

Mascoutin Pipesmoke

Newsletter of the Mascoutin Society
Published Quarterly in the Chicagoland
Internet Edition
Sep-Oct-Nov '99

Bobby Past Memorial Award

Submitted by Don Hansen

The Bobby Past Memorial Award for outstanding male dancer is given at the National Pow Wow once every three years. This award is given to a man who shows those qualities of Bobby Past, the first National Pow Wow Head Dancer. (Bobby Past died prior to NPW3).

The person chosen must be a pow wow bum, an excellent craftsman and a gentleman on and off the dance floor, and of course an excellent dancer in his style.

This year the award committee chose Byron Loehman, Headman of the White Bear Society. Byron over the years has shown he truly is a "POW WOW BUM", a person who will go anywhere to dance from California to North Carolina. Byron has put together both northern and southern style dance clothes.

Bobby Past is the second son of Earl and Dorothy Past, (both members of the Mascoutin Society for many years.) Dorothy, along with her other children and grandchildren are still active at our dances.

Letters From Our CCF Kids

Submitted by Carol Baxter

We received a letter from Emily Proctor, our little girl in Oklahoma. Emily celebrated her first birthday in June and she (penned by her Mom) responded to the card we sent. "Thank you for the cards you sent to me." On July 12th, Emily's baby sister Erin was born. Mom writes for Emily that "I give my sister hugs and kisses and I get to hold her once in a while..." Regarding her birthday, Emily says, "I had a wonderful birthday. I tried to blow the candle out and then I dug into my cake. It was all over my face and arms."

Emily says that her parents will be taking her to the Cherokee National Holidays in August. And that her Dad is taking the family to Stomp Dances. Further, she says, "I am also learning how to speak Cherokee; so far I know what a few words mean."

Letters can be sent to Emily and her family at:

Emily Proctor
% Three Lakes Youth Service
PO Box 803
Locust Grove, OK 74352

Our other CCF child is Farrah Jade Waters, who lives in a single parent home (with her Mom) on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Her birthday is coming up soon - October 16th and she will be 8 years old.

Letters can be sent to Farrah and her family at:

Farrah Jade Waters
% Oyate Networking Project
PO Box 755
Mission, SD 57555

Calendar of Events

September 14

**Mascoutin
Society meeting 7:30pm**

October 12

**Mascoutin
Society meeting
7:30pm**

October 30

Craft Day & White Bear Society Mourners Feast Noon - 8pm

November 9

**Mascoutin
Society meeting
7:30pm**

December 14

**Mascoutin
Society meeting
and Holiday
Party 7:30pm
Bring a treat
to share**

Mascoutin Ready for Y2K?

Submitted by David Zethmayr

After the recent monthly meeting of the Society Miles Goddard presented another of his intensely interesting programs on early continental history and archeology. He has decided to make his College of DuPage course a two-quarter sequence because there's so much content to cover.

I was ashamed for the Society as so many left well before Dr. Goddard's presentation was over that evening. I helped him carry some of his materials out to his car. As he and I stood in private at the open trunk he expressed his disappointment at how the audience dwindled and wondered aloud what the problem might be. I opined to him that the problem lay not with his presentation at all, but the Society has deeper problems. I think it is dying a natural death.

Nobody wants to talk about it in terms appropriate to the situation, but we are fast approaching the unworkable minimum of participating membership. A fearless critical review of the purpose of the Society is the only thing that will either revive it or at least avoid the bitterness of a sudden disbandment. Is the function that it served so well for decades still needed, this year and next?

Native-sponsored powwows have blossomed. The Society clearly had a part in that most welcome development, and all members may properly rejoice and be thankful. It may be time to say that purpose has been accomplished. That is to say, it's done. Over with. Time to bid the new generation "farewell and goodspeed."

The present membership has aged without having recruited enough younger workers. This tends to discourage newcomers from joining, and from committing having joined. Perhaps that tendency is subject to amendment by a more lively overall program. Yes, two dances a year take a lot of work already and he's saying "more lively?"

It's not a new story: too much work for too few committed members. That spells deadly, not lively.

What I am suggesting is "grow or disband," and right soon.

How to grow? I heard good suggestions about growing the Society the first meeting of the year. Are we still thinking about some of them? Do we have the boldness and energy for new growth soon enough?

How to disband? Promptly and with dignity. As I said above, a natural death, following on a full life of worthy accomplishment. Celebrate the fruits of decades of commitment with a last O-Sa-Wan and invite all the many other dance organizations of the region to give thanks with us.

"Grow or disband soon." Nothing but self-delusion, burnout, anger, blame-trading and bitter memories lie in-between.

This discussion has to be done somewhere. If we do it only privately we are headed for the in-between. It may be that our work together over the years has strengthened us for the hard new work that growth requires.

That work would start with a fearless discussion of matching purposes to present needs, out in the open. And that is the best way I can see to honor the Founding Member still at work, and to honor those Members who are now fully retired.

