INDIAN TIME

A VOICE FROM THE EASTERN DOOR

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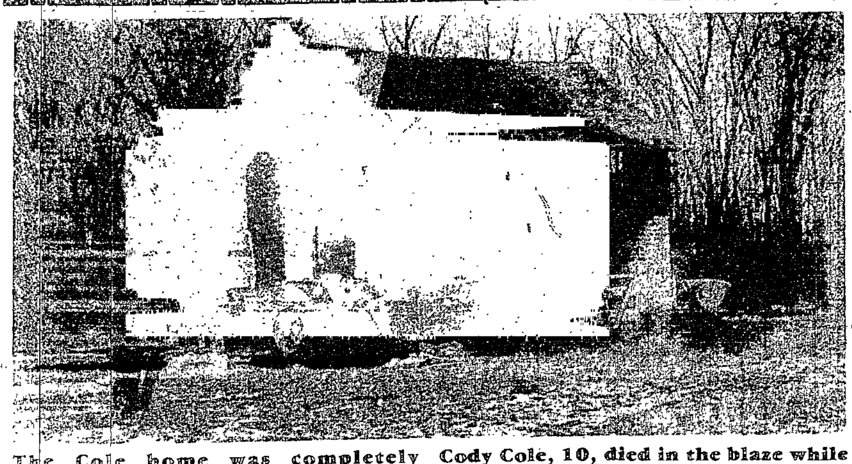


The Cole home was completely destroyed by fire on December 28th. Cody Cole, 10, died in the blaze while Jamie Cole, 16, was severely injured.

Satserati Youth Dies In Fire

Cody Cole, 10, of Satserati Road died as a result of a fire at his home on December 28th.

Cody was the son of Jeffrey and Dale Cole of Akwesasne. According to Hogansburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief Frank Lacerenza the Cole home was completely destroyed by a fire that began near the home's downstairs woodstove. Flames from the blaze quickly engulfed the two story wooden building making the firemen's attempts to rescue Cody Cole futile.

Cole was found near the second floor stairs. He had apparently tried to flee the building but had been overcome by the smoke.

A brother, Jamie, 16, was able to escape the fire but not before being burned over half of his body. He was transported to the Alice Hyde Hospital in Malone by the St. Regis Rescue Unit before being taken to the burn center in Burlington, Vermont where he was said to be in treatment for his extensive injuries.

Jeffrey Cole was away from Akwesasne at the time of the fire, working to support his family. Dale Cole was serving as a volunteer at the Akwesasne Emergency team that night, she had taken the couple's youngest child, Elijah Peter, 2, with her.

The Cole family lost virtually all of their possessions as a result of the fire. Those wishing to assist them in their recovery may call 358-4871 for more information.

Tribal Council Chief Harold Tarbell cuts the ribbon to formally open the Down Under dance club at the tribe's clinic building. He is joined by a group of eager dancers. Music for the event was supplied by Thunder and Lightening.

ONAHOTEN IOIATAKENATSERAIEN NEH AIEKARATENIATEH TSI NAHOTEN ESWANINONS NEH TIOTENINONTAKEN?

Akeh tsi ment tsi ronateweienston eh nonweh ... tsi karon natenwarent neh teiotionte- tsi ionhontsatch.

Tekrosetonentch tsi nikon ohontsakonson ...nikaratenies tanon oni tsi nikon rontsaatah.

... akwekon antenonwench neh ... match nahoten enwaton entsieniste, eh ... akwekon neh ienakereh eniakoratatem.

NAHOTEN ... TEIOTEHONTSONHON ... NONWE NHORIWAKEN ... NIEKARATENIATEH?

... ontaon tatenokwariwatentaseh ... wakiotiontaneh tsi ionhontsatch.

... neh tsaaksera akwekon ehnitchwatehah ... tsi nahoten tah tateionkwatehon ... iemonkwati.

... ktatatewanontonionweh tsi niorch tsi ... teionkwakies neh aonton ahonsta- ... onkwe nahotenk aonsatakoratatem ... tenionkwakies tsi nonwa ment neh ... notakwasonah onerokwa katsehshonah ... tanon niatekon nahoten neh tokwenion ... akaheikenteh ne tsuohontsateh.

... kwahe aniontokeh neh onkwe tsi ... ieiakokies onaken onen neh oniokah neh ... nahoten teiotiion tanon chnienkoneh ... nkwanekaposneh.

NAHOTEN ENWATON ENTEWATEIENTON NEH ... ISEH IAIONKWATENEH TEIOTIONTENION?

... eh eusnnon nahoten neh wakatsteh tanon tsi nahoten neh enwaton ensehsehniahesch.

... neh nahoten kakaratemiaton tsi nioni ... nahoten neh enwaton enskakaratematon.

... ment tsi tontrehtsarons neh onen tenen ... oksak neh neh ehso enkenhakeh.

... ment tsi tontrehtsarons neh onen nahoten ... nehki nahoten neh wakatsteh tanon en ... enskawatakwen tewast watkarineh.

