

# Stories told, gifts given at SR Comanche sunrise gathering



Shoshone-Bannock tribal elder (left) tells oral history about the Comanches and the connection to the area. (Lori Ann Edmo photos)



Comanche tribal members in attendance at the Shoshonean Reunion gather around the fire as they listen to the stories about Pohogoi.

By LORI ANN EDMO  
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — With the backdrop of a tipi on Pohogoi (Ferry Butte) members from the Comanche Tribe attended a sunrise gathering August 7 at the invitation of Shoshone-Bannock tribal elder Fred Auck to learn oral history about the area they frequented.

The morning star could be viewed in the darkness as Auck told about the encampment area of the Comanches and the Shoshones. Despite a chill in the air, those in attendance gathered around the fire as stories were told.

Auck explained how Pohogoi sits on the deepest aquifer in the world an area where the tribal people liked to camp. There's a lot of trout — good fish down there and deer as he pointed to the Fort Hall Bottoms.

He said the Comanches and Shoshone were all kin. The Comanche didn't leave from here, according to the stories Auck was told, they moved for a reason. "People have different stories but the way I've been told was when the military rounded us up and we made it to the reservation, they didn't — they knew the Comanches were with us."

Auck explained the significance of Mother Earth, the old people say it's called that because it takes care of you. The gathering is because he wanted to bring the Comanche back to the sacred area.

He had his NAC box with him and after the sun rose he brought out a whistle and it is said to be one of the original bamboo whistles from when the peyote ceremony was cre-



Fred Auck pictured with the whistle that came to the Shoshone and Bannocks.

ated. Four whistles were distributed in four directions — one stayed in the east with the Comanche, one went south to a tribe unknown, one went north to a tribe unknown and the fourth came to the west to the Comanche homeland known as Pohogoi (Shoshone-Bannock) area. According to oral history the whistles went with the teaching of peyote (sacrament) ceremony. The four whistles will come together at the time when conditions of the earth/world will be in question and the whistles will be available in the hour of great need.

In the 1900s 12 Shoshone and Bannock people were invited to go and learn the prayer ways of conducting peyote ceremonies with the Comanche. Comanche elder named "Codynah" taught them the Comanche teachings. His wife "Wokwai" was blind but was the water lady. She taught

the women the water portion of the peyote ceremony. There were other Comanche head men that also taught our people.

Codynah's great grandson Lloyd Meinokekey was in attendance at the sunrise gathering confirming the oral history. He said he has the whistle in his possession that went to his tribe.

After the stories were shared, the Comanches were presented with gifts including a commemorative cup with Pohogoi and Quannah Parker on it. They also drank spring water from The Bottoms, buffalo tao (dry meat), corn, and chokecherry pudding.



Fred Auck presents a buckskin bag to Lloyd Meinokekey, Comanche, whose great grandfather Codynah was talked about in the stories.



Sidney Fellows and Bailey Dann (left) distribute gifts of buffalo tao, chokecherry pudding, corn and the cups with Pohogoi on it and Quannah Parker.



**SHO-BAN NEWS**  
SUBSCRIBE & RENEW  
1 Full Year is \$60  
6 Months is \$30  
First Class mailing is \$15 extra



Send check or money order to:  
**Sho-Ban News**  
P.O. Box 900  
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

Distribution is 1,000 copies every Thursday. The Sho-Ban News is delivered to local outlets and sent to our subscribers via United States Postal Service.



A red sun rose over the sagebrush on Pohogoi that morning.



Velda Racehorse further clarifies some of the oral history of the area.

**SHO-BAN NEWS**  
COVERING IDAHO & INDIAN COUNTRY

The Sho-Ban News is published and owned by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and printed at Bear River Publishing in Preston, Idaho. The Sho-Ban News is located in the old Fort Hall Casino building at 385 Bannock Trail Road. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 900, Fort Hall, Idaho, 83203. Postage is third class bulk mail at the Main Post Office in Pocatello, Idaho. For subscriptions, news article submissions or display advertising information contact the business office at 208-478-3701 or fax at 208-478-3702.

The office is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on regular business days.

Subscriptions are \$60 per year or \$30 for six months. Email: [shobnews@jda.net](mailto:shobnews@jda.net)

Fort Hall Business Council, Publishers  
Lori Ann Edmo, Editor  
Roselynn Yazzie, Assistant Editor  
Brenda McKean, Bookkeeper  
Brenda Appenay, Circulation Technician & Advertising Salesperson  
Jeremy Shay, Web/Graphics Specialist  
Vacant, Reporter  
Joseph Wadsworth, Videographer

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK OR AT [SHOBANNEWS.COM](http://SHOBANNEWS.COM)

The opinions expressed in the letters to the editor are not those of the newspaper staff unless otherwise stated. The Sho-Ban News welcomes readers to express their views in the Opinion page. Letters should be typed, kept as brief as possible (500 words maximum) and are subject to editing. No personal attacks on individuals will be published. All letters will continue to be edited for libel. Each letter must be signed by the writer or it will not be published. No anonymous letters will be printed. Guest opinions will be printed, but only as space allows. Letters sent via email must include contact information so it can be verified. Thank you.