And we also plan on cutting trees and hauling them to the concrete slab so we can have plenty of wood for this summer's camp. These two projects need to be completed during these two workdays because as soon as camp is opened back up we are going to start putting in the benches

on the adult side at Far Trails, replacing rock around the ring, and work on putting permanent steps in on the ramp leading down to the ring.

THEREFORE, many hands are needed; please start your planning **NOW** so you can join us at camp **November 28th**, and **December 19th**. Need a ride? Or any other questions call me at 319-572-4258.

Joe Siefken, Tribal Coordinator
Brother of the Buffalo

Face Painting Traditions

During the many ceremonies of the Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk, our tribesmen have frequently utilized face paint. While doing so enhances the appearance of the tribesmen and the ceremonies, we may also want to put meaning and purpose in face painting.

Our Native American brothers often used face paint as protection against the sun, wind and insects, or simply to adorn themselves. Some symbols were done in a geometric design, like beadwork, for decoration such as some rain clouds, several animal tracks, a bolt of lightning, some mountains, the sun, or a teepee.

Symbols frequently had a very specific meaning: a small square or triangle would indicate their position in the tribe, a clan symbol defined their position in a political or religious society, several small dots over a basecoat of face paint was intended to be a hailing sign, parallel lines on the face was to show an accounting of their coups or brave deeds, two small teardrops were mourning marks, a small key-hole painting was a medicine symbol, and a painting of an



animal (buffalo, deer, wolf) indicated the various animals they have hunted.

Colors also often had specific meaning to the Native Americans. Black generally demonstrated death, red was used to show human life, blue was used for sadness or trouble, white was to show peace or purity, and yellow was to indicate joy or happiness.

In order to give meaning and purpose to our face paint and honor our Native American brothers, we may want to consider using the basic symbols and colors previously discussed.

Although the Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk has suggested some guidelines for face painting, none have ever been officially adopted.

Our Tribe has symbols, our claws and the silver tomahawk, could also be used by our tribesmen during face painting.

Our paint stations are clearly defined by certain colors. Some suggestions for our face painting are as follows:

The Tribal Chief would normally wear red face paint along with the colors of other paint station held. Predominate color would be red.

Others currently holding or have held chief positions (examples: Vice Chief, Past Chief, etc.) would wear some red face paint along with other paint stations held. Predominate color would be the current paint station.

Tribesmen would normally wear face paint the color of their current paint station along with the colors of previous paint stations. Predominate color would be the current paint station.

All black face paint would not be permitted, as this would indicate a "Death Face" which might be considered inappropriate for our Tribesmen.

The intention here is not that the Tribe establishes specific rules for face painting, but to simply offer some possibilities, which would give purpose and meaning to our face painting if used.

Bill Ell, Fire Cloud

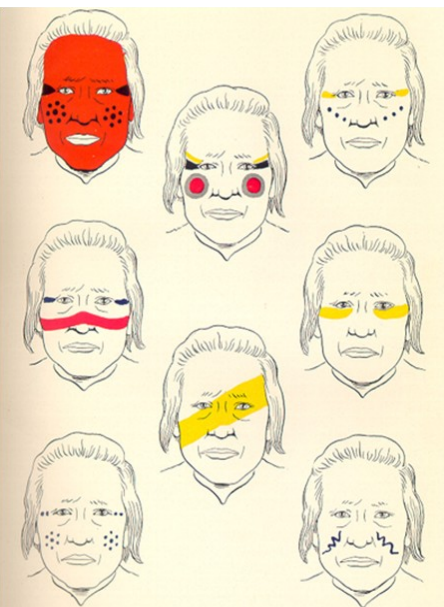
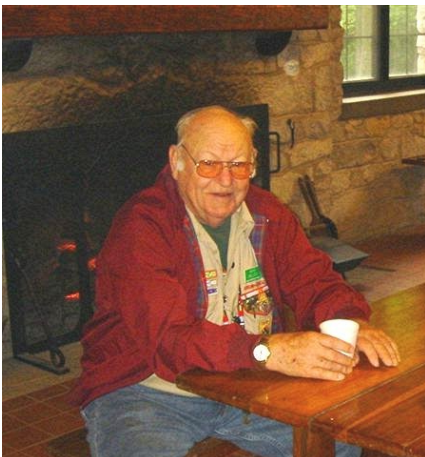


Plate III—Face paintings worn by men taking part in Social dances, and only permitted to the drummers in the Big House Ceremony. These are commonly known as warrior's or fancy dress paintings.

Of the Year to Come and the Late Dean Collins

My Fellow Tribesman,

Another year has come and gone and as we head into the 75th year of the Great Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk I am very excited about the year ahead. I couldn't have passed the Silver Tomahawk to a better man than Jake Vass. I am very confident that along with his Chief's Council and Tribal Executive Committee, Jake will make this year a year that will be talked about for years to come. I am very excited to work with Jake and his Chief's Council as we prepare for the year ahead. We have already begun work on the 75th anniversary event which will take place on July 17, 2010 at Camp Eastman. The event looks to be very exciting and I hope all Tribesman, past and present, plan to attend. Work, as always, will be going on throughout the year to improve camp and also get camp ready for summer camp next year. There is a big work day planned for the weekend after Thanksgiving and I hope to see everyone there. We have a limited number of workdays because of the hunters in camp so we must take advantage of these days we do have. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!**



As many of you already know, on October 10th the tribe lost a great tribesman in Senior Medicine Man Dean Collins. Dean was much more than a senior medicine man; he was a friend, and more importantly a mentor to hundreds of young tribesman throughout the years. You could always see Dean in the lodge giving a young tribesmen advice. I know he has given me a lot over the years. Even though he couldn't be down at camp during my chief year much, I could always email or call him anytime I needed his input. He always had a smile on his face and loved nothing more than being down at camp. I would like to thank everyone who came out to his funeral. It was really awesome seeing so many scout shirts honoring Dean. I know Dean's family was deeply touched. I know he will be looking down on us, from time to time, with a smile on his face because nothing gave Dean more joy than watching the youth take part in the Great Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk. Dean might be gone, but the memories we

have of Dean will stay with us forever. He will be missed but I know he is in a better place now.

Again, I hope to see all of you throughout the year down at camp. Remember that the Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk is not a summer program but rather a year around program. It is each and every one of our jobs to serve camp throughout the year. That means come to workdays and events. I can speak from experience; nothing is more fun than spending a weekend out of the month down at camp, working with the best friends that you will ever have.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Koert Huddle, Past Chief
Storming Elk, Son of Young
Lightning Elk



75th Anniversary Patches

To commemorate the grand 75th anniversary, the Tribal Executive Committee and Chief's Council have decided to release a 75th Anniversary Patch set.

Designed by Secretary Nathan "Hippie" Smith, the patch design is a colorful mosaic of many of the designs of the pocket flaps and other patches used throughout the years. There are 5 patches in the set, one for each of the major events coming up for the year: Winter Banquet, Brave Day,

Spring Conclave, 75th Anniversary Celebration, and Fall Conclave.

Each patch is unique and quite ornate and well designed. Each of the five patches could stand alone, but the set fits together in such an elegant manner that any collector of patches would feel it is necessary to have the entire set.

The possibility of being able to purchase the entire set at one time is still being discussed. The next issue of the Toma-

hawk Talk will provide additional information, but if you want to guarantee being able to purchase the full set of the 75th Anniversary Patches, you should plan on attending all five of the major events.

This upcoming year will be one that all tribesmen will remember for a long time to come. I look forward to seeing all of you at each of the events.

Rob Myatt, Runner Swiftly Flying Falcon, Son of Striking Copperhead

Important Dates for the Upcoming Year

2009

11/14 - TEC Meeting

11/28 - Workday

12/12 - TEC Meeting

12/19 - Workday

Winter Banquet (Jan. 9, 2010)

St. John's Church
8th & Division, Burlington, IA

TEC Meeting - 9:00 AM

Brave Training - 1:30 PM

Doors open - 5:00 PM

NO PARKING IN PARKING LOT BEFORE 5 PM

Paint Station Meeting - 6:00 PM

Dinner - 6:30 PM

Cost - ~\$12

2010

1/9 - Winter Banquet @ St. John's Church

2/13 - Workday, TEC Meeting

3/13 - Brave Day, Workday, TEC Meeting

4/9 - Neolin

4/9 to 4/11 - Spring Conclave

4/10 - Workday, TEC Meeting

5/8 - Workday, TEC Meeting

June: Volunteer Help Needed at Cub Camp

6/12 - Workday, TEC Meeting

July: Summer Camp. Plan to attend!

7/10 - Workday, TEC Meeting

7/17 - 75th Anniversary Celebration

8/15 - Workday, TEC Meeting

9/17 to 9/19 - Fall Conclave

9/18 - Elections, Workday, TEC Meeting

*Celebrating 75 Years of
Service and Tradition*

TOMAHAWK TALK

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