



July, 1994

Dear Wilma,

For not really knowing one another, our paths have crossed many times. Of course, our first encounter was my job interview with the Cherokee Nation. There were so many mountains I had not climbed that it was a good thing Dr. Noley was given the nod.

Our next chance meeting was at the Native American Preparatory School graduation ceremony in Las Cruces. I had been invited to evaluate the program and you were the Guest Speaker. Next came your selection as Woman of the Year and my sojourn in Cambridge as the Director of the American Indian Program at Harvard. I accept a position as Indian Education Specialist, Office of Indian Education Programs, Dept. of Interior, and who speaks to the BIA in Washington, DC? I attend a Smithsonian function at the invitation of Herman Viola and who knocks a standing room only crowd dead in their tracks...Wilma. I received a grant from the Ford Foundation and who now sets on their Board...you guessed it. For two Cherokee women, we really get around. I am going to present a paper on Indian Religion and one on the Lost Cultural Property Rights of American Indians at the World Archeological Congress in New Delhi, India, this December. Are you a member of WAC??? Just kidding about your showing up in India...

This has certainly been a long winded introduction to the point I want to make. The Chickasaw Nation is hosting the Sixth Annual Leadership Conference of Female Principal Chiefs in Sulphur from September 28 to October 2. Barbara Mitchell and Mary Cooksey represented the Cherokee Nation admirably last year in Navajo country and will do so again this year I understand (very good). The Heart of the Indian Women's Network which I established (one of my better accomplishments) would like to honor you along with Mildred Cleghorn at this gathering on Friday evening, September 30, at the Art Show and reception. You have the accolades of a nation and have received more honors than shelves in your dwelling but we would like to add to your collection if you would be on hand to receive our modest thank you for a job well done.

You can let me know or the Chickasaw Nation (Doretta Sellars, conference coordinator).

In friendship,

*Bette*

Bette