



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
M U S E U M
A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

***Increasing Community Access to a
Photograph Collection through
Cataloging and Dissemination***

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Collections Division
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Snyder

The Seminole Tribune



- Documenting Seminole Tribe of Florida events and culture since the 1960s:
 - *Smoke Signals* (1963)
 - renamed *Alligator Times* (1973)
 - renamed *Seminole Tribune* (1982).
- ATTK Museum received 115,000 photos from *Seminole Tribune* in 2015.
- 30,000 photos accessioned and targeted for cataloging.
- Photos span 1970s – 2015, and are of very diverse subject matters.

LAKE BUENA VISTA — Dignitaries and other invited guests gathered at the American Adventure pavilion at Walt Disney World's Epcot theme park for the dedication of a new exhibition July 27.

"Creating Tradition, Innovation and Change in American Indian Art" was officially opened at the American Heritage Gallery with a ceremony that involved members of the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes.

The new exhibit is designed to give visitors a glimpse of American Indian culture and history through artifacts and

contemporary pieces.

If you read the history of great Indian nations of North America and their heroes, clear, great accomplishments are usually the result of many hands working together. And that is certainly the case with our new gallery," said Melissa Whitmore, Epcot vice president, in opening remarks.

The exhibit features 89 pieces representing 41 different American Indian tribes, including the Seminole Tribe, from seven geographic regions across the U.S.

During the next five years, it will feature new services and ceremonial displays, incorporating pieces from more of the 575 American Indian tribes recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

America's tribes are extraordinarily

diverse, yet they share common beliefs. One of those beliefs is the importance of harmony — harmony among people, harmony with nature and harmony between the physical and spiritual worlds. No one knows that better than Seminole representative Mr. Bobby Henry, "Mississauga said in the broadcast Henry to the stage.

Henry gave a blessing and led several Seminole and Miccosukee in a traditional "Shomp Dance."

Other giving remarks included Indian Warrior, director of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Veronica Gonzalez, secretary of Cultural Affairs for the state of New Mexico. Kevin Gover, the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

also spoke. The three were all collaborators of the exhibit, as was Dr. Paul Buckhouse, director of the Ab-Tab-Tab-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Tribe.

Ab-Tab-Tab-Ki connection

The Ab-Tab-Tab-Ki Museum in Big Cypress was contacted about the possibility of being a part of the tribute exhibit.

"We had some staff that knew one of their curators from past jobs and they reached out and wanted to see if we'd be

BIG CYPRESS — The gas is flowing at the newly opened Seminal gas station on Josee Billie Highway in Big Cypress, making this reservation a gas station for more.

Customers wanted for officials to speak and the ceremonial ribbon to be cut Aug. 20 before they drove up and filled their vehicles on opening day.

"This community really needs this fuel," said the Cypress Councilman Monte Tiger. "I'm so glad it's done and I'm very pleased with what my administration was able to do in such a short time."

It had been two years since residents at Big Cypress had easy access to gas. Prior to the opening, the closest gas was the Miccosukee station at Snake Road and 157, about a 20-mile drive.

When Councilman Tiger was elected in May 2017, Tribal members in BC asked if he could get a gas station open on the reservation. He said he would try, and just over a year later, Seminal is open for business.

"I think this will be beneficial for the community and our visitors," Councilman Tiger said. "I think it's a win-win for the Tribe and for Council. It's our responsibility to make sure our Tribal needs are met."

Seminole Petroleum, a tribal business, supplies five types of gasoline to Seminal: regular, mid-grade, premium, diesel and Flex 90.

"It's a good thing we are doing business with our own reservation to help the community," said President Mitchell Cypress. "This has been a long time coming, I think everybody's happy today."

Velma Oceola was first to get gas

during the grand opening festivities. It was fitting since her father Roy Noah Oceola built the first store on the very same site many years ago. Her brother Haleigh put in gas pumps in the 1990s.

"I started as a small store in a chicken and flour to build the store behind it," Oceola said. "I'm honored to be the first customer



Justin Billie was one of Seminal's first customers on grand opening day.

Photo cataloging project objectives

- Catalog 11,520 photos into PastPerfect collections management database.
- Upload scanned photo images to ATTK Museum on-line Digital Collection.
- Provide outreach to the STOF community in order to raise greater awareness of the this important historical and cultural resource.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AH-TAH-THI-KI

M U S E U M

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Welcome to our Online Collections Database!