... onen nahoten wasatstast tohsah iseh iensatt ... tensatkatonion toka nonwa st onkak onwaton ... sakoratatem toka oni enwaton neh ... akenkiokoten entehsenion.

OTEHNIENT TSI IOIOTEH NEH AHIONTAKENRONI NEH AHIONSTEH TSI NAHOTEN ISEH IE ... SKWAKIES?

... ehnenshereh ensatakenroni, eh neh nonweh ... eh entiosatstenseron tsi nonweh nisientostah ... nrakeh.

... tsi ronatkenseh tsi enska kah tsi nikon iseh ... teiottontenion enwaton kahenostakwa ... enwaton.

Enwaton neh akwekon neh ienakereh tenietenah ... tontakenroni toka oni enwaton neh tsieratatson ... nonweh tntakononsoteh neh entonteriwatekiateh.

Family Support Clients Christmas Fair

The clients of the Family Support program held a craft fair in the lobby of the St. Regis Tribal Building shortly before Christmas.

Lillian Rodriques taught the students how to make the Xmas ornaments on sale here.

Rotinotsistawanon To Visit Akwesasne Homes

The Rotinotsistawanon (Big Heads) Society will be visiting Akwesasne homes January 7th and 8th to inform the people about the upcoming Midwinter ceremonies.

Rotinotsistawanon will be meeting at the Akwesasne Mohawk Longhouse early January 7th. There they will be given instructions by the Mohawk Nation Council as to their duties and the homes they will visit.

Rotinotsistawanon will carry the greetings of the chiefs, clanmothers and faithkeepers to the homes. The people will be asked to put aside their work to gather together at the Longhouse beginning January 12th to honor the Creator for the five days of Midwinter.

Rotinotsistawanon will stir the ashes of the home fires. If the family does not have wood ashes then they are asked to provide ashes for the greetings.

In the beginning of time, trees were put upon the earth by the Creator. All trees have a place in Creation. Some are medicines, others are known for producing heat. The ashes of the trees rise into the sky to give thanks for all of Creation.

Rotinotsistawanon will accept donations of food and money to help support the Midwinter activities.

The Rotinotsistawanon call the people together after they have been released to hunt and gather food following the End of Seasons ceremony.

Held during the Fall, the End of Seasons is meant to encourage the people to prepare for Midwinter.

To find out when the Rotinotsistawanon will be in your area or to arrange a home visit contact the chiefs or Faithkeepers of the Mohawk Nation.

Mid-Winter Ceremonies
Mid-Winter — Setekosene
January 12, 1989

When the constellation of stars called "Ona kwa ta" is directly over our homes, we then wait for the New Moon. Upon seeing the New Moon, we will sleep five times and the following morning will be the first day of Mid Winter, also called the New Year, and in Mohawk is called "Sa te ko se ne".

In the Mohawk world, this is one of the main highlights of the year. It will consist of five consecutive days of ceremonies.

1st day: There will be 3 Great Feather Dances. a) The first Great Feather Dance sponsored by the Faithkeepers, b) The second Great Feather Dance sponsored by the Chiefs and Clanmothers, c) The third Great Feather Dance is for the Creator and is sponsored by the entire Mohawk Nation.

2nd Day: The Longhouse divides into two parties. The clans of the Wolf, Turtle, and snipe (men and women) enter the Longhouse through the East door or, as it is usually referred to as the men's door. The Bears, Eels, Deer and Beaver enter the Women's door from the West. The main event is the Stirring of the Ashes Ceremony.

3rd Day: The White Dog Ceremony (Sun, Moon and Star Dance). The people bring sacred tobacco.

4th Day: Atonwa, Personal Thanksgiving, Children's name giving, and Drum Dance.

5th Day: "Ka ten ta wa no" or Peachstone Bowl Game. Bring your favorite possession to give as a prize to whichever side of the house wins the game.

Renewals of the different medicine societies will be announced and is usually done in the afternoons. We acknowledge our good fortune of the past year and request of the Creator to let all the powers of all life to prosper and continue to be supportive of our lives. In song, in dance and in words of appreciation we the Mohawk people who set aside these five days to honor the Creator.

Also an important part of the Mid-Winter Ceremony is to bring human life in harmony with the natural world. We must not forget we are but one form of Creation and are obliged to respect the lives of others.

Remember those wishing home visits must contact the Faithkeepers.

Remember to dress in traditional style and please bring your own eating utensils so that we don't waste paper cups, plates and utensils.

Native people who would like to join the traditional community in the celebrations are welcome but please announce guests to the chiefs or clanmothers.

Seneca Nation Signs Tax Agreement With State

The Seneca Nation at Cattaraugus Allegheny signed a cigarette and fuel tax with New York January 3rd after lengthy negotiations the State's Department of Taxation and Finance announced January 4th.

The Department said the agreement would have the Seneca Nation collect its own taxes on cigarette and fuel products made on its own territory. In return for the Senecas have agreed to impose a tax equivalent to that of the state's.

