

Assistant Editor Sought:

The Cherokee Talking Leaves Newspaper is seeking an assistant editor to join the staff. Such a person should have good writing and computer skills and a desire to serve the Tribe in the capacity of communicating the activities of the various parts of the organization as well as educating members regarding the history of our people, the culture and the spirituality. As a far flung tribe, it is essential that some tool of communication continue and be enhanced by good editorial management. We must strive to keep all bands and individual members well informed of the status of the tribe as well as the activities of the various bands and the historical background of our people. If any reader of Talking Leaves has an interest and feels a calling to help out in this regard please notify Rick Runningbear by mail or e-mail.

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The Dance Ground

By Lee Uwoyeni Billingsley

These are Cherokee words involving dancing. Notice how the prefixes & suffixes change to affect the meaning of each word.

Dance! ha-l-s-gi! (hahlskee!)

A Dancer a-l-s-gi-s-gi (ahll skee skee)

A dance u-l-s-gi-s-di (ool skee stee)

I am dancing ga-l-s-gi-ha (gahl skee hah)

The word for dance ground however is a little longer:

u-na-l-s-gi-s-di-yu ga-ti-yo ni-ga-di-yo
(oo-nahl-skee-stee-yoo gah-tee-yo
nee-gah-dee-yo)

and it translates to mean something like 'the place for everyone to dance there.'

The phrase does not specify the dance ground as a place for carded Cherokees only. Nor mixed-blood non-carded Cherokees. It does not even specify the dance ground to be used exclusively by Indians. When I have been around Indians in general & Cherokees in particular, I have not been asked to produce my card, nor explain my ancestry. I have not been checked for proper Indian clothing, nor even asked how often I eat fry bread. I have always felt welcome around Indians & they all seem pleased that someone is taking an

interest in their culture. They seem glad when people dance with them.

The dance ground becomes a place where people dance. All people. Any people. You dance with us, you are one of us. So come to the dance ground & welcome to the dance!

Also found at the dance ground:

Fry bread ga-du ga-tsv-la-nv (gah doo gah chuh lah nuh)

Trashcan a-di-nv-d (ah dee nud)

Visitors a-ni-wa-ta-ha-do-hi (ah nee wah tah hah doh hee)

Thick soup a-ni-s-da (ahn stah)

Thin soup a-ma-so-lv (ahm so luh)

Ketchup gi-ga-ge ga-nv-li-e-di (ghee gah gay gahn lee ade) 'red smeared stuff'

Mustard da-lo-ni-ge ga-nv-li-e-di (dah low knee gay gahn lee ade) 'yellow smeared stuff'

Feathered headpiece a-li-s-gwe-tu-wo tsu-gi-da-li (alls gway too woe chew ghee dah lee)

Bologna ga-s-gwa-lv ha-wi-ya (gah skwah luh hah wee yah) 'round meat'.

Lee Uwoyeni

