

COMMUNITY NEWS

Yavapai Culture director Gertrude Smith shares her feelings about the mapping project

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

On December 1, the Yavapai College administration at the Clarkdale campus hosted the Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Department inauguration of the mapping project.

Both, the Yavapai and Apache culture



Gertrude Smith, Yavapai culture director speaks to crowd at Yavapai College on December 1 for a send-off of the mapmakers. Photo by YAN News

directors spoke to a small crowd that showed up that day.

Mrs. Smith expressed her feelings about the mapping occasion and said that the history of the Yavapai people in the Verde Valley has a strong and positive legacy to this day.

"This is a good day and it is something that we needed to do not only for the ones who have gone on before us that left this legacy and for the ones here today who need to learn this legacy," said Mrs. Smith.

"This something we needed to do and it is a harsh reminder of what our people went through," she added.

Mrs. Smith said that the mapping would document the original trail and that the mapmakers would mark the exact location of the original trail.

She also said that the mapmaking project may also have some strong emotional attachments for the participants.



Vincent Randall, Apache culture director for the Nation spoke at Yavapai College on Dec. 1 about the history of the people. Photo of Vincent Randall/ by YAN News

Apache culture director Vincent Randall recalls the history of the Yavapai and Apache people of Verde Valley

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The first Indian agency in Verde Valley was at Peck's Lake across the river from the college campus according to Mr. Randall. Due to the onslaught of malaria, the agency was moved to Haskell Springs where the Clarkdale campus of Yavapai College is presently located. It was from here that the Yavapai were rounded up and forced marched to old San Carlos with the Apaches.

"We surrendered in 1871 with two major groups and in 1873, the last group

At a public gathering on the campus of Yavapai College in Clarkdale on December 1, Vincent Randall said that it was good to reflect on what had happened long ago about the history of the Yavapai and Apache people who originally owned most of the land in Verde Valley.

He spoke about the round up of the Yavapai people and how they were incarcerated in 1868 at Camp Date Creek south of Prescott.

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a modern boat made the journey easier, more comfortable and less demeaning than what the Yavapai and Apache people experienced during this tragic long distance walk of 1875.



A selfie by Jordan Lewis and Everett Phillips (back L) and boat owners from Camp Verde

It is the young people on this boat who are documenting the journey of their great, great grand parents of long ago who suffered through the long ordeal of being herded like cattle through the bottom of this lake.

After arriving on the east side of the lake, map makers gathered their gear and continue on with their journey to the east toward Globe, Arizona, a copper mining town 30 miles away that figured heavily into the history of the Apache people during incursions of the U.S. Cavalry into the area in the mid 1800s.

As one looks back across the wide open valley across the lake 70 miles to the west, one can see the dis-

tances traveled by the mapmakers.

The long march went beneath the lake a distance of over 35 miles.

The mapmakers came down this small canyon that is now covered with a high speed highway that makes modern day travel easier than the days when the traditional Apaches and Yavapais marched through this area both ways—east in 1875 and 25 years later- to the west to Verde Valley.

The mapmakers approached the outskirts of modern day Globe and Miami area through an area identified as Wheatfields. It had been a long walk for the mapmakers as they made their way into Globe. Globe was once a bustling town for copper and silver. Now, it hosts an array of antique shops and dollar stores.

This is the area where copper is still king today.

Take a look further east of Globe, 30 miles beyond the skyline and one can see the peaks of Mt. Turnbull which sits on the eastside of the old San Carlos military camp were the Yavapai and Apache were imprisoned long ago.

Just 3 days away from arriving in old San Carlos, the marchers reached downtown Globe and stayed in Globe one night.

The next day, the map makers entered the San Carlos Apache Reservation 6 miles east of Globe and from here the map mak-

ers traveled along a dry creek bed and on the 16th of December, 16 days after they originally left from the Camp Verde area, the map makers arrive at the dirt road entrance to the final stretch to old San Carlos. Nancy Ruiz, Fred Sanchez, Jordan Lewis and Everett Phillip who is chief technician for the mapmaking project making had just one more day to make their final walk into old San Carlos on the 17th of December just a mere 7 miles away.

On December 17th, the core group of walkers composed of Fred Sanchez, Katherine Marquez, Jordan Lewis and Everett Phillips walked on the dirt road to old San Carlos. It's a very good guess that this was the route taken by the original walkers of 1875 as they were marched through these patches of mesquite and cat claw bushes.

There is pride showing on the faces of the walkers knowing that they had less than 7 miles to go before they entered old San Carlos that day.

They say there were over 1000 Apaches and Yavapais on this long walk. Some died along the way due to the harsh elements while others hung on to make it this far.

These marchers knew the cost of having to walk this far historically was more severe than what they went through during this mapmaking quest. The 1875 marchers did not have

the support of a modern supply van filled with food.

The graded road along the way made for an easy walk and the pathway were marked for other members of the Nation who made their way for this occasion this day.

This is the place where hundreds of Apaches and Yavapai were gathered in that year 1875 to remain here for over 25 years. The summers were harsh here with temperatures reaching over 100 degrees daily. This is the place where famous Apache leader, Geronimo was brought to for imprisonment. And from here, he was moved by rail to a prison in St. Augustine, Florida.

Members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation arrived to honor those who walked over 200 miles to reach this location. Apache and Yavapai elders traveled this day to participate in the commemoration of the occasion and to welcome the mapmakers who took their own time to participate in the long walk and completing the map making project.

The 17- day map making walk concluded at the bottom of the dry lake bed where the old adobe buildings of the U.S. Cavalry once stood and where Apaches and Yavapais were held against their wishes for a period of 25 years.

Special prayers were said by both the Yavapai and Apache2people who came to witness the arrival of the map makers.



Google earth map generated with footpath of the mapping crew.

Vincent Randall, Apache culture director for the Nation spoke about the significance of the map making expedition and the importance of marking the trail where the long march of 1875 took place 142 years ago.

This momentous event of mapping the original trail of the long march to old San Carlos and cul-

minating at the bottom of a dry lake bed where the U.S. Cavalry post was once located and where the long lengthy lines of Apaches and Yavapais lined up for their weekly rations in the late 1800s is now part of history and long remembered for those who retraced this footpath of yesteryears.



Members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation arrive in old San Carlos. (L) Fred Sanchez, Monica and Damon Marquez, Katherine Marquez, Everett Phillips, consultant, Shirley Bonnaha Coffman and Jordan Lewis. (Photo by YAN News)



YAN mapmakers make the final 6 miles into old San Carlos. (L) Katherine Marquez, Fred Sanchez, Everett Phillips and Jordan Lewis. (Photo by YAN News)



Yavapai traditional singers of Ft. McDowell sing at old San Carlos on Dec. 17 with many members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation standing for the songs. (Photo by YAN News)