

DPW DEDICATION 2011

COMMONLY, IN INDIGENOUS CULTURES, A RITE OF PASSAGE IS a ceremonial event acknowledging an individual's progress from one status to another. On May 30th, 2004, I left the professional world of feature films and the "union regulated" sound stages and back lots of Warner Brothers and Universal Studios to lead construction on the mandated infrastructural improvements at the Burning Man Work Ranch, amidst a Clan of DPW.

While negotiating the job over the phone back in Hollywood I was told I didn't need to bring any tools with me, as everything would be available once I got to the job site. Well, I guess the tools were buried in there somewhere but finding them was a major project in itself. For a number of months I worked 8 hours a day on the construction of the new buildings, and then an additional 6 - 8 hours a day (on my own time) organizing the mountains of dysfunctional crap which was then the common shop. After the event was over that first year, everyone was packing up to go back to San Francisco. Looking around I was stunned and basically pointed out to the owners that they were leaving with the dishes still in the sink. I asked: Who is going to clean all this mess up? Are you really leaving things like this? I then understood why the county had come down so hard on the Org.

Initially I was hired for a 3 month job but it ended up taking close to 4 years to clean the dishes... that is to get the Ranch, the Saloon and the other Gerlach Properties to the point of functionality that they are today. And the process continues.

Back in 2004 the Ranch, DPW and the BM Organization as a whole was a much, much different creature, and over the past 7 years I know that I have had a significant influence on the evolution of the Organization but more importantly I myself have gone through many, many significant personal changes in my own self development, perception and growth as a individual. Burning Man and DPW is not the same entity that it was in '04 and neither am I. Those of you who were here in '04 when I (not knowing anyone) stood up in Bruno's and called for a 10:00 curfew in the Trailer Park can attest. Yes a great deal has changed over the years, and it is for me this symbiotic process of personal and collective growth, reflection, change and evolution that makes the overall experience worthwhile, significant and having substance... not the party.

Perhaps now may be an appropriate time to consciously dedicate the "party of Burning Man" as to actually being a celebration of our personal and collective evolution, a Rite Of Passage...

— Quinn Yarborough aka Ghost Dancer

