



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

January 12, 1993

Jeannette Armstrong
En'owkin Centre
257 Bruswick Street
Penticion, B. C. V2A 5P9

Dear Jeannette:

Thank you for sending along the packet of material. I enjoyed reading about your work.

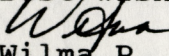
I now have enough material to proceed with the task for which I requested background material. It would be very helpful to me if you would provide me with three people who could serve as strong references for you. People who would actually take the time to respond to an inquiry for a reference. I need their names and addresses as soon as you can get them together.

As for me, I have finally began to level off after the June, 1990 transplant surgery. For the first year I was on an extremely high dosage of immunosuppressants and steroids, then gradually over the last year and a half they have been reduced to a maintenance level which has allowed me to reconnect with myself. It has been a tough time for me physically and personally.

I have mostly been working on major infrastructural kinds of things since I last saw you - building clinics, etc. This wasn't a time period where I could do anything that would require a great deal of new thinking or planning so I have used it to aggressively develop infrastructure. Lately I have been thinking about developing "Saturday universities" in our communities where Cherokee families can come to learn more about history, culture, share stories and so on. I have come to the absolute conclusion that as long as we do not control the educational systems we cannot control our future. Given the fact that we are so large and stratified that we will not be able to control all aspects of our education. I am looking for alternatives, thus the Saturday university idea. Charlie continues to work with the youth in rural communities and both of us are discussing building a 10-12 bed retreat and conference center where we can do training and organizing when our almost 50 year old bodies wear out from our current work.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes.


Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief