

OUT OF THE VAULT

Descendants fulfill Chief Joseph request

Youthful misunderstanding and misplaced pride caused a lifetime of regret for a man who had the chance to make the final years of Chief Joseph’s life happier. His descendants rectified the error after his death in an attempt to bring together two cultures historically at odds.

It began in 1877, when Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce had led the U.S. Army a merry chase to within 30 miles of the U.S./Canada border, where the tribe was attempting to find sanctuary from a government determined to sequester the Nez Perce to a reservation in Oklahoma, far from their ancient homeland in the Wallowa Valley in northeast Oregon. The battered tribal band finally surrendered with Chief Joseph’s vow to “fight no more forever.”

An aide de camp to the general who finally stopped Chief Joseph’s flight, Charles Erskine Scott Wood, kept a diary throughout the running battle, and came to respect the Nez Perce chief. Wood’s efforts helped bring Chief Joseph and other Nez Perce tribal members back to the Pacific Northwest, though not to their original lands. The two men struck up a friendship and, in 1889, Wood asked if his son Erskine could spend a summer on the reservation near Nespelem, Wash. Erskine was taken in to Joseph’s own teepee, and given the Indian name Yel-



Young Chief Joseph

low Porcupine.

In 1893, at the age of 14, Erskine Wood returned to the reservation for a second summer. His father, wanting to thank the chief for his generosity, directed Erskine to ask the chief if there was anything he could do to repay him. When Joseph said he wanted a stallion, Erskine was stunned.

“I looked on Joseph as such a great man,” Erskine wrote in his diary. “... I revered him so that I thought his request for a stallion was too puny — was beneath him. I thought he ought to

ask if my father could do anything to repair the great wrongs done him, perhaps get him back a portion of his Wallowa Valley or something like that. ...”

The request went unanswered, and the next year Erskine went off to school, and the stallion was forgotten. Then Chief Joseph died, and Erskine was consumed by guilt. “A fine stallion which would have upbred Joseph’s herd of ponies would have been a wonderful thing for him,” he wrote. “But just because I exalted him so high, I deprived him

of it. ...”

When Ken Burns’ 1996 documentary “The West” ended with Wood’s story of a promise unfulfilled, the Wood family was galvanized into action. Erskine Wood Jr.’s daughter Mary met with representatives of the Nez Perce tribe, and Keith Soy Red Thunder, Chief Joseph’s great-great-grandson, was selected to receive the gift that had been promised, but never given, on behalf of his tribe.

The three-year-old Appaloosa stallion was purchased from a Utah ranch after a nationwide search, financed by \$22,000 in donations from the Wood family and their friends. On July 27, 1997, the Wood family and Nez Perce tribal members gathered at Wallowa Lake to commemorate the gift.

Tribal member Lucinda Pinkham, who lived near the Lapwai Nez Perce reservation in Idaho, said she hoped the gift would bring members from the three Nez Perce reservations together as one people. Bobbi Connors, a Nez Perce living on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, echoed her statement. “We’ve had enough that has caused us to be divided,” Connors said.

Red Thunder told those gathered that the horse signified more than just a promise fulfilled, but a way to unite “white man and red man.”

“We need occasions like this to bring our people together,” he said.

DEAR ABBY

Teen’s tenuous relationship with dad gets uncomfortable

Dear Abby: My dad has never really been in the picture. He just pops back in and out whenever he wishes and leaves when things get too hard. He has never had a job or a home since he walked out on my mother when I was 7. Recently he seems to have settled back here in town where my siblings and I live, but for some reason, he maintains contact only with me. I’m 18 and the oldest of three.

Since I have finally forgiven him for all the pain he’s caused, I sometimes accept when he invites me out to eat or watch a movie. He doesn’t own a car, so I give him rides when he needs them.

My problem is, he gets very touchy-feely. For example, when I’m driving, he’ll put his hand on my thigh. Or when we’re out together, he’ll hold my hand and say, “Pretend to be my girlfriend.” Of course, I immediately let go of his hand. Then he’ll “playfully” hug me and force me to be close to him.

I don’t know how to tell him he makes me feel uncomfortable. I have recently stopped answering his phone calls, but I feel bad because I would like a normal relationship with my



JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

father. How do I get him to start acting less like a creep and more like a father? — **Desperately Needing Advice**

Dear Desperately Needing: You may wish for a normal relationship with your father, but from your description, it never has been. Your father’s behavior is extremely inappropriate. You might be able to get him to stop “acting like a creep and more like a father” by telling him in plain English to cut it out. If he persists, avoid him, and do not feel guilty about it.

And if your siblings are female, talk to them and warn them about their father’s impulses — if they don’t already know. Hasn’t it occurred to you that your father contacts only you because you are no longer a minor?

Dear Abby: My 43-year-old son lives with my husband and me because of medical issues. On weekends he stays over at his girlfriend’s house. Occasionally, on weekends he’s not here, I’ll invite people over for dinner.

He says that because he lives here, he should be told when people are coming to the house. I say because he is not here at the time, and my husband

and I own the house, it’s none of his business. Who is right? — **Lady Of The House In Illinois**

Dear Lady: Your son has a point. I see no reason to withhold the information from him. He is a full-fledged member of the household. If his concern is that your guests might go into his room or go through his things, he may want to lock his door when company is coming in his absence.

Dear Abby: For the past couple of years, my husband and I have not been happy with the service provided by our dentist. We have been patients of his for years and recently decided to switch to someone else. What would be the best way to approach this? We are unsure how to diplomatically tell him that we won’t be going back to him. We both have upcoming appointments. — **Dental Dilemma**

Dear Dilemma: You do not have to explain why you are leaving unless you want to do the dentist the favor of telling him why. All you need to do is call the receptionist and say you are canceling the appointments. Your new dentist can contact the old one and request your records. You do not have to pick them up and deliver them yourself.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
July 28-29, 1918

What might have been a serious wheat fire was discovered Sunday evening and extinguished by a member of the O.M.P. The fire evidently started from a spark from a passing O-W. R. & N. train about three miles east of Pendleton. It was discovered by Private C.A. Crabtree, on fire patrol duty, who undertook to whip it out with his blouse and after several minutes of strenuous action in which he reports he even rolled on the burning straw, succeeded in patting it out. When extinguished the fire had burned over a space of 15 to 20 feet square.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
July 28-29, 1968

Advancement of Lt. Kenneth Chipman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Chipman, to captaincy, Weapons Assembly Department, U.S. Army, is announced from Oberammergau, Germany, where Capt. Chipman is an instructor. He has been in the service for 3 1/2 years. After graduating from officers training school, Fort Sill, Okla., he spent 13 months in Korea

and has been in Oberammergau since last October. His wife (Cheryl Hanzen) is with him and had the honor of pinning her husband’s bars for his promotion.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
July 28-29, 1993

Anita Booth and Gwen Fjeld are both friends and competitors this weekend. Each Pendletonian aspires to become Mrs. Oregon America. The pageant honoring married women will open with judges’ interviews Friday. Preliminaries will begin at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, then finals at 7:15 p.m. in the G. Herbert Smith Auditorium at Willamette University, Salem. Booth, 40, and Fjeld, 31, agreed they are most anxious about the interviews. Nine judges (as a panel and individually) will test their knowledge of current events and ask for opinions. Topics may range from warfare in Bosnia to distributing condoms. Swimsuit and evening gown competitions also count toward the title race, which involves 11 women this year.

BINGO

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7	●	39	59	17
11	41	●	71	
8	16	32	56	●

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Two parts of speech

Allotted portion

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VERB / RATION

PASTA TUNA COBB / FINLAND SWEDEN NORWAY / EDGAR ALLAN / NOON

Answers to Sunday's puzzle: SPINACH CHICKEN CAESAR GARDEN FRUIT

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7/28

C C S P I N A C H P G Y

L O H A S N O U N A A C

T V B I L W O C J S R A

U P H B C L E R K T D E

N V E R B K A D W A E S

A E D G A R E N E A N A

L V F I N L A N D N Y R

F R U I T J R A T I O N

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 the “N” in GNP (8)

2 golf course guide (6)

3 smallish Chevrolet van (5)

4 likely to play varsity (8)

5 Mary-Kate or Ashley (4)

6 official bird of 7 states (8)

7 having no fear (5)

SOLUTIONS

AL AL RA TI ER

HLE AST ON TIC IN

RO RD NG TW AT

BR CA AVE NA IN

Today's answers: 1. NATIONAL 2. RANGER 3. ASTRO 4. ATHLETIC 5. TWIN 6. CARDINAL 7. BRAVE

7/29

ODDS & ENDS

Michigan village elects cat — ceremonially — as mayor

OMENA, Mich. (AP) — Politics in a small northern Michigan village have gone to the cats and dogs and goats and even chickens.

Omena’s newly elected mayor is a feline named Sweet Tart. Dogs Diablo Shapiro and Punkin Anderson Harder are vice mayor and second vice mayor.

An election committee named Harley the goat press secretary while Penny the chicken is special assistant for fowl affairs.

The seats are ceremonial. WPNB-TV reports that the election is a fundraiser costing \$1 per vote and brought in more than \$7,000 to the Omena Historical Society.

Candidates have to be animals and live in Omena, which has about 300 human residents and is north of Traverse City.

An inauguration and parade were held Saturday. The newly elected officers will serve three-year terms.

D’oh! ‘Simpsons’ writer says show not based in Massachusetts

BOSTON (AP) — A veteran writer for “The Simpsons” says the show isn’t based in Oregon or

Massachusetts despite several references to the states.

The *Boston Globe* reports Mike Reiss recently sat down for a segment on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” to discuss the show and his new book, “Springfield Confidential: Jokes, Secrets, and Outright Lies from a Lifetime Writing for The Simpsons.”

Reiss says the Springfield where the show is set is “nowhere.” He explains the writers chose Springfield as a location because there are more than 40 cities and towns that share the name across the U.S.

Fans have highlighted references to the Bay State in the show, including Mayor Quimby’s New England accent and jokes about Harvard. Reiss is proud of the success of the show, whose 30th season will premiere this fall.

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