

## **Osage Nation 25-Year Visioning Session**

December 6, 2006

Minerals Council

### **A 200-Year History of the Osage Nation**

The group began by offering that much had happened prior to 1806 including the "Lewis & Clark French Connection." In 1806, two facts were revealed: 1) there were 4009 full blood or historic Osages (hand counted) and 2) the United States government was negotiating with the Tribe for strategic military positions in the region. Militarily active Osages were already in Oklahoma and many battles were discussed including those with the Cherokee and Kiowa throughout this period. Then, in 1830, the Removal Act was passed. Prior to this time, the Osage had maintained one sole, spiritual government.

In 1831, the Osage left their Missouri homeland. In 1833 they staged an attack on the Kiowa to draw U.S. military attention away from the Cherokees. Due to the Osage/Cherokee conflicts, in 1834, the U.S. established a strong presence at Ft. Gibson. In 1845, Black Dog negotiated with the U.S. government at Ft. Washitaw, as battles for territory continued. In 1860 there was a Kansas Railroad on Osage land, and by 1870, Osages had left not only Missouri, but Kansas and Arkansas as well. This entire period saw an enormous loss in numbers, with members down to around only 900 when the U.S. finally stopped hostilities and the Osage Tribe bought reservation land from the Cherokees.

The first Constitution was in 1881. In 1887, the Dawes Act was passed and later the Curtis Act, both of which were detrimental to Indians. These were among the attempts to turn Indians into farmers & take away sovereignty. The final removal of Osages into Oklahoma happened in the 1890s with the Kansas/Nebraska Indian Removal Act. 1890 was the first oil lease.

During the first half of the 1900s, Louis Bighorse was Assistant Chief. In 1906 the Osage Allotment Act was passed that allowed a special, larger allotment of surface land to Osage shareholders. It also established the Minerals Estate where minerals were held in Trust. In 1907 Osages allowed Oklahoma to become a state. Councilman Robert Martin counts November 16, 1907 as an important date. Early in the 1900s, (unsure of the date), the earlier 1881 Constitution was terminated.

During World War I, The Osage Nation gave the Naval Reserve in Fairfax to the United States. In 1916, Andrew Bighorse was elected to the Tribal Council. In 1921 the Osage restricted status with the U.S. was removed. 1922 saw the beginning of murders on the Osage Reservation as people vied for the oil money. It was also in the early 1920s that the Osage baseball team beat the NY Giants. In 1923 Osages were given U.S. citizenship. And in 1929, Osage oil peaked and production began to go down. At this point, the population tripled (somewhat bogus) as more people became landowners & share holders of the trust. However, after 1907 new full-bloods could not get on rolls. Thus, to this day, there is confusion over who is Osage.

1931 marked the Tribe having lived past the first 25 years from 1906. The Tribe named Osage members during 1906 and 1907. Chief John Oberly was a key player in 1931. 1946 brought

Councilman John Henry Mashunkashey into the minerals trust. In 1949, there was a secondary recovery of oil which peaked again in 1956. Councilwoman Kathryn Red Corn Lynn counts her association with the minerals trust from 1949 and Councilwoman Cynthia Boone from 1951. During this time, Osages were educated, meshed into society, and many moved off reservation. The Tribe had become rich beyond belief. However, this brought on problems of alcoholism and many other issues.

In 1956 the Tribe managed to avoid termination of their status with the Federal government. In 1964, Councilman Kenny Bighorse became associated with the Trust and Councilman Talee Redcorn (5 years old) in 1970. In 1978 the 1906 Act was amended, clarifying that shareholders could not will headrights to a non-Indian. Also in 1978, restrictions were reestablished. 1983 saw the Minerals Trust approved into perpetuity. Councilwoman Jewell Purcell became associated with the Trust in 1988. In 1994, a new Constitution was formed and disbanded soon after.

