

March 13, 1994, Tucson

Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma,
PO Box 948,
Tahlequah, Oklahoma, 74465

Dear Wilma,

Trust this finds you well. I have completed my biography on you for Paramount, and they paid me! By now you are probably posing for pictures for their artist. Anyhow, this is not about Paramount, but about "Voices From The Earth," the volume of contemporary interviews that I am co-authoring with Lois Hogle of Palo Alto.

The questions are designed for the purpose of having less interference from the questioner and offering more opportunity for the interviewee to expand in spiritual/emotional directions. Caring for earth, protecting the ecology, and offering solutions to the near disaster that we are living with and within, are the heart of the matter. The voice from the native people addressing these critical areas is the goal of the entire project.

Lois Hogle is arriving in Tucson today and we will be discussing the book to great lengths with both the Editor of Sun Tracks, Dr. Ofelia Zepeda (Tohona 'O'Odham) and the editor of the University of Arizona Press, JoAnn O'hare. Simon Ortiz, the poet from Acoma, has asked if he could write an introduction or a foreword for the volume.

I got overwhelmed with studying here, preparing my Master's Paper for publication, conferences in California, writing other biographies, submitting materials to anthologies for publication, taking care of my twins, creating an international Native American Film Festival here at this university, preparing my materials for teaching this summer (at the UofA), and attempting to maintain a 3.98 GPA. These questions should have been to you long ago.

But, you now have a better idea of our imminent (and timely) publication. If you would like, we could arrange for a telephone interview, or you can simply talk into a tape recorder and send me the tape and I will transcribe it. If your secretary has time to type the materials out, that will be fine. Just know that we are at the point of seeking readers for the manuscript, so, please hurry, but hurry carefully.

Darryl Babe Wilson
249 E. Drachman, Tucson, Arizona 87505, (602) 624-0791