

BLACKFOOT MEMORIAL

On a lovely Sunday evening, August 27, 1989, on the pretext that people were looking at the adjacent property to buy it, Steve and Linda Kuntz, (Wolf Haven's co-founders), were invited out to the Grandfather Pine tree. There they discovered approximately 50 Wolf Haven volunteers, staff and Board members gathered at Blackfoot's gravesite for a Memorial Indian Pipe Ceremony in honor of Steve's original wolf. The ceremony was performed by an hereditary chief of the Salish nation and medicine man, Chief Hidden Wolf of British Columbia, who explained that his spirit as well as his name is the wolf. That never in his 40 years of performing this ceremony had it been done for a wolf, thus making it a very special occasion.

The pipe ceremony is very sacred to the Indian people and is conducted in a circle. As the pipe is passed from person to person, it is turned clockwise just as the sun passes over the Earth, representing the continuity of all life, without beginning or end. The Indians believe that though one's body may be far away, the spirit remains with us forever; just as Blackfoot's spirit remains in the very existence of Wolf Haven.

The pipe is offered to the Creator, to Mother Earth and to each of the four corners of the Earth. Everyone present was "smudged" with it's healing powers as smoke was wafted on us. Steve and Linda, Randy Hinson, Dwaine Winchester, Jim Larson and Mindy Hawkins smoked the pipe as representatives of everyone connected with Wolf Haven. The sacred drum was struck to invoke Blackfoot's spirit and as the sound reverberated from the hills, it was answered in the distance by the howling of Wolf Haven's wolves.

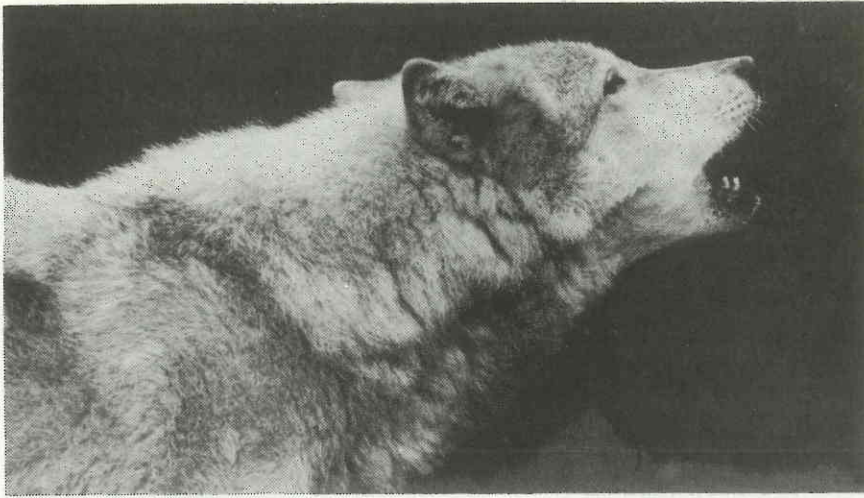


Everyone was blessed by the sacred "Banner" passing overhead. Randy and Dwaine were each presented a powerful "medicine bag" containing secret potions and some of Blackfoot's hair to wear always. Finally, tobacco and "sweet grass" offerings were given to Blackfoot in thanks for what he has meant to all peoples and all wolves and all wilderness.

Then everyone moved to the rear of the Compound. Here, a 26 inch bronze statue of a seated, howling Blackfoot, which was donated by the volunteers of Wolf Haven, was unveiled. The memorial statue is set amongst a garden of Rhododendrons and a Blue Spruce which is the wolves' Christmas tree. Also unveiled was a plaque inscribed: "In Memory of Blackfoot April 13, 1976 - May 5, 1989, Founding Wolf of Wolf Haven".

Chief Hidden Wolf dedicated the statue and plaque with an Indian dance and then presented Steve with an Eagle feather amulet. To end the ceremony, a chorus of wolves paid their own tribute to Blackfoot, a very special wolf.

IN



MEMORIAM

"MY SHAMAN"
by
Randy Hinson

When I came to Wolf Haven almost two years ago I was met by Steve and Linda for an interview to be the compound supervisor. I did not know what to expect when I arrived here but the easy-going atmosphere calmed my nerves.

After talking with them in their office, I was taken on a tour of the compound. Lucan gave his warning howl as soon as Steve came into the compound. To me it was a form of greeting. Little did I know that Lucan really meant the warning he was howling. As we progressed to the back of the compound, Steve and Linda were greeted by Blackfoot and Nahani. I was told right then and there that Blackfoot did not like strangers so I backed away a little. He did not retreat as I was told he usually does. I walked a little closer to the pen and he came over to me as if he knew who I was. I touched the magical fur that only my Shaman possesses. I got the job and soon my Shaman and I were on the same link that binds animal with human.

Today, with Steve and Linda there, as in the beginning, my Shaman was put to rest. Peace at last on the Wolf Road.

Shield Wolf

BLACKFOOT

April 13, 1976 to May 5, 1989

Blackfoot, a wolf that will never be forgotten, died suddenly and peacefully of old-age on Friday May 5th. He was a very special friend and in fact if he hadn't come into our lives, Wolf Haven would not be in existence. Blackfoot was our first wolf and he came to live with us in 1976. It was that experience that taught us that wolves do not make good pets and set us on a journey to create a place where wolves could be wolves.

You can definitely say that Blackfoot changed our lives. As the concept of providing him a better "home" grew and grew, we knew that we couldn't stop with him. We needed to provide a home for as many other wolves as possible. This need to help led to the creation of Wolf Haven where Blackfoot spent his final eight years in peace.

Thank you Blackfoot for changing our lives. You are loved and missed by everyone at Wolf Haven. We know that you helped make this earth a little better a place.

So long for now old friend.

Steve and Linda Kuntz