



Integrity Achievement Responsibility Courage

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Old Kia Kima Acquires Critical Acreage Including Our Old Dining Hall

We've really started 2007 out with a bang. Old Kia Kima has acquired 5+ acres in the heart of our camp from Cherokee Village Suburban Improvement District (SID). The five plus acres are of great strategic importance to us. So strategic, in fact, that you may not have realized that they were not part of the grant originally deeded to us by George and Boyce Billingsley when OKKPA was set up.

Each time you approach Old Kia Kima from the Griffin Rd. / Kolo Rd. angle, you pass the former Old Kia Kima Dining Hall on Kolo Rd. For all of the recent history of that building the signs on Kolo Rd. have referred to that building as the Village Playhouse, where a local theater group held plays for the community. Most, if not all of us, recognized that that building no longer belonged to OKK. What many may NOT have realized that the Old Dining Hall was surrounded by 5.6 acres extending down into the heart of our camp. We didn't own those 5.6 acres either.

Whenever you walked uphill from the Rat's Nest toward the old dining hall, you almost immediately

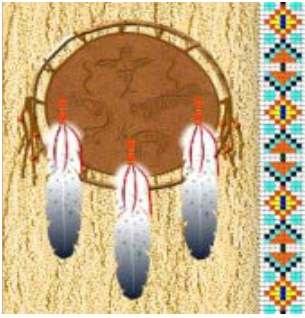
crossed over from OKKPA land to SID land. A constant source of concern since we reopened the camp was that someday SID would sell that land to some sort of unattractive neighbor and we would have a health spa or nudist colony right in the middle of our camp.

Well now we do not have anything to worry about as we now own the key acreage and the old dining hall. To make this deal happen, we have swapped approximately 12 acres on the other side of Kolo Rd which was of very little practical use to use, for the SID parcel.

Our negotiating team of David Logan, Rick Phillips and Boyd Billingsley negotiated for almost a year to work out a deal which we believe to be a great one for both OKK and SID. Nearby in this Smoke Signal is an article on the building and upcoming plans for the Spring Work Weekend.

Way to go to our "Westward Expansion Team". It is our manifest destiny!!





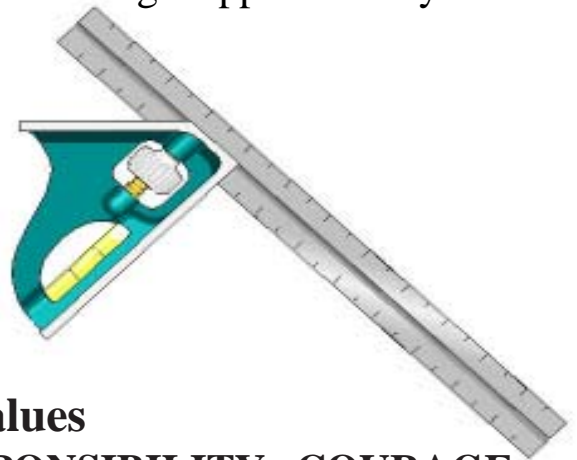
Spring Fun Weekend to Focus on Newly Acquired Land and Buildings

As is announced in a related article, we have acquired new acreage to use for future camp expansion. Also, we have an old friend thrown into the deal. We've got our old dining hall back. Also included are the cook's quarters building where Annie, Dora, and Beulah lived during OKK summers. The three ladies were cooks from the Memphis Public School system who came to camp every summer to feed the thousands of hungry Scouts who roamed the hills. No one ever accused the food at "Main Camp" of being anything but delicious. Remember those moist dinner rolls 'to die for'? Remember government surplus roast beef in such abundance?

The strategy behind this acquisition of property and buildings was to protect ourselves from the possibility of getting a

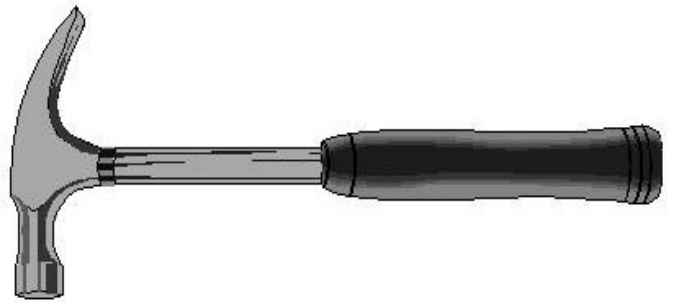
noisy or otherwise unattractive neighbor in the event that SID (Cherokee Village Suburban Improvement District) ever sold or otherwise disposed of that piece of land in the heart of today's camp. For a number of reasons it would have been difficult for SID to outright sell their property to us. So a 'land swap' was worked out for the benefit of all.

There is not a firm utilization plan for the new land and buildings yet, but this will be an important discussion going on among the members and the board over the next several years. The dining hall has changed much since we remember it. The basic steel building on a concrete slab is still there, but the screened windows have been closed in and large 1 ½ story steel structure has been added on the west end. So the building is approximately twice as



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large as it was when Chickasaw Council swapped OKK for KKS.R.

Our Spring Fun Weekend is scheduled for April 20 (Friday) to April 22 (Sunday.) Besides having a whole lot of fun, we're going to go over and check out the old dining hall and begin getting it into descent shape. It's not in bad shape right now, but it has been closed up for sometime, since the Village Players haven't used it in several years. No doubt we will have some clean up projects to do. After we've all had a good look at it, we'll have some evening sessions on what you all think it might be best used for.

No, it is not going to be turned into the Old Kia Kima Bowling Alley.

Mark your calendar. We'll see you in April,



**Bring Your Tools
and Work Clothes
for a FUN**

Camp

Clean-up

Fix-up

Paint-up

Weekend

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The Latest Changes at Old Kia Kima

The next time you arrive at Old Kia Kima you will notice several changes since last fall's reunion. The Board of Directors approved several new projects. The restoration of the old camp infirmary, the construction of an auxiliary restroom between the dining pavilion and the camp office, and the purchase of a gasoline powered golf cart.

Bobby Harriss was kind enough to forward these photos taken in

December of Bob Williams construction.

The auxiliary restroom will make access easier and more convenient without having to go to the bottom of the hill. This has been designed to have more room with easier access.

The old camp infirmary was simply a useless shell consisting of only the floor and walls. It will now be better than ever and also will be very



Auxiliary Restroom located on the north side of the dining pavilion

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useful. The entrance will be from the Thunderbird Lodge. The old porch on the river side now has a new wooden deck with rails. The view of the river and the old waterfront is spectacular. The old hospital will also have a hot water shower and restroom. It can serve as quarters for the temporary rangers during their stay in camp.

Both the auxiliary restroom and hospital restoration have been fully funded and will be ready for use during this year's camping season.

The last project approved by the board during the fall meeting was to

accept donations for the purchase of a gasoline powered golf cart that can be used by members during the year. This will make access to remote areas, such as the campfire circle, easier for some of our members. Unfortunately this project has not yet been fully funded. Donations for this project will gladly be accepted until enough funds are available.



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