



Sherman Got Talent 4

We are fortunate each year at Sherman to have many diverse students with varying talents and interests. One of our current 2024 multi-talented students is White Mountain Apache tribal member and Sherman junior Conrad Colelay. Conrad was raised on the vast and beautiful Fort Apache Indian Reservation in eastern Arizona where he learned to fish, hunt, and bull ride. About a year ago he purchased his first guitar. Through the inspiration of his grandfather he taught himself to sing and play the guitar. Some of Conrad's fondest memories are those of him and his grandfather hanging out together on the family porch singing songs.

During Homecoming Week in September 2023 our student body selected Conrad as a Junior Class Prince on the Homecoming Court. Despite his challenging academic course load this year which includes two honor courses and Algebra 2, Conrad found time this fall to once again join the Varsity Basketball Team. In the spring he intends to participate in track and field.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Conrad ride "G-Man" and let him entertain you with a 1975 song written by Don Henley and Glen Fry.

Proverbs

Seek wisdom, not knowledge. Knowledge is of the past. Wisdom is of the future.

Anonymous Native American proverb

"Everybody has their own value n a different way"

Marlon Brando

Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it.

Arapaho

Farewell to Ms. Bonner

Science teacher Helen Bonner will retire this year. Ms. Bonner has taught at Sherman for 20 years. Click [HERE](#) to hear Ms. Bonner discuss her Sherman experience.

From The Editor

Mark your calendars for these upcoming second semester Sherman events.

March 11-15. There will be modified minimum days all week as our student body and staff participate in the "Spring Fling Week".

April 19. The Ms. Sherman Pageant will be held on campus at 2:00 PM.

April 20. Annual Sherman Pow Wow

April 27 or 28. Prom Night

May 3. Senior Awards Assembly

May 8. Intertribal Ceremony at 2:00 PM

May 9. Graduation at 10:00 AM

May 13. Summer school begins

The **Sherman Indian Museum** hosts a **Facebook page**. Keep up to date with current Museum/school activities and Sherman alumni news and share your comments and photographs with the Sherman Community on Facebook: click [HERE](#) for the Facebook page.

Click on the **YouTube link below to access our library of Sherman videos**. You can also view these videos by clicking on the links provided within the information box on the last page of this newsletter.





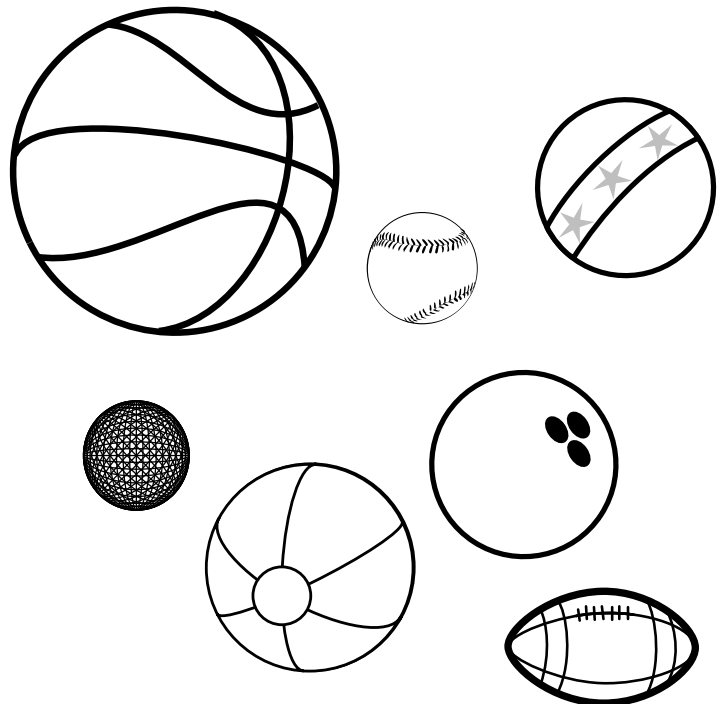
FIG 1: Above: Program Coordinators Karlene Clifford (L) and Amanda McMorris (R) **Upper Right:** The student basketball competition was fast and furious during our first “field day”. **Lower Right:** Crystal Whitley (L) and Amanda McMorris (R) enjoy the basketball competition.