Today, Osages are returning to the reservation and getting involved. Council members see I-Lon-shka having played a key role, creating an opportunity for "reclaiming our culture." In 2006 a new Constitution passed. At this point, all Council members were elected to the newly formed Mineral Council. Council members are solid behind "keeping our trust intact" and maintaining the Mineral Estate. Members claimed their version of the history as **A Tribe of Headrights** (having seen the highest payout in 1980).

### **A 25-Year Vision for the Osage Nation**

The Osage Nation Tribal Minerals Council envisioned the future in five major areas:

1. A Strong Presence of Osage People
2. Education for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness
3. Rigorous Use of Resources (Research and Development, and Management)
4. Mineral Trust Still Intact
5. Individual Property Rights Maintained

The Minerals Council sees many things that point to **A Strong Presence of Osage People**. It requires being culturally sound by the time today's grandchildren become the leaders of the Tribe. People power will be strong, with the Tribe having its own U.S. Senators and U.S. Congressmen, though a smaller Osage government after having resolved the operation of the new government. The social side might again see an Osage football team and an Osage-owned nursing home.

The future will include leaders who speak Osage fluently, younger Osage who are knowledgeable of history such as the 1906 Act for Osage people because education will be available for all Osage with more Tribal members becoming highly educated, perhaps in the Tribal University. By 2032, the Osage language will be taught in public schools and the Tribe will be operating under a 25-year education plan for culture, thus ensuring **Education for Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness**.

By the year 2032, the Tribe will be making **Rigorous Use of Resources (Research and Development and Management)**. This will include such diverse particulars as an Osage Military, the introduction of new recovery methods, and higher Royalty interest and bonuses.

Naturally, the Minerals Council sees the **Mineral Trust Still Intact**. The trust will continue to provide wealth to Tribe in all forms: gas, water, oil, etc. Within the next 25 years, individual Tribal members, or the Osage Nation will own 100% of surface land within Osage, giving the Tribe a larger land base. With the new recovery methods, oil will still be abundant with minerals running at a quality rate.

Finally, there will be strong ownership of Trust assets, with the Osage operating their own mineral estate and more Osage property owners utilizing their assets for their own benefit, thus insuring that **Individual Property Rights are Maintained**.

Original Brainstorm Data

Osage Nation 200-Year History

← 1806	1831-	1856-	1881-	1906-	1931-	1956-	1981-	2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lewis &amp; Clark French Connection</li> <li>• 1806 - U.S. &amp; Osages in negotiation for military purposes</li> <li>• 1806 - 4009 full blood or historic Osages</li> <li>• 1807 - Osages in Oklahoma - militarily active (battles w/Cherokees)</li> <li>• 1830 - Removal Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1831 - Left Missouri</li> <li>• 1833 - Kiowa Attack to draw US Military from Cherokees</li> <li>• 1834 - US establishes strong presence at Ft. Gibson</li> <li>• 1845 - Black Dog negotiated with US Government at Ft. Washitaw</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1860 - Kansas Railroad on Osage Land</li> <li>• 1870 - Left Missouri, Kansas &amp; Arkansas</li> <li>• 1870's - maintained reservation - US stops hostilities</li> <li>• 1872 - 900 MO/KS Osages arrived</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1881 - Constitution on</li> <li>• 1887 Dawes Act-Curtis Act</li> <li>• 1870's purchase of Osage reservation</li> <li>• 1890's KS/NE Indian Removal Act</li> <li>• 1890 - 1st Oil Lease</li> <li>• 1900 - First Half Bighorse Assistant Chief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1906 - Act - special-larger allotment of surface</li> <li>• Minerals Held in Trust</li> <li>• 1907 - Osages allowed OK to become a state</li> <li>• Nov 16, 1907 - Martin Robert</li> <li>• Constitution terminated (? when)</li> <li>• WWI Gave Naval reserve in Fairfax to US</li> <li>• 1916 - Andrew Bighorse - Tribal Council</li> <li>• 1921 - Restricted status - US removed</li> <li>• 1922 - Murders in Osage Reservation</li> <li>• Early 1920's Osage baseball team beats NY Giants</li> <li>• 1923 Osages Given Citizenship</li> <li>• 1929 - Osage Oil Peaked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1931 - Lived past 25 years from 1906. Named Osage members 1906 &amp; 1907.</li> <li>• 1931 - Chief John Oberly</li> <li>• 1946 - John Henry</li> <li>• 1949 - Secondary Recovery and Peaked (1956)</li> <li>• 1949 - Kathryn Red Corn Lynn</li> <li>• 1951 - Cynthia Boone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1956 - managed to avoid termination</li> <li>• 1964 - Kenny Bighorse</li> <li>• 1970 - Talee Red Corn (5 years old)</li> <li>• 1978 - 1906 Act Amended</li> <li>• 1978 - Cannot will land headrights to a non-Indian</li> <li>• 1978 - Restrictions reestablished</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1983 - Minerals Trust approved into perpetuity</li> <li>• 1988 - Jewell</li> <li>• 1994 - Constitution and disbanded soon after</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 - Constitution</li> <li>• Keeping our trust intact</li> <li>• Maintain Mineral Estate</li> <li>• 2006 - John Henry</li> <li>• 2006 - Robert Martin</li> </ul>

