



Seminole Indian News



CHIEF OSCEOLA

FLORIDA'S FIRST MICCOSUKEE AND SEMINOLE INDIAN NEWSPAPER

CHIEF COACOOCHEE

VOL. 1, NO. 2

SEPTEMBER, 1961



10c

MICCOSUKEE TRIBE NOT REPRESENTED IN CLAIMS

Will Kennedy Honor U.S. Commitments?

Snake Dance Draws Hundreds

By Louise Susanne Osceola
News Reporter

Every year around August, the Miccosukee Indians attend the Snake Dance ceremony. The ceremony lasts two weeks of fun, work and play.

This year it was attended by several hundred Indians, many of the reservation people attended the last night of the ceremony. It is run by John McKinley Osceola and his uncle, Corey Osceola.

Everyone had a good time and now they're looking forward to the next ceremony, the Green Corn Dance. It will take place next year around summertime.

The High Sheriffs were Rainey Jim and Jimmie Poole. The Sheriffs' dancing partners were Alice Billie and Alice Joy Osceola, who have the same equal powers as the High Sheriffs.

Frank Tommie has led the



U. S. Indian Commissioner Emmons and Miccosukee Tribal Leaders

Snake Dance for many, many years, but his bad ankle does not permit him to continue with the position as a leader of the Dance. He is training Johnson Billie as the next leader of the Snake Dance.

'JIMMY CYPRESS SOLD OUT' CHARGES MIKE OSCEOLA

The five candidates that the Seminole News staff supported won in the election on August 14, for board of directors and councilmen of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

In the vote to reorganize the board and elect new officers on Sept. 5, Jimmy Cypress went over to the opposition.

"Jimmy Cypress sold out," charged Mike Osceola.



Mike Osceola, Seminole Tribal Leader.

Elected were: John Henry Gopher, director from Brighton; Toby Johns, councilman from Brighton; Jimmy Cypress, director and councilman from Big Cypress; Mike Osceola, councilman at large, and Howard Tiger, director at large.

"Before the meeting to vote for new officers," said Mike Osceola, "Jimmy Cypress told me that Bill Osceola had promised him that Jimmy could be president, and that Bill would start Jimmy off at \$125 a week. Jimmy told me Bill said he could build a big house on the reservation and could have a tribal car and ride around. Jimmy said he wasn't going to take those things, but was going to stand by his people. George Storm heard this, too.

"But within five minutes after he got to the meeting, Jimmy Cypress had sold out, and sold out his people on the Big Cypress Reservation," Mike Osceola said. "He had promised Howard Tiger and me that he would sup-

INDIAN AGENT "NAILED"

Virgil Harrington, U. S. Indian agent for the Seminole Tribe at Dania, Florida, and Reginald C. Miller, of the U. S. Interior Department, just returned from a week of conferences in Washington, D. C., where they were both called by the U. S. Department of Interior. The exact nature of these conferences has not been officially disclosed. When contacted by a reporter, Mr. Miller promised a written statement on Sept. 12. It has never been received.

"We don't know for sure what port us."

The board tied, 4 to 4, for Jimmy Cypress and Howard Tiger as president of the board of directors.

To break the deadlock, the board set Sept. 19 for a special election at the three Florida Seminole Reservations. All members of the tribe will vote for the president of the board of directors.

LET'S NOT CHANGE THE STATIONERY

At the tribal council meeting on the same day, Billy Osceola of Dania was elected for third term as chairman of the council.

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WILL UDALL DENY MICCOSUKEES LEGAL REPRESENTATION?—Osceola

A hearing has been scheduled by the U. S. Indian Claims Commission on Sept. 18, for claims filed by some Florida Indians back in 1950. The claims numbers 73 and 73A, totaling \$350,000,000, were originally filed by a Jacksonville law firm. This will be the first hearing held in several years.

Howard Osceola, Co-Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribal Executive Council, said the Miccosukee Tribe has never been represented in these claims.