A Healthy Student Body

The Children’s Health Fund was created in 1987 by Irwin Redlener, songwriter and singer Paul Simon, and Karen Redlener to provide comprehensive health care to American children and families living in under-resourced communities. Through the years this organization has supported and advocated for public health programs that address critical issues within the health care infrastructure. In October 2023 thirty-three Sherman students and personnel from the San Bernardino County Indian Health Services assembled on our campus to collaborate on developing a health and nutrition initiative for our school. The goal of the one-day meeting that was sponsored by a partnership between Sherman and The Children’s Health Fund was to develop a proposal that would encourage our students to take control and ownership of their health and wellness. During the meeting five initiatives were developed, presented, and voted on. A field day and snacks proposal was supported by a majority of our students. In this proposal our student body will participate in monthly competitive and cultural physical activities during designated field days. The proposal also calls for the re-establishment of the Recreation Department’s snack bar where students would be able to purchase healthy snacks using “Sherman Bucks”. A reward system would be used for allocating “Sherman Bucks” to appropriate students. The Children’s Health Fund awarded Sherman Indian High School funding to create and operate the field day and snack project. The Sherman coordinators of this project are Amanda McMorris (Pathways), Karlene Clifford



(school counselor), and Crystal Whitley (Riverside County Office of Education). Sherman Indian High School thanks The Children’s Health Fund for their generous financial support for our student health initiative.





Above. Sherman students at the October 2023 Health Initiative meeting. **Top Right:** Trophy cases and trophies on display at the Sherman Museum. **Center Left:** Business as usual - Sherman runners at the front of a 1970s running event. **Center Right:** Cross Country champion Richard Lopez. **Bottom Right:** Early 1930s group picture of some Sherman dirt-pounders.

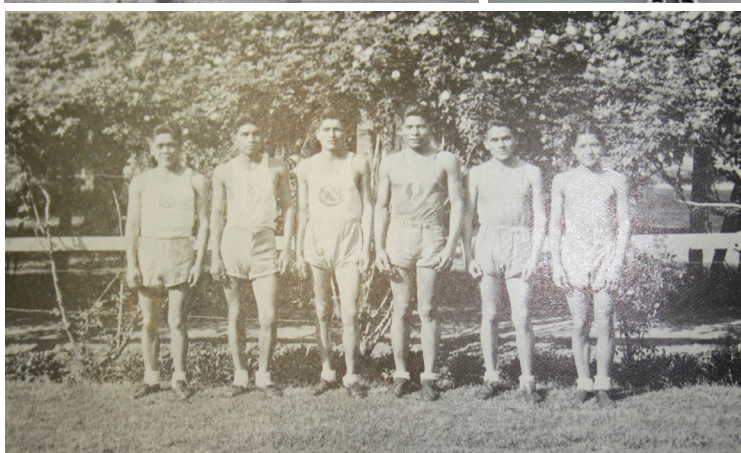
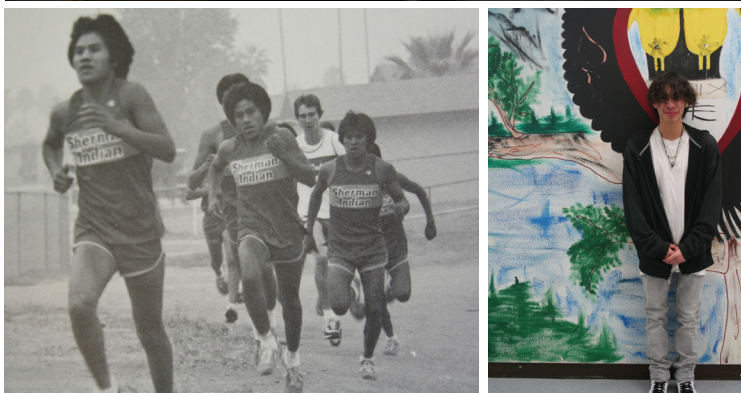
Over 100 Years of Running Excellence

