

CHARLIE MICCO THE FIRST FOREMAN



Charlie Micco (Panther Clan) already had several decades of experience as a ranch hand under his belt when the Brighton Reservation's cattle program began in 1935. He had been working outside of the reservations on the local ranches, and had become one of the most trusted cattle workers in central Florida. From the start he would bring this wealth of knowledge and experience into the new Tribal program. When the new venture received funding from the BIA, Charlie Micco was picked to be the first cattle foreman, and in this capacity he trained a new generation of Seminole cattlemen.

Charlie was never far from his work, making his camp next to the Brighton Red Barn, which served as the center of the cattle operations. He oversaw the barn (now listed on the National Register of Historic Places) the horses, and the day to day activity that supported it. He and his wife Emma (Bird Clan) kept their garden within easy reach, always having food ready for hungry cattlemen or visitors. Whatever the situation, Charlie could be depended on to always be ready.



In 1939 the Seminole Tribe took over full control of the program, and a vote was held to elect the first three cattle trustees who would oversee it. Charlie Micco was elected easily, joining John Josh and Willy Gopher as the first Tribal officials. In this position he continued to help drive the success of the cattle program and the Tribal government that would be inspired by it. With his knowledge, practical mind, and experience Charlie Micco worked hard to guarantee the future of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Top photo:
Charlie Micco, 1960 (Colorized)
Photo by William D. Boehmer
Courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Catalog Number 009.34.1266

Bottom photo:
Charlie Micco (Right) teaching his
grandson Fred Smith (left) 1950
Photo courtesy State Archives of
Florida, Florida Memory.

TO LEARN MORE

Visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at stofthpo.com or use the QR code
For more Seminole history resources.

If you want to learn more about the Seminole Cattle Program and its history, look for
Cowkeeper's Legacy: A Seminole Story, the second Seminole Story book coming soon from the
THPO.

