

The Kia Kima News Letter

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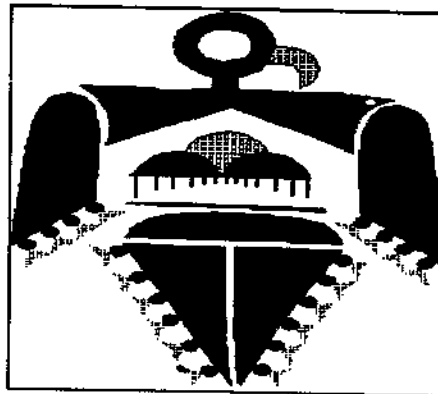
Fleming & Hurt Scouting Party Late April - 1996

For those who haven't been to Hardy in the spring, you've missed something.

Roy and Carol Riddick were there in early April. Now I understand why they enjoyed the South fork in the spring. It was the first Hardy spring for me, when John Hurt and I left Memphis on April 26 to get a better lay of the land for OKKPA. The purpose of this trip was to survey the approximate area OKKPA expects to acquire. Yes, I was able to flag even the waterfront, which had not yet become overgrown with 6-foot high vegetation. Matter of fact, the new green growth was only about knee high, making the flagging an easy chore. I suspect the snakes were a bit sluggish and not interested in my meandering around the waterfront. The goosebumpers arose while on the waterfront. What memories!

John and I arrived late Friday afternoon, April 26. We had enough daylight for a preliminary look-see of where we wanted to flag the property for the official property survey. Unfortunately we goofed around so much that we missed what would have been another magnificent sunset from Cedar Bluff. We did manage a catfish dinner and several hours of going down memory lane while plotting the future of OKKPA.

Saturday was an eventful day, beginning with Harold Hirsch, real estate agent, and long-standing member of the community and friend of the Old Kia Kima Staff. Harold met us at the north end of the quad and provided us with a



"The goosebumpers arose while on the waterfront. What memories"

large can of "Off" to ward off the ticks. He assured us that chiggers would not make their debut until August. Need less to say, we gingerly sprayed, as I had pulled a large tick off John's neck the day before. Harold then left us to our business of flagging the proposed site with the yellow "Crime Scene" tape provided by Buddy Keltner. [Actually it was "Caution" tape, but with John Hurt, one never knows what will happen: I know because we have grown up together and apart since the age of 3.]

The following is an attempt to describe the proposed property lines. If reproducible in the news letter, John will include an enlarged USGS map of the site. If that doesn't work, try to envision this description... Start at a point on a paved road near the northwest corner of the quad, near the old pump house and storage shed. From there walk south behind Cabins 12 - 16 on the west side of the quad to about 20- 30 (continued on page two column one)

The final dates for our 96 reunion are now firmly fixed

Mark your calendars for the day after labor day. We had said that the final reunion date would be the last week in August or very close to it. Plans are for us to begin arriving Tuesday afternoon September the 3rd. We hope to all be in by around six o'clock, so we can gather together for dinner. The place will be predetermined so we can advertise the time and spot to any local Kia Kima friends who would like to attend. Plans are for another News Letter to come out about 10 days before the reunion with this and any other last minute details

Once again we will be staying at Village Vacation (M & S Property Management, Inc.); P.O. box 448, Cherokee Village, AR 72525; phone 800-331-5896 or 501-257-3258. Last year the cost was around \$25.00 to \$30.00 per person per night. We stayed in 3-person condos. The accommodations were adequate and reasonable. Contact David Fleming at 916-756-6430 or call Village Vacations direct. If you call them direct be sure to tell them you will be with David and the Kia Kima group. Also you may call John Hurt at 800-288-7396

THE SCOUT OATH OR PROMISE

ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST:

TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY;

TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES;

TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

Have we kept the promise?

Looking forward to seeing all you guys!

95 quote - As Riddick and Hurt were loading the truck and heading for the canoe trip. "Hurt have you noticed we're still loading the truck and the waterfront guys are still in there grinning and giggling. Nothing has changed."

Brothers, OKKPA Needs Your Help

feet southwest of Cabin 16. From there turn to the left to the east and walk toward and through the old Sunday night campfire site to about what would be the top of the path to the waterfront. (I'm guessing that point is about where the flag pole was.) About 20 - 30 down the path leading to the waterfront is a new concrete block/fenced monument about 10' x 10', known as a sewage pumping station serving Cherokee Village. [We can live with that, especially if appropriately landscaped with native-American artifacts or some other ingenious scouting device.]

At the pumping station, angle right toward the west side of the old canoe storage racks, then to the river's edge. Turn left at the river's edge and follow it beyond the "point" to a small creek. The "point" was where, from the dock and swing, we watched the river move along. [I've a few stories to tell about that swing on the point, including my witnessing Chigger Danciger identify a Kingfisher, the last for his bird study merit badge I think, and Lou Pritchett giving me an explosive introduction to swamp gas: I owe you one Lou.]

Ok... on with the description... From the creek near the river-watch point, follow the creek upstream (north) about 50' to where a 6" sewer pipe line easement crosses (west to east). At the pipe easement turn left (west), following the pipe line easement for another 50 feet where it intersects with a north-south power line easement, which runs behind (west side) of Cabins 1 - 6. Turn right (north) following the power easement until it intersects with a paved road. Turn left (west) on the paved road following along the back side (north side) of Cabins 7 - 11 to the point of beginning (northwest corner of the quad). There you have it. I've roughly calculated and estimated it to contain between 9 and 12 acres.