Tips for Searching

Keyword Search

The **Keyword Search** button allows you to perform a general search across multiple fields for any catalog records online. Keyword searches use OR as the default connector between words (e.g. a search for *Hanley Ranch* will return records associated with *Hanley* OR *Ranch*). If you want to find records where both keywords are found, type in AND between the two words. To search for a specific phrase, be sure to put the phrase within quotes (e.g. "Rocky Pine Ranch"). You can also use the asterisk (*) as a wildcard (e.g. a search for *histor** would come up with records containing *history*, *histories*, *historical*, etc.). Searches are not case sensitive.

Advanced Search

The **Advanced Search** button can help you be more specific with your search. You can search for a word or phrase within a particular search category or use multiple categories to further narrow down your search results. For example, searching *White* in the People field will bring up any records associated with a member of the *White* family, without having to sift through black & white photographs. You can also search People and Creator records through Advanced Search. Phrase searching with quotes and use of wildcards (*) are available in Advanced Search.

Random Images

The **Random Images** button is a great way to just browse the collection. Each Random Images page displays a random assortment of images from the records online. If something piques your interest, click the thumbnail to view a larger version of the image.

Catalog Searches (Archives / Photos / Libraries / Objects)

The catalog buttons can also help narrow down your search, by only searching with a selected catalog. If you only want to search for Photos, click the **Photos** button and type in your keyword(s) or phrase. You can also browse records within that catalog without performing a search. Phrase searching, wildcards (*) as well as AND/OR statements are available when performing catalog searches.

Organize, Identify and Catalog

- Organize by event or other similarities
- Use local volunteers to identify
- Further identification and organization after cataloging





Photo of Thomas Storm, Sr. performing an alligator wrestling demonstration, likely at a Tribal Fair event, circa 1990.
ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.15692.



ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.17944



ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.18477



Photo of a cattle drive, late 1990s.
ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.12008.

ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.15336



ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.14492



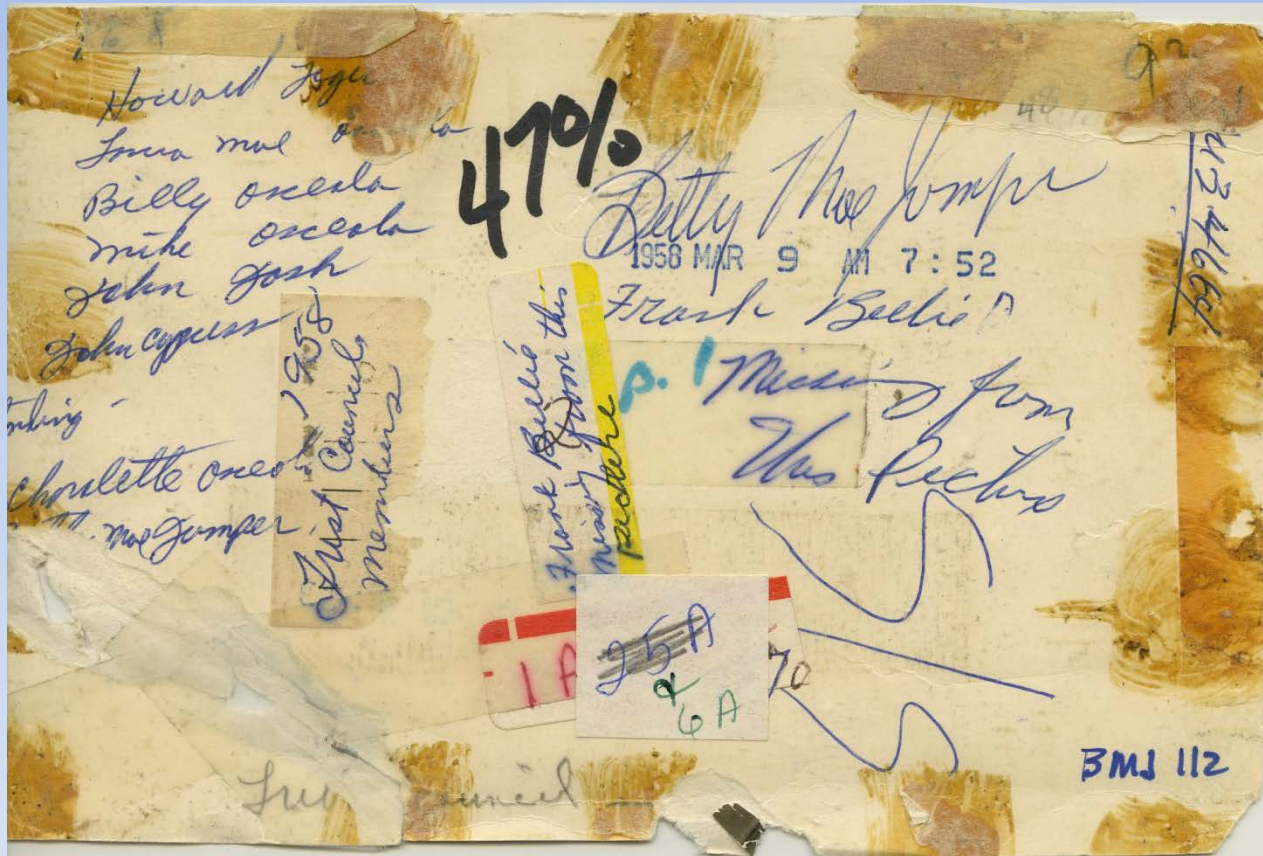
ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.15367

Some surprises are good, right?



Fig. 1. Photo of the first Tribal Council having a meeting, March 1958. Seated (l to r): Howard Tiger, Laura Mae Osceola, Billy Osceola, Mike Osceola, John Josh, and John Cypress. Standing (l to r): Charlotte Osceola and Betty Mae Jumper. Frank Billie (not pictured) was also a Council Member, as noted on the back of the photo. ATTK Catalog No. 2015.6.13302.

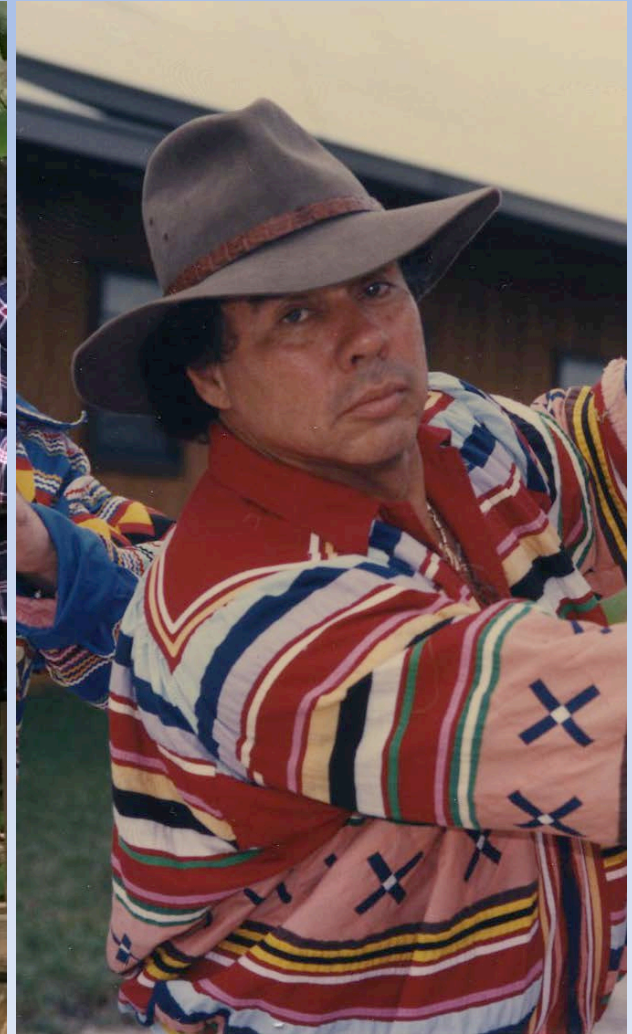
Always look on the back of the photo too...



Connecting the next generation

Redheart Billie

- Volunteer and Collections Department SWEP intern.
- Assisted with project (5 months).
- Plans to be SWEP intern summer 2019.

