



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

*A Sovereign Nation Exercising Self-Governance
Over the Fort Apache Indian Reservation*

Resolution No. 07-2013-148

(Approval for Mary Ann Wade, Doctoral Student at Northern Arizona University to Conduct a Dissertation Study Entitled: Through Their Eyes: Apache Perceptions of Theodore Roosevelt School, 1945-1975)

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") is entrusted by the Tribe's Constitution to act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, to manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Tribe, and to regulate subordinate organizations for economic and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Theodore Roosevelt School (TRS) established in 1923 on the Fort Apache Reservation is one of the historic Indian boarding schools in the United States, which has been attended by generations of White Mountain Apache students; and

WHEREAS, this study regarding Theodore Roosevelt School will extend the time frame of 1923 to 1948 previously presented in the National Historic Landmark Nomination authored by Dr. John Welch, to the years 1945-1975; and

WHEREAS, and will collect data to address the following Problem Statement: This study will document the perceptions of former Apache students regarding their experiences at Theodore Roosevelt School between 1945 and 1975; and

WHEREAS, the (24) study participants will sign an Informed Consent Form explaining the terms of the study, including the Project Purpose, Explanation of Procedures, Confidentiality, Compensation, Benefits and Risks; and

WHEREAS, in the first stage of data collection, (4) male students from each of the decades of 1945-1955, 1956-1965 and 1966-1975 resulting in (12) subjects, and (4) females from each of the same time periods resulting in (12) subjects for a total of (24) subjects, will be given a general written survey questionnaire about TRS; and

WHEREAS, in the second stage of data collection, (2) male students from those who previously completed written survey questionnaires from the decades of 1945-1955, 1956-1965 and 1966-1975, resulting in (6) subjects, and (2) females from each of the same time periods, resulting in (6) subjects will be selected to participate in more detailed and specific oral interviews regarding their experiences at TRS; and

WHEREAS, transcripts of audio taped interviews will be transcribed into writing. This information, as well as the written survey questionnaires will have no personal identifiers, except in instances where subjects agree to be quoted. All data will be placed in a locked cabinet, to which only the researcher has access; and

WHEREAS, and all data will be destroyed (3) years after the completion of the dissertation, unless the subject agrees that the audio tape of their oral interview may be archived at the Nohwike' Bagowa (House of Our Footprints) Museum at Fort Apache; and

WHEREAS, this study will be performed with the intention of:

- Allowing former Apache students to express their perspectives regarding Theodore Roosevelt School, and assist in preserving the history of the site.
- Sharing information from additional cohorts of Apache students, beyond the time frame previously researched.
- Contributing information about an additional education institution within the Indian boarding school system from the viewpoint of former students.
- Highlighting an Indian Boarding School often omitted from existing boarding school listings.
- Providing educators of Apache children with insights regarding their cultural and historical background, which may have influenced their adjustment to school and educational attainment.
- Considering whether the U.S. government boarding school at Fort Apache acculturated and assimilated Apache students who attended TRS between 1945 and 1975 into the mainstream culture and society.

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Cultural Advisory Board previously approved this dissertation and Northern Arizona University (NAU) also endorses this project; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds it in the interest of the White Mountain Apache Tribe to approve this dissertation: *Through Their Eyes: Apache Perceptions of Theodore Roosevelt School: 1945-1975* for its potential contribution to White Mountain Apache Tribal history, as well as the history of American education.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the dissertation by Mary Ann Wade: *Through Their Eyes: Apache Perceptions of Theodore Roosevelt School: 1945-1975*, as more fully set forth above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances or Federal Laws, this Resolution shall be declared null and void and have no legal effect.

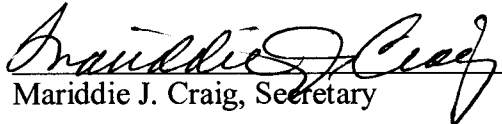
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Acting Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution. In the event that the Chairman fails to delegate signatory authority to an Acting Chairman, the Vice-Chairman may sign.

The foregoing resolution was on **JULY 16, 2013** duly adopted by a vote of **SIX** for and **ZERO** against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (s), (t) and (u) of the Tribal Constitution, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Ronnie Lupe, Chairman

7/18/13
Date



Mariddie J. Craig, Secretary

07/18/2013
Date

Doctoral Dissertation Project

Mary Ann Wade
Doctoral Student – Northern Arizona University (NAU)

Dissertation Title: **Through Their Eyes: Apache Perceptions of Theodore Roosevelt School – 1945 – 1975**

This dissertation project has received approval from the White Mountain Apache Cultural Advisory Board and Northern Arizona University.

Professional Background of Researcher

- Teacher & Program Coordinator – Dishchii'bi'koh (Cibecue) Community School, 1995-2000
- Teacher – McNary Elementary School, 2000-2003
- Superintendent – McNary Elementary School District, 2003-2013
- President Navapache Administrator's Association, 2008-2009
- Apache County School Administrator of the Year, 2012

Interest in Topic

- Lifelong interest in Native American cultures with primary focus on the Apache since 1973.
- Childhood curiosity about Pipestone Indian Boarding School, resulting in an interest in the Indian Boarding Schools and prompting future research.
- Introduction to Theodore Roosevelt Indian School after locating to the White Mountains in 1995.
- Questions about TRS in regard to the boarding school paradigm, and its effect on former Apache students.

Problem Statement

This study will document the perceptions of former Apache students regarding their experiences at Theodore Roosevelt Indian Boarding School between 1945 and 1975.

Sub Problems

- Type of classes and curriculum offered.
- Adequacy of books and school supplies provided.

- Routine, structure and discipline provided
- Religious and cultural practices permitted

Sub Problems, continued

- Clubs, sports and extra-curricular activities offered
- Every day living conditions, including dormitories, meals and health services
- Condition of the school buildings and grounds
- Relationship with other students and perceptions of former teachers
- Whether an education at Theodore Roosevelt School prepared students for future endeavors, such as employment, college, the military or homemaking
- Whether the Theodore Roosevelt School experience affected former students' subsequent views regarding school.
- Positive or negative experiences at TRS that stand out in the mind of former students
- How students felt about their overall experience at TRS
- Whether former students felt that the attempts of the U.S. government to acculturate and assimilate Apache people through Theodore Roosevelt School was successful.

Significance of the Study

This study will:

- Contribute information about an additional educational institution within the Indian boarding school system from the perspective of former students
- Highlight an Indian boarding school often omitted from existing boarding school listings.
- Provide information from additional cohorts of former Apache students, beyond the time frame previously researched by Dr. John Welch in his *Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark Nomination*.
- Discuss Apache cultural norms which may have influenced their adjustment to school and educational attainment.

- Allow former Apache students to express their perceptions regarding Theodore Roosevelt School, and assist in preserving the history of the site
- Research Format

The researcher will collect data for the project by asking some subjects to complete written surveys, and conducting audio taped oral interviews with others. The total number of subjects will not exceed 24.

The study will be explained to each participant and they will be asked to sign a written form providing their consent.

The Consent Form will include:

- Explanation of the Project Purpose – To document the perceptions of former Apache students that attended TRS between 1945 and 1975.
- Explanation of Procedures – The researcher will either orally interview and audio tape the former TRS student to ensure accuracy, or ask them to complete a written survey which asks questions about their experiences at the school. Subjects do not need to answer any question, with which they are not comfortable, and may withdraw from the study at any time. Audio tapes will later be transcribed into a written format. Ideally, interview or written survey sessions will be completed within (2) hours unless an additional session is required.
- Confidentiality – All responses will be kept confidential. There will be no names attached, unless the subject agrees to be quoted. If the subject wishes to make a comment “off the record”, the tape recorder may be turned off so that they may make the comment in confidentiality. Written surveys and audio tapes of oral interviews will be stored in a locked cabinet, to which only the researcher has access. This information will be destroyed (3) years after completion of the dissertation, unless oral interview participants agree to have their tape recorded session archived at the Nohwide'Bagowa Museum at Fort Apache.
- Compensation – The researcher will place two \$100. Wal-Mart gift cards in a drawing for those who complete the written survey and two additional gift cards for those who provide oral interviews in appreciation for their participation. Those who withdraw from the study will not be eligible for the drawing.
- Benefits – The individual subjects will have the opportunity to act as historians by sharing thoughts about their experiences at Theodore Roosevelt School between 1945 and 1975. The information the subjects provide will expand the existing knowledge about Indian Boarding Schools in the U.S., and about their former school on the Fort Apache Reservation. This information will help educators and

future researchers who are interested in the topic of Native American education.