

## Waldo McIntosh

Tired Iron member Waldo Lantz McIntosh was born July 4, 1954, in Branson, Missouri, to Nocus Harjo (Crazy Bear) McIntosh, a part Creek Indian, and Imogene Tilton McIntosh, who was of Irish extraction.

Waldo has a colorful family history, beginning with his 7th great grandparents Lieutenant Benjamin McIntosh and Catherine, daughter of Angus of Holm, Scotland. The couple came to America on the ship Prince of Wales in 1736 to Darien, Georgia, in the then British colonies. John McIntosh, a son of Benjamin and Catherine, was born in Scotland but moved as a child to America with his parents. He married Margaret McGillivray and the couple would become leading citizens of Savannah, Georgia. They became the parents of William McIntosh who married a Creek Indian maiden by the name of Senoya, thus establishing Waldo's Creek ancestry. According to McIntosh genealogy, William "lived as an Indian in manner and engaged in trapping among his wife's people, the Southern or Friendly Creeks." In 1775, they became the parents of William McIntosh, Jr., who, in accordance with Creek custom, was raised by his mother's uncles. He was destined to become a Creek chief known as the White Warrior.

Chief McIntosh provided a contingent of Creek warriors that fought with Andrew Jackson on the American side in the War of 1812 and gained the rank of general. He eventually became a wealthy man with a hotel and tavern in Indian Springs, Georgia. Having lived in both white and Indian worlds, he was aware that the eventual fate of his people was to be pressured off of their ancestral lands by an overwhelming tide of European immigration, and believing that his people would be decimated if they stayed in their ancestral lands, he advocated to accept lands offered in what is now Oklahoma. When Chief McIntosh signed a treaty ceding Creek lands to the government, a faction of opposing Creeks issued a death order for him. His home in Indian Springs was set on fire, and he was gunned down when he came out the front door, allowing his children (Waldo's ancestors) an opportunity to escape out the back. His prophecy of the decimation of the eastern Indians proved true, and many of his people lost their homes and land and suffered the hardships of what we know of as The Trail of Tears as they journeyed to the "Indian Territory" in what is now the state of Oklahoma. Many stories exist that detail these events and tales of others of Waldo's ancestors, but to arrive in more contemporary times, another interesting member of the Scottish/Creek family emerged in the person of Waldo's grandfather, Waldo Emerson "Dode" McIntosh (See Photo).

Dode McIntosh was born in 1893 and died in 1991. He took great pride in following in the footsteps of his Great Grandfather William when he served as the principal chief of the Creek Nation in Oklahoma from 1961 until 1971. He was instrumental in improving the financial condition of the tribe due to word of mouth history passed down from his ancestors that the tribe was never paid for the lands ceded in Georgia. Upon becoming Principal Chief, he was able to prove that the US Federal Government had never paid and won a large settlement on behalf of the Creek nation. Waldo knew his grandfather well and enjoyed traveling with him to all kinds of Creek Nation events in which he met governors, congressmen, senators and even Carl Albert, speaker of the US House of Representatives from Oklahoma.

Waldo's father was a physical education teacher, an occupation that well suited him since Waldo said his father was "an athlete's athlete" who excelled in all sports. Later in life he held every Oklahoma state running record from half mile to marathon in the age fifty and over category. While very young, Waldo remembers the camping and float trips he took with his father on the rivers near

Branson and in Arkansas. One notable trip was a float on the White River through the diversion channel that had been dug around the construction of the dam to create Table Rock Lake. He believes they may have been the last float through the channel before it was closed to fill the lake in 1958.

The family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, when Waldo was five years old. His father continued to teach and his mother worked as a secretary for companies involved in the oil industry. Waldo was an Elvis fan at the age of six, and the first 45 r.p.m record he ever bought (for \$0.98) was "Follow that Dream," which he played until the rest of the family was sick of it. Waldo spent his elementary and high school years in Tulsa. Having teachers that all knew his father and his "Indian Chief" grandfather, forced him, against all natural inclinations, to study hard and do well in school, resulting in his staying out of trouble for the most part.

Waldo loved to take things apart as far back as he can remember. He recently confessed to his ninety year old father that the reason the new mower purchased in 1961 never did work well was because he had taken it apart and didn't get it back quite right. By the time he was eight he was the neighborhood bicycle mechanic. By the time he was twelve he was keeping the mowers running so he could make spending money mowing lawns, and by the time he was sixteen, it was either fix the car or walk. Waldo taught himself enough auto mechanics to maintain a set of wheels and keep the rest of the family cars running.

