

**A Publication of the Early Arkansaw
Re-enactors Association (EARA)**

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EARA'S LOSS OF A BROTHER

Joyce Hetrick

It is with a very sad heart that I report the obituary for our friend and brother, **Howard "Huggy Bear" Bethea**, 39, of Maumelle. He passed away on Monday, June 20, 2016. He was born in Dumas, Arkansas, on May 5, 1977. He was raised in Maumelle, and graduated from Oak Grove High in 1996. Howard was a member of Freedom Baptist Church, the Early Arkansaw Reenactors Association, and a life-long member of the Manataka Native Indian Council in Hot Springs. Howard is survived by his parents, Michael and Julia Granger Bethea, of Maumelle, and a host of other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his sister, Staci Bethea Moody, and grandparents, Fred H. and Margie Culpepper Bethea, and Curt and Mae Aldridge Granger. Funeral service was Saturday, June 25, 2016, at the Chapel of Ralph Robinson Funeral Home with Bro. John Vaprezsan officiating. Burial was at Bellwood Cemetery.

The simple bare bones obituary above is not at all describing the Howard we knew and loved in EARA. Howard was a bear of a man for sure, and he loved his hugs which he freely gave to anyone who would meet him, which gave him his camp name of Huggy Bear.

I saw him last at Woolly Hollow camp in April. He was as lively and friendly as always. Most of us have favorite memories of Howard so I will tell you mine.

My favorite story is about the night about 10 of us celebrated Howard's birthday and also David's birth day (they were "twins" born 20 minutes apart in separate states to different mothers) We had a large table at the Mexican place in NLR and it was Cinco DeMayo so they had a band. Tim Richardson had brought a tow sack of different musical items, and he gave me a tambourine that had no head and no jingles—just a round piece of wood to wave around—while everyone else had some noise maker. I have no musical talent, even keeping time with the beat! LOL

There was a long line of folks outside waiting to get in and giving us dirty looks for hogging those tables the entire evening. Tables were crowded in the room so there was no room, but Julia and I got up and danced between the tables and before long, other women were getting up and dancing as well. Probably had something to do with the fact we were imbibing grown up drinks.

There will never be another Cinco DeMayo that I won't think of Howard.

Vous won't be the same without his smile. Rest in peace our friend we will miss you.

Howard Bethea

By Tim Richardson

We buried Howard Bethea on Saturday 6-25-16.

He was 39 years old and is now interred in Pine Bluff next to his sister, Stacy, whom he (and we) deeply missed since her passing several years ago in 2006.

Many reenactors came to the funeral from all around and even out of state to help fill the Chapel of Ralph Robinson and Son funeral home in Pine Bluff. Howard's preacher, John Vaprezsan, presided over the funeral and talked of Howard's life and that Howard had recently forgiven someone and had seemingly called everyone he knew to tell them the good news of this life-changing accomplishment. His cousin from Texas spoke of Howard's famous hugs that got him the name of "Huggy Bear" as did Lee "Standing Bear" Moore, his friend and respected Elder of the Manataka American Indian Council. Elder Moore spoke of

Howard's passion for loving everyone, that Howard's greatness was in his ability to love you and when Howard gave you a hug you knew that it included his unconditional love for you. After the internment ceremony at the cemetery, a few of us found our way over to some shade where Steve Johnson had brought a peace pipe with some tobacco that Howard had gifted to him earlier. Joined by Lee "Standing Bear", Larry Thompson, Tom Reedy, myself and others all sat on the grass. A bit of sage was set to smolder and passed around for all to envelop themselves in the smoke to encourage the positive spirits to be felt. Then Lee "Standing Bear" sang a short Indian song three times (instead of the usual four (for compass directions) since we had no closed circle). Steve gave fire to the pipe and Howard's tobacco came to life making the air fragrant with Howard's spirit. The pipe circled to the left and homage to Howard's spirit was given by each in what way they deemed appropriate. Upon the second circle, the pipe was spent and the ash was drawn from the bowl.

The ash was shared amongst all and dispersed individually where upon the Elder "Standing Bear" raised his arm pointing upward. We all gazed up and witnessed not one, but two beautiful Mississippi Kite birds-of-prey, circling and playing in the tree tops directly above our heads. I tossed my bit of tobacco ash toward them thinking; "this is your spirit Howard and Stacy", as they were surely laughing and giggling and enjoying their long awaited reunion while they flew over our heads. We all left in peace that hot day and made our ways back to our air conditioned homes to reflect on the day and what we had learned and how our lives were changed. Perhaps we will see a couple of Mississippi Kites flying over the next rendezvous and we can smile and remember!