Also a part of the agreement is an information sharing section whereby New York will have access to the amount of fuel and cigarettes sold by Seneca distributors.

"Loretta Crane," a Seneca Nation lawyer, said the agreement protects Indian sovereignty since the state will not impose taxes on Indian communities.

Karl Felsen of the Department affirmed the state will waive any attempt to collect its taxes on products sold upon Seneca Nation territory in respect of the Nation's right to levy its own taxes.

Felsen said the agreement was "without precedent in native-state relations" since it protects the Indian market while fixing Indian prices for cigarette and fuel close to that of the non native market.

Felsen confirmed similar agreements were being sought with the Oneidas and Tuscaroras but no negotiations have been held with the Mohawks.

Felsen said the controversial Herzog decision denying the state the power to collect taxes on Indian reservations would be nullified since it would be Indian governments imposing and enforcing the tax rate.

Mohawk Nation Press Release Regarding U.S. Personal Income Taxes

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service through its Albany, N.Y. office has released information to the media regarding Haudenosaunee citizens owing an estimated $650,000 in back taxes. The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs denies this claim.

Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) citizens, as well as other native people, have emphatically maintained their exemption from U.S. Taxes by virtue of their distinct nationality, sovereign rights and treaty agreements with the United States.

Haudenosaunee citizens have, because of the illegal taking of their lands by the U.S., been deprived of their traditional means of securing employment and sustenance. As a result of the displacing and isolation of our people on resource poor "reservations," our citizens have been forced to travel far from their homes to secure work. In order to provide for their families our people have relied on their freedom from income taxes. That liberty, as well as the survival of our societies, is now being threatened by the IRS.

There is nothing more powerful in U.S. law than its treaty obligations. The U.S. agreed in the 1794 Treaty of Canadaigua to not interfere in the activities of our nations unless requested to do so. The Haudenosaunee have kept their end of the treaty but the attempts of the IRS to penalize our citizens for nonpayment of U.S. taxes is a clear violation of this most critical international contract.

On December 10th and 11th of this year, 1988, the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee (referred to as the Six Nations) met at its capital in Onondaga Nation Territory. There the Grand Council of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora Nations decided the transgressions of our rights by the IRS was serious enough to warrant an immediate meeting with U.S. President-elect George Bush upon his assumption of office in January. Accordingly, the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee has sent notice to Mr. Bush requesting such a meeting.

In the meantime the citizens of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's member nations will continue to defend their tax exemption rights with the full support of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.

For more information contact Barbara Barnes at (613)-932-9452.

Five Generations

Mrs. Louise Herne is a resident at the Akwesasne Home for the Aged. One of her greatest pleasures is having her family visit. Here she is shown with her great great grand daughter Kristen. Also present are great grandmother Mary Francis, grandmother Valerie Terrance and mother Brook.

Congratulations and Happy New Year to Mrs. Herne from her many friends and relatives.

Governor's Office Denies Tarbell Gambling Plea

A November 10th telegram sent to New York Governor Mario Cuomo by Akwesasne businessman Eli Tarbell stating the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council "intends to enter into a tribal state compact concerning Indian gaming on Indian reservations within New York State" had its intent challenged by a representative of Governor Cuomo.

Jeff Cohen, an assistant to Cuomo, said the telegram was received by the Governor's office but all discussions about gambling on Indian land would be held with native governments and not individuals.

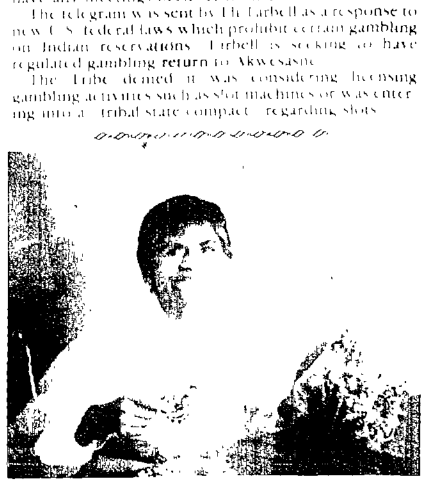
Cohen acknowledged Mr. Tarbell was not considered a representative of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council therefore precluding any formal contact with him on this issue.

Representatives of the Tribal Council confirmed Tarbell had sent the telegram on his own initiative and was not speaking on behalf of the Council although he is a member of the Tribe's Constitution Committee.

Mr. Cohen said New York was not conducting any negotiations with the Tribal Council on gambling nor have any meetings been set to discuss the issue.

The telegram was sent by Eli Tarbell as a response to new U.S. federal laws which prohibit certain gambling on Indian reservations. Tarbell is seeking to have regulated gambling return to Akwesasne.

The Tribe denied it was considering licensing gambling activities such as slot machines or was entering into a "tribal state compact" regarding slots.



Laura E. Connors is a resident of the Akwesasne Home for the Aged. Here she displays some of the craftwork that she learns from Anita. Her work was used to decorate the Christmas trees within the home.