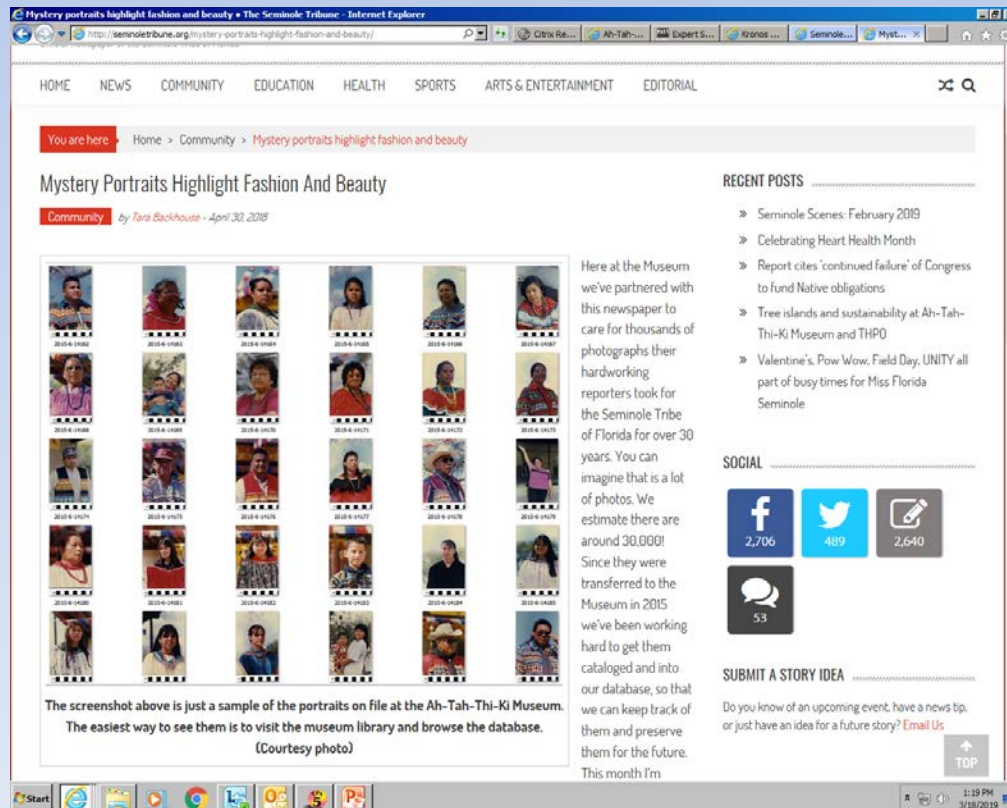


Selected project outcomes

- **Always taking the opportunity to provide outreach to STOF community about this important resource.**
- Featured project articles in *Seminole Tribune* and *AQ Quarterly*.
- Project featured at various public events and fairs.
- Project presentation at ATALM conference in October 2018.

Publicity

- Newspaper articles
- Newsletter articles
- Museum website blogs

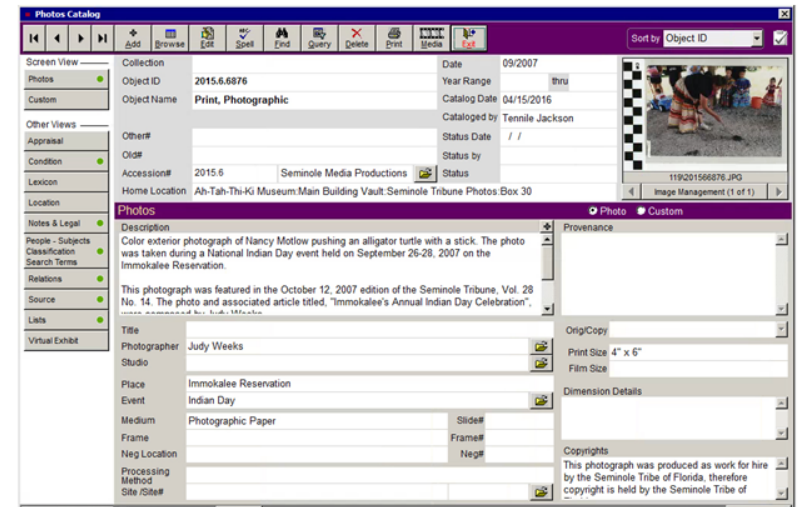


The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Seminole Tribune website. The page title is "Mystery portraits highlight fashion and beauty". The navigation menu includes HOME, NEWS, COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SPORTS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, and EDITORIAL. The main content area features a grid of 24 small portrait photos, each with a date stamp. To the right of the grid is a text article titled "Mystery Portraits Highlight Fashion And Beauty" by Tara Backhouse, dated April 30, 2018. The article text reads: "Here at the Museum we've partnered with this newspaper to care for thousands of photographs their hardworking reporters took for the Seminole Tribe of Florida for over 30 years. You can imagine that is a lot of photos. We estimate there are around 30,000! Since they were transferred to the Museum in 2015 we've been working hard to get them cataloged and into our database, so that we can keep track of them and preserve them for the future. This month Im". Below the grid, a caption states: "The screenshot above is just a sample of the portraits on file at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The easiest way to see them is to visit the museum library and browse the database. (Courtesy photo)".

