

Fall 1996 Newsletter
Vol. IV No.3

LABRIOLA NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN DATA CENTER



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The Labriola Center

The Labriola National American Indian Data Center, part of ASU Libraries, is a research library that contains and disseminates information on American Indian/Alaska Native tribes. It provides access to this information through the use of computer databases, the Internet, and CD-ROM. The collection is national in scope and brings together in one location current and historic information on government, culture, religion and world view, social life, customs, tribal history, and information on individuals from the United States, Canada, and Sonora, Mexico.

HOURS: The Center is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Monday-Friday to assist researchers in the use of the non-circulating collection. Patrons seeking help outside these hours may visit the Luhrs Reading Room on the fourth level of Hayden Library or leave a message on the Center's Voice Mail at 480/965-6490.

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First Americans 'Firsts'



We announced the upcoming publication by Gale Research, of a new reference work, *First Americans Firsts*. Ph.D. candidates, AnCita Benally (Navajo) and Kathy Kingfisher (Cherokee), are working on the project under the direction of Editor-in-Chief, Karen Gayton Swisher.

They are compiling short biographies of Native Americans from North, Central, and South America, who have made significant first achievements and received recognition both nationally and internationally. Publication is expected in late spring, 1997.

The students are compiling information from many sources for the ambitious project. The Labriola Center collections have provided numerous resources for their work. Some are:

The Native North American Almanac (Gale Research, 1994). The volume provides historical and contemporary information about the Native peoples of North America. It contains chronology, demographic and distribution descriptions and histories, discussions of religion and religious change, art, music, theater, film, traditional arts, history, economy, administration, and law and legal issues. Special efforts were made to gather experts on numerous aspects of U.S. and Canadian Native life, including Native authors.

Native Americans in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia (Garland Publishing, Inc., 1994). Included in this volume are signed articles by historians, anthropologists, and other specialists representing a wide range on the political spectrum. The encyclopedia covers important aspects of Native American life in the United States during this century.

Notable Native Americans (Gale research Inc., 1995). Here is an extensive compilation of biographical and bibliographical information on more than 265 notable Native North American men and women throughout history, and from all fields of endeavor. Seventy percent of the narrative essays focus on contemporary or twentieth-century individuals.

Biographical Dictionary of Indians of the Americas, 2nd ed. (American Indian Publishers, Inc., 1991), 3 volumes. The second edition contains close to 2,000 biographies and 1,000 portraits of Native Americans in the Western Hemisphere from the earliest times to the present.

American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals, 3 volumes, 1826-1985 (Greenwood Press, 1986). These are guides to American Indian and Alaska Native newspapers and periodicals edited or published by American Indians or Alaska Natives and those whose primary purpose was to publish information about contemporary Indians or Alaska Natives.

American Indian Lives (Facts on File, 1994), 7 volumes. The multi-volume series introduces readers to some of the most extraordinary figures in Native American history. Volumes cover: Spiritual Leaders; Political Leaders and Peacemakers; Artists and Craftspeople; Performers; and Athletes.

Chronology of Native North American History From Pre-Columbian Times to the Present (Gale Research Inc., 1994). The *Chronology* presents a comprehensive listing of historical and cultural events about the Native peoples of North America and Canada. Emphasis is given to recent historical events although there is considerable historical information about the many cultures that lived before Columbus landed in 1492.

Susan LaFlesche Picotte Honored

A new exhibit in the Labriola Center honors the first Native American woman physician, Susan LaFlesche Picotte. Picotte was born on the Omaha Indian Reservation in 1865 to Joseph LaFlesche, the last traditional chief of the Omaha Tribe, and to Mary Gale.

She graduated from Hampton Institute in Virginia in 1887, then from Women's Medical College in Philadelphia in 1889 at the head of her class. She returned to Nebraska, and won a government appointment as physician for the Omaha Agency, the first such post to be occupied by a Native American woman, and among the first to be filled by any Native American.

In 1913, she realized a lifelong goal--the opening of a hospital to serve both the Omaha and whites near her new home in Walthill, Nebraska. The hospital was built on a hilltop. One side had a screened-in porch, with hammocks and beds, where patients could recover in fresh air and sunshine.

Members of the Western History Association visited the hospital in October 1996. Now known as the Picotte Memorial Hospital and home of the Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, it was dedicated a National Historic Landmark on April 19, 1993. Many individuals have donated both money and time to renovate the Center. The National Park Service also provides some financial support.

The Center now hosts an after-school program for children, houses Red Feather/Native American Youth Services, and provides counseling for families. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Day is celebrated during the third week of September in Walthill.