"We are hopeful that U. S. Secretary of the Interior Udall

will not try to deny our Tribe the right to be represented by lawyers of our own choice," he said. "We have two letters from the U. S. Department of the Interior giving us that right. Would a new U. S. Administration refuse to honor these commitments?"

Miccosukees Denounce Claims

"When these claims were filed in 1950, Miccosukee Tribal leaders met at the village of my father, William McKinley Osceola, 30 miles west of Miami. They publicly stated that the money claims were Muskogee (Continued on Page Three)

he has to say, because he comes by and talks to our people who don't understand English too well while the councilmen are at work," said Homer Osceola, Co-Chairman of the Executive

(Continued on Page Three)

Seminole Ride Again, To Washington This Time

The Reservation Indians, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, are sending four representatives to the hearing in Washington, D.C., on their \$350,000,000 money claim against the U. S.

Mike Osceola, Rev. Bill Osceola and Frank Billie are going to the hearings which are supposed to begin Sept. 18, in the Indian Claims Commission. Rev. Billy Osceola will also go.

The Everglades Miccosukee Tribe of Seminole Indians, the unsundered Indians who do not live on reservations, are sending two observers. Howard and Homer Osceola, co-chairmen of the Executive Council, go to make sure nobody misrepresents the Miccosukee Tribe. This tribe wants their land, not money.



Howard Osceola, Miccosukee Tribal Leader.

Florida "Kidd"-ing Us?

Florida Governor Farris Bryant, early in 1961, announced to the press that the job of State Indian Commissioner was being abolished in March when Florida Indian Commissioner Max Denton retired.

William Kidd, administrative assistant to the Governor, came to the Everglades Miccosukee Tribe of Seminole Indians head-

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VOTE FOR HOWARD TIGER!

MICCOSUKEE SEMINOLE HISTORY. Part II

IMPROPER TO CALL SEMINOLES "ONE" TRIBE

From time to time, someone will erroneously refer to all Indians in Florida as just one tribe. The Seminole Tribe. In most cases, this is due to ignorance

The Seminole Tribe is today, and always has been, a different tribe than the Miccosukee Tribe. The people of both tribes speak different languages, have different customs and cultures, and live in different geographical locations in Florida. It is a well-known fact that the Miccosukee Tribe is aboriginal to the State of Florida, while the Seminole Tribe came to Florida around 1750. The Miccosukee Tribe lived near what is today Florida's capitol, Tallahassee, when Columbus came to America. The Seminole Tribe, at that time lived to the north, in the Carolina area, and were originally called Muskogees. The Muskogees were not known as Seminoles until after they came to Florida.

The Miccosukee Tribe was never a part of the Seminole Tribe. During the Seminole Wars with the United States, all the tribes of Indians in Florida formed a military "alliance", which the United States called the Seminole alliance. At that time there were many other tribes of Indians in Florida, who have since disappeared. At the end of the Seminole Wars, the military alliance was dissolved, and the Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes went their separate ways. Their relationship was never more than the relationship the United States had with France when they fought together in World War I and II under the name "Allies."

It is also a fact that there are Miccosukees in the Seminole Tribe. But this is not unusual or new. Since their first encounter with the white man, the Miccosukee gained the reputation for having the best military leaders in Southeastern North America. In the 1600's, the Spanish said it. In the 1700's the British said it. And the United States found this out when they were unable to conquer them during the long and expensive Seminole Wars.

Shortly after their arrival in Florida, the Muskogees called upon the Miccosukee Tribe to provide them with military aid and leaders. As a result many

Miccosukees went to live among the Muskogee Seminoles over 100 years ago. Today, as then, Miccosukees have gone to live among the Muskogee Seminoles. Miccosukee leaders can still be found on the Seminole councils.

The distinction between the Miccosukee Tribe and the Muskogee Seminole Tribe has long been recognized. Military men who encountered the Florida Indians down through the years always noted the difference in their reports, as well as authoritative historians.

For example, when General Alexander Macomb, the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army, made the last Treaty with the Florida Indians on May 18, 1839, at Fort King the Treaty describes the parties as "the Seminoles and Mickasukie Chiefs."