Fashion, Beauty, and the Challenge of Identification: A Seminole Tribune Story

By Tara Backhouse, Collections Manager

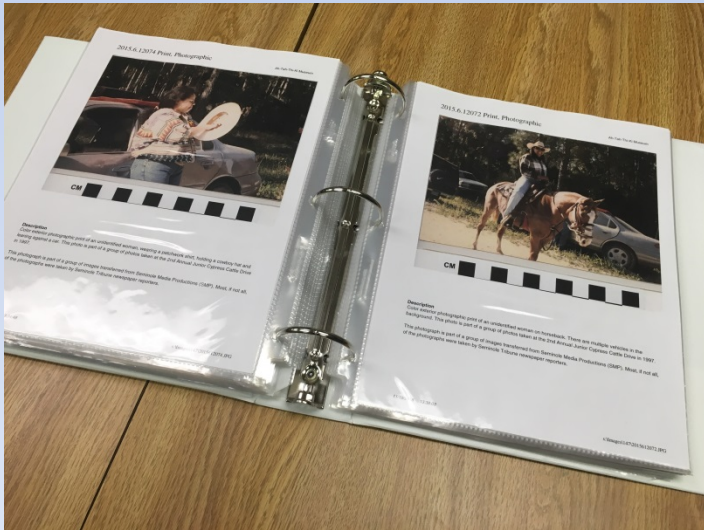
Here at the Museum we've partnered with the Seminole Tribune, the Seminole Tribe of Florida's own newspaper, to care for thousands of photographs that their hardworking reporters took for the Tribe for over 30 years. From STOF events and community milestones, to personal vacations and news from Indian Country, these reporters really went to the ends of the earth in order to document decades of happenings. You can imagine that is a lot of photos. We estimate there are around 30,000! Since they were transferred to the Museum in 2015 we've been working hard to get them cataloged and into our database, so that we can keep track of them and preserve them for the future. I'm happy to report that we are almost halfway there, with over 15,000 cataloged into our database! This is impressive if you consider that these are not the only objects we're cataloging. Seminole history doesn't stop, and neither do we! Come see us if you want to learn how and why we take care of the things we take care of. It is definitely an eye-opener for most people.



The screenshot shows a photo catalog software interface. The main window displays metadata for a photograph. The "Photos" tab is active, showing fields for Collection, Object ID (2015.6.6876), Object Name (Print, Photographic), Date (09/2007), Year Range, Catalog Date (04/15/2016), Cataloged by (Tennille Jackson), Other#, Old#, Accession# (2015.6), Home Location (Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Main Building Vault-Seminole Tribune Photos Box 30), and Status. The "Description" field contains: "Color exterior photograph of Nancy Motlow pushing an alligator turtle with a stick. The photo was taken during a National Indian Day event held on September 26-28, 2007 on the Immokalee Reservation." The "Provenance" field contains: "This photograph was featured in the October 12, 2007 edition of the Seminole Tribune, Vol. 28 No. 14. The photo and associated article titled, 'Immokalee's Annual Indian Day Celebration'." The "Title" field is "Judy Weeks". The "Photographer" field is "Judy Weeks". The "Place" field is "Immokalee Reservation". The "Event" field is "Indian Day". The "Medium" field is "Photographic Paper". The "Frame" field is "Negr". The "Neg Location" field is "Negr". The "Processing Method" field is "Site". The "Site" field is "Site". The "Original Copy" field is "4\" x 6\"". The "Dimension Details" field is "4\" x 6\"". The "Copyrights" field contains: "This photograph was produced as work for hire by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, therefore copyright is held by the Seminole Tribe of".

Tangible Results

- 12,433 cataloged
- Photo-viewing events
- Requests
- Identifications



Acknowledgments



This project was made possible, in part, by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services
[MN-00-17-0035-17]

Collections Department Interns: **Redheart Billie**
and **Graysun Billie**

