

## AKELA WAHINAPAY LODGE BROTHERHOOD

The lodge's 1<sup>st</sup> Brotherhood member was 1944-1946 Lodge Chief, Mitchell M. Young. He was inducted August 29, 1946 at the National Lodge Meeting at Chanute Field, Illinois. Mitchell was the lodge's delegate to the meeting. Eleven more were inducted at Camp Pioneer in September 1948 by Quapaw Lodge #160. The inductees were youth: James Moore, Jr. - Texarkana (Past Lodge Chief), Thomas Blessing - Texarkana, Billy Pickens - De Queen, Ken Pearson - De Queen, (Lodge Chief), and Wallace Warren Jr. - New Boston; and adults: H. W. Stillwell - Camping Chairman, Oscar P. Cantwell - Scout Executive, J. Arvil Hickman - Field Executive, C. L. Gardner - Camping Committee (Past Lodge Adviser), John T. Logan - Lodge Adviser, and W. E. Mullins - District Chairman. Twelve more were inducted in 1949.

In the early days Ordeal members were "watched" by the youth Brotherhood and Vigil members. After several months of service, those deemed worthy received a letter informing them that they had been selected to be a Brotherhood candidate. With the letter was a rectangular block of cedar wood. The letter instructed them, while alone, to carve an arrow out of the cedar block using nothing but a pocket knife. They were also given a lodge service project to



perform. The project was something that the lodge needed, like a dance drum or a new headdress; the materials were provided. They were told the things they had to study and learn prior to the Summer Pow Wow where they would be questioned. They were to bring their handmade arrow with them to the Brotherhood ceremony. There was also an elected Chief of the Brotherhood to promote Brotherhood conversion, make the selections, and serve as the chief on the ceremony team.

In later years the assigned service project was discontinued along with the letter "selecting" them as a candidate. Everyone is told that they are eligible after 6 months service and what they have to study and learn. Carving the arrow is no longer done. Brotherhood ceremonies are now offered at the Summer Pow Wow and the Fall and Spring Arrowwees. Review of the required knowledge occurs prior to the Brotherhood hike and the Brotherhood ceremony.