In 1830, Daniel Blue, associated with the English trading company, John Forbes and Company, was called upon to testify in the case of Mitchell v. United States. This case went to the United States Supreme Court and is cited as 34 U.S. 711. It is an important case to the Florida Indians because it decided their rights to their lands in Florida. It was the last decision participated in by one of the greatest Justices of the United States Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Marshall.

On page 607 of the Supreme

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LET'S NOT CHANGE THE STATIONERY

(Continued from Page One)

In the vote for vice chairman there was first a tie between Howard Tiger, Mike Osceola and Frank Billie. Howard had previously been vice chairman.

"Let's not change the stationery," said Billy Osceola, and he gave his vote to Howard. Howard then turned around and gave his vote to Mike. Thus Mike Osceola was elected vice chairman of the council.

The council governs the tribe and the board handles business affairs.

ust 12, but was not made acquainted with the facts of the case. He said he would not have certified the contract between the attorneys had he known all the facts."

U. S. Breaks Promises

"For the past several years our Miccosukee Tribe has shown its willingness to work with the United States as well as with the Muskogee Tribe, and we thought we had reached an agreement with both," said Howard Osceola. "But the Miccosukee Tribe wants to make it clear that until it is represented by lawyers of its own choosing it is not a party to these claims. The lawyers handling these money claims are not our Mic-

Court Record, Daniel Blue said, "... the Micasuky chiefs and the others of that tribe were the only Florida Indians that signed that cession..."

The Mitchell case decided the title to approximately 1,000,000 acres of land in northwest Florida, south of Tallahassee on the Gulf of Mexico. The title to all this land is based on an Indian deed.

Page 73 of the Supreme Court Record describes the deed:

"We, the undersigned, do say, although we have not been present at the demarcation of this boundary, we know and agree as to its justice, and approve it, and as we do sign, the day of the date, in presence of the Commandant of this fort and of the assisting witnesses.

Copixty Mico of Micosuki, his X mark

Chocolate Tustannukee, First Warrior of Micosuki.

Cocha Tustannague, of the same.

Tuskoniha, of Micosuki, his X mark.

Don Ignacio Balderas, captain of the regiment of infantry of Louisiana, commandant and subdelegate of the royal finances in this fort. I do certify, that the four preceding signatures of the king of Micosuki and his warriors are the same made in my presence and in that of the assisting witnesses. Appalachie, 2d of August, 1802.

IGNACIO BALDERAS."

In 1848, Captain John T.

Sprague, one of the few eminent authorities on the Florida Indians, wrote in his treatise *The Origin, Progress and Conclusion of the Florida War* on page 19:

"Here both these parties of (Creek) emigrants encountered the Mickasukie tribe of Indians, the legitimate owners of the soil."

In 1927, Frank Drew, the famous anthropologist and authority on Florida Indians, in his *Notes on the Origin of the Seminole Indians of Florida*, Volume 6 of the Florida Historical Society Quarterly on page 22, wrote:

"The Miccosukees were to intrepid to permit the migration of Seminoles through their territory; so the course of invasion was to the eastward along the upland..."

In 1956, another noted contemporary authority, Irvin M. Peithmann, in *The Unconquered Seminole Indians* states on page 14:

"The nucleus of the Seminole Nation in Spanish Florida were principally Hitchiti or non-Muskogean. They were Indians who detached themselves from the Creek Confederacy partly because they were hunters and cared little about agriculture as a means of livelihood. These Indians spoke the Hitchiti tongue, a language that bore no resemblance to that of the Muskogean Creeks. Out of this branch there emerged the most

important element among the Seminoles - the resolute - determined - and vindictive Mikasuki Indians."

After discussing the other Florida tribes he concludes:

"From these many alliances came the present-day Seminoles, a heterogeneous blending of Indian tribal groups. It would be improper, therefore, to call the Seminoles a tribe; they are actually a mixture of many tribes, and even of different races."

FLORIDA

(Continued from Page One)

quarters in April to meet with flood control people and the Indians.

When Don Branning, Miami News reporter, asked him if he was the State Indian Commissioner, Kidd said, "I guess; you could call me that."

Now flood control officials are referring to Kidd in their letters as "State Indian Commissioner."

At the April meeting he promised to meet with the Executive Council of the Miccosukee Tribe after the legislature's session was over, in June.

"Nothing has been heard from him," says Howard Osceola, Co-Chairman of the Executive Council of the Miccosukee Tribe. "Why?"

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its members on matters which are of concern to the Florida Seminoles as a whole (such as the pending claim against the United States)..."

The second letter shown by Osceola was signed by the United States Secretary of Interior, Fred Seaton, dated July 12, 1960. It was addressed to "The Executive Council, Miccosukee Tribe of Seminoles" and said in part:

"... This series of conferences, I am sure, has made it clear to your representatives that the Department of the Interior recognizes you as spokesmen of a duly recognized Tribe of American Indians. This relationship was clearly described in Commissioner Emmon's letter to you dated Jan. 27, 1958..."

"Why aren't the new officials in the Interior Department respecting these former commitments, which we accepted and proceeded on in good faith?" asks Howard Osceola.

"NAILED"

(Continued from Page One)

Council of the Miccosukee Tribe of Seminoles.

"He offered some of the boys \$1.50 per hour to ride around with him on the Tamiami Trail - as a guide, maybe?"

"He talked with some of the fellows about a big development program for Miccosukees. Vocational schools, cattle-raising, and practically everything but military lend-lease were what he talked about. And he talked so much about tribal ownership of all kinds of enterprises that you'd think he wanted to make communists out of us. We've been getting along by private enterprise as long as my folks remember.

"But our people don't want that kind of stuff.

"And he didn't say anything about our land. That's what he promised to take care of first.

"This help-the-poor-Indian, welfare thing is what the Department of Interior has been telling us for 10 years, they can't do for Indians who don't want to live on a reservation," he added.

cosukee lawyers. They never have been. They admit this in their letters to us. The Muskogee (Seminole) Tribe can sell its own land rights to the United States, and we wish them luck."

It's Up To Udall

"But," he continued, "neither the Muskogee (Seminole) Tribe nor any other tribe has any right to sell the lands of the Miccosukee Tribe. Anyone should know this. We said this before, and we say it again. We are still willing to work with the United States according to

Homer pointed out that last year in Washington he told the officials of the Indian Bureau that the Miccosukees would like an agent to help when he was called on, after the Miccosukee land was set up.

"But we never told the U. S. we wanted welfare, and we told them we didn't want an Indian agent sitting in our backyard, besides, no agreement to protect our land has been shown us, like they promised.

"Since his return, he promised to meet with the Executive Council twice, to tell us about his trip to Washington. But he still hasn't shown up. An hour before the last scheduled meeting, Agent Miller called. Miller told him to tell us he wasn't sure he could make it out to the Everglades because he had "nails" in his tires," said Homer Osceola.

the agreement we made, if the U. S. will keep its part of the agreement. We hope Secretary Udall is a man who will."

"They even gave our tribe two letters to reassure us we were a recognized tribe and could have our own choice of lawyers," he said.

One letter shown by Osceola, dated Jan. 27, 1958, was signed by United States Indian Commissioner Glenn Emmons. It was addressed to "The Executive Council, Everglades Miccosukee Tribe of Seminole Indians c/o Mr. Morton H. Silver, attorney-at-law."

Part of the letter said, "I am, therefore, willing and glad to recognize your organization which you call the "Everglades Miccosukee Tribe of Seminole Indians... More specifically, we are recognizing your organization as qualified to speak for

WILL UDALL

(Continued from Page One)

(Seminole) claims and not Miccosukee claims. The Miami newspapers wrote stories about our protests which I still have. The Miccosukee tribal leaders said at that time that these claims were not authorized by the Miccosukee Tribe, and that the lawyers who filed them were never hired by the Miccosukee Tribe," Osceola said.

Indian Agent Admits Error

One news clipping shown by Howard Osceola, from the *Miami News*, dated August 16, 1950, said, "Kenneth Marmon, U. S. Indian Agent, said he attended a pow wow in Okeechobee, Aug-

SALUTE TO FRIENDS

M. M. Tozier, Gentleman and Scholar.

This month, the Seminole Indian News salutes M. M. Tozier, Information Officer of the U. S. Department of Interior Indian Bureau. For the benefit of those readers who don't know what an information officer is, he is supposed to have the answers to questions about Indians and their relations with the U. S. At times he appears to be a combination public relations man and Central Intelligence Agency. In his job, M. M. Tozier is an unsung hero.

From the first time the Indians met him in 1954, when he came to Florida with former

Commissioner Emmons, we found him to be a man of truth and wisdom. He made each one of us feel he was our friend and wanted to help us. After his first trip to Florida he wrote his "Tozier Report," which showed more understanding of our people and problems than any U. S. government report written over the past hundred years.

How little need there would be for a Peace Corps if the U. S. had a Tozier representing it in every foreign country. The Seminole Indian News salutes M. M. Tozier as a friend of the Seminoles and a credit to his country.

THE SEMINOLE COOKBOOK

Recipe for Swamp Cabbage

By Betty Junper

The Swamp cabbage is a Seminole Indian food. The first thing to do is cut down a cabbage palm and get the heart of the cabbage palm, the soft part. Cut it up into one-inch pieces. Then put the pieces into a pan with just enough water to simmer in the bottom of the pan. Cover it up and cook until soft. Then cut up white pork or bacon and fry it in a frying pan until it is crisp. Add the fried pork and

some grease to the cooked cabbage palm. You can add a little sugar to your taste. The cabbage palm heart will take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour to cook.

If you wish you can fry the bacon, and remove, and then put the cabbage palm in the grease, with a little water added once in a while. Cover up and cook until soft.

Cabbage palm is also good raw. (If you're hungry!)

FATHER AND SON IN ACCIDENTS SAME DAY, DIFFERENT PLACES

A Seminole father and son were involved in automobile accidents on the same day in two different places.

Charley Johnson and his father, Johnson Billie, were in the separate accidents on Sept. 6.

Charley and his wife, Iona Johnson, and their four children, while driving west on the Tamiami Trail in their 1950 Ford at 6 p. m., were rammed in the rear by Frank Scott, a Hialeah white man, driving a 1953 Lincoln. The accident happened seven miles east of Ochopee.

Their car was thrown into the canal, bottom side up, with everyone inside. Charley pulled his wife out, and then the four children were rescued. Linda Johnson, 11, was the last to be saved from the water. Charley found her in the mud. A truck driver gave her artificial respiration and she is now in the Naples Community Hospital in serious condition.

Collier County Deputy Sheriff Bill McCrea made the investigation at the scene of the accident. He charged Scott with "reckless driving, wilful and wanton."

Howard Osceola, Jr., son of Executive Councilman Howard M. Osceola, and Johnson Billie, the new Snake Dance leader, were in the other accident at 1:30 a. m.

Junior, who was driving home to see his mother, fell asleep and the car went into a tree beside the Tamiami Trail. The highway patrolman who investigated said the speedometer stuck at 55 miles an hour, which is legal.

Junior wasn't badly hurt. Johnson Billie is in Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he was on the critical list, but is now in satisfactory condition. The X-rays are reported to be regative.



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MICCOSUKEE SEMINOLE DICTIONARY

No. 2

English	Miccosukee	Muskogee (Seminole)
Indian man	yaht-kitis-nognee	istee-cha-tee
big	chobee	thah-kee
wind	fah-blee-chee	ho-tah-lee
hurricane (big wind)	fahbleechee-chobee	ho-tahlee-thah-koh
land	yahg-nee	ee-kah-nah
water	okee	oo-yoo-wah

The following are corrections of typographical errors in the last issue.

food	impigee	whom-pee-tah
I want food	impigee-tsabanah	whompeeton-cha-ee-ahjus

For those who wish to keep their dictionary current, a limited supply of the last issue is still available, and can be ordered for twenty cents per copy.

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