

CULTURE

Family donates traditional ceremonial dress to the Nation

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Chasity Dosela, granddaughter of Danny Irving (YAN member and first cousin to Don Decker) and his wife, Serena, made a donation of a buckskin Na'ii'ase puberty rite ceremonial dress on November 22 at the Nation's culture center.

This buckskin dress was made by Karla Redbird of San Carlos in 2011 and was used by Chasity that same year.

There are 2 pieces to the dress, a top with fringes and the lower part with fringes as well.

On the boots, the Yavapai-Apache Nation seal is done with the small beads (#10) and each color of the logo (3.5 inches in diameter) is represented in each hue of the colors on the seal and is sewn onto the boots.

This style of buckskin outfit is one -of -a -kind and grandfather Danny said, "It's not a matter of how much it cost, it's what it means."

Vincent Randall, Apache traditionalist and Apache culture director for the Nation

visited with the family at noon today at the culture center and YAN culture staff members were somewhat surprised by this gift as no gift such as this has ever been donated to the culture department.

Vincent expressed his appreciation to the Irving family for the beautiful gift. Judy Piner, Preservation/Technology director accepted the buckskin outfit on behalf of the Nation as it is traditional for a woman to except these gifts.

Chasity's outfit will be catalogued and stored in the culture center's vault temporarily until such time when a display case is designated for viewing at the culture center.

Grandfather Danny said that it is unfortunate that some families don't value these types of cultural items as he has seen buckskin dresses in pawn shops near San Carlos.

Chasity is a 10th grader at San Carlos High School and is an enrolled member of the Nation. Chasity's mother, Sue Flores of Phoenix (standing in the back close to Chasity) and aunt Cynthia Nash and a cousin, Lorenzo Duywenie, stand in the back for support.



Vincent Randall, Apache culture director (Left sitting) accepted the buckskin outfit on behalf of the Nation. Danny Irving is surrounded by his family with Chasity holding the top part with grandma (r) next to her holding the bottom portion. Grandpa Danny holds the pair of boots with the beaded boots representing the Nation's seal on each boot. (Photo by Don Decker)

Cliff Castle Casino singer-guitar player grounded to Indian ways

By DON DECKER
YAN News

On any Tuesday and Wednesday during the afternoons, you can hear Chuck Petersen playing in the casino. Petersen has been performing at the casino for 6 years now and he calls CCC his home. And for a good reason too as he is considered one of the team members of the casino who provides that extra edge of sounds through his voice and guitar that soothes visitors to the casino.

Petersen has an endless repertoire of songs that date back to the 60's to the 90s. With this type of expertise, he brings all the tunes from long ago back to life whether it's Santana, the Doobie Bros. with Michael McDonald or Credence Clearwater.

Just throw any song out there to him and he can play it. From the Stones, the Eagles to Marvin Gaye—anything.

Petersen makes the guitar wail as the background band provided by pre-recorded sound tracks filled with the bass and drums keeps in rhythm with his guitar. "They have their favorite songs that they request and that is nice and I know what they are," says Petersen about his fans who walk up to him that request songs.

Rattle off a song title and he knows it. "I'm a like a human jukebox," he says with a smile.

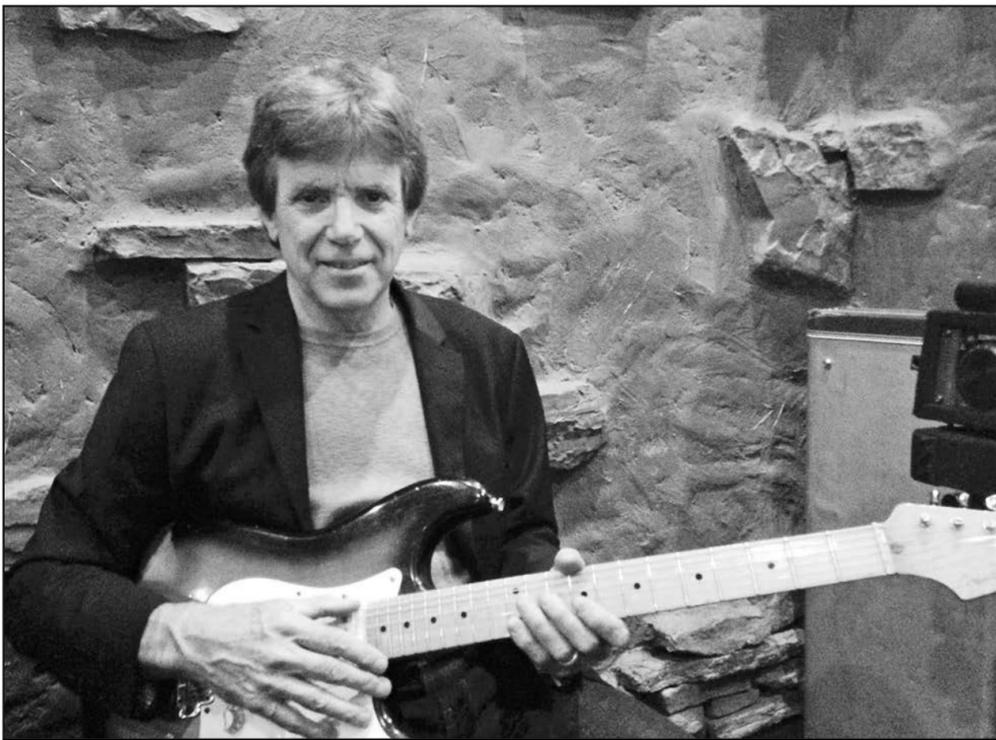
"One of the things I want to express is that my time here has been so good for me (at CCC)—enjoyable, because I feel that I have a connection with the people that come in here to see me. It's amazing," says Petersen.

He is definitely humble and the casino customers love him. "I had one of the ladies bring me a hamburger one time and in the beginning people use to bring me things on the bus," he adds about out of town bus riders who come to the casino. He also talks about the Japanese lady who brought him some green tea from a Japanese restaurant.

Indian connection

Petersen is somewhat of a mystic and it is at this point that he digresses from his electronic music.

It all began back in 1983 when his father went to visit the Big Horn



Chuck Petersen entertains twice a week inside of the Cliff Castle Casino. He's a mainstay for the past 6 years entertaining casino patrons. (Photo by Don Decker)

Battlefield Monument in South Dakota and his father knew his son was interested in native history. Before his father could explain the whole story about what book he wanted for his son, a lady in the bookstore started walking away down the hallway to retrieve "Crazy Horse-Strange man of the Ogallas" by Marie Sandoz, a book that was written in 1946. Petersen tells the story best: "And my father says to the curator, 'I wanna take that book for my son.'"

And as the old saying goes, the rest was history for Petersen.

"I was mesmerized by the tale she (Sandoz) told, how they lived, how they thought and how everything worked in the native way," said Petersen about his personal transformation while reading the book.

From here, Petersen penned a song called 'Crazy Horse' in 1999 from the inspiration he got from the book which led to an interview on a local TV show out of Prescott. "She interviewed me and I talked

about the story, about the song. And the nice thing about this is that John Joseph, a Navajo-Yaqui played the native flute on the recording which had 2 versions: one with a band and the other version unplugged which featured John Joseph," said Petersen.

Along with Joseph's flute music, the unplugged version also features Edgar Red Elk, a vintage battlefield victory song of the Lakota that was acquired through the Library of Congress recorded many years before.

"It starts with a chant at the beginning," he said about the recording.

"I am very interested in getting some airplay and an opportunity to play at the Crazy Horse Monument with a Lakota flute player. So, that is something I'm working on," he said.