Upon graduation from Tulsa Central High School in 1972, Waldo was faced with the choice of continuing his education or doing a tour in Vietnam. This being a pretty easy decision, Waldo opted to continue his education at the University of Oklahoma. Having already experienced the direct consequences of low teacher's pay in Oklahoma, the teaching profession was ruled out without a thought, and due to his penchant for taking things apart, he elected a mechanical engineering major at a time when the space program was being cut back and engineers were a "dime a dozen." Waldo graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1976, by which time there was a shortage of engineers in the oil and gas industry, which very fortunately, made employment readily available and has resulted in an interesting and rewarding career that has followed the ups and downs of the oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

His first job was in Baytown, Texas, in an Exxon refinery that was the third largest in the U.S. After two years, he next worked at a refinery in Ardmore, Oklahoma. These jobs were essentially hands-on work, with "rotating equipment" such as pumps compressors, engines, gas turbines, electric motors, generators, and "anything that spins around" as well as piping, pressure vessels, heat exchangers, and all types of oil and gas processing equipment. This hands-on background served him well when he soon went to work in Tulsa for Crest Engineering in design in all areas of the oil industry. With most engineers relying on theory only for design applications, Waldo could advise what would work in the real world and what would not. When asked what was involved in his design work, Waldo said, "all engineering design from the wellhead to the gas station."

After Crest Engineering was essentially dissolved due to the eighties oil slump, Waldo followed the petroleum industry to Wyoming where he worked for three years, again in a refinery, this time a Sinclair plant. He next worked for two years in oil field construction and gained even more experience in diverse aspects of the industry. It was in Wyoming that he noticed that the area oil and gas industry there depended upon very expensive and absentee engineering companies for their design needs. He formed what became a very lucrative local engineering design company using what was at the time new computer drafting technology (AutoCAD) to provide engineering design for gas plants and refineries in the area. His company, ECI Engineering of Evanston, Wyoming, operated from 1991 to 1999 when a downturn in the economy slowed all production in the nation.

Waldo next turned to an enterprise that had been an interest for him for much of his life. In the

early eighties he had purchased, from an uncle, land west of Jay, Oklahoma, that has an endless supply of pure spring water from a source called Round Spring. It required a huge investment of money and time, but he created and built a plant to bottle the water as Little Blue Spring Water (see photo). The water was and is pure and wonderful tasting, but Waldo found he could not compete price-wise with Wal-Mart and other big interests so he closed the plant. He could sell or lease the spring to other producers, but he prefers to keep the property under his direct control. Round Springs Water Company operated from 1999 to 2004.

In 2002, Waldo went to work for BP America in their offshore production industry. He worked for BP for eight years with a four year stint working rotation on an offshore platform in the Gulf until 2010. If the company's name and 2010 are familiar, you will know that this is the company known for the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig and subsequent "Gulf Oil Spill" in April of that year. Waldo had officially retired from BP two weeks before the disaster. BP attempted to entice Waldo back to work to help with the on-going problems of containing the oil spill and rebuilding the facility. Not surprisingly, he opted to stay retired.

Waldo and his wife Janelle are enjoying his retirement on their land they purchased with the spring and the surrounding acres. Janelle is a practicing R.N. at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa and is, incidentally, part Sioux Indian. Waldo has one son, Cody, from an earlier marriage. He is a chiropractor in Missoula, Montana. Janelle has two children from a former marriage, one son Tony who is a radiologist in Tulsa and one daughter Katy who is a social worker in Lincoln, Nebraska, and one granddaughter. Waldo has one older sister and two younger sisters. They are Cheri, Bonnie, and Ginny and all live relatively close to Waldo and his wife. And too, at this writing, Waldo's dad is in his nineties and very healthy

Waldo is a collector, an ideal identity for a Tired Iron member. He collects hit and miss engines, small four-cycle gasoline engines, walk-behind tractors (mainly Gravely), metal lathes and milling machines, blacksmithing and other old tools, Indian memorabilia (mainly relative to his Grandfather Dode McIntosh), etc. A visit to his shops and storage areas is much like visiting museums. When asked how he became aware of and interested in Tired Iron, he said, "I happened to be passing through Gentry one weekend when Tired Iron was having a show. Janelle and I followed the signs and ended up talking to Ike Lockridge and I tracked Johnny Burger down and joined."

Perhaps the most surprising and fun thing that can be written about Waldo McIntosh is that he never really got over being an Elvis fan. If you wonder why he wears long hair and sideburns, it's because he is an Elvis Presley imitator, complete with voice, moves, and clothing (see photo). He performs free of charge for good causes such as friends' weddings, birthday parties, community groups, retirement homes, etc. Tired Iron is lucky to have the participation of Waldo and Janelle with their fun loving personalities and Waldo's knowledge and skill with machines and tools.