I'll Take a Swing At That Pitch

Submitted by Dan Pierson

Dave,

I surely hope that the letter you sent was intended as a kick in the butt to spur on some positive motion instead of the kick in the head, as many will take it. I found the idea of disbanding the society insulting to all those who indeed keep things going well.

I do not intend to be condescending, but you have not been around the Society for very long. The Society runs in cycles where meetings have numerous people and meetings have a mere handful (There's even an annual cycle where summer meetings are thin.) There have been times when dozens of people willingly and gladly volunteer and follow through to put on an enjoyable dance and there have been times when 5 people put on a successful dance.

Yes, there are many Native-sponsored dances in Northern Illinois, but that does not mean that Mascoutin's O-Sa-Wan and Winter Dance are replaceable.

These dances are a homecoming to numerous people around the country.

You mentioned Miles in your letter, which brings up something interesting. Miles has been around quite a bit lately helping out, but there was a span (of years) where we didn't see him at all. I am in no way bad-mouthing him, I'm just letting you know that people come and go and some return again. Let people move like the waves without calling for a cancellation of the tides.

Some folks help out at the dances that NEVER make it to a meeting. It is the way things have been going for years, call it good or bad, I don't care. Prosperity and slump, ups and downs. You can't appreciate the ups 'til

'you felt the downs. Water tastes better with a dose of thirst, but right now you're calling Kevorkian for a minor case of dehydration.

The Society happens to be in a downswing right now, but if you wait and watch, you will see people contribute whom you've never seen before that have a long history with the Society. Wait and see and you will witness the Society climb again in numbers and with those numbers come fresh ideas and renewed energy.

I don't know how long you've been going to powwows, but I've been going since B.C. (before Costner). After Dances with Wolves, spectator and participant numbers at powwows were way up, but over the last couple years, it has been dwindling again. Feces occur! The people who truly care will be around whenever they can be.

As far as program goes, I believe that Miles is very knowledgeable, and I personally love to hear what he has to say. Other people in the Society have interests ELSEWHERE. This does not call for the hyperanalysis of "deeper problems" Some like crafts, some like politics, some like history, some just like to do administrative things to help. We all bring our own interests and talents to the Society. I personally think that program needs to be mixed from meeting to meeting, but that is difficult.

I was VP and let me tell you, program is difficult! EVERYBODY wants good program, but rarely do people make suggestions or offer assistance. The best job of program that I have seen over the last 8 years was from Jim Margalski. He did more with program than anyone I can remember did. Jim's tenure as VP was an oddity for program, so I think you started out a little spoiled with the Society.

Response to Analysis 2- I think you have witnessed transition from a short-term perspective.

Response to Analysis 1- If you're trying to stir up some shit, look at the product of your slanted muckraking from a couple different points of view. If you really think the Society is doomed, I would have to disagree and say "patience." If I'm wrong and the Society crashes and burns soon with finger-pointing and bad feelings, I'll bring you c'andi and apologize for my youthful ignorance (since nostalgia isn't what it used to be).

What more can I say?

Mitakuye Owasin, (<----- This side of the river.)
Dan

Mitakuye Owasin,
Daniel, Holly, & Amanda Pierson
400 Thornton
Lockport, IL 60441
815-834-0735

An Open Letter to the Society

Submitted by Ralph Hayford - Past President

This letter is not for everybody, just the few that wish to cry doom and not try to help make our Society what it should be. I am tired of a few doing all the work and then hearing people cry about how unfriendly and cold other people are. Instead of crying doom and quitting, speak up and get off your butts to make things better.

My family and I are volunteers, if it needs doing, people know who to call to get it done. There are a few others in the Society that also fall under this window. Everyone in this organization should be here with us instead of sitting on the outside with the would of, could of and should of. Stop wishing it were this way or that and start making it happen. This way we will get to where we should be but are not! **WAKE UP!** If you don't, we will not fall apart, we'll just move on without you.

from the President

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of our Mascoutin Society members who gave of their time and energies to help out at this year's O-SA-WAN powwow! You know who you are and again I THANK YOU!! It was also nice to see some of our other Mascoutin Society members at the powwow, even if they did not contribute to the powwow's success.

Many of our society members have affiliations in other organizations which keep them rather busy also. I would like to thank these members for their extra effort that they put forth when they helped out at the powwow. These members are the ones who usually volunteer to head up many of the various committees. Because I don't want them to get "Burned Out", I would like to see other society members take their place at the next several powwows. So, you other members, please start to consider doing more than you have done in the past and volunteer to head up the many committees needed for the powwow. The Winter Dance will be here soon and your help is desperately needed to make these powwows a success.

If you would like to volunteer to head up one or more of the powwow committees, please call me at 708-877-8563 after 5pm.

Thanks again to all for your support!

Mike Boothe

Give Away Recipients at the 43rd O-SA-WAN Pow Wow

The following people and organizations were recognized for their support of the Mascoutin Society on Saturday at the Osawan Pow Wow:

Mel Hoefling	Head Male Dancer
Debbie Hoefling	Head Lady Dancer
Mike Damicutt	Head Veteran (Menominee - Marine Viet Nam Vet)

White Hawk Drum
Lakeside Drum
Lakota Drum

American Indian Center Chicago
MSI-KAH-MI-QUI (Shikamique)
Tecumseh Lodge
White Bear Society
NAES
Lakota Dancers
Northern Hoop
Nemki
Jericho Smith

Thanks to all

Submitted by Susan Minor

The family of Jericho Michael Evans Smith would like to thank each and every one who honored him by dancing with him at the Osawan Pow Wow Saturday. Jericho entered the circle for the first time and made a gift to the drum WHITE HAWK to do a honor song for him. Jericho is one and a half years old and came into the circle with his mother, Michelle Smith, and his grandmother, Susan Minor, who is a member of the Mascoutin Society.

Jericho and his family want to thank all those who danced him into this way of life and to those who gifted him...many of your names we do not know, although your faces are familiar, and we want to be sure that you know how much this has meant to all of us.

A special thanks to Dick, Camile, and Kevin Michaels for doing so much to help Jericho with his regalia and helping to welcome him into the circle....it was a moment we will always remember.

For The Good of The Society

John and Denise Hunt have moved to Indiana. Their new address is 7356 E. Craydon Lane, Milltown, IN 47145

Josh Cunningham feather dancer from Venture Crew 2655 left for the USMC boot camp in San Diego California on 8/22/99

Mascoutin Society Craft Day Noon to 8pm, October 30, 1999 at the church

Pow Wow Calendar

Illinois

September 4-6: Midwest Regional Princess Powow, Mchenry County Fairgrounds. Woodstock, IL. For information call 847-671-3239.

September 11-12: Canal Rendezvous, Columbia Woods, Willow Springs, Illinois. Willow Springs Road, North of Archer Ave. For information call 708-352-4110.

September 18-19: Harvest Pow Wow in Honor of the Ancesters, Emmanuel Lutheran Church picnic Grounds, Mokena IL. For information call 630-961-9323. Midwest SOARRING

October 2: Nemki Friendship Powwow, Middle School Gym, Batavia, IL. I-88 to Farnsworth / Kirk, north 2 miles to Pine, then west to Raddant, the south to the school. Look for signs. For information call Jeff Glaser 630-879-0117, Mary Bulkley 847-888-1078, or Susan Mruk 630-627-8416.

October 2-3: Benton, IL Civic Center 2nd Annual Red Eagle Alliance American Indian Benefit Powwow. Gourd dancing, intertribal, pow-wow dancing Saturday 10-9pm; Sunday 11-5pm. Handicap accessible.. For information call Chris Milda 618-937-2811.

November 5-7: American Indian Center of Chicago's 46th Annual Powwow, University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion, 1150 West Harrison Street, Chicago.

November 20: Lowaneu Allaque Lodge #41 4th Annual Friendship Gathering. 801 West Illinois Avenue, Aurora, Illinois. For information call Greg Merryman 630-820-4029

Indiana

September 4-6: Tipton, IN. Tecumseh Lodge Labor Day Powwow

September 24-26: Third Annual Land of Lakes Gathering of the People, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds, Warsaw, Indiana. For information call 616-849-0431.

Michigan

September 25: Joines, Mi 12th Annual Wood Lake Pow Wow, Just south of Jones. Ed and Linda Bechtel, Dennis & Sharron Van den Bossche of the Northern Hoop, a co-sponsor of this pow-wow. Len & Carol Vece Head Man & Lady dancer. Lakeside Singers, head drum.

Wisconsin

September 10-12: Indian Summer Festival, Maier Festival Park at the lakefront, Milwaukee, Wi. For information call 616-849-0431.

September 17-19: Autumn Gathering Traditional Pow-wow, Veterans Park, Genoa City, Wi. For information call 414-248-2748 (weekends) or 414-473-7748 (other times)

October 9: Parson's Trading Post Pow wow, Parson's Trading Post, Wisconsin Dells

Didn't see your favorite Pow Wow Listed. Send any information on future Pow Wows to d.gatske@cityofbatavia.net

Next Deadline

Deadline for the Dec-Jan-Feb issue is

NOVEMBER 20

(a Saturday)

Send information to

d.gatske@cityofbatavia.net

Usual Meeting Place

Mascoutin newcomers: The Society meets every month, year 'round. Meetings are at 7:30pm, the second tuesday of the month. The usual place is the Lyonsville Congregational Church, Joliet Road and Wolf Road, SE Corner. Enter the east end of the building.

The Mascoutin Society

of Chicagoland

President

Mike Boothe Thornton, IL.

1st Vice President

Glen Baxter Elk Grove Village, IL

2nd Vice President

Dave Bulkley South Elgin, IL.

Recording Secretary

Ro Chabot Homewood, IL

Corresponding Secretary

Carol Baxter Elk Grove Village, IL.

Treasurer and Chair of Exec. Board

Don Hansen Elmwood Park, IL.

**The Executive Board is made up of
all current officers together with
all active past presidents.**

Visit the Society Web Page At

www.mascoutin.com