'A vision, he saw the warrior ride, a red hawk flew through the trees, only later did he understand, what he saw was what he came to

be'
-Crazy Horse @Chuck Petersen

Spirit World beckons

Petersen talks about John Joseph leaving into the spirit world and the impact of Joseph's Indian philosophy. Joseph was a loyal customer of CCC and was known to many of the regulars. Petersen remembers that time when he went to the VA hospital with Joseph one time. "I told him I'd see him next week."

Then one day Petersen got a call from his boss at CCC that John had been real sick and was flown to hospital one final time.

"Joseph taught me a lot in the 2 years that I knew him. The most important thing was to be accountable to myself. He had a famous saying--he called me 'Little Pipe' and gave me a ceremonial pipe. We never got around to making a small pipe," said Petersen.

It was these Indian connections that made Petersen whole again. "He would always tell me to do the

best that I could and not to second guess or accept mediocrity. That is what I adhere to," said Petersen.

A personal life

Petersen has his own band in Phoenix called the 'Blucoda' that plays in restaurants and hotels. Interestingly, the band's name is coded with the musical term, 'coda' and the first part 'Blu' is an adaptation of Bucoda, Washington where Petersen's mother was raised. "It has a Lakota sounding name," Petersen said about the band's name.

Petersen and his wife came to Arizona in 1987 from Seattle and live in Mesa.

He likes hiking, enjoying the outdoors, fishing and "reading a lot" of James Walker's 'Lakota Myths and storytelling' which happens to be one of Petersen's favorite books in addition to the Lee Child suspense books. Petersen has been married for 36 years and share a 32 year old son.

Petersen says he comes from a large family. "My brothers and sisters --they're all professional people."

Musical trails

Ever since he heard the classic 'Louie, Louie' when he was 11 years old, Petersen never let the guitar down. "It was like a thunderbolt, the sky opened up and I knew what I wanted to do from an early age.

Now, he aims to please with his music. "I enjoy playing country, rock-n-roll, the blues. But one thing that I really try is to concentrate on a variety of music," said Petersen.

It's been 6 years now at the Cliff Castle Casino and they know Chuck Petersen. "There's no 'star' here at all. I may not be the best singer or the best guitar player. My job is to play the music," he said.

"This is the path that I'm on now. I'm still on it. I love my work and I consider my work to be what I am. It defines who I am. It's nice they use the term "play" when you play music. That's what it is: I never work-I play."

Sharing cultures: a look at the past

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Yavapai-Apache Nation teens and Hopi teens met on November 20 for a tour of sacred sites in the area.

This activity was sponsored by the National Park Service under the auspices of the Montezuma Castle Historic site. Mary Ontiveros, park representative said that this activity was made possible by a special grant from the Walt Disney foundation.

"The 2 groups had an opportunity to visit these sites and have a first-hand experience," said Ontiveros.

It was also a time for sharing and making new friends as the group gathered in a circle at the Montezuma Well for introductions that morning.

The day was filled with a visit to the V Bar V petroglyph site 12 miles north of Camp Verde where the group had an opportunity to hear a presentation by the National Park Service representative about the significance

of the images that were tapped on the rock walls almost 900 years ago.

At the Montezuma Well, the youth group listened to both versions of the Yavapai-Apache and Hopi oral history about the site. Micah Loma'omvaya, adult leader from the Hopi tribe gave an extensive overview of Montezuma Well and how the place continues to play an important role in the history of the Hopi people.

Later on, both groups visited the Yavapai-Apache Nation culture center where they had an opportunity to meet representatives from the culture department for a brief tour.

The Hopi youth group continued their journey to Tuzigoot and Palatki after their stop at the YAN culture center.

"The purpose of this activity was to bring both groups of the youth to visit their ancestral home and to connect our youth to the monuments," added Ontiveros.

Yavapai-Apache Nation members Laurie Kaaekuahiwi and Desirea Huey hosted the YAN youth group during the activity.



YAN youth group take a pose with Hopi Nation visitors at Montezuma Well. (Photo by Don Decker)