



## 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."

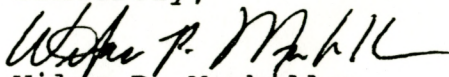
Thanks for your offer to do an article on the Cherokee Nation. I would suggest waiting until next spring. There are a number of requests for interviews, stories, etc. that have been pending for sometime.

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,

  
Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief