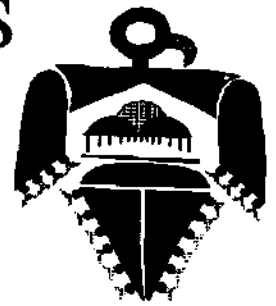


THE KAMP KIA KIMA NEWS



Make plans to come in 96

T

he third reunion of the Kia Kima Staff old timers group was held in September of 95. What a time! Guys if you have missed these nostalgic get togethers, you don't know what you are missing. It is hard to explain the joy and the just plain fun of renewing the bond and comradeship of some forty years ago. You would think that after all those years there might be some hesitancy or a little awkwardness in renewing the old friendships. Not so! It's almost like no time at all had passed since the old staff days

We met on September the 5th, the day after labor day. By 6:00 everybody had checked in and we had a delicious catfish dinner in Hardy. Afterward we went to Cedar Bluff and caught the tail end of a beautiful sunset. There with that gorgeous view over looking the South Fork we were caught for a few moments with a complete loss for words. It was totally unplanned and unexpected. The beauty of the view, the smell of the cedar and our renewed fellowship seemed to plunge us back to those days so many years ago when we sat on that same impressive spot. It was a delicious moment. A bunch of nostalgic old guys were for a few minutes able, not only to vividly remember, but to taste and feel those wonderful days of youth. Ah, it was great. Afterward we sang a lot of the old camp songs and even the raspy and creaking voices of some of us weren't able to destroy the moment. We stayed late enough that we had to grope our way back down the trail in darkness. When



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

A walk in the old camp grounds will fill you with a whole range of emotions.

Mark your calendar for the last week in August

Go ahead and mark your calendar for the last week in August. This will be our tentative date and it will change little, if at all. David Fleming is in charge of making the room arrangements for us. This years information will be coming soon. Last year we shared three bed room condos at Village Vacations in Cherokee Village. The accommodations were more than adequate and reasonable. Contact David at the following address. David Fleming, 1107 Halifax

Davis, CA.95616. 916 327 9143 (day) 916 756 6430(evening) or John Hurt 1 800 288 7396 (day) 901 757 9001 (night) or use the E-mail addresses below. Here is a list of those that have attended our reunions. David Fleming, Lofton (Buddy) Keltner, Gordon (Scotty) Monteath, John Ozier, Roy Riddick, Perry Gaither, Frank Simonton, Ralph Young and John Hurt. It doesn't make any difference if you weren't on the same staff with us. Our Kia Kima staff experience will bind us.

**we are
on line**

E-mail us at—David Fleming dfleming@mother.com Scotty Monteath gmonteath@wb.com
John Ozier 103123.115@compuserve.com Roy Riddick LRRIDDICK@AOL.COM
John Hurt PKBY98A@Prodigy.com Come on in guys the waters fine. But "be prepared,"
It gets a little silly at times.

we got back to the rooms we grinned and giggled until late that night.

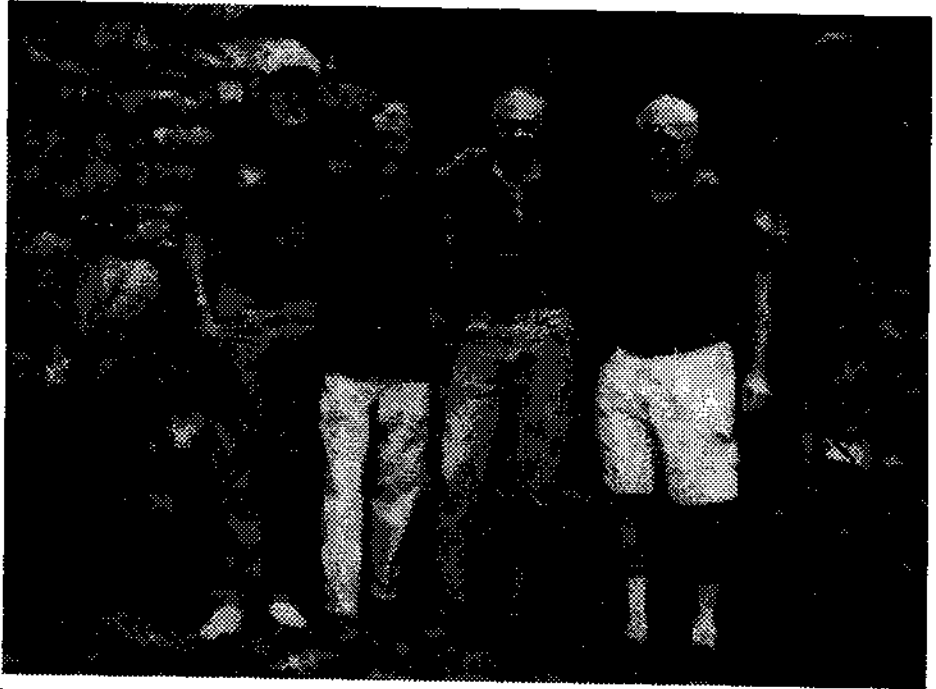
Early the next day we visited the old camp grounds. As most of you know Cherokee Village never did develop the old Kia Kima main camp itself. Walking through the old grounds now fills us with both nostalgia and sorrow. The ruins are still there and that takes us back in memory to the great summers that we all spent there. The camp in ruins though, sort of breaks our hearts and makes us realize how old we really are.

Later Wednesday we floated the Spring River. We put in at the dam and floated down to Many Islands. Ah, what memories names like that conjure up. Many Islands, Humphries ford, Slick Rock, Whitehorse Mountain, Raccoon Springs, Upper Falls, Miramechee, Kiwannee, Rio Vista and on and on and on. It was a great trip.

Thursday we took a trip down the South Fork. We put in at Saddle and floated down to Slick Rock. It was absolutely beautiful. Yes, the South Fork was low as you would expect in September but it was just great. No doubt the rivers and lakes of Canada have some beautiful scenery. And the rivers of the west have much more challenging white water. Let me tell you though, some of the rapids of the South Fork river are some of the most beautiful spots in the world.

Friday, we all said our good-byes and all promised to be back again the next year. And Lord willing, we will all be back again in 96. Buddy Keltner said that as he left, he waved to and left David Fleming standing all alone in the motel parking lot. David later told me that it was an lonesome feeling to be left out there by himself after everyone else had left. Guys, don't be left out in 96! Make plans now and come in 96. You won't be sorry.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE SOUTH FORK'S CALL?



Standing in front of the old Thunderbird Lodge ruins. Left to right Keltner, Gaither, Monteath and Riddick.



The old guys are headed for the river. Warn the girls down stream to run for their lives. Ha! Left to right Gaither, Monteath, Fleming, Keltner and Hurt

OKKPA? OKKPA? OKKPA?

OKKPA is the Old Kia Kima Preservation Association. As much as the acronym might suggest a Native American origin, it isn't. The name of this non profit organization originated with Roy Riddick. Its purpose evolved among a group of Boy Scouts, grown older and wiser (we think), who claimed their rites of passage as campers and staff members in and "...high above the South Fork's waters..." in the 1950's. As the name implies, OKKPA is an association of the individuals who desire to preserve the original. Kia Kima campsite of 16 cabins and the Thunderbird Nest (lodge) as a possible historical landmark.

In 1993 a small group of four former Kia Kima staffers (Perry Gaither, Gordon "Scotty" Monteath, John Ozier and I) gathered on the South Fork for a small 3-day reunion to test our canoeing skills and to rekindle the spirit of brotherhood we so deeply had come to appreciate as our paths took us to other realms. The reunion would have been incomplete without a visit to the old kamp. As we arrived on those sacred grounds an ominous black cloud appeared overhead, accompanied by an unseasonable chilling wind blowing the top limbs of the trees. The resulting goosebumps gave us a sense of presence of kindred spirits who had shared these sacred grounds with us. Then and there, with a few tears streaming down our faces, it was concluded that we should do something to preserve and sanctify the place where so many of us started our trek onto manhood.

