



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

April 13, 1994

Ms. Donna Jones Stapp
2822 Regal Avenue
Redding, CA 96002

Dear Donna:

I apologize for the lengthy delay in responding to your letter. I put it aside for a personal response and forgot about it!!

Of course I remember Beverly. She was a wonderful woman, always willing to stand up for the rights of the Pit River people.

I am very much aware of the problem of so many people claiming Cherokee ancestry without any documentation or even historical information. Even more serious, some claim to be medicine men and charge enormous fees for so-called "secret Cherokee ceremonies." This is a problem in all tribes but more so in our tribe. I guess everyone wants to be Cherokee.

For association with Cherokees who are actually enrolled in the Cherokee Nation you might want to get in touch with Jim Crouch of the California Indian Rural Health Board or Clay Ballard at University of California at Davis.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief