

Play About Jim Thorpe Case

From Page 1

and cultural property rights, Native arts, and works to eradicate sports teams' use of Native names and images as mascots.

She is also a writer, poet, and columnist for Indian Country Today. In 2004 she stated in her online post in an article titled *Stealing Bodies, Stealing History*, "The main policy achievement of the repatriation laws is the recognition that Native Americans are human beings and no longer archaeological resources."

Nagle is an attorney as well as a playwright. She worked on the Baby Veronica case and wrote a play about the Violence Against Women Act which was presented at the 2013 National Congress of American Indians in Tulsa. She has written many plays and won recognition as a playwright. One play in particular is *Waaxe's Law* about the trial of Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca Tribe, for whom she is now an honorary tribal member. *Waaxe's Law* has been performed at the

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, United States District Court in Nebraska, Creighton Law School in Omaha, the annual Chief Standing Bear celebration in Lincoln, the Great Plains Theater Conference, and the Ponca Pow Wow.

She saw a similarity between the case of Chief Standing Bear, who went to court for the right to be recognized as a human being and to bury his son in his homelands, and that of Jim Thorpe, whose sons fight to bury their father in tribal ground.

The theater made a good venue for telling this story. "I have a strong background in theater," said Harjo, "and Mary as been writing and staging plays recently. It was a natural."

Nagle said, "It was Suzan's idea to shape this story into a play, and to me it immediately made sense. Suzan has been using theater for social change for decades, and I think it is one of the more powerful tools we have for making sure Native voices

are heard in this country."

She commented through plays and performances by Native people about Native issues, Native people can "take back the storytelling tradition. Whatever this play becomes, we want it to be a tool to educate the American public."

Included in the story of the Jim Thorpe case is the removal of his body during his traditional funeral ceremonies, a story little known until the case went to court.

"The lawsuit was how I first heard about this story. I could NOT believe I had never heard this story before," said Nagle. "But then again, I could believe it. So many of our stories have been silenced-- but this one is important. Very important."

"The more I learn, the more disgusted and appalled I become about the lack of respect for Jim Thorpe, his extended family and tribal traditions," said Harjo. "The basic lack of respect and decency on the part of the town is stunning."

They hope the play will teach "something about respect and that Jim Thorpe and his people have a humanity the townsfolk seem to have missed thus far," Harjo said.

Nagle commented, "I think Jack Thorpe said it best when he said: 'Some things are not for sale.' Everywhere you look in the United States now, you see examples of non-Natives thinking they can 'buy' Native identity, land, culture, and even our bodies. I hope this play will help educate the American public that Native identity, lands, cul-

ture, and bodies are 'not for sale.'"

In the Sauk tradition, telling a story has kept alive the tribal identity and customs. From the sacred stories that could be told only by certain persons and only in winter to the stories told by mothers to their children, stories kept a culture alive.

Attorneys, activists, playwrights, journalists, lecturers, tribal leaders, and tribal representatives are the modern day storytellers. The nucleus of the story about the Jim Thorpe case is that his sons want to honor their father's wishes for a Sac and Fox funeral and burial, but the story being revealed is one that contributes to the larger stories that become the foundations of the laws that recognize tribes' rights to think for themselves.

"I am glad to have a part in educating more people about this terrible situation," said Harjo. "I hope that, once edified, the fair-minded people will join in the effort for the outcome we all desire."

Nagle said, "No tribe should have to sue to have one of its members returned to its cemetery, nor should sons have to ask that a court return the body of their father so he can be buried with their family. I really admire Chief Jack Thorpe and his brothers Richard and Bill-- as well as all of the members of the Sac and Fox Nation who have supported this lawsuit. Bringing a lawsuit like this is a very difficult and challenging task, but by doing so, you all are securing the rights of all Native Americans in the United States."

Chief's Address to the Nation

From Page 1

believe that NCAI is in a unique position to address the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on the positions the Nation has taken in the case, and that it's filing an amicus brief would be extremely helpful. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

George Thurman,
Principal Chief
Sac and Fox Nation

GT/
cc:

Matthew Campbell,
Staff Attorney,
Native American Rights Fund
Sandra Kaye Massey, Director, Historic Preservation Department, Sac and Fox Nation
Stephen R. Ward, Esq.

Steve Ward commented, "The Sac and Fox Nation is to be congratulated for sponsoring this litigation, which not only is the right thing to do but which is also making a contribution to the law under NAGPRA on the benefit of all Indian people and tribes. The Nation's NAGPRA program is a leader nationally in an area that is very important to tribes and American Indians. I would like to thank Bill and Richard Thorpe and Sandra Massey for their dedication to this case and for their hard work. They have been actively involved and have assisted us at every step, and this has made a difference and it has helped make this ruling possible."

Our Business Committee has been interviewing for the new position(s) of Chief Financial Officer and Economic Development Director and I will have some news on these positions in next month's article. The Policy Analyst position is being advertised at this time and I believe that we will have this position filled soon.

State News

Negotiations on our Tobacco Compact with the State of Oklahoma.

We have received good news regarding the Tobacco Compact. The state has accepted nearly all the changes that Nation has requested. The Governor's office has requested a few final changes which are outlined below:

(1) The Effective Date in both the Introduction and Paragraph 23 have been changed to January 1 (they originally had September and the Nation requested March)—for ease of administration, the State strongly prefers everything to run on a calendar year; in considering this request, the Business Committee has considered the following factors:

a. We did get the language that allows the Retailers to sell all inventory in their possession when the new Compact takes effect to lessen the impact on them and protect them during the early transition months.

b. The Nation has an economic incentive to implement new Compact—the Nation actually negotiated the state into a lesser percentage than the current State tax burden for the first 4 years. The current State tax burden on tobacco within the Nation is about 50% of the State tax rate. Under the proposal we have negotiated, the State's burden will go to 35% for the first 2 years and 45% for years 3 and 4 and then return to 50% for remainder of the time. The Nation is free to use this

difference as the Nation sees fit.

The Governor's office informed our attorney, John Williams, that no Tribe requested as many changes as the Nation, but also that they were very impressed by the thoughtfulness of the Nation's comments and were actually very much in favor of several of the concepts the Nation put forward.

National News

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 70th Annual Convention and Marketplace.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) held its 70th Annual Convention and Marketplace in Tulsa, OK on October 13-18.

This was an election year for NCAI. The entire NCAI membership elects the Executive Committee: the President, First Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Each respective region elects the twelve Regional Vice Presidents. Each officer is a member of the NCAI board and serves a two-year term to begin Friday, October 18, 2013.

President: Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

First Vice President: Michael Finley, Chairman, Colville Tribes

Recording Secretary: Robert Shepard, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Treasurer: Dennis Welsh, Jr., Tribal Council Member, Colorado River Indian Tribes

Southern Plains Area Vice-President: Steven Smith, Kiowa Committeeman

Alternate: Elaine Huch, Kaw Tribal Council Secretary

Two-term President Jefferson Keel stepped down Friday, October 18th. President Keel honored NCAI with his leadership, elevated the role of the organization, and served tribal nations well. He remains a valued and respected leader within NCAI and throughout Indian Country.

Our Sac & Fox Nation was well represented throughout the event by Second Chief Orvena Gregory, Treasurer Jared King, and Committeemember Stella Nulake, the Juvenile Detention Center, who had a booth, as well as the tribal members who participated in Cultural Night: Singers Forrest Walker, Jeff Wilson, J. Paul Wilson, Mason Williamson, Joshua Williamson, Robert Williamson, and R. Sam Spang; Men dancers performing the Pipe dance: Russell Saunders and Bryce Bailey; Women dancers performing the Swan dance: Meagan Lucero, Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Princess, Regan Hill, Sac and Fox Honor Guard Princess, Muriel Patterson, Linda Standing, Cheryl McClellan, Ursula Hill, and Shayla Miller. Tribal member Jerri McClellan organized our participation.

Short Takes

* Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) Council has been scheduled for November 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Activity Center (Gymnasium).

* I will be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference in November.

I thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving as Chief of our great Sac and Fox Nation. May God Bless.

Sincerely,
George Thurman, Principal Chief

NOTICE

Merle Boyd Center Exercise Facility
Will be Open
Mondays Thru Thursdays Until 6:00 p.m.
Must have referral from
Black Hawk Health Center to use exercise room

Beginning level Sauk language classes

will begin November 4th

Classes will be on Mondays and Wednesdays
4:45 - 6:00 in the classroom
at the Cultural Center.

Potluck or refreshments

Hope to see you there!

Sac and Fox Elders Advisory Committee

Annual Winter Dance

& Big Ticket Raffle

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Sac & Fox Reservation
5.5 miles south of Stroud
2:00 p.m. till ????

Head Staff

Head Gourd Dancer	Greg Morris
Head Man Dancer	Henry Hunter
Head Lady Dancer	Dorothy "Dottie" Tigere
Head Singer	Scott George
MC	Francis Grant

Raffle Items

Work Chair	\$50 Gift Card	\$100 CASH
\$25 Cash	\$25 Cash	Hot Plate
Electric Grill	\$25 Cash	\$50 CASH
\$50 Cash	Ceramic Bowl	Rod & Reel
\$25 Cash	\$25 CASH	Large Pottery
Pendleton	Beverage Disp.	\$50 Cash
\$100 CASH	Camp Set	Canister Set
\$50 Cash	70" Vizio Flat Screen TV	

Not Responsible for Theft or Accident