



Council Grove Drama Features Kaw Indians, Santa Fe Trail

More than 100 cast and crew are preparing for the 2010 production of *Voices of the Wind People*. The pageant presents an historically accurate and dramatically compelling story of the clash of two cultures, Native American and Euro-American, in the historic setting of Council Grove, Kansas, on the Santa Fe Trail. Presented by the Kaw Nation and the local Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc., pageant committee, *Voices* will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18, 2010 in the Old Riverbed Amphitheater in Council Grove.

Written by Ron Parks while he served as site administrator of the Kaw Mission State Historic Site, *Voices* brings the past alive from a multi-cultural perspective. Parks created the pageant as a multimedia presentation, combining live history scenes, slides, singing and dancing performances. The pageant features the 1821 Santa Fe Trail pack train, two wagon caravans, the signing of the 1825 Council Oak Treaty, trading at the Seth Hays store, an 1859 confrontation between Kanza warriors and whites in Council Grove, bushwhackers raiding Council Grove in 1863, Kanza village scenes, and the forced removal of the Kanza tribe from Kansas.

The Kaw Nation provides tribal members as actors, dancers and singers for the performance. The tribe was exiled from Kansas 137 years ago, but the Kanza (or Kaw) story lives on in this outdoor drama. The expulsion of the Kanza by the U.S. government is a significant event in the history of the tribe, which gave its name to the state before the land was taken from them in 1873, the year the 600 remaining Kanza were transported to a reservation in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

As the historical Kanza presence in Kansas recedes into the past, both the Kaw Nation and Council Grove producers of *Voices* are more determined than ever to bring the tragic story of the Kanza peoples' final years in this state to a broader audience.

In case of inclement weather the pageant will be held in the high school auditorium. The production of *Voices of the Wind People* is accomplished completely by volunteer staff and performers. These volunteers are willing to give their time because they believe in the importance of this story. Over 4,000 volunteer hours were recorded for the last performance of "*Voices of the Wind People*".

For more information and ticket purchases, please contact Sharon Haun, *Voices of the Wind People* Pageant Committee at **620-767-3022** or visit www.kawmission.org website.