The 1994 reunion included the arrival of John Hurt, Lofton "Buddy" Keltner, and Ralph Young. Talk focused on purchasing 5-7 acres of the old camp site, including the waterfront. Our thoughts ranged from restoring the cabins and the Thunderbird Nest to simply purchasing the property and having Mother Nature reclaim it in perpetuity. There was a strong

Flash!! News Bulletin!!

OKKPA ?? What is It??

consensus to do whatever was necessary to prevent its current use as a dumping site and to avoid commercialization similar to what had happened to Kamp Kiwani, complete with neon signs. The Girl Scouts of yesteryear still mourn what happened to their beloved Kamp Kiwani.

Roy Riddick joined us for the

"Once proudly stood our dear ole Kamp, as the years rolled by. Together we can make it proudly stand again."

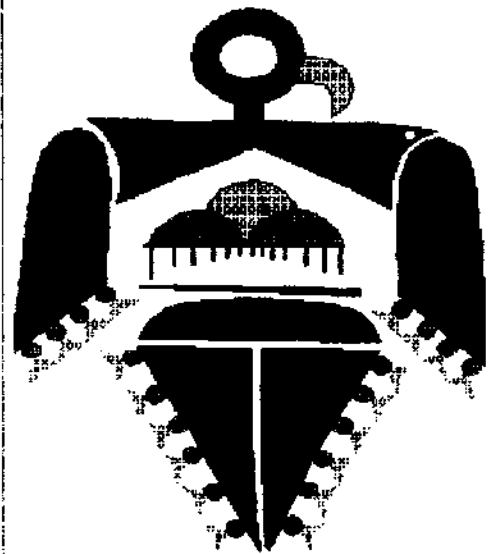
1995 reunion when our discussions and ideas of what to do began to jell. By the time we departed Hardy, we were focused on acquiring the land and pursuing a formal non-profit organization. Since then we renewed discussions with Harold Hirsch, real estate agent, and the property owner, Daggett. We are also working with Darlene Wilson, CPA, of Hardy and Sam Beller, Attorney, of Ash Flat to incorporate us as a non-profit organization. OKKPA now has a Federal Identification number. Several of the Brothers have already committed to donating startup funds to open a bank account and cover the cost of incorporating. More help is needed, but that is another subject for the near future.

In January 1996 the following officers and directors of OKKPA (also known as the Knights of the Kia Kima Round Table) were anointed, volunteered (willing or not).

President, Roy Riddick...Irvington, AL., V.President, Scotty Monteath...Woodbridge, VA., Secretary, David Fleming...Davis, CA., Treasurer, John Hurt... Memphis, TN.,

Directors: Perry Gaither... Macon, MS., Buddy Keltner... Memphis, TN., John Ozier... Baton Rouge, LA., Frank Simonton... Bartlett, TN., Charles Wilson**... Hardy, AR., Ralph Young... Hot Springs, AR., Others to be announced... **Charles is an old friend of Kia Kima and PiKA brother to some of us. He is Vice President of the First National Bank of Sharp County in Hardy where OKKPA is opening its banking account. His wife Darlene CPA, is our registered agent. Charles father (deceased) owned and operated Woody's Service station in Hardy.

Brothers of the South Fork, our past and our future are being connected. Your interest and support in these endeavors will be welcomed in the bonds and spirit of Kamp Kia Kima: "High above the South Fork's waters, reared against the sky..." Once proudly stood our dear ole Kamp, as the years rolled by. Together we can make it proudly stand again. WWW David Fleming*****



E-mail address correction.
gordon_monteath@cpqm.saic.com

1996 OKKPA Reunion Activities

Here it is July and our September reunion at "ye old Kia Kima quadrangle" will be soon upon us. Based upon some preliminary discussions, it appears as though there will be as many as 10 of us this year enjoying the comraderie, brotherhood, and experiences of reminiscing together for a few days after the Labor day holiday. Based upon the past three years, reunions, the weather should still be fairly warm, the crowds gone, and the sycamore leaves just beginning to turn and drop into the South Fork to be lazily steered downstream in the slow current toward Y falls. Besides all the fun of being together and challenging the rivers once again during our canoe trips, several projects seem in order, regardless whether we have any legal lease or possession of our beloved campground or not. Here are a couple of organizational related activities we should consider:

