

The Council Oak

By Moses Jumper, Jr.



From small acorns Mighty oaks grow...

One day I walked beneath the council oak or council tree
I thought to myself, if he could talk, what would he say to me?

Would he tell me how he shaded and provided for the inhabitants of this land,
And how through history all things were changed by man.

I know he would speak of the Seminoles' early day,
When, beneath his branches, the children would play

Then came a time when decisions had to be met,
And when within his shade, the meeting tables were set.

Some of the faces, the oak said, were never honest and true.
They only thought of themselves as the chosen few.

Yet, many were there who were true in what they said,
And these were the ones that ultimately led.

The oak went on as if to say,
That in those times the people were happy in their way.

The oak remembered distinctly those men and women of the past,
Because of them, this nation is where it is at last.

The heated arguments, the finances at an all time low,
But together the oak and the Seminole would eventually grow.

And within the Seminole homes there may have been no door,
But the oak proudly said you could never tell these people they were poor.

And as the old oak went on to say,
I want to tell you something this day.

There is comparison here I want you to see
Of how the Seminoles are like this mighty oak tree.

You see, together as a seed we both once grew,
But not all went on, just a dismal few.

Some nations and trees have fallen in their attempt to grow,
Perhaps defeated, trodden and weakened to a slow.

But in years we have faced the storm and the rain,
Stood above the flood as in stature we'd gain.

Our weak branches would soon falter and fall to the ground
But the roots of our faith would soon abound.

And the leaves of life would fade from the blister of death,
from the winter sting,
Only to be replaced with another life in the spring.

And above all, we knew, from the tip of our head to the roots to the sod,
That we were together, created through the grace of a living God.

And with this, the old oak gave a joyous sigh,
For I knew he represented a way of life that would never die.

*(Poem was given out in December 2004 at the 25th Anniversary of
The Seminole Casino of Hollywood celebration underneath The Council Oak)*

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Hard Cider—Wine of Ireland

Hard cider has often been called the "wine of Ireland" because the cider-making process has more similarities to wine than beer. Similar to grapes, apples are reduced to a pulp and the juices are extracted by pressing. Once filtered, the apple juice is placed in oak vats for fermentation for eight weeks. The cider then matures over several months.

Some Cider Facts

- Cider is one of the oldest and most natural beverages.
- During the 14th century, children were baptized in cider—it was cleaner than water (and in the 18th century, part of the farm laborer's wage was paid in cider.) By the year 1800, cider was said to be "the" cure for stomach upset, rheumatic disease and various other diseases.
- Research has also shown that ciders contain the same amount of healthy antioxidants as in wine.

*Cider Apples

Cider is so popular in Ireland because apples grow particularly well

there, flourishing in both the northern and southern counties. Magners is made from juice derived from 17 varieties of apples. The apples, grown in Clonmel since 1935, are specifically chosen for cider production, and are unique and quite different from dessert or culinary apples. While dessert apples are sweet and culinary apples acidic, cider requires the bitterness of tannin to balance the

flavor and help preserve it. In Ireland, 78 million liters of hard cider are consumed annually, and 83% of that is crafted with Magners' recipe. Magners is the largest cider maker in Ireland and the most popular hard cider in the U.S.

"Cider-making is a craft which has evolved through the centuries and traditional cider-making skills are still used today," said an executive at Magners. "The very same presses used to make Magners 50 years ago are still used, accounting for the consistency of the quality. The result—an amber-colored hard cider, slightly effervescent that is dry & refreshing."



Chew gum while cooking or baking, and you'll be less likely to sample your creations. But don't chew it when you are with other people...not very attractive.

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