

THE FACT THAT IS NOT THE TRUTH

As long as I can remember, I'd had been told by civilized scholars that the American Indian had no written languages.

This included White Teachers in government Indian schools who had the power by Executive Orders, to beat me to death if I was ever caught writing and speaking my tribal language, and, if I did not learn to speak english in 30 days.

I'm making reference to the Indian School at Wahpeton, North Dakota in the middle early 1930's. Death was an every day way of life which started when the government under complete control took us from our parents and placed in a school, distant enough where family could not visit and we remained there for entire school term. The top academic priority was not to write, speak, sing, or dance Indian under penalty of death. There many students that met their death that did not learn to speak the english language in 30 days that I knew personally.

Today! Professionally I can say that Wahpeton Indian School, Wahpeton, North Dakota in the year 1938, knew over 400 Indian boy students who could not only write and speak their tribal language but english too.

This was the year the government lifted the death penalty on the students at this school and it wasn't lifted because they had been successful in destroying Indian students who knew how to write and speak their tribal language, but because of a physical confrontation with 8 and 12 year old students who no longer would take another physical beating going against a fully armed government school and the North Dakota National Guard.

I remember this day like it happened yesterday.

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