

KOSHARE INDIAN
MUSEUM
LA JUNTA, COLORADO

MARCH
2008

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **75th Anniversary Celebration**
July 25-27, 2008
See Registration Packet for more info about all the events.
- **Great Koshare Memorabilia on sale starting this June.**
Visit the on-line Trading Post at koshare.org
- **Additional overnight accommodations during the 75th in the Kiva. \$5/person. To reserve space, call 719.384.4411.**

SUMMER SHOW DATES

Additional show dates may be added. All Performances begin at 7:30 PM (unless otherwise noted).

June 2008

6, 7, 14, 21, 28

July 2008

5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20,
25 (special alumni show)
26 (2:00 PM)

August 1, 2008

Koshare News

"The world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Preparing for the 75th Anniversary

Some milestones come around just once in a lifetime. For the Koshare Indian Dancers that milestone is taking place this year. Seventy-five years ago, a group of scouts, with roots in the heritage of our farming and ranching industries wanted to start an Indian and archaeology club. With help from their new, young scout leader, James Francis "Buck" Burshears and his friend Jimmy Taylor, the club came to life.

Buck seemed to have the unfailing belief that anything was possible and that anyone's circumstances could be improved. Thousands of boys and leaders and now girls and women have come through this organization in 75 years. Thousands of lives have been touched by the core values established by those first boys: to preserve and educate others about Native American culture and the art and heritage of Southeastern Colorado.

From those first seeds, a movement was born that continues today. It now includes a museum, a thriving youth program, a cultural center and newly developed leaders that have a sense of responsibility for what came before them and a heart for service so that the organization can continue for those who come after them.



Koshare Dad Jesse Licano helps prepare the Kiva for the 75th Anniversary Celebration by cleaning all the logs. He removed crepe paper and staples from decades of dance decorations, paper airplanes, and other items left with us from visiting Scouts.

Board of Directors

President:

Kent Martin

Vice President:

Janet Berg

Committee Chairs

Collections:

Jon Kolomitz

Education:

Kent Martin

Facilities:

Jim Rizzuto

Finance/Budget:

Janet Berg

Jim Rizzuto

Directors:

Robert Benzin

Robert Fowler

John Gonzales

Dan Hyatt

Rick Wallner

Advisory Board:

Scott Eckhart (Tourism)

Legal Advisor to Board:

Philip "Dean" Malouff

Education Still the Key

Colorado's Governor, Bill Ritter, recently visited the Koshare Indian Museum after meeting with students and educators from the Arkansas Valley. Governor Ritter delivered the message that education is the key to our state's economic growth.

"Kids will have a different life experience if they do not stay in school," Governor Ritter told the audience.

According to the Youth Policy Forum, the factors that contribute to successful youth programs are: (1) Caring, knowledgeable adults, (2) High standards and expectations, (3) Integrating the

community, (4) Relevant, work-based learning, (5) Long-term services (of six months to several years) where young people have guided relationships with caring and knowledgeable adults.

Add those factors to preparing the future work force with life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, peer relationships, hands-on instruction, culturally sensitive enrichment, discipline and leadership and you have just about described the Koshare Indian Dancer program.

The Koshare Dancer Program filled a need for young people in 1933 that

is still relevant today. Young people need to be challenged, they need direction and boundaries and they need to learn within a caring, creative environment. What's more, young people often respond well to mentors who understand similar goals.

We are always looking for adult mentors who will help us meet the individual needs of a child, while still helping the organization grow and change to meet the needs of today's youth. If you are interested in being a mentor, come see us.



**"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."**

T.S. Eliot

Koshare Dancers Attend Youth Summit

Six Koshare Indian Dancers and two leaders attended the **Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit**, sponsored by Colorado Preservation, Inc. Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage.

According to Colorado Preservation, Inc.: "The Youth Summit was designed to foster enthusiasm, draw attention to the preservation achievements of dedicated youth and better involve preservation leaders with the creative ideas of the next generation to encourage the saving of historic places and their important stories. The primary objective of the Youth Summit is to provide a forum for interaction between students, educators, preservation experts, and community leaders to motivate and shape future efforts to raise appreciation and excitement about historic places and historic preservation."

The Koshare Dancers attending the Summit were: Tyler Trumble (*Head Chief*), Dion Armendariz (*Senior Assistant Head Chief*), Nia Leyba (*Head Maiden*), Brayden Martin (*Kiowa Clan*), Destiny Jaramillo and Kendall Martin (*Maidens*).

To be selected, each dancer had to pass a knowledge-based quiz about Koshare and Southeastern Colorado history. Program Director Jeremy Manyik and Assistant Program Director James McKnight were the leaders on the trip.



The Koshares won first prize when they danced for Colorado's First Lady and other summit attendees at the Governor's Mansion. Pictured above is Governor Bill Ritter presenting first prize for outstanding presentation to Koshare Head Chief, Tyler Trumble.

Vanaver Caravan



The Koshares were blessed with new friends and benefactors: **Vanaver Caravan**. This outstanding dance troupe visited La Junta to perform and fell in love with the Koshares and the Museum. They spent time with Program staff and dancers, to learn more about dances of the Pueblo and Plains Indians.

Vanaver Caravan was established in 1972 by Bill Vanaver and Livia Drapkin Vanaver. They perform folk music and dances from a variety of cultures.

In addition to visiting with the Koshares, they donated sales from their CDs to the Koshare organization, nearly \$600. We now count this wonderful troupe of dancers and musicians as among our friends and hope to dance with them one day in their home base in the Hudson Valley, New York.

To learn more about Vanaver Caravan, visit their web site: vanavercaravan.org.

Koshare Staff:**Jeremy Manyik***Program Director & Curator***James McKnight***Assistant Program Director***Karen "Susie" Sarlo***Director of Operations***Rebecca Goodwin***Heritage/Preservation***Davied Balicki***Archivist/Historian***Pat Malott***Accountant***Teri Erickson***Grant Writer***David Eckhart***Trading Post Staff***Nancy Martin****Teresa Sarlo***Trading Post Volunteer***Joe Talmich***Custodian*

Send a Dollar Save the Murals

In 1949, the Koshares and Otero Junior College broke ground for construction of the historic Kiva. By 1950, the building was completed. At the same time, Buck Burshears contracted with Velino (Valino) Herrera, famed Indian artist from the Zia Pueblo in New Mexico, to paint ten murals that fit into the recessed walls of the Kiva's interior.

Herrera, who began painting in 1917, was a part of the "San Ildefonso movement" in the Rio Grande area that established the trends in art for the pueblos. His "Buffalo Hunt" mural is pictured.

Herrera's murals are still one of the highlights of scouts and visitors to the Kiva. Unfortunately, over the decades, the murals have suffered some wear and tear and, as they are mounted directly to the Kiva walls, had some damage from the building settling and cracking.



The significance of these murals, some of the last remaining Herrera murals, is priceless. The only other known murals painted by Herrera are in the Department of Interior building in Washington, DC. Those paintings are actually frescos painted directly on the wall, rather than mounted murals as the Koshare Kiva murals are. According to the Department of the Interior staff, the replacement value for the Koshare murals is \$1.2 million.

In 2010, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Herrera murals completion. Before, the anni-

versary. It is the Koshare's hope to have the murals fully restored to their original brilliance. Even with grant money and other fund raising projects, we will need some matching money.

If we can **collect even a dollar from former and current scouts and visitors to the Museum**, we can restore the murals. If you remember your experience in the Kiva and want others to have the same memory, help us save the murals. Send a dollar and save the murals.



Photo courtesy of Lex Nichols.

Then and Now . . .

What was it like to be a Koshare over the years? What was it like to live in La Junta or the United States during each decade the Koshares have been in existence?

Who the Koshare are and what they do is often dictated by society. To delve deeper into the subject, we interviewed Koshare alumni to get a slice of life about our community, our nation, the world, and even about technology from pre-World War II to where we are today. The answers were fun and interesting and help explain how and why the Koshare organization has changed over the years.

1930's

William "Bill" Sisson

Years of Koshare Participation: 1933—1947

High School Graduation: 1937

Family Composition: Father worked for Otero County Abstract Co., mother stayed at home, brother in Koshares also.

Family Activities: Went to family ranch frequently, especially during the depression when dad did not have a job.

School Activities: Played sports (tennis and golf), square dancing and ballroom dancing.

Most Significant Attraction in the Community: Community life. There was not much crime that we were exposed to. There were a lot of interesting people and had family there (Sabins, Farthings, Sissons). Education was also good. My good friend, Bob

Inman's dad was the high school principal. There were a lot of opportunities for young people with Scouts, school, music and sports.

Most Significant Problem with

Community: The depression did not do it any good, but we survived it. The war didn't do it any good either, but we survived that too. La Junta responded well to the war with the air base, and every Koshare I knew supported the war and the nation.

The railroad strikes, dust bowl and dust storms also affected the community.

Most Significant Technological

Advancement: Airplanes and radio. Television was just starting. I remember seeing the first one being demonstrated.

More about the Koshares:

The Koshares represented the goals of Boy Scouts and always had that Boy Scout flair to it. The Indian lore attracted a lot of people from our community because of so much influence from the Indian world in this area. We had wonderful leaders who helped us: Jimmy Taylor was a great leader. Old Buck Burshears was the principle leader.

Advice: Participate in everything in the community and make friends. La Junta really is a friendly community.

1940's

Roscoe Champion

Years of Koshare Participation: 1945-1948

High School Graduation: 1948

Family Composition: Father worked, mother stayed at home, one older brother.

Family Activities: Travel, playing cards, love.

School Activities: Football, track, senior play, Honor Society, being a teen.

Most Significant Attraction in the

Community: In post-war America, the economy was changing from war to peace. Patriotism was still strong as it still should be.

Most Significant Technological

Advancement: I never saw a TV until the summer of 1949 when I was back in Michigan.

How Did You Spend Your Leisure Time?

We were busy being Koshares, building our costumes, and learning the dances and reading about native Americans. We went to the movies a lot. We also danced with girls at the old Boys Club. After school we would go to the soda joint between 1st and 2nd. The Kiva was built in 1949 and a lot of us spent time shaving the telephone poles that are now the roof on the Kiva.

1950's

Lowell Beardsley

Years of Koshare Participation: 1950-1954

High School Graduation: 1954

Family Composition: Father worked for Santa Fe and was a Koshare Keyman. Mother did not work.

Then and Now . . . continued

Family Activities: We had no car, so took “trip trips”. Spent time at the house making improvements as Dad was one of the original do-it-yourselfers.

School Activities: Band and orchestra all four years and National Honor Society senior year.

Most Significant Attraction in the Community: Summer was the best because that is when the Koshares would hit the road. Even a hot trip to Kansas was fun with the gang.

Most Significant Problem with World: World War II was done and world events weren’t headline stuff for us.

Most Significant Technological Advancement: TV made it to the Arkansas Valley, broadcast from Colorado Springs (Channel 11). Cars came with turn signals and rear seat speakers. There was a switch from 6-volt to 12-volt electrical systems.

How Did You Spend Your Leisure Time? We went to the movies. La Junta had 3 places: the Fox, the Mesa, and in the summer the drive in. Gas was only a quarter a gallon, so we dragged Colorado Avenue and Third Street from A&W in the West to Bernie’s drive-in in the east. We also played “ditch em” in the cars. The object was to ditch whoever was following you by speed, quick turns or hitting the traffic lights just at the correct time so the follower would have to stop.

Other Koshare Tid-Bits: Lowell was present for the first Winter Ceremonial in the Kiva. They put so much wood in the fireplace that it nearly smoked everyone out of the room. He also remembered the bus breaking down twice and they had to seek alternative transportation: once from

a cattle truck (Grand Junction to La Junta) and another time from Limon to Hays, Kansas in a grain truck.

1960’s

William Brock Lowman

Years of Koshare Participation: 1966–1972

High School Graduation: 1972

Family Composition: Dad worked full time, Mom worked part time. Little sister.

Family Activities: Camping in the mountains, boy scouts.

School Activities: Theater, science, chorus, art.

Most Significant Problem with World: Environmental issues

Most Significant Technological Advancement: The transistor.

How Did You Spend Your Leisure Time? TV, reading, hanging out with friends, going to the movies on a date, part-time jobs, and camping.

1970’s

John Gonzales

Years of Koshare Participation: Started in 1969. I remember Buck’s visit to the junior high with flyers in hand. I took the invitation home and shared with my parents my desire to join the club.

High School Graduation: 1975. I decided not to go on my senior long trip (something I regret to this day) because I had a job and the allure of legal tender was too much.

Family Composition: Both parents worked, younger brother joined Koshares for a while, two younger sisters and an older brother in the Army, who did one tour of Viet Nam.

Most Significant Attraction in the Community: That small town feeling. It was safe to leave your doors unlocked, walk alone at night. You never felt endangered.

Most Significant Attraction in the Nation: The Gemini/Apollo space programs, culminating with the landing on the moon in 1969, through the Sky Lab and Apollo/Soyuz mission in 1975. The U.S. Bicentennial in 1976 was also great news.

Most Significant Problem with Country: Problems within the country were in no short supply: the Viet Nam war (broadcast nightly by Walter Cronkite on CBS and Huntley & Brinkley on NBC). POW’s were released in 1973 from Viet Nam and again in 1975 after the fall of Saigon. A classmate of mine was killed just a few days before high school graduation. The other unforgettable events were Watergate, Nixon resigning, activism on all levels.

Most Significant Problem with World: Oil crisis, war, the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics (which overshadowed Mark Spitz’s seven gold medal performance in swimming) and the SLA (remember Patty Hearst?)

Most Significant Technological Advancement: Color TV, Pong, FM stereo, 8-tracks, cassettes, and mini-computers.

Jim Smith

Years of Koshare Participation: 1970 - 1973.

High School Graduation: 1973.

Family Composition: My father worked. My mother took care of us.

Family Activities: Camping, picnics, church, visiting relatives, walks in the park with the dog, and the Koshares (Dad was a leader and my three brothers were members).

School Activities: football, track, band, student council, service projects (installed the murals in the high school commons area).

Most Significant Attraction in the Community: Definitely the Koshares. I was in Boy Scouts in Denver where we lived while I was in junior high. I had heard about the “elite” Koshare Indian Dancers of Buck Burshears, “the boy scout troop with more Eagle Scouts than any other scout troop in the entire country”. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would actually get to BE a Koshare. Then one day my dad came in and said we were moving to La Junta. It was like a dream come true for me at the time. The Koshares definitely put La Junta on the map for me. (I had not even heard of La Junta before I learned of the Koshares).

Most Significant Problem with Country: The American Indian Movement (and Russell Means). They took over Alcatraz for a few months, and the week they got kicked off we arrived in the San Francisco Bay area to do a show as part of our long trip to the west coast that year. They crashed the show and we had to drive all night on the bus to Las Vegas to get away from them. Then, the next summer, we were beginning our long trip to the east coast, and they crashed our first show (in Topeka, Kansas). But this time the city knew there was

going to be a problem ahead of time, and a whole bus load of cops showed up before the show began, and when the Indians broke through the front doors of the auditorium they were immediately “smothered” in uniformed and plain clothes police and cuffed and hauled off to jail. That time we got to finish the show, but we still drove all night on the bus to get out of the state.

Most Significant Technological Advancement: The first hand-held calculator. Texas Instruments made it, and Ned Calonge got one our senior year. His was the first one we’d ever seen!

Additional Anecdote...

Buck Burshears was a really great guy. He always had a cigarette or cigar hanging out of his mouth.

1980's

Chris Baker

Years of Koshare Participation: 1974-1980.

High School Graduation: 1980.

Family Composition: Five brothers, one sister. Dad was a college professor. Mom worked as a nurse after Dad retired.

Family Activities: Family activities were Koshares since I was old enough to remember. There were also archaeology field trips with Dad’s students, horse rides on the ranches where Dad did archaeology, trips to Taos Pueblo and sometimes Buck took my brother Mike and me to the La Junta High School football games.

School Activities: cross country, track, football.

Most Significant Attraction in the Community: Koshares and Santa Fe Railroad.

Most Significant Problem with World: The Vietnam war and the way the nation treated the soldiers coming home. As a nation, we never accepted them. Some people fight wars for the rest of their lives. Although we wanted to get over Vietnam, the vets continued to be living reminders. We forgot about the sacrifice the vets made for us.

Most Significant Technological Advancement: the computer at Otero Junior College.

How Did You Spend Your Leisure Time?

I gave almost all of my time to Koshares. If I wasn’t dancing or practicing, then I was working on my Scout work or building costumes.

1990's

Mark Hensley

1991-1999.

High School Graduation: 1999.

Family Composition: Single-mother household.

Family Activities: Going out to eat, attending concerts and theater, watching movies, hiking, cultural vacations.

School Activities: Knowledge Bowl, track, cross-country, tennis, Koshares.

Most Significant Attraction in the Community: La Junta is a close-knit community that offers substantial out-of-family positive reinforcement of good behavior and personal accountability for bad behavior.

Then and Now . . . continued

Most Significant Problem with Community: Teen drug and alcohol use.

Most Significant Attraction in the Nation: Despite some of the recent political absurdities and corruptions in our nation, the ideological structure on which our government is based remains a bastion of rational leadership and human rights compared with many other countries.

Most Significant Problem with Nation: I think our generation's political apathy has contributed substantially to the political absurdities that our generation cites as a reason for political apathy.

Most Significant Attraction in the World: Ease of international travel has led to an increased circulation of cultures. Despite the clash of cultures that sometimes results, I think this is very good for intercultural understanding in the long term.

Most Significant Problem with World: The recent trend towards globalization has led to, at best, forcing emerging economies to drastically adapt to our economic model, and at worst, direct exploitation of those emerging economies by the first world.

Most Significant Technological Advancement: Definitely the internet.

2008

Tyler Trumble

Years of Koshare Participation: Since very small when my older brother participated.

High School Graduation: 2008.

Family Composition: Single-parent.

School Activities: Mostly Koshares, but also student council, choir, drama, and tennis.

Most Significant Problem with Community: No downtown area, nothing for kids to do, no jobs. Everything revolves around WalMart.

Most Significant Problem with World: Misunderstandings with foreign policy. Terrorism fears and not addressing environmental issues.

Most Significant Technological Advancement: Cell phones. It has changed the way we communicate, even our language (with instant messaging has changed). It has created more convenience and instant communication, but there is little or no time for yourself.

SPECIAL THANKS

Additional contribution recognition to the 2007 Koshare Japan Trip: **Dave Tapscott**

Tom Malouff (Koshare Alumnus) for editing tapes and making CDs of Koshare shows and Buck's talks for the Museum to sell in the shop.

Lex Nichols for hundreds of hours of photography and assisting with the design of the Koshare Souvenir booklet and Museum coffee table book.

Joe Abell (Koshare Alumnus) - His regalia from 1947.

The **Tom Ford Family** for lending Mr. Ford's regalia for display during the 75th Anniversary.

The Mary Moorhouse Family for donating a kachina collection worth over \$12,000 and nearly 100 reference books from her father's estate.

Koshare Indian Museum La Junta, Colorado

PO Box 580
La Junta, CO 81050

Phone: 719.384.4411

Fax: 719.384.8836

Website: kosharehistory.org or koshare.org

