

Muscogee woman nominated for NFL teacher of the year

NEW YORK — Muscogee citizen Jean Froman has been nominated for the National Football League's Teacher of the Year Award.

The league selects one winner each month of the NFL season — September through December — to recognize those teachers who influenced an NFL player.

Froman was nominated by her former student Troy Aikman, quarterback for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. Froman was Aikman's typing instructor for two classes at Henryetta High School in 1983 and 1984.

"He was always so calm and poised; such a perfectionist," said Froman. Aikman once typed 80 words per minute without a mistake and won a county-wide typing contest at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee in 1984. "He was the only male contestant," Froman said.

Froman left teaching to work in Indian education, including a stint as manager of the Muscogee Nation's Eufaula Boarding School. Presently, she is the dean of

students at Sequoyah High School, Tahlequah. Froman resides in Okmulgee.

"It is an honor to be nominated by such an outstanding young man who has achieved the ultimate in success," Froman said. "The reward of [teaching] is seeing students like Troy reach their potential. He is one in a million and having him in the classroom was indeed a pleasure."

After high school, Aikman attended the University of Oklahoma and the University of California at Los Angeles. He was drafted by Dallas in 1989 where he has distinguished himself with a career playoff record of 11 wins and two losses. He led the Cowboys to two Super Bowl victories.

"Although our career paths have taken different directions, our friendship has always remained," Froman said. "Troy has promised to always keep in touch with friendships he valued."

Anthology includes post-removal Muscogee authors

Native American Writing in the Southeast: An Anthology, 1875-1935, edited by Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. and James W. Parins, University Press of Mississippi, 1995, 248 pages

Some of the earliest published writing in English by Muscogee and Yuchi authors has been reprinted in an excellent anthology edited by two scholars at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The anthology covers the period from 1875 to 1935 — a time of dramatic change in Indian Territory and Oklahoma. The book features representative works by 28 authors of Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee heritage, including one Yuchi and six Muscogee writers.

The book's title is somewhat misleading, since all of the selections were written after the tribes had been removed from their southeastern homelands. The editors, however, do understand the significance of the literature. For example, many of the Muscogee and Yuchi authors are identified by tribal town.

A short introduction explains the historical context for these writings. Oklahoma statehood and allotment — "the most devastating and destructive policy since removal," produced a literary response the editors describe as "dynamic."

"One important way in which the tribal peoples of the southeast responded to their long history of cultural discontinuity and struggle to survive was a written literature" (xviii). This response came in a variety of forms, including history, biography, journalism, fiction, poetry, and humor.

James Roane Gregory (1842-1912) is the lone Yuchi voice in the book. A member of Big Spring Tribal Town, he attended Coweta Mission School and enlisted with Union forces during the Civil War. He later farmed near Inola and also held political office in the Creek Nation.

Gregory wrote historical essays and poetry which were published in tribal newspapers. His four selections reprinted in this book provide insight of the early history and culture of the Yuchi and Muscogee people.

Alexander Posey (1873-1908) was among the first American Indians to receive national acclaim for his writing. The Tuskegee Tribal Town son was elected to the National Council at 22. He published "Indian Journal" in Eufaula, before his untimely death.

Posey wrote more than 250 poems and many more

essays, though he is best known today for his satirical column "Fus Fixico's Letter." Four of these pieces are reprinted here, along with five poems that reflect his love of the land and people around his home in the Tulledega Hills: "Hedged in, shut up with long forgotten ways, and stories handed down from sire to son."

Pleasant Porter (1840-1907) was the tribe's last elected chief before Oklahoma statehood. He was educated at Tullahassee Mission and served in the Confederate Creek army during the Civil War, which led to a political and military career in the Creek Nation.

He chaired the Sequoyah Convention advocating separate statehood for Indian Territory. His essay lists his reasons for supporting the idea of a separate Indian state.

Other Muscogee authors with works included in the anthology are:

- Charles Gibson (1846-1923) — born near Eufaula and largely self-educated, he wrote regularly for Posey's newspaper and for other periodicals. Gibson has seven pieces included. They consist of essays on Indian history, folklore, and humorous critiques of Indian affairs;

- William McCombs (1844-1929) — Cheyaha Tribal Town member and a noted orator of the tribe, his speech on patriotism is included;

- Jesse McDermott (1822-?) — Hickory Ground Tribal Town member and Posey admirer, McDermott has two essays with an entertaining perspective of the legal system; and

- Joseph Bruner (1872-?) — Locapoka Tribal Town member and businessman, Bruner has three essays describing traditional Muskoke history included in the anthology.

This book is the first comprehensive anthology of southeastern tribal literature in English and it will be an important resource for many. These pioneering writers "provide a vital link between earlier, tribal times and the contemporary realities of Indian America and its literature" (xxiv).

Anyone who would like to read more Muscogee and Yuchi narratives from this period will be interested in Theda Perdue's anthology *Nations Remembered*, which contains oral histories from the years 1865-1907.

— by James Treat, University of New Mexico
Editor's note: Treat, a Muscogee citizen, is assistant professor of American studies.

Festival

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to hear what the citizens would like to see at the next Festival or in the future, i.e., additional events, site improvements, better coordination. Please provide us with your written comments, suggestions, and solutions, keeping in mind funding is limited. The comment period will be open until July 31.

Send written comments to the Festival Committee, c/o Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

A meeting of the business committee to hear these comments will begin at 5:30 p.m., Aug. 14 in the National Council Chambers, suggestions, and solutions, keeping in mind funding is limited. The meeting is open and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Floyd Jones, for the festival Business committee

Council

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- NCA 97-79 — authorizing a five-year lease with Billy Fields of Hughes County for the use of 56 acres at the Wetumka site. Approved 17-5. Voting no were: Bible, Tulsa; I. Cleghorn, Tulsa; R. Cleghorn, Tulsa; and Nichols, Okmulgee.

Letters

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Contestant grateful to aunt

Editor:

I want to thank my great-aunt Amy Hildebrand of Shawnee, for making my traditional dress for the competition category of the Little Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant. I also want to thank former Muscogee Nation Princess Kristi Herndon (1990-92) for the use of her beaded collar.

Sydney Taryole, Glenpool

Editor's note: Taryole is the second runner-up in the second division of the Little Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant.

Coordinator extends thanks

Editor:

As coordinator of the 1997 Festival bowling tournament, I would like to recognize the following their support: Bobbie and Harold Burris; Steve Bruner; Checotah Indian Bingo; and Checotah Indian Community Smoke Shop.

Cheryl Bear, Checotah

Events and happenings

Hanna Indian Community

HANNA — Hanna Indian Community will have a bow shoot, horseshoe tournament, food bingo, and food sale, beginning at 9 a.m., Aug. 2. Breakfast will be available beginning at 8 a.m. Donations will be accepted. The community hosts a dinner for elderly citizens the third Sunday of each month at noon.

Annual Indian Hills Pow Wow

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma City Pow Wow Club will host the 47th Annual Indian Hills Pow Wow July 25 through 27 at 9300 N. Sooner Road. Master of ceremonies is Tim Tall Chief. For more information, call: (405) 354-7317, arts and crafts; (405) 681-4504; food vendors; (405) 634-5553, (405) 745-3789, or (405) 341-8945, general.