

Elsie Monroe displays shawls

The Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center, administered by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the preview of a Special Exhibition, "Shawls and Vests," by Elsie Monroe, held on Dec. 21 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

"Shawls and Vests," by Elsie Monroe will be on view to the public through Jan. 16. Viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Elsie Monroe, a member of the Comanche Indian tribe was born on Oct. 25, 1919 in Lawton, Okla. She attended gram-

mar school at Lone Jack School at Richard's Spur, located near Lawton, Okla.

She also attended Fort Sill Indian School in Lawton and graduated from Chilocco Indian School, Chilocco, Okla. (1939).

Mrs. Monroe received training in making shawls from her mother who decorated her shawls with embroidered designs. Since 1967, Mrs. Monroe has devoted all of her spare time to creating colorful, elaborately-designed shawls.

Assisting her mother in the production of the shawls is Judy Bryan who helps fringe and cut out designs. More recently, Mrs. Monroe has expanded her creative endeavors

to include the production of men's and women's vests, pillows and pants suits — all decorated with applique designs.

Included in the Special Exhibition will be a dozen women's dance shawls made of polyester and decorated with felt designs applied in geometric patterns or in narrative designs pertaining to the religious symbolism of the Native American Church.

Some of Mrs. Monroe's most inspired designs include spirit birds, fans, staffs, water drums and tipis — all of which refer to religious experience and rites of the Native American Church.

Other items on display will be men's and women's vests as well as pillows and pants suits. Most of the shawls, vests, pillows and pants suits on display will be available for sale.

In conjunction with the Special Exhibition preview, the museum staff and the Oklahoma Indian Arts and Crafts Cooperative hosted a Christmas party.

Holiday refreshments were served throughout the afternoon event. Enriching the Christmas celebration were musical selections presented by Elmer Raye Smith and Mrs. Richenda Vaughan, brother and sister who are members of the Wichita tribe and residents of Grace-mont, Okla.

A four-page illustrated brochure entitled "Shawls and Vests by Elsie Monroe" has been published by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center.

Copies of the brochure are available free to the public.

IRS advises--

Shorter Form 1040a

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—Many area residents will receive Short Form 1040A this year from the Internal Revenue Service, although they filed the longer Form 1040 in the past, Charles E. Roddy, IRS District Director for Alaska, advised today.

He said that the IRS has reviewed records of Forms 1040 filed in the past to find out which taxpayers could have used Form 1040A, and this year has mailed the shorter form to them.

Generally, taxpayers can complete Form 1040A more quickly and easily than Form 1040, and avoid the expense some individuals incur by paying for help with the longer form. The IRS is also able to process the shorter forms more rapidly.

If the taxpayers' circumstances have changed since they last filed a return, however, they should check to see if they can reduce their taxes by itemizing deductions on Form 1040, Mr. Roddy said.

He suggested that taxpayers read the information in the Form 1040A tax package which provides a simple test on whether it is advantageous to itemize deductions.

Some examples of itemized deductions are: medical expenses, local, state, and real estate taxes, alimony, interest

expenses and gifts to churches and charities.

Other itemized deductions include casualty losses in excess of \$100 and employee business expenses such as union dues, safety helmets and tools, Mr. Roddy said.

He noted that the standard deduction is now 16 percent, with a maximum of \$2,600 for married persons filing jointly (\$1,300 for married individuals filing separately), and \$2,300 for single persons. When itemized deductions total more than the standard deduction, itemizing deductions on Form 1040 usually will result in a lower tax.

Taxpayers who need Form 1040 may use the order blank included in their 1040A tax package to request the longer form and additional information from the IRS.

Bicentennial . . .

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The one-day workshops being held in 11 major cities are designed to provide technical assistance through a self-instructive format to organizations and individuals in identifying and obtaining resources from the private sector to support their Bicentennial programs.

Four of the sessions have already been completed in Chicago, Washington, Kansas City and Boston. Dates and places for the remainder are: Oct. 28, Dallas; Nov. 3, Philadelphia; Nov. 17, New York; Nov. 19, Atlanta; Nov. 24, Denver; Dec. 8, Los Angeles; and Dec. 5, Seattle.

Attendees at the workshops have been invited mainly through the efforts of the Bicentennial Ethnic/Racial Council encouraging local and regional participation in the Bicentennial commemoration by ethnic/racial and Native American groups.

The Raven . . .

(Continued from page 2)

simple-minded. Here then is a challenge to Tlingit storytellers; they should review this book. This reviewer is not fluent in Tlingit. An early advertisement for the book says that the writer is one, "...with a finely tuned ear for the language of the tribal houses of the Tlingit." If this is true, perhaps she should give the actual Tlingit texts and then justify her translation of them; if the ad is not true, is it false advertising?

In the past, many people who were not trained linguists and had little respect for Native traditions, could write translations of legends and quietly laugh at those who were telling the story. In the past, nothing was done about this practice. Hopefully, those days are gone forever. This writer found DeArmond's translation "more pleasurable reading" only if the intent was to laugh and poke fun at the Tlingits by making a mockery of their language.

It might be asking too much for those concerned to pay out \$100 just to see a copy of this limited edition, so it might be easier to find a text in a local library. Perhaps in the near future some Tlingit scholars and educators will not only review books concerning the things said about them, but produce much better explanations of their great cultural heritage.

—WALLACE M. OLSON
Juneau, Alaska

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