

Glimpses From The Past (continued.....)

Below is a re-print of the "Chief's Corner" by Vivian Panther Lawson which appeared in the Summer edition of 2005:



***In November 1976, a small group of Cherokee descendants gathered in Leesburg, Georgia to form what would become the Southeastern Cherokee Council with 4000 plus members. It was incorporated in November 1977. That same year, we were also recognized by proclamation by Governor George Busbee to be a legitimate Cherokee tribe in Georgia.***

***Originally named "Southeastern Cherokee Confederacy, Inc, it was formed so the descendants of Cherokees could explore, learn and teach Cherokee tradition, history, religion, and ceremonies and to come together as a family to share***

***our knowledge of Cherokee tradition with each other. Or so we thought!***

***Upon learning that the "then chief" had organized it to "take care of himself in his old age", 225 of the original 245 members voted him out as chief in September of 1989 and replaced him with Red Bear Smith and proceeded to re-organize.***

***After five years of legal litigation we were awarded the name and organization and because of the bad reputation of the original name, we re-incorporated as the Southeastern Cherokee Council in April 1997.***

***In September 1992, when Red Bear Smith asked to be relieved as Chief because of failing health, he asked the membership and Council to elect me to the position of Chief for the interim. And they all agreed. The membership has continued to re-elect me every four years.***

***We have come a long ways! With three beautiful acres of grounds, a museum, library, a beautiful and sacred seven sided Council House, Elders' trailer, information center, cookhouse, picnic area and campground.***

***The different bands, clans, and individuals continue to teach the Cherokee traditions and history wherever they are asked.***

***It was always Gray Wolf's dream that the members would come to this very special place to enjoy and share the spirituality of this place and fellowship with each other. Although the numbers in attendance have dwindled, it is my prayer that soon the numbers will once again be many and we can all rejoice together.***

***We have a lot to be thankful for and I am hoping everyone will continue to show Grandfather how grateful we are to be where and who we are.***

***Wado,***

***Panther***

