



Pageant To Relive Kaw Indian History At Council Grove This Weekend

Although the Kaw Tribe was exiled from Kansas 141 years ago, members of the Kaw Nation will return once again to their Kansas homeland to tell the story of their ancestors for the outdoor drama pageant, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20, at 8 o'clock, in the Old Riverbed Amphitheater at Council Grove.

"Called 'Voices of the Wind People,' this will be a multi-media presentation depicting a series of live action scenes with both Council Grove citizens and Kaw Indians," according to Sharon Haun, pageant chairperson.

Historical artwork, photographs and paintings along with video segments are to be projected onto a large screen incorporated with early day Council Grove and Kaw village sets to bring life on the Santa Fe Trail along the Neosho River in the Flint Hills alive again.

Advertised on 580 WIBW and The BIG 94.5 Country, and promoted on www.WibwNewsNow.com and www.KansasAgNetwork.com, as well as 580 and 94.5 web-sites and Facebook, there will be real-life horse drawn wagons, a stagecoach and horse-back riders accompanied by live singing, dancing, drumming, fiddling, bagpipe playing and mandolin music.

"The pageant features an 1821 Santa Fe Trail horse-drawn pack train, wagon caravans, signing of the 1825 Council Oak Treaty, trading at the Seth Hays store, an 1859 confrontation between Kaw warriors and whites, raiding bushwhackers in 1863, and forced removal of the Kaw tribe from Kansas," Haun said.

Production of "Voices of the Wind People" is accomplished completely by volunteer staff and performers. Action is alternately narrated by the Kaw Chief Allegawaho, portrayed by Luther Pepper, great-grandson of Allegawaho, and Council Grove trader Seth Hays, rendered by Mark Brooks of Council Grove.



"Thirty-five Kanza Indians of the Kaw Nation, whose ancestors once lived in the Council Grove area, are expected to return to participate in this production. Council Grove area residents perform a variety of roles as early townspeople as they lived nearly a half century ago," Haun explained.

Ron Parks wrote the pageant script in 1992, while he served as site administrator of the Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove. "Wind People" is the English meaning of the tribe's name. "The script was subject to review by the Kaw Nation executive council and all subsequent changes have required the approval of the council," Haun clarified.

"From 1821 until the arrival of the railroads in the early 1870s, the Santa Fe Trail played an important role in western history," Haun noted. Rather than being an immigrant trail for early settlers, it primarily served as a commercial trade route from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, after signing of the 1825 Council Oak Treaty between government officials and the Kaw nation, shown above left in a pageant scene.

Sponsors are the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, Kaw Mission State Historic Site, and the pageant committee of the Friends of Kaw Heritage.

Additional information is available at www.voicesofthewindpeople.com, by e-mailing voicesotwp@gmail.com, and on Facebook and Twitter.



Frank J. Buchman
Marketing Consultant
Direct: 785 - 228 - 7259
Cell: 785 - 499 - 3063
frank.buchman@morris.com

PO Box 1818
1210 SW Executive Dr.
Topeka, Ks 66615

Padre says:

"Change your thoughts, and change your world."