2016 Events

NEW EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR KEEL BOAT

1. Lake Dardanelle State Park, Saturday, August 20th, 10 AM to 3 PM.

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> 2. Natchez, MS. River Celebration, part of the 300th anniversary of

> founding of Natchez. Friday - Sunday, September 16th - 18th.

>

> 2. Black River float from Davidsonville State Park to Jacksonport State

> Park. December 26th - 30th.

>

> On three events are in the water and thus, we need a crew. Let me know if

> you attend any or all.

>

> Ed Williams

> 591-944-0736

July 4 Fourth of July at HAMM Ed Williams 501-944-0736

July 7-17 Rocky Mt National Voo Gunnison, Co Lori Bennett 903-949-8842

August 6 Ice Cream Social Carol's Porch Carol Fritts 501-350-1706

August 27 EARA Annual Picnic Teresa Lafferty 501-247-6466 (call or text)

Sept 8-11 Calico Rock Voo James Ross 870-615-3120

Sept 15-18 Soggy Bottoms Voo Lori Bennrtt 903-949-8842 (School day on Friday)

Sept 29- Oct 2 Critter's Voo Foulk, Ark . Bobby Cooper 903-908-5088

Oct 1 at Old Washington, Turkey Shoot

Oct 1 Ozark Folklife Festival at Tyler Bend on October 1st, 2016. It will celebrate Searcy County Life in the time frame of 1838 to 1916 It is the week before the Rendevous in Leslie. They would be able to set up on Friday and could stay til Sunday (working on check out date) We are also looking for someone to set up a black smith working display a cooper, a tanner and lye soap. We would like to have a children's tent as well with games, May have some other specifics as the event progresses. Please have them call me directly (870?) 448-4870 that would be great. Have them let me know if they are with the encampment or have a specialty. Thank you ~ Ruth

Oct. 6-9th Leslie Voo Glenn Cook 501-941-7910 gc1760@yahoo.com

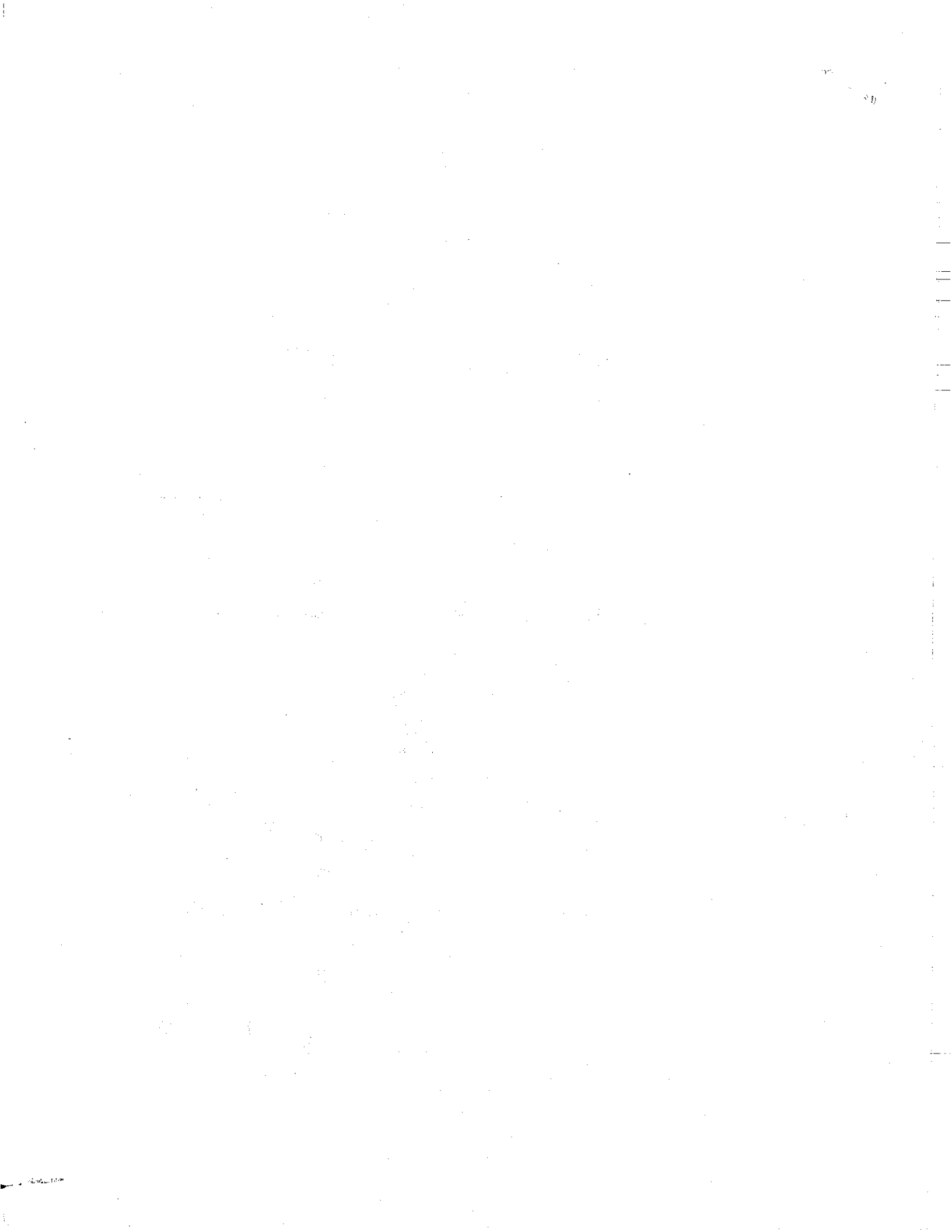
Ozark Folklife Festival, Oct. 1, 2016, 10A-8P at Tyler's Bend in the Buffalo National Park. Nine Days in N. Arkansas near the Buffalo River... WOW!! What a great opportunity.