Gordon "Scotty" Monteath ("Stick") is following up with Harold Hirsch to have the official survey prepared for the legal description. Any questions about the real estate transac-

tion should be addressed to Scotty. He has lead on that task with me (David Fleming) as his backup. If Scotty or I fail to respond, take it to "Larry Lime" Riddick.

Following our survey expedition, we lunched in Hardy, partaking of good cooking known only to these parts of the country. A stroll down Hardy's main street led us to Norma Williams, wife of Bob Williams, who we were told, is also known as "Sluggo". While following directions to Norma's antique store we passed a gentleman who might be described as "Sluggo". I turned to John and said, "I'll bet that's him". We met Norma on the front porch of her store. After chatting about Memphis high schools (Humes and Treadwell), Elvis, the 1948-53 KK staff reunion and canoe trip, she directed us to the ice cream

Well, its time for the Bank Book Balance.

The ultimate text book game plan to finance OKKPA calls for grants and donations from government agencies, corporations and well to do individuals. However, before we can qualify for government grants and before we can effectively solicit corporations and individuals it is necessary for us to be incorporated with the proper and correct nonprofit status. All of this is in the process of being drawn up. The expense involved here is approximately \$1500.00. The property we want to buy and preserve is being surveyed at a cost to us of around \$750.00. The present OKKPA bank balance is right at \$2100.00. This has come from individual donations. As you can see we are a little short of our immediate needs. —*Brothers of the South Fork*, though most of us are not financially able to kick in the grants we can help OKKPA get there in the short term. **We need your help!** Make your tax free donation check to OKKPA and mail to John Hurt c/o Armstrong Co. 3928 Winchester Rd. Memphis Tn.38118.

store recently restored by Bob. When we entered the store, he was in fact the gentleman we had passed on the street. Introductions were followed by memories, and our plans for the future of our beloved Old Kia Kima. Having Bob as a member of OKKPA is a blessing. His sage counsel for our restoration efforts will be most welcomed.

Regrettable we missed connecting with Bobby Harris. We had checked out before he was able to return our call. Next time, Bobby, we'll make the link. We also missed meeting with Charles and Darlene Wilson who were vacationing after the tax crunch: no doubt a vacation well deserved.

John and I departed for Memphis mid-afternoon Saturday. Our discussions on the return trip were enthusiastic, knowing that what OKKPA is undertaking is already building something right and relevant for now and the future. The fact that it's based on solid foundation of youthful memories makes it even better for the future. On the return trip to California my mind and heart felt the tug of the South Fork, the Hardy community, dear ole Kia Kima and my scouting brothers. Kia Kima needs us and wants us to restore its vitality, year round. We are getting there.

There you have it. John and I hope the description of our walk around the Kamp will stir fond memories and hopes for the future, as it did for us.

— David Fleming

What would we do with it?

Several have asked, "What in the world would we do with the place, if we did get it?" That's a good question. Most would like to see the T-Bird lodge restored, perhaps as a Kia Kima museum. Maybe it could be tied in with local Hardy history or even with Chick-saw Council history. Some would like to see some or all the cabins restored. Some want even the water front to be restored. Yes, lots of questions to be answered. What do you think? Come to the reunion and lets talk about it. — John Hurt



KIA KIMA PAST PUZZLE



Another OKKPA Testimonial —"I am very interested in OKKPA and all the people involved in the project. My KK experience was very positive and exciting, though I was pretty much a totally unconscious little guy at the time. I think my love of the out doors was really fueled there. the smell of the slough, the excitement that, under the next green, ferny bank might be a snake or a frog or turtle or some other surprise. My boy's curiosity was in high gear. For that and other experiences there I am grateful. So, I guess I really would like to see something worthwhile rise from the ashes at old KK, especially if more young men could enjoy it again. You have my support and best wishes." Alan Monteath

Okay Guys So you know your Scouting, then, Who was Robert Baden-Powell? Who was William D Boyce? How did they effect Scouting? Where and to whom is a bronze buffalo statue?

Can You Identify These Warriors?

Can you identify the proud warriors in this photograph taken just prior to their galloping down main street in Hardy to stir the natives to attend the summers's end Pow Wow and dances at Rio Vista?

At times in the late evening in early August, a cool wind stirred the oak and hickory leaves, the water temperature in the South Fork dropped a degree or two and a fire in the tunderbird nest drew us closer rather than roasting our already sunburned skin. Summer was coming to an end as fall approached on the cool jet stream.

But the summer could not end until the annual Indian Dances at Rio Vista, where at the pavilion we traded Nat Cole and Rosemary Cluny for beats of a different drum. Spare moments on hot afternoons during the summer were spent

picking up minute beads and arranging them into the patterns created by those whom we only learned to designate as Native Americans years later. (Riding the train to Hardy, walking those miles to the camp and being ferried across that river made us all consider ourselves Native Americans.) A few of us who had were about to travel to Taos and Gallup had catalogues filled with the real paraphenalia. Johnson's Baby oil and lots of sun helped those pale faces (a few had more melanin to begin with; Something that in retrosept leads to hard questions.) achieve some semblance of their native brothers. The Friday night campfires and the ordeals of the Order of the Arrow made certain that the costumes met muster and that the dances rehearsed, but the finale came at Rio Vista when with verve and flame the eagle soared and the warrior whooped before fall came and we changed costumes for rituals in other worlds. — LeRoy Riddick