### Osage Nation 200-Year History – The Key Events and Shifts

Early 1800s	1831-	1856-	1881-	1906-	1931	1956-	1981-	2006
One Sole Spiritual Osage Government	Battling for territory	Major loss in number 1806-1870	Attempts to turn Indians into farmers & take away sovereignty	Population tripled (somewhat bogus) became landowners & share holders of trust After 1907 new full-bloods could not get on rolls Confusion over who is Osage	Osages were educated, meshed into society, moved off reservation Rich beyond belief - alcoholism - other issues		Osages are returning & getting involved - I-Lon-shka played a key role  Reclaiming our Culture	
<b>A Tribe of Headrights (Highest Payout in 1980)</b>								

## Osage Nation 25-Year Vision

<b>A</b> <b>Strong Presence of Osage People</b>	<b>Education for Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness</b>	<b>Rigorous Use of Resources (Research &amp; Development and Management)</b>	<b>Mineral Trust Still Intact</b>	<b>Individual Property Rights are Maintained</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Culturally Sound</li> <li>▪ Osage Football Team</li> <li>▪ Our Grandchildren will be the Leaders</li> <li>▪ Resolution of Operation of New Government</li> <li>▪ We own our own Nursing Home</li> <li>▪ Smaller Osage Government</li> <li>▪ We have our own US Senators and US Congressmen</li> <li>▪ People Power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our Leaders Speak Osage Fluently</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Younger Osage become knowledgeable of 1906 Act for Osage People</li> <li>▪ Education for all Osage</li> <li>▪ More Osages are Highly Educated</li> <li>▪ Osage Language taught in public schools</li> <li>▪ 25 Year Education Plan for Culture</li> <li>▪ Tribal University</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Osage Military</li> <li>▪ Higher Royalty interest and bonuses</li> <li>▪ Have introduced new recovery methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mineral Trust – Continued to provide all wealth to Tribe in all forms: gas, water, oil, etc.</li> <li>▪ Settle Lawsuit</li> <li>▪ Minerals Trust still intact</li> <li>▪ Mineral Estate still intact</li> <li>▪ We (individuals and Tribe) own 100% of surface land within Osage</li> <li>▪ Oil is still abundant</li> <li>▪ Minerals running as quality rate</li> <li>▪ Mineral Estate preserved</li> <li>▪ Solid 1906 Mineral Trust</li> <li>▪ We have a larger Land Base</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong Ownership of Trust Assets</li> <li>▪ Osage Operate their own mineral estate</li> <li>▪ More Osage property owners utilizing their assets for their own benefit</li> </ul>