

*Fall Gathering At National Grounds Filled With Classes, Ceremonies, Meetings*

Coming from far and near and from the 4 winds, were persons converging at the National Ceremonial Grounds of the Southeastern Cherokee Council to attend the Fall Gathering of the tribe. One party of two traveled all the way from Northern California by train with the primary purpose of setting foot on these Grounds for the first time. From Tennessee, Michigan, and Florida they also came. And there was not a shortage of activities during the time they were there.

There were classes on the Sacred Fire and Fire Keeping, Cherokee language lessons, Cherokee history, hand crafts, and more. Also there were the usual important Council meeting and Blue Heron Medicine Lodge meeting.

disappointedly smaller than expected. It is hope that future ceremonies at our National headquarters will be more amply attended. Much work and preparation go into these twice a year gatherings at Ochlocknee, Georgia.



Above: Rick Pearce is a frequent visitor on the National Grounds. He is especially interested in the Cherokee language.

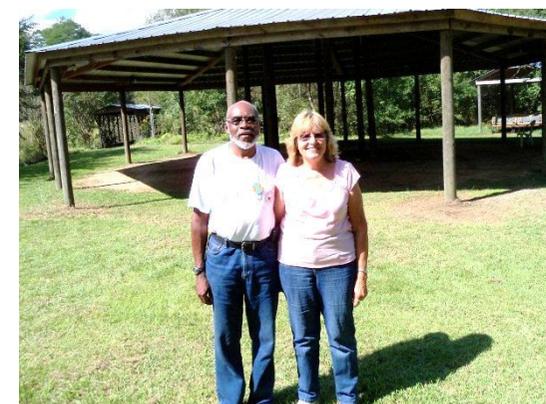
**The Feast!**



Above: Sidney Medicine Crow Pope and wife near the Medicine Lodge.



**A hand weaving class in session!**



"Chance", son of Rick Pearce, is always an enthusiastic participant of the activities at the National Grounds.



Lewis Sitting Panther Powell and wife Anne.

Lewis Sitting Panther and his wife Anne traveled by train all the way from north central California with the prime purpose of setting foot on the National Ceremonial Grounds for the first time and participating in ceremony, classes, and council meetings. Both Lewis and Anne, in addition to pertaining to the Southeastern Cherokee Council, are Episcopal clergy.



"Consuela", mother of Rick Pearce was at the grounds for a second time, here pictured with her daughter.

**Many thanks to those who prepared and supplied all the great food!**

The turnout for this regularly scheduled big event for the tribe was

Mark your calendars for the next gathering at our National Ceremonial Grounds. The next one will be in March, 2013.