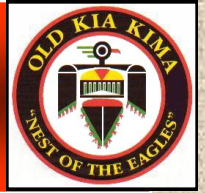


# OLD KIA KIMA SMOKE SIGNAL



July, 2016

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## *In Memorium*



With the passing of Bobby Williams, Old Kia Kima Preservation lost a valued member and an honorary director. However, more importantly, the world lost a great gentleman. Bobby will be remembered as the person who was instrumental in the construction of the buildings that decorate the grounds of Old Kia Kima. Chapel to bathroom are reminders of his handiwork. There is no way to put a number on the amount of screws that have his fingerprints on them. When you met Bobby you expected him to have an electric drill in hand. Nothing got built without his input. He spent hours and hours at the camp restoring, preserving and constructing and when he was done, then he would make frequent visits to make sure that it was all okay.

However, Bobby will be best remembered as a friend. He appreciated people and valued his time with those who included him in their circle of friendship. Courteous and polite stood out about his mannerisms. He refused to say a discouraging word about someone else. He had too much respect for people. He never insisted on his own way, but felt that his purpose was to serve the desires of others. Bobby seemed to always appear when there was something going on at the camp. He was there to welcome, to smile, to help, to lend a hand or a tool to fulfill whatever was needed. Sometimes we were led to believe that he was there for a free meal, having claimed to have forgotten his wallet. It didn't matter, because Bobby was Bobby. It was always an honor to do something for him, because he had done so much for others. I suspect that each one of us has a special story to share about our time with Bobby.

Kia Kima was his home and it was his sanctuary. It was where he was the most alive. It was a place that he loved. It was there that his soul was nurtured. His house before his move overlooked the South Fork River that fed his spirit. It is appropriate that his ashes will be deposited in that river that runs through camp that he so loved so that the two can become one. This will take place on Saturday afternoon on September 17 at 4:00 p.m. during the camp's celebration of its 100 Anniversary.

The question as to how we best honor and memorialize Bobby Williams is one that has no appropriate answer. It seems like whatever you come up with does not do justice to him. I had a thought that it would seem fitting to name funds designated for maintenance and improvement for Old Kia Kima the "Williams Fund". People could even make additional contributions to it beyond what is designated from the budget. Then, you would always have to think of Bobby when there was something that needed to be done related to construction. After further thought, that idea even seems inadequate.

It seems that the best we can do is to love Kia Kima with our time and resources, respect each other as loving brothers and sisters and most of all to celebrate the gift of life that our loving God has given to us. These are things Bobby did and they are the things that endeared him to us. I give thanks for the gift of Bobby Williams.

*Jim Bottrell- President of OKKPA 2016*