EARA has been invited to participate/demonstrate at the Ozark Folklife Festival (OFF). It commemorates the 100th anniversary of the National Park System in Arkansas under the rules of the National Park System. OFF has offered EARA a stipend of \$125.00 for a Living History Encampment Voo. The public will be there only on Sat, Oct.1 from 10A-8P. We can camp for Friday nite until Monday nite at the site and resetup at Leslie Rendezvous site until next Sunday.

Ruth Peplar, owner of Dogwood Farms, is the organizer for the Park and will assist us. She was at Lead Hill event with the General Store and at all our Leslie Voo's. They dress out, but do not camp. Great people, super nice. OFF has also invite individuals to be demonstrators and earn \$125.00 for each specified demo. The list of demo's needed: Candle dipping, Lye soap making over a fire, Logging w/ a sawing contest or public participation, Barrel making/Cooper demo, Basketmaking, Broom maker, Children's games. The money is yours or you can donate it to EARA. Everything at the campout must be time and area period correct for Searcy County in the 1800's. We have to register our demo with Ruth. She will not pay for duplicate demo's. If you feel strongly about your demo, please do it as a service to the EARA encampment. As always, we only want period correct reenactment and plunder; therefore, no modern equipment, no modern things, no plastic on site. Keep breadwrappers, kid toys, coolers, etc. in the tent or covered at all times. Federal Parks do not want any blackpowder on site or fired weapons as demonstrations within the park. No digging of firepits. Use of Firerings, buffalo, braizers, for cooking. Food vendors available. These are Federal Rules...Please, WE are quests invited to participate, getting paid, and need to adhere to all the rules laid out for us. We have already had 3-4 people expressing an interest and have filled some of her list of demonstrators. Please, help and fill in our encampment and demonstrate., IT will be a great time.

The Park Service will need pictures of your "For Sale" items to deem them appropriate for time/place period correctness in Searcy County. Any buckskinner, vendor or camper may come and sell. Misshattie/Nonose have the forms and instructions for this and will get you a copy of them. They are too long to write out here. There is a \$25 vendor fee. The deadline for this info to get back to the Park is July 15. Please, contact ASAP. Please, note that Arkansas Sales Tax is required to be collected in Searcy County at this event and at our Leslie 2016 Voo. There will be envelopes provided for all traders to use for this purpose at each event. OFF is a onetime event. (I will be calling the Ar Sales Tax/ clarification of the rules for out of state and in state vendors.)

Please, contact [REDACTED] Misshattie, or Nonose about this event. We have had great success in the Northern counties of our state and have been well recieved with high interest and attendance. Please, assist with making this event special. I really appreciate all that our EARA members do for our club, our membership, and the public. We always pull off the BEST events. We will make this one have *Shin'Times*, too



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