



CHEROKEE NATION

P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
(918) 456-0671

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

April 13, 1994

Mr. Tom Bias
6 Hickory Tree Lane
Sparta, NJ 07871

Dear Tom:

Thanks for sending along a copy of your review of my book. Thank you for taking the time to do such a thorough and positive review. I enjoyed reading about your family history as well.

The format of the book is an authentic Native American form of Native American autobiography - that is a personal story told within the context of the tribe and its history. Perhaps you know that when Geronimo was asked to work with a writer to tell his life story, his response reportedly "first let me tell you about my people."

Thanks for your offer to do an article on the Cherokee Nation. I would suggest waiting until next spring. There are a number of requests for interviews, stories, etc. that have been pending for sometime.

With regard to your question about the transition from a Bay area activist to a leader is a very conservative government, it was easy. For me, more important than ideology or abstract politics was creating community based change - getting health care, children's services, housing and so on to people. I went from being a purest (no federal funds, etc.) to a master of garnering federal support for everything from rural water lines to a youth shelter.

The Cherokee Nation is not now involved in publishing but may be in the future. And, about Bill Wahpepah - I would imagine that the fellow you knew was related to Bill. Their family home is near Shawnee.

It was good to hear from you. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wilma P. Mankiller".
Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief