

meeting and one of their jobs was to define an Indian for minority hiring preference. One of the department heads was a member of Cherokees of California, Inc and he convinced the rest of the department heads that this was a legitimate Indian verification and he went on to recite Cherokee history and how he was a member of some clan and on and on. He told how his grandparents were on the Trail of Tears, never mind that he was about my age and no way, could his grandparents be alive in 1838-39. After the meeting, I met with him and shared my concerns about telling erroneous history. I felt bad for him, because he was just telling what he had been told. What was the saddest was that he had been hired as an Indian and he was concerned that he didn't have any Cherokee verification and he was concerned that Cal-Trans was going to require actual documentation and of course, he didn't have any. He was born in Calif and his parents came from Iowa, and he had been told that he was Cherokee and he had joined Cherokees of Ca, Inc and they had given him a card and he had used that to get a minority preference during hiring practices. He has been with Cal-Trans for over 20 years. I told him that I didn't think he should worry, obviously he had been doing a good job if he had been employed by them for 20 years, but, I did advise him to start reading some books and quit telling erroneous history. That is just one example.

I don't have any solutions, except establishing a legitimate Cherokee satellite located in California to help Cherokee people obtain their Cherokee verification and have the satellite become a resource center for serious Cherokee people that want to document their heritage. I know in my heart that a lot of people that live here are really Cherokees, but they don't have one idea of how to prove that. I can envision a part of the LIFE Center providing that satellite, but we would need resources provided by the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

At this time, I am employed by the Redding Rancheria Indian Health Clinic as a pharmacy technician and I think we provide good services. There are about 6 clinics in California that provide direct care using an in-house pharmacy. All of the other clinics still use CHS funds for medicines and that is costly and does not provide the best care.

Please write back and let me know what you can do to help implement a Cherokee Resource Center in California and I want to thank you again for the fine book that you wrote.

Before I close, I need to tell you some sad news. On Feb. 10, Beverly LeBeau passed away. I don't know for sure if you remember her, but she was very involved with the Pitt River confrontation at Burney. She did so much for her people and other Indians as well. She will be missed very much. On Thursday, Feb 17, I attended her funeral at the Pitt River Health Clinic and there were many people there. It was an Indian funeral and I know that Beverly would have appreciated it so much. The weather was awful, cold, snow, and rain. She was buried on the Sam Wolfen allotment, next to her mother and a young daughter that had died previous. I already miss her, she was a fine person.

Sincerely,

Donna Jones Stapp
Donna Jones Stapp

2822 Regal Ave
Redding, Ca 96002

916- 222- 5402

Cherokee Registry # 00099677