

## The Indian Gaming Industry

Revenues from tribal gaming centers in Oklahoma jumped by 46 percent to \$939 million last year, according to a study released Wednesday.

The Indian Gaming Industry Report by economist Alan Meister ranked Oklahoma's growth rate fourth among 30 states with tribal gaming. In 2003, Oklahoma's gaming revenue grew by 39 percent to \$642 million.



Meister said major facilities such as the Cherokee Casino and Resort in Catoosa are helping fuel Oklahoma's maturity from a state with numerous small facilities to a more significant player in tribal gaming. Oklahoma's 85 tribal gaming centers are the most of any state.

Meister expects the growth to continue as tribes add card games and new electronic games under new state laws and gaming compacts.

The introduction of trackside gaming at Blue Ribbon Downs and Will Rogers Downs horse racetracks could also boost Oklahoma's gaming revenues, Meister said. Revenues at similar facilities grew 22.4 percent last year, Meister said.

According to the study, the number of gaming machines in Oklahoma rose by 46.4 percent to 28,417, and there were nine new gaming facilities in the state. Nationwide, there were 10.7 percent more gaming machines.

Meister, manager of Los Angeles-based Analysis Group Inc., said gaming is growing in Oklahoma through new facilities and expansion of existing ones.

"You've kind of got a two-pronged growth approach here," Meister said. "I think both of them are paying off and they're showing overall, statewide at least, it's reflected in their growth."

Nongaming revenue, including meals, hotel rooms and merchandise, also increased sharply to \$102.1 million in 2004 from \$69.7 million the previous year, according to the study.

continued from page 1

## The man known as Sequoyah

of paper to talk. A group of warriors were brought in and Ayoka, being in a separate area, communicated back and forth over the distance with her father, until the warriors and others were convinced that the symbolism represented 'talking.' After the trial ended, the warriors asked Sequoyah to teach them, too. Before long, the knowledge of reading and writing the Cherokee language had spread far and wide. Baker and Greele, a typeset company based in Boston, produced metal type so that Rev. Worcester could obtain a printing press, allowing the mission to translate and publish scripture and hymns in the native language. The venture turned into a regular printing business, producing newspapers, flyers and anything needed to be printed. The type was not able to be produced exactly as Sequoyah had drawn the characters, so many were developed from existing letters and characters used in printing already.

The syllabary was not completed until Sequoyah, along with other Keetoowahs, had migrated to what is now Arkansas. In 1821, he traveled to the Cherokee Nation back east, and presented the syllabary to Cherokees living there. After returning home to the Keetoowahs in 1822, he focused much of his time teaching the Cherokee written language.

In 1824, the General Council of the Cherokee Nation voted to give Sequoyah a large silver medal as an honor for his creation of the syllabary. Because he did not return east, where the Cherokee Nation was located, for many years, Chief Path Killer and John Ross had it sent to him.

Sequoyah traveled with a group of Keetoowahs to Washington in 1828, and the group signed a treaty. One of the articles of the treaty stipulated a benefit for Sequoyah: "It is further agreed that the United States will pay five hundred dollars for the use of George Guess, a Cherokee, for the great benefit he has conferred upon the Cherokee people in the beneficial results they are now experiencing from the use of the alphabet discovered by him, to whom also in consideration of his relinquishing a valuable saline, the privilege is hereby given to locate and occupy another saline on Lee's Creek."

Lee's Creek is located in present-day Sequoyah County, Oklahoma. Sequoyah received only \$300 of this money, and it is clear that the benefit was included to obtain the land. Sequoyah and 2500 other Keetoowahs were moved to the Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma by the United States government in 1828. The land was exchanged for the land they had been occupying in what was later to become Arkansas. He settled near present-day Sallisaw, Oklahoma, where he built a log cabin, which is still standing and open to the public.

Sequoyah's death came in 1845 while traveling with his son, Teesey, a friend named The Worm, and six others who had left from Park hill and were looking for a group of Cherokees that had migrated to Mexico. After some time, a party of Caddos returned from Mexico reported that Sequoyah had died. "His death was sudden, having been long confined to the house, he requested one day some food, and while it was preparing, breathed his last." Sequoyah's death was not reported Indian Territory for nearly two years, when some Cherokees returned from

Mexico and gave the following statement to Cherokee agent Pierce M. Butler. "Warrens trading house, Red River, April 21, 1845. . . . We the undersigned Cherokees direct from the Spanish dominions, do hereby certify that George Guess, of the Cherokee Nation, Arkansas, departed this life in the town of San Fernando in the month of August 1843. Given under our hands, day and date above, written Standing Rock, by mark, Standing Bowles, by mark, Watch Justice, by mark, witness Daniel C. Watson and Jesse Chisholm." Another report to agent P.M. Butler, Ou-No-Leh stated that he had met with Teesey, The Worm, Gah-Nes-Kee, the Standing Man and the Standing Rock. . . . attended Sequoyah during his last sickness and also witnessed his death and burial." The statement was dated May 15, 1845, Bayou District.

Because of Sequoyah believing that it was time for the Keetoowah people to receive the system of writing the Creator had allowed him to know, we are able to read what our ancestors recorded and to communicate with each other in our own language. Because Sequoyah also felt the need to return to the Cherokee Nation and share the system there, as well, all Cherokees became literate soon and were able to communicate through great distances. It is believed the system was what he was traveling to Mexico to share with the small group of Cherokees there.

## Deal would allow Delaware Tribe to keep separate status

ADVERTISEMENT

BARTLESVILLE (AP) - The Cherokee Nation has offered the Delaware Tribe a deal to keep its status as a separate entity while keeping the tribe primarily under Cherokee control.

The proposal, outlined by Cherokee negotiator Melanie Knight in a June 17 letter to Delaware Chief Joe Brooks, would restore the Delawares to their pre-1866 position as a separate federally recognized tribe but require that all civil and criminal jurisdiction over Delaware Tribe property would remain within the Cherokee Nation's authority.

Wayne Stull, a member of the Delaware Tribe's federal recognition committee, said the proposal has not been properly reviewed by the tribe's council.

"We haven't had a chance to sit down and get everything tuned in," Stull said. "This proposal has not been brought to the Delaware people."

A November ruling by the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals based on an 1866 treaty that gave the Cherokee

Nation the right to govern the Delawares eventually stripped the 10,000-member Delaware Tribe of recognition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Cherokee tribal officials claim it was never their intention to strip the Delawares of recognition but to protect the Cherokee Nation's sovereign rights.

In her letter, Knight suggests that the Cherokees would like to avoid "spending further scarce resources on attorneys and appeals" in the dispute that has cost the tribes hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The proposal calls for the Delawares to be eligible for federal funding as a federally recognized tribe, with the Cherokees administering any acquired funds.

In return for the agreement, the Cherokees want the Delaware Tribe to drop its petition before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Originally published June 23, 2005

"The United Cherokee Nation, One Nation United"

## Subscribe to the Cherokee Observer Today!

THE JESSE BARTLEY MILAM PAPERS

McFarlin Library, Department of Special Collections

The University of Tulsa

Introduction to the Inventory

The Jesse Bartley Milam Papers are housed in eighteen legal-sized document boxes, and two oversize document boxes. Records for books and documents in the Milam Library will be found in the on-line catalogue. The papers are organized into four series: SERIES I: Correspondence and Personal Papers, SERIES II: Photographs, SERIES III: The Milam Li-

brary, and SERIES IV: Miscellaneous.

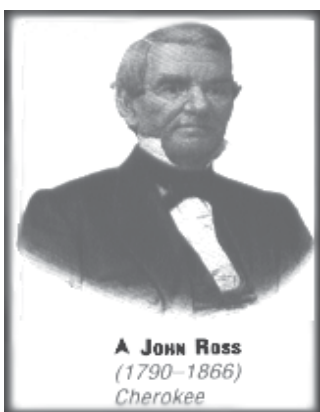
SERIES I: Correspondence and Personal Papers

o Consists of correspondence between Milam and various individuals, and national and local organizations and institutions, as well as the US Interior Department Bureau of Indian Affairs and various members of Congress. Although some of the material dates from as early as 1906, the preponderance of the correspondence relates to Milam's activities and responsibilities as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1941-1949.

We will provide in further issues the rest of the MILAM PAPERS

## Chief John Ross speaks--1829

Editors Note: According to Cherokee history, Chief John Ross's speeches were clearly organized and contained much documentary proof. Here is an excerpt from a speech he made to the Cherokee Council in 1829. Such eloquent words from so long ago.



Chief Ross: "This sacred privilege of assembly in General council of the Nation of our citizens is one of the great blessings which we have derived from the Great Ruler of the Universe. It is right which we as a distinct People

have ever exercised and our prerogative to act has been recognized by the United States, under whose fostering care we have moved the darkness of ignorance and superstition to our present degree of advancement in civilized improvements. It has therefore become our duty to guard and protect the rights and happiness of your constituents, by adopting such laws for their common welfare as will avert any abuse of the legitimate privileges guaranteed under the constitution."

## Cherokee Nation to Loan \$800,000 to Small Businesses

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. ? The Cherokee Nation plans to help local small businesses boom. The Cherokee Nation recently received a grant for \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Cherokee Nation plans to use the money to loan to small business owners to help them start a new business or expand an existing one. The new loan program will be different from existing small business loan programs.

"I believe the most distinguishing and advantageous feature of this loan program is that in some cases, the borrower may be able to use sweat equity in place of capital," said Shay Smith, manager of the Cherokee Nation Small Business Assistance Center.

Another distinguishing feature is that applicants must be in the low to moderate income range, as defined by HUD, while other Cherokee Nation small business loan programs require applicants to be in the moderate to high income range.

To apply for a Cherokee Nation small business loan, please contact the Cherokee Nation Small Business Assistance Center at (918) 456-0671, ext. 2536.

## The Cherokee Observer

The Only Independent Cherokee Newspaper  
P.O. Box 487

Blackwell, OK 74631-0487  
e-mail: cwobserver@yahoo.com  
editors@cherokeobserver.org

Phone/Fax: 1-580-363-5438

PUBLISHER: Marvin J. Summerfield

OWNER: Cherokee Observer, Inc.

www.cherokeobserver.org

Purchase Rate per copy .....\$75  
Yearly Mailing Rate (domestic).....\$20.00  
Yearly Mailing Rate (foreign).....\$41.50  
David Cornsilk.....Editor  
Franklin McLain.....Online/Assistant Editor  
Marvin J. Summerfield.....Language Editor  
Thomas Fourkiller.....Religion Editor

The Cherokee Observer welcomes letters to the Editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Letters may be edited for space and or libelous content. Names may be withheld upon request. Letters will be published as space permits. Letters to the Editor express the views of the writer and donot necessarily reflect the view of the Cherokee Observer.

continued on page 3