1. Since we are incorporating as a non-profit organization, our existence and many of our activities and objectives will be driven by our ability to add members, generate donations, and get the local community behind our purpose and goals. An initial thrust at doing this would be to have a cook-out, picnic, dinner, luncheon, etc. where we would invite some of the local community

"That tradition should become one of our hallmarks, cornerstones, and establish for us a time honored way to communicate to each"

VIPS, business leaders, and others (Daggett, John Cooper, Harold Hirsch, etc.) It wouldn't have to be a major effort and if we could get permission, maybe we could just have a few BBQ grills, some coolers, and some rented tables and other necessities and have it out in front of the T-Bird lodge. We wouldn't do any hard selling there, just acquainting the attendees with our pur-

pose and a view of what we would like to do. Organizing it would require not much more than getting some early invitations out, getting permission from Cherokee Village to do it and then purchasing the essentials once we got there.

2. Time, vandals, weather, and who knows what other phenomena have taken a toll on the rafter in cabin 7 where you painted your name in white acrylic paint back in 1957. Having visited each of the cabins the past three summer/falls it is apparent and highly desirable that we retain the history of those names and what they represent to the history of Kia Kima. If there is sufficient interest we could do something. Once again with permission from Cherokee Village, a good project which we could accomplish in a day or two would be for this year's attendees to divide into teams and one by one go through the remains of each cabin take pictures, record as many of the names, dates, and associated information as we possibly can (some of the pieces of roof and side structure are so weatherworn that it is difficult to read the names). Once we have inventoried all those names and dates, and cabin numbers, etc. into a database, we can publish the list and/or, perhaps as a later project, have a semi-permanent monument established at camp with the names and information visible for visitors.

3. The first few reunions have been exciting and so spiritually uplifting that it is difficult to put into words. You have heard of or joined us in our visits to Cedar Bluff, or canoe trips. One possible problem of our reunions however, has been that after labor day the options for dining out, in and around the area, become somewhat limited. Surely there are some gourmet experts among us who could volunteer to gin up an evening's meal that surpasses the MacDonalds/Western Sizzler. Let's have our own cookout or meal in that is a prelude to an evening of discussion, camp stories, jokes, and ghost stories.

4. Last year we were introduced to the Indian campfire tradition of the "talk

stick." As the stick was passed around the room each of the brothers present tried to describe their feelings and what the camp and Kia Kima meant to them, both from their lifetime perspective and from what we are now enjoying, the regeneration of friendships, and the initiation of friendships among us who shared the Kia Kima experience but perhaps at different times. That tradition should become one of our hallmarks, cornerstones, and establish for us a time honored way to communicate to each other what was given to us and what we can still give to each other. It is most certainly and energizing experience and one which we should schedule early in this years agenda, perhaps after our gourmet meal, cookout, or while we are gathered at Cedar Bluff at sunset, just before singing....."Softly falls the light of day as our campfire fades away.....".

5. Naturally the get-together will include a trip down either or both rivers. The South Fork trip, from saddle to Slick Rock takes a good 4-5 hours and we usually take coolers for lunch (we even sometimes bring bread for our sandwiches), and stop at one of the rapids along the way. The South Fork in that area by then is usually low, and we will likely have to walk some of the shallow rapids. Nevertheless, you need to experience the serenity of the river then to believe it.....hardly any other people on the river, the fall colors just starting, the fish still biting, and lots of wildlife still around, pretty stupendous!

The Spring River still gets its uumph from Mammoth /Springs and is cold and higher in the early fall. There are a lot of shelf rapids which will challenge your eye to find the "just the right spot" to get over without scraping too much. Either on one or both these trips or as a separate excursion to someplace like Upper Falls, we should have a good old fashioned "swim call." Buddies not required..... the water certainly isn't that deep. — Gordon "Scotty" Monteath