

UKB's Don Ade Comes Full Circle

The first statement Don Ade made when he talked about his new position as Executive Director of the UKB Economic Development Authority (KEDA) was, "I have come full circle." He was referring to coming back to Cherokee County to be among the traditional Cherokee people. This is after working and living across the United States with many people of many different tribes for twenty-one years. Orphaned at an early age, Ade was raised by his full blood traditional grandparents, Ben and Agnes (Blossom, Salina, OK) Snell at Little Kansas.



Cherokee was his first language, in fact he ended up attending Oaks Mission School for two years for the purpose of learning to speak English. Then he returned to the public school system, but after flunking 9th grade because he would not attend school, he enrolled at Sequoyah High School. Don loved Sequoyah so dearly it became his second home.

Several things happened at Sequoyah that changed Don's life forever. "I had a flash of insight as I carried that hundred pound sack of potatoes up the stairs from the basement to the kitchen. I realized that I needed to pursue a formal education so I could earn a good living. That perspective was life changing, as well as the influence of my teacher, friend and mentor, Mr. Harold Jones. He held a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Speech and Hearing Pathology and he changed jobs to become a Speech and Hearing Pathology Professor at NSU. After I left Sequoyah, I attended NSU and followed in his footsteps and earned my degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy," said Ade.

Ade was involved in several landmark events early in his career. At age 22, Ade was primarily instrumental in establishing the first Muskogee County Schools Special Education Cooperative Program. This involved nine schools. He was also

the youngest member of the Five Civilized Tribes Inter-tribal Council that went to Washington, D.C. in 1973 and held a series of meetings with President Nixon's Cabinet Secretaries along with Pat Nixon in the White House to move tribes toward self-determination. "We told the government that we had the right to make our own mistakes" said Ade. Two years later, most likely as a result of these meetings, Congress passed the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. Don Ade is a 32nd Degree Mason, having earned his Master Mason's degree in the Blue Lodge in Talihina, OK, and his 32nd degree in the McAlester Consistory Temple. He takes pride in his Masonic work. "All but three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. I like their philosophy of taking a good man and making a better man of him. It is a constant life long program of self improvement. It teaches leadership and enables one to establish valuable contacts," said Ade.

Mr. Ade has worked developing youth and youth programs, as a member of the Haskell Board of Regents, as a Speech and Hearing Therapist, as a Budget and Accounting Analyst, in Health Quality Assurance, as

a Civil Rights Officer, in Public Relations, assisting in planning and designing new hospitals and health centers, and many years as a Health Systems Administrator with Indian Health Service.

Every experience he has had has prepared him for his current position as Executive Director of the Keetoowah Economic Development Authority (KEDA). "I am very passionate about my work. I have the drive and the determination. That is far more important than any college degrees and contacts one may have. After everything is said and done, the credentials that I earned in becoming a licensed and ordained minister have served to keep me spiritually balanced and keep things in perspective," said Ade.

One of Mr. Ade's first assignments as Executive Director of the KEDA was to write a Business Plan and 10 year Economic Development plan for the tribe. "My goal is to promote the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees as a legitimate Entrepreneur and Competitor in the Business World. I want to leave this legacy: Ensure that the UKBC takes backseat to no one in any social, economic, political or legal venue.

Another life changing event occurred when Don Ade met the love of his life at Sequoyah High School in a young lady named Shirlene Lewis. They have been married for 43 years. Shirlene is also a retired Federal employee (Dept. of Army) and a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. She was just re-elected for a third term, this time for a four year term on the Council. She is just as dedicated and devoted to her tribe as Don is to his.

News Release
Contact: Marilyn Craig
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Troy Poteete attended the Daughters of the Confederacy presentation of the Stan Watie headstone in a full dress Confederate Officer Uniform. Smith has appointed Poteete to the Supreme Court bench that would hear any appeal of the Cherokee Freedmen case.



TROY WAYNE POTEETE
Cherokee Nation
Assistant to the Principal Chief

Troy Wayne Poteete loyally served as Assistant to Principal Chief Chad Smith who has now appointed Poteete to the Cherokee Supreme Court.

Chief Smith's Tribal Council rubber stamps - "Team Cherokee" confirmed Poteete to the bench. With only 4 years out of Law School, with no real court trials in State, Federal or our Cherokee Supreme Court.

The only real talent Mr. Poteete has is being a loyal servant to Principal Chief Chad Smith. Will Poteete serve the Cherokee people & our Constitution, or Chief Smith, only time will tell.



If you want to check out information about the Cherokee Historical Society, go the www.cherokeeobserver.org and click on CNO Historical Society Concern on Troy Poteete link.



Sam L. Still Named Editor of the Keetoowah News

Sam L. Still has been named Editor of the Keetoowah News, the tribal newspaper of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Still comes to this position after serving as Director of the UKB Language, History and Culture Department for the past two years.

Still attended Bacone College and graduated with an Associates' Degree in Art before furthering his education and graduating from NSU with a Bachelor's of Science in Print Management. Still has worked as a photographer and graphic specialist for a tribal newspaper and as a language and cultural specialist for 23 years. He is the former Chairman of the Youth and Culture Camp Association, Former Chairman for the CNO Living Treasures committee, Former Vice Chairman for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and Former Chairman of the Language and Culture Committee.

Still said, "My love for the traditional Cherokee youth and elders is what brought me to work for the Keetoowah Cherokee tribe. Photographing and working in the Cherokee communities, I have come to know and love the traditional Keetoowah Cherokee elders. I love to listen to them as they tell their stories and share their history with me.

This has brought me closer to my language, culture, and heritage. I look forward to working as editor of the tribal newspaper and highlighting the accomplishments of Keetoowah Cherokee youth, tribal members and the Keetoowah Cherokee Elders." Still is married to Dama Still and has two daughters Tiffany Still and Tonya Russell. He also is the proud grandpa of three granddaughters.

News Release
Contact: Marilyn Craig
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(918)456-6533

NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Debby Pafel December 5, 2007 (202) 208-4289

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians - Cautions Trust Account Holders About Misleading Notifications

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) warns Individual Indian Monies (IIM) beneficiaries to use caution if they are contacted about their accounts by private firms. OST has become aware of firms charging fees for account holder services that are free to beneficiaries.

OST is continually looking for people who have funds in trust but who do not have current contact information on file. There is more than \$70 million in trust for over 70,000 people whose whereabouts are unknown (WAW). One business is charging WAW individuals a fee and may misrepresent the amount an individual has in an account. Another firm claimed Power of Attorney status for several WAW account holders and instructed OST to forward all forms, documents and checks directly to the company. The Department of Interior™ Solicitor has reviewed that company™ paperwork and does not recognize its validity.

"These firms have not contracted nor are they affiliated with OST or the U.S. Government. Beneficiaries should not be led to believe they need to pay finder fees to receive their trust funds nor that firms have access to their

account balances," said a spokesperson from the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC). "People who wonder if they have funds in trust can call the TBCC and establish rights to their accounts without paying fees."

IIM beneficiaries can call the TBCC to receive accurate and timely information and assistance about their accounts. There is no cost to the beneficiary to receive assistance from the TBCC; even the phone call is toll free. Beneficiaries with questions or concerns should call 1-888-678-6836 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 am to noon on Saturday. All times noted are in the Mountain Time Zone.

Visit the OST website at www.doi.gov/ost for information about IIM beneficiary benefits and the TBCC.

The mission of OST is to perform our fiduciary trust responsibilities to American Indian Tribes, individual Indians and Alaska natives by incorporating a beneficiary focus and beneficiary participation while providing effective, competent stewardship and management of trust assets.

Martin removed as editor in Cherokee

By Jennifer Garlesky • Staff Writer - Rocky Mountain Press North Carolina

Last week Eastern Band of Cherokee officials made the decision to remove The Cherokee One Feather Editor Joe Martin from his newspaper position.

"A memo notified Martin on Oct. 31 that he was being transferred to manager of tribal day care and stating his position is no longer available to him," said Rob Saunooke, Martin's attorney.

On Nov. 2, Martin received another letter from the Tribal Finance Department saying that "due to lack of response, they consider his actions as resignation," Saunooke said.

Martin is currently on administrative leave.

Martin's sudden removal from his position at the Eastern Band of Cherokee's official newspaper is linked, Saunooke claims, to his disagreement with Principal Chief Mitchell Hick's executive order which called for the removal of the newspaper's anonymous opinion section, "Rants and Raves." The section allowed readers to anonymously offer opinions on any tribal issue, and there were often more than a dozen one-line submissions each week in

the One Feather. Some were critical of the chief and other tribal entities.

"This is retaliation by the chief's office," Saunooke said. "Joe disagreed with the chief's executive order."

On Oct. 1, Hicks issued an executive order to remove the "Rants and Raves" section from the newspaper. The sudden removal of the popular anonymous opinion column came after Hicks declared the column to be slanderous.

The chief's decision upset some tribal members who have said the order violated their freedom of speech rights. The case went before tribal council members last month and council members upheld Hicks' order.

Since then Martin has criticized the Chief's and tribal council decision. He has publicized his opinion and was quoted in several articles that appeared in the Asheville's Citizen-Times.

Tribal officials cited Martin's actions to justify his termination, Saunooke said.

Tribal officials said they would not comment on Martin's removal since it is a personnel issue.

That is why it is essential for citizens to create their newspapers such as the Cherokee Observer. even after all of our trials and tribulations we are still here after all of these years... *We have been publishing 15 years.*

Check out back issues of the Cherokee Observer goto www.cherokeeobserver.org and click on the back issue link.