

A FAMILY OF MASTER APACHE VIOLIN MAKERS

By: Terrill Goseyun

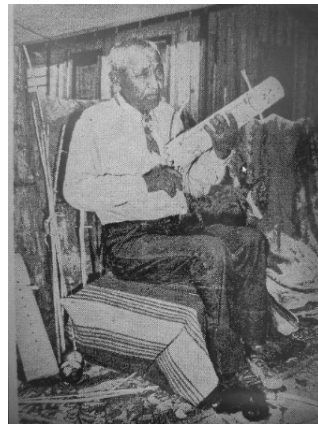


The Apache Violin is made from a section or stalk of the Century plant, a member of the Agave family. This plant lives its life to bloom once and die, hence the name.

As a Hunter, Gatherer Society our Apache culture still has many uses for this plant. The stalk is roasted on a hot bed of coals and the base is roasted in a pit. It has a similar taste and texture of burnt sugar cane. The plant occurs in very rocky and rugged terrain in the upper Sonoran Zone throughout the

Southwest. Called *Tsii'edo'a'tla* "the wood that sings" or *T'giinz* "from the Bylas, community. The Apache Violin has been in use for generations as a folk instrument for entertainment. The stalk is hollowed out and strung with horse hair. The bow I use is strung from young Catclaw mesquite. The bow is then rubbed on a dab of pine pitch placed at the end of the instrument. It produces a distant raspy, wail like sound. The sound is similar to the Mongolian Horsehead violin. There are several different variations in the construction of these instruments. They probably varied from clan to clan or amongst the several distinct bands. First indications of Apache violins in museums and private collections date back to 1875. Because of the biodegradable qualities, instruments from earlier dates would probably have not survived.

My great grandfather Allen Goseyun aka "Jack Shaggie" (Lower left) a renowned warrior and Apache Scout. His is sons: My grandfather George Goseyun aka "Jack Bill" (Lower Center) and his brother Albert Goseyun (Lower right) were the forerunners of a family tradition.



Allen

Goseyun "Jack Shaggie"

George Goseyun "Jack Bill"

Albert Goseyun "E'Choozsh"

They were a family of Apache Violin Makers which were passed down through many generations. Not only did they know how to make violins, they were professional musicians in today's standards during that era. *The May 1963 issue of the Arizona Highways magazine* has a rare photograph of my grandfather constructing one of these instruments. (Above Center) My grandfather George, his brother Albert, their nephew Chesley Wilson Goseyun and relative Amos Gustina's violins are collected by museums, private, and corporate collectors all over the world.

Amos Gustina



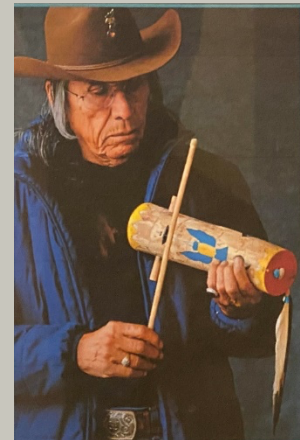
*mos
ustina
upper
is also
aster
pache
aker
is a
lative.
me*

My Art



shot
eft
t
Viol
who
lose
His
nea
Ha

Chesley Goseyun Wilson



was fortunate enough to live by the railroad tracks and sold his violins to tourists traveling through our little community of Bylas, Arizona. Through this conduit his violins also ended up in various private and public collections all over the world.

Bylas, my home town, was named after Chief Bylas or "Bi'zalth" which means "marching or walking for him" in Apache. A small and humble community blessed with many talents which is located on the eastern portion San Carlos Apache Reservation in Southeastern Arizona.

Since I personally believe that the Apache Violin is facing extinction in the near future. I have been conducting workshops and bringing public awareness through presentations at local Community Colleges and with various organizations. There are less than a handful of us in the Apache nation that still practice this rare form of art. Lately I have also been channeling my artistic and woodworking skills towards improving the archival integrity and preservation of the Apache Violin.

Terrill Goseyun/ Apache Artist Phone: (928)961-4099

Email: terrillgoseyun42@gmail.com

www.webrandwest.com

IG: terrillgoseyunpencilart