Near the entrance of our Sherman Museum stand two old glass cases packed with numerous historical achievement trophies. Some of these trophies are associated with Sherman's famous long-distance running program. Over the years Sherman's long-distance or cross-country program has produced many champions and goodwill ambassadors for our school.

Phillip Zeymore was a Sherman runner and member of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. In 1912 he helped bring public attention to Sherman's running program by romping his way to victory over 150 other runners in the Los Angeles Marathon. During these early years Sherman was acknowledged to have some of the best marathon runners (or "dirt-pounder" as marathon runners were called back then) on the Pacific Coast if not the United States. Under the guidance of legendary coach Bert Jamison, Sherman runners in the 1920s and 30s took home numerous cups, plaques, and medals while competing against some of the best long-distance runners and teams in the Western United States. It is noteworthy that many of Sherman's long-distance runners have come from the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. This tribe has produced many champion Sherman runners over the years.

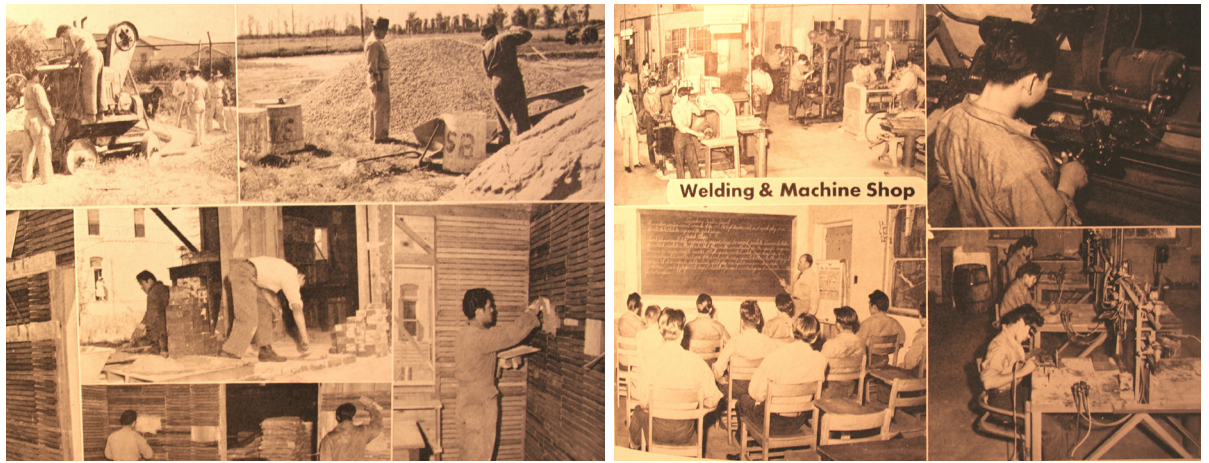
The success of the Sherman boys and girls cross-country running programs continued in the 1970s and 1980s under the watchful eyes of Coach Ken Taylor. Coach Taylor became one of the most successful cross country coaches in California winning ten boys Southern Section CIF cross country team championships and a State Championship during his tenure.

Since 1988 Coach Tom Colley has guided Sherman cross-country runners. Mr. Colley has coached Sherman cross-country runners to both the CIF Southern Section and State Championships. Not surprising, this year our cross-country teams did well. The boys team again won the Arrowhead League Championship and the girls team finished in second place. Richard Lopez was the boys 2023 Arrowhead League Cross Country Champion and Josiah Declay, Brandon Dude, Rodney Palimo, Michael Ferrell, and Andrew Tillman earned all-league recognition. Five of our girl runners, Kelilah Becenti, Payton Killson, Ayana Shadrick, Leanna Lomeli, and Marlie Ute were also selected to the 2023 all-league team (click [HERE](#) to meet our 2023 Cross Country Team). We congratulate Coach Colley and his 2023 runners for their accomplishments and for keeping Sherman's cross-country legacy alive.



Cross-Country Team

Top Right: The Welding and Machine Shop. **Top Left:** Masonry activities. **Center:** Some of the WWII enrolled veterans at Sherman. **Bottom:** Sherman student Benny Cleveland.



WWII Veterans at Sherman

Through the 1930s and into the 1950s Sherman Institute established a reputation for high quality Native American vocational training. Diverse vocational training was offered at our school in well-equipped and modernized shops and facilities. The vocational training areas included painting, printing, electricity, plumbing, boiler and refrigeration, metal, welding, machinery, auto mechanics, mill and cabinet, house carpentry, farm mechanics, masonry, general agriculture, dairy production, institutional cooking and baking, home economics, nursing, and dental assistant.

In 1946 Sherman Institute was approved by the Veteran's Administration to educate Native American WWII Veterans returning to civilian life. In 1947 eighty-four Native American Veterans used the 1944 GI Bill to enroll at Sherman for both vocational and academic instruction. Five veterans lived on campus but attended Riverside City College for regular college courses. Sherman veterans formed their own campus veteran's club and various sports teams (football, basketball, and boxing) that competed around the area. Under the supervision of Principal Joseph Chandler these veterans also formed their own code of conduct while they were on campus. The vets were always available to help the younger student body and participated in student body picnics and ceremonies.



One of the WWII veterans at Sherman was Benny Cleveland. Benny was a member of the Navajo Tribe and was raised in Gallup, New Mexico. He attended school at Fort Wingate. He joined Wingate's boxing team and became a successful amateur boxer winning the Albuquerque, New Mexico Golden Glove championships from 1940 to 1942. Although he was only five feet four inches and weighed 118 pounds he stored dynamite in his fists. In 1942 he left school and joined the United States Marine Corps. He fought in many Pacific War engagements from the Guadalcanal Campaign to the epic battle on Iwo Jima where he was wounded. He also boxed while serving in the Marine Corps and won a Marine Corps bantam weight title. In 1947 he came to Sherman to resume his interrupted school studies. At Sherman he prioritized his school work and was a good student. However, he also made time to participate in his passion for competitive boxing.

Benny gained a reputation for his boxing skills in amateur matches around San Bernardino and other areas of Southern California. While at Sherman he participated in the Los Angeles Golden Gloves tournament and beat all the favorites in the bantam weight division. This tournament victory earned him a spot on the California team that competed in the Chicago Golden Gloves Tournament. He reached the semi-finals of the tournament before being defeated. In the tournament he was awarded the Harold Dade Sportsmanship Trophy for the bantam weight division. Although Benny had many offers prior to 1947 to turn professional, he turned them all down to continue his schooling and to learn more about the finer points of boxing. During the 1947 Sherman School year he made plans to attend summer school at Riverside City College. However, by the end of the school year he decided to leave school and became a professional boxer. On July 11, 1947 at age 21 he had his second professional match at the Hollywood Legion Stadium. Benny put up a good battle but lost the bout. As he was leaving the ring his legs faltered. A corner man help Benny to his dressing room. As Benny sat in his dressing room he complained about feeling ill. Soon after his remark he fell unconscious and slipped into a coma. Sadly Benny Cleveland passed away the next day at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital from internal bleeding from a brain injury.

Benny Cleveland lived a short but intriguing life. He was a notable student during a unique period of Sherman's history.



THE SHERMAN TIMES
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WEB: [Sherman YouTube Videos](#)
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MISSION STATEMENT
The Sherman Community empowers Native students through opportunities to find their purpose at school and in life.

MIND • BODY • EMOTION • SPIRIT

Educating Native American youth since 1903