

COMMUNITY NEWS

RUNNERS

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Lusk (Karla Reimer, the Nation's tribal secretary is originally from South Dakota and stated that she has stopped in Lusk in the past). It was here where we meet a group of bikers from Chadron, Nebraska who also decided to stop at the Mom and Pop hamburger stand for lunch. Lori Ortega, group leader from YAN asked the motorcycle group if our group could pose with them for a photo. They oblige.

The Nebraska group of about 10 riders are professional people from Chadron, Nebraska east of Lusk who were speaking out



Rianna James (l) and Angelina Smith jog down the 500 Mile Sacred Loop.

against child abuse.

All day, we travel across the northwest section of Nebraska into South Dakota along the western edge

of the state into the Black Hills that evening where we see part of Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse sculpture project about 3 miles



YAN runners and chaperones gather underneath Bear Butte north of Sturgis, South Dakota before a morning run to Pine Ridge toward the Nebraska border to the south.

away. to the east then into Leadville, a tourist trap similar to Jerome but slightly larger with brick streets.

After passing through Leadville and Sturgis, we make our way north to Bear Butte Park about 16 miles north of

Sturgis where a beautiful lake greets us.

At Bear Butte camp

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SPECIALISTS

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completed a dictionary to be published in the near future. Dr. deReuse also stated that logistically, Camp Verde was ideal due the fact that it was close to transportation hubs as opposed to isolated communities such as Whiteriver or San Carlos.

There were 2 groups of conference attendees at the conference with one group considered full-bonafide scholars (linguists) who study various languages and community educators and teachers who design language curriculums for their schools. Dr. de Reuse, who is Belgium, is one such person who has extensive scholarly experiences studying the Western Apache language and his work has led him to the communities of the western Apache in Arizona (Tonto Apache in Payson, San Carlos, Camp Verde Apache and Whiteriver) where

he has completed the dictionary for the Camp Verde Apache soon to be published.

The study of linguistics is a large field for the language purists such as Dr. de Reuse who is considered one of the top scholars of the Apache language.

"Many Apaches get to know better what linguists do and get an appreciation for it and the linguists, at the same time, get an appreciation for the diversity of Apache languages and the particular linguistic relationships that Apaches have for each other," said Dr. deReuse.

Mrs. Bernadette Santa Maria, a White Mountain Apache linguist who studied at the University of Arizona, was also in attendance.

Mrs. Santa Maria said that there were secondary causal effects of language loss due to "historical trauma". These contributing factors have included boarding schools where children were sent away from their home for long periods of time. Another

factor are the "long term federal policies that included wiping out ceremonies," she said.

The other group of conference attendees included language instructors who teach in schools in their communities. They comprised the largest majority of the delegates to the Dene'-Athabaskan Conference. Some are delegated with coordinating school curriculums to teach language in their schools but some of the Apache speakers do not possess the knowledge to construct curriculums based on the local school district's educational program. Knowing the language fluently and constructing yearly curriculums in schools are two different things according to one group that attended the conference who shared their concerns in small group discussions. This particular group are usually associated with another nationwide group known as cultural and language preservation and they conduct national and regional conferences to discuss language curriculums.

Ramon Riley, White Mountain Apache of Arizona, culture director and museum caretaker for his people was in attendance as well. Mr. Riley said that language loss has a severe impact on the culture. "I tell the truth about what happens: losing the language-all the young kids don't know who they are today. There are social problems out there with our kids and they are asking for our help--",

said Mr. Riley. "I know from experience and knowledge—that children have a better view of the world (if they know their language)".

Mr. Riley is very positive about language preservation "It can be done", he said. "Those who have a desire to learn native language. Where can a student go to learn Apache?"

Conference director Dr. DeReuse paid homage to elder Dr. Michael Krauss of University of Alaska in Fairbanks whose titled address was "Apache in the Broadest Perspective".

"He's my mentor", says Dr. DeReuse about Dr. Krauss who is 81 years old. "Basically, he founded linguistics in Alaska and he mapped and classified the languages," said Dr. DeReuse. "It's important for Athabascans speakers to have maps to see where they are located and where they came from.

Dr. Krauss who spoke at the conference and remembers the long years in mapping of languages in Alaska. "I didn't realize what I was doing at the time," he says as he shows large pictures his maps on the screen that are covered with different colors and some overlapping each other and stating that these "maps should seep into people's consciousness". He asked for a raise of hands of teachers in the crowd who had Athabaskan maps in their classrooms and none of them raised their hands. Next, he asked them if they have a map of their



Mr. Vincent Randall, center left, leads a discussion group with participants from across the country.

country (United States) and a few raised their hands.

Both Dr. Krauss and Dr. deReuse couldn't agree more on the importance of map use in defining the geographical location of language use.

Apache culture director Mr. Randall thought the conference was well planned and informative. "I was under the impression that it was getting together exploring how we are going to save the language and began to realize that it was an academic-scholarly conference. I also realized we have a complex and very descriptive language—it's not an ambiguous language but a precise one," he said. Mr. Randall also feels that documenting the language should also be occurring at the same time while it is being taught. "You do all the documentation, the scholarly thing and then you stack it away in library. It doesn't do us any good," he said.

Some Indian tribes have not ever had federal recognition such

as the Lipan community in west Texas in the Big Ben region and their presentation with community members Oscar Rodriguez and David Gohre made a case for their people to tell the world that the Lipans are not extinct people and both emphasized that geography (and language) defines the people and in this case, that the Lipans naming of various points of landmarks which confirms their ties to their land.

Dr. DeRuse stated conference was "very successful and that there were a lot of opinions and the elders got to say their piece about what was important in terms of linguistics. Various linguists in attendance who presented were more academic and scientific".

Next year's conference is planned for northern California.

All photos by YAN News



Dr. DeReuse receives a pencil drawing print made by San Carlos Apache artist Tyrel Goseyun who is the culture director for the San Carlos Apache Tribe.



Desiree Huey gives lessons in the proper use of a bow and arrow to a summer youth recreation participant at the Nation's ranch.



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