

## 7. Native Identity

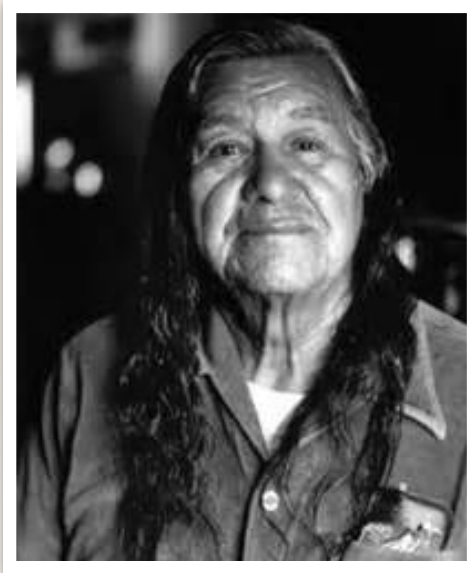
Individual and communal identity is defined and supported by shared Native languages, kinship systems, Tiospaye, Clan structures, traditional teachings, values, sacred laws and ceremonies. A continuum of tribal identity, unique to each individual, ranges from assimilated to traditional lifestyle. There is no “generic American Indian”.

### *Extended Description*

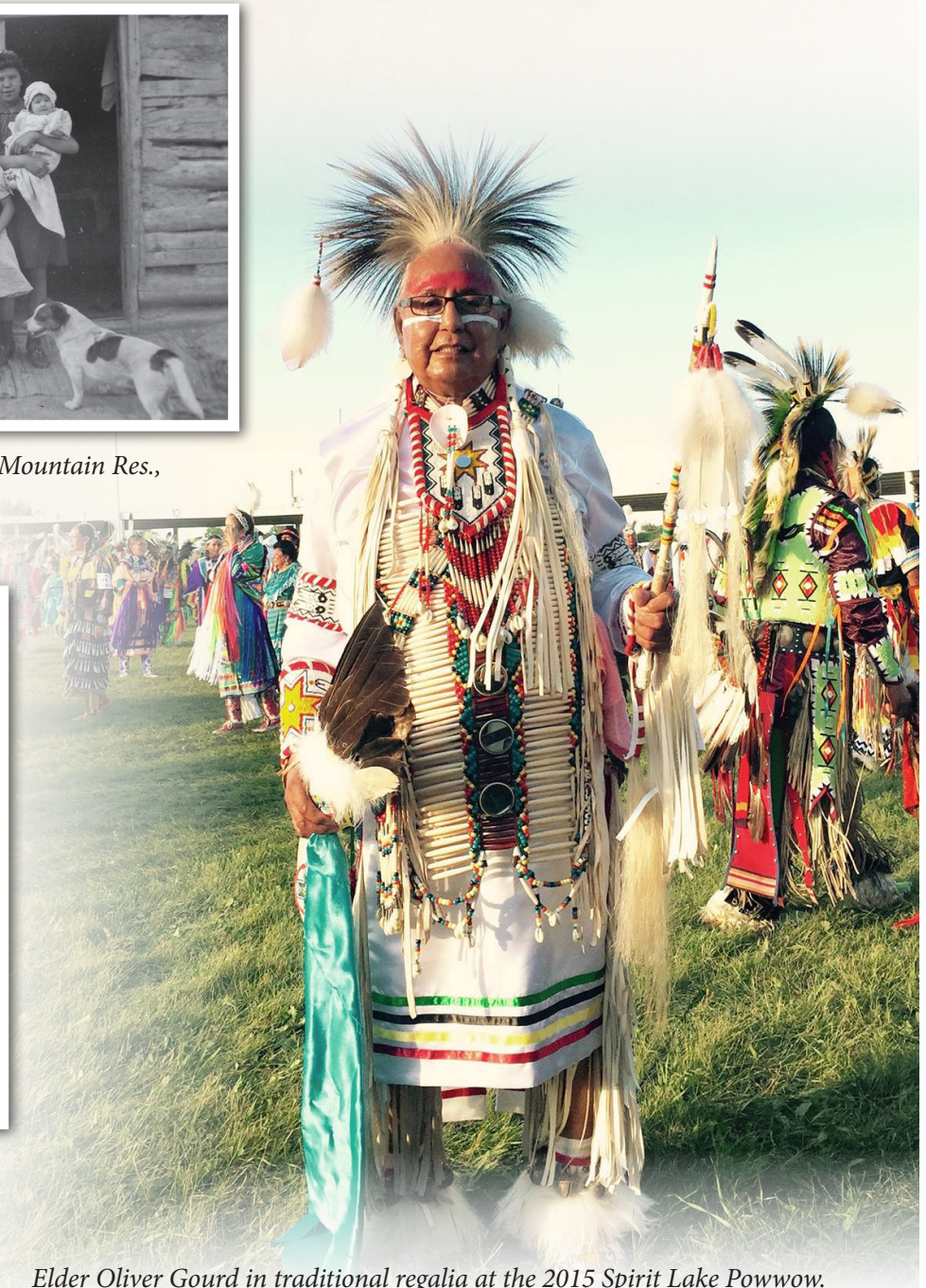
As an Ogichita dakwe (warrior woman), knowledge keeper of the old traditions, carrier of the ceremonies and ancestral pathway, I affirm that it is important to remember the Old way and New way of the Red people. “If one knows the ‘Old way’ and the ‘New way’ they become a ‘Powerful being.’” (Francis Old Eagle Heart Cree, TMBC). The Coming of Age Ceremonies help our youth to build their native identity. Naming ceremonies help our youth identify with their spirit and connect to the spirit world (Elder JT ShiningOne Side).



*“Typical Chippewa Indian home.” Turtle Mountain Res., North Dakota. – NARA circa 1943.*



*Francis Old Eagle Heart Cree 1921-2007.*



*Elder Oliver Gourd in traditional regalia at the 2015 Spirit Lake Powwow.*