This Year In History

1826 Geronimo (Goyathlay) Chiricahua Apache tribal leader is born.

1836 The Aborigines Protection Society is founded in Great Britain.

1846 Potawatomi Treaty establishes the Potawatomi Nation in Kansas.

1856 Wovoka (Jack Wilson), Paiute spiritual leader is born.

1866 United States Army commissions Indian Scouts by order of the War Department.

1876 Canadian Indian Act continues a policy of assimilating Indians into Canadian society.

1886 Maria Montoya Martinez, American Indian Artist, is born in San Ildefonso, New Mexico.

1896 John Slocum, Coast Salish spiritual leader dies.

1906 Hopi village, Hotevilla, is founded in Arizona.

1916 Last fight of the Indian Scouts at Ojos Azules Ranch, Mexico.

1926 National Council of American Indians (NCAI) is founded by Gertrude Bonnin (Zitkala-Sa).

1936 Indian Actors Association is formed and affiliated with the Screen Actors Guild in Hollywood.

1946 Henry Chee Dodge led 23 Navajo delegates to Washington to ask for more schools, hospitals, land and irrigation facilities on the Navajo Reservation.

1956 Adult Indian vocational Training Act was passed by Congress to provide programs of vocational assistance on or near Indian reservations.

1966 Rough Rock Demonstration School is established on the Navajo Reservation and the first in modern times to be administered and controlled by an Indian tribe.

1976 The federal government awards \$6.6 million to the Mesquakie tribe for lands taken in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas.

1986 The Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History agrees to return Indian skeletal remains to tribal leaders for reburial.

The above information is from the *Chronology of Native North American History* (Gale Research, 1994).

Commemorative Stamps

The National Museum of the American Indian celebrated the unveiling of the U.S. Postal Service's new stamp series, "American Indian Dances," with an outdoor presentation of Native dance and song on June 12 at the Heye Center in New York City. The five stamps in the series represent intertribal dances--three enjoyed in contemporary powwows.

The stamps have been framed and are on view in the Labriola Center. Also available at the Center is a CD-ROM, which has been produced to accompany the stamps. It features the Cedartree Singers, who perform ten songs and includes *The Fancy Dance Song*, *Hoop Dance Song*, *Women's Southern Cloth*, *the Butterfly Dance*, *Sidewinder*, and *Miss Indian USA Honor Song*.

RidingIn Leads Historians to Sacred Site

The Western History Association met in Lincoln, Nebraska in October for its annual meeting. A special treat was the chance to visit the most sacred of the Pawnee holy sites, led by Dr. James RidingIn, Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at Arizona State University.

Pahuk means headland or promotory, and is located on a heavily wooded bluff overlooking the Platte River north of Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska. The 150-acre site was purchased by Dr. Louis Gilbert and his wife and when they discovered that Pahuk was a sacred site, they petitioned to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places and began work in 1974 to restore it to native prairie. They also set out to develop a master plan for forest and prairie management and restoration. Finally, they negotiated a preservation easment with the Nebraska State Historical Society, which ensures that the Pahuk Historic Natural Area will never be disturbed.

The Gilberts learned that Pahuk was the most important of the five Pawnee religious sites. They learned that a huge cave said to be below the bluff was the dwelling or meeting place of the Nahu-rac, supernaturally endowed animals which were the servants and messengers of Ti-ra-wa, who could intervene in the affairs of men and from whom the medicine men of the Pawnee gained their skills.

Manuscripts Added to the Labriola Collection

The Charles Newton Letters: The collection contains 35 holograph letters from Dr. Charles Newton to his wife between Decemgher 25, 1901 and May 5, 1903. These were written from the Western Navajo Training School at Algert, Arizona and Tuba City, Arizona. The Doctor describes his life, vicissitudes of travel, and activities in a then-remote part of northern Arizona.

The C. F. Schaeffer Collection: C. F. Schaeffer was Indian Agent at Supai in Havasu Canyon between 1937 and 1941. His wife taught school. Included in the collection are 234 magnificent b/w photographs, 150 postcards, letters, children's drawings, and a painting by Pa Pavi Da. A number of letters are included. A guestbook contains the signatures of anthropologist, Ruth Underhill, Betty & John Babbitt, and photographers, Josef & Joyce Muench and Carlos Elmer.

The Labriola Center, officially dedicated on April 1, 1993, was made possible by the vision and generosity of Frank and Mary Labriola, whose endowment gift supports its work. Additional funds have been provided by the Alcoa Foundation and the National Education Association. A core collection of books and film was provided by the Phoenix Indian School and the Center for Indian Education at Arizona State University.



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Last updated: June 30th, 1998

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