

Washington Digest

Colorful Seminoles Cling To Ancient Tribal Customs

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

(This is the first of two articles on the effect of postwar conditions on the most misunderstood of American citizens—the Seminoles Indians, with Mr. Baukhage reporting from first-hand observation.)

Somewhere North of the Everglades:—The sun is setting over flat stretches of saw-grass, making a feathered silhouette of cabbage palms on the far horizon, dropping a tint of lilac among the water hyacinth in the pond at my feet where lazy, hump-shouldered Brahman cattle cool themselves. Rigid white cranes stand undisturbed by us. Above, great hawks wheel and, as we pass, a bevy of snipe rises like black and white confetti tossed in the air by a giant hand.



Baukhage

Back at the turn of the road that leads to the attractive headquarters building of the Brighton Seminole Indian reservation, smoke curls up from beneath a fire of logs in a palmetto thatched cooking "chikee" of one of the Seminole camps. Here live three generations of a single family group—yet a fairly large segment of the entire Seminole nation, for there are only 625 of them in all Florida.

Like most tourists when I first came to Florida, I was startled to meet face to face these women in their gayly colored skirts, their high bead collars, their astounding hair dress; the men, less gayly clad but still with their gay kerchiefs and cowboy hats; the solemn children, replicas of their mothers in their

its and customs of the Seminole in this short span as have the weight of economic conditions—the depression followed by the high demand for labor during prewar and war periods.

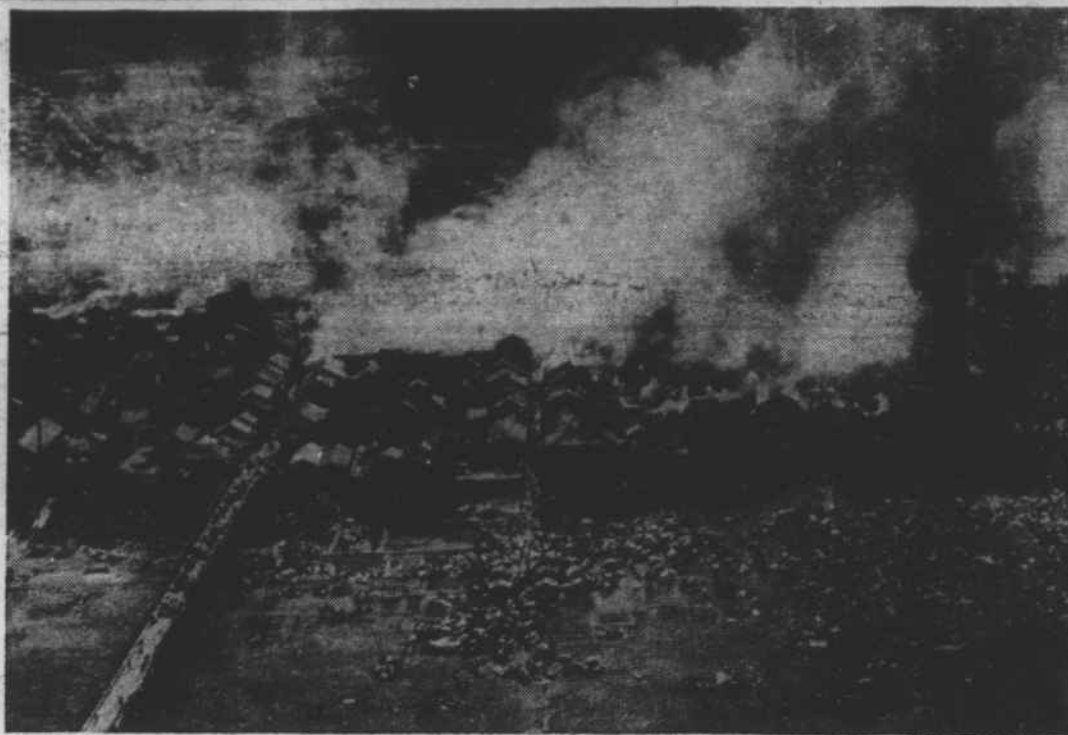
For more than three quarters of a century no Seminole has owned land, his possessions were limited to a few cattle and hogs running wild in the swamps, and to what personal property he could store under the palmetto roof of his open-faced hut in the Everglades. Today there are three reservations. William Boehmer, Indian agent at Brighton, saw that venture rise from its inception. He tells me every family on that reservation owns a car and one family boasts five.

Radios are common as are electric flashlights and kerosene lanterns, some knives and forks and other practical gadgets and a lot of store food and canned goods. However, there has been no change in housing styles. Before the original deal was closed in 1938, one of the Seminole leaders first made sure that living habits should not be interfered with. He was quoted as saying:

"Indians must live in air and sunshine. Must dress as their fathers dress."

But additional opportunity for employment has brought about a desire for an education. As nearly as I could learn, education to the Seminole means learning to speak English and perhaps to read and write it. Because the Seminoles are naturally intelligent, it is no trick for them to learn if they want to. But the labor demand likewise has interfered with the process. When the family gets a special job picking tomatoes the children go along and pick, too. There are no penalties for being absent from school.

With the shortage of teachers of every kind it is unlikely that the



JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE, TIDAL WAVE AND FIRE . . . A striking photograph made as the town of Shingu, Japan, burned after the earthquake and tidal wave had struck parts of Japan. People fled from the town to the beach flats in foreground leaving the fire to eat the heart out of Shingu. Hundreds died in coastal communities and thousands were rendered homeless by the Japanese disaster.



ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION IN TOKYO . . . General view of the giant demonstration staged by Japanese labor union in Tokyo to protest government policies and demand ouster of the Yoshida cabinet. The demonstration, held in front of the Imperial palace, was the biggest in the Japanese capital since the May day parade that drew censure from Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Many Red flags were carried by the demonstrators.



Seminoles cluster around chikee in native costumes deep in Florida Everglades.

bright, flowing garments—shopping at the Five and Ten!

It is hard to believe that these gayly clad yet modest folk, so unwarlike that only three (so far as I know) enlisted in World War II and none were drafted, once defeated the United States forces in three wars stretching from the time of the Revolution until almost the end of the last century.

By then, with their Chief Osceola tricked into capture while at a peace parley, all but 150 of the Seminoles were dead or had yielded to mass deportation to the West. But the 150 never gave in. Because of that fact the tradition has grown that they are still at war with the United States.

It is true that no formal peace treaty ever was signed—they have had no chief since Osceola died in captivity—but the Seminoles have full citizenship. However, they made their first formal and voluntary move toward reconciliation and cooperation in 1938. A group of Seminole leaders, meeting with American officials in the Everglades, then asked the government for schools, hospitals and better horses and cattle.

A program immediately was drawn up and entered into with good will on both sides, but it is a question whether this step has had as much influence on the life and hab-

supply ever will quite reach the demand even on the part of the busy Seminoles. The school in the Everglades is closed at present. Undoubtedly when conditions change and the Seminole again is confronted with job competition the government will be called upon to furnish the White Man's learning in larger doses and with fewer interruptions.

In any case neither prosperity nor education has as yet caused the Seminole to complain about his housing situation. A few modern houses built on one reservation were left unoccupied, except for one porch. There is nothing wrong with a Seminole chikee. A chikee really ought to be translated "room" instead of "house," since there are as many separate chikees as required for each family. They are of two different types, one for cooking and one for sleeping and living. They consist of a thick palm-fan roof with low-hanging "eaves" supported on poles and rafters. There are no walls in the living hut but there is a platform a couple feet off the ground and usually a bunk-like bench which can be used for the women as a work table, as well as for sleeping.

These dwellings are airy all right and would be damp during a long sub-tropical rainstorm if it were not for supplementary tarpaulin or canvas screens.

Now Eat Food Of White Man

What the White Man calls progress has done more to affect the eating habits of the Seminole than our cultural activities have affected his viewpoint. Draining and lumbering in the Everglades have sharply reduced food sources—dried creeks and ponds, cutting timber and forest fires have killed off wildlife. But the accessibility of the grocery store has tended to make up with bakers' bread, beef, coffee, sugar, syrup and canned fruits.

Barbs . . .

Every time I go to Florida I wish I had studied palmistry so I could identify the trees. It's hard enough to distinguish a pepper tree from a senator even if you are familiar with the bark of both.

Being in the dog house may be an embarrassment but it's better than a park bench. And with all its fleas it isn't as overcrowded as some apartments.



BIG FARMS VS. SMALL FARMS
WASHINGTON. — Inside fact behind the senate small business committee's release of the report on small-scale and large-scale farming is that the report had been suppressed for nearly two years by big California land interests.

The very fact that the bureau of agricultural economics dared make the study was one reason the last congress cut its research funds. The study so infuriated Representative Al Elliott, California Democrat and friend of the big farmers, that he has fought all appropriations for farm research ever since.

The study was begun in the summer of 1944, while Congressman Elliott was leading a fight to repeal the old law by which no one could own more than 160 acres of U. S. reclamation land. The study compared two towns in San Joaquin valley section of California's huge Central valley—one, Arvin, is composed mainly of workers on large industrialized farms; the other, Dinuba, is made up largely of people who own and work their own farms.

It was found that Dinuba, the small farm community, had two independent business establishments to every one in Arvin, the big farm community; that retail trade was 61 per cent greater in Dinuba; that 20 per cent more people were supported by the same dollar volume in agriculture in Dinuba than in Arvin; that the residents of Dinuba had a far higher standard of living—better streets, garbage disposal, schools, parks, public recreation, more churches, participation in local government, two newspapers to one.

The study was recognized by economists as of great importance, but the pressure of large farmers and landholders was too great. It lay buried until it was brought to the attention of fair-minded Sen. Jim Murray of Montana, chairman of the small business committee. He determined to publish it.

SURPLUS GRAVY

The comedy of errors that led to discovery of more than two million gallons of high octane gasoline in surplus military planes sold to a Jefferson City, Mo., scrap dealer caused an epidemic of red faces at War Assets administration.

However, WAA chief Gen. Robert Littlejohn and his aides would have been even more embarrassed had the whole story leaked out. Besides the 5,540 planes with their \$700,000 worth of gas sold to the Missouri dealer, WAA also sold about 15,000 other planes, also tanked up with high octane gas. This fact, however, didn't get out. In addition, dealers who bought the planes reaped a tidy windfall from costly radio equipment, motors and gears.

OIL SALESMAN LEWIS

In the coal and oil trade, John L. Lewis is sometimes called: "The greatest oil salesman in history." Here is the reason why:

Railroad after railroad, unable to afford costly tie-ups from coal strikes, now is converting from coal to oil. There was a day when the railroads, deriving a tremendous revenue from hauling coal, sided with the coal operators and the miners in opposing oil. But not now.

The Boston and Maine, which, next to the Maine Central, pays more per ton for coal than any other railroad, is switching to diesel engines as quickly as possible. The Jersey Central, which taps the Pennsylvania anthracite fields, also is going over to diesels. And the Pennsylvania, which runs straight through the best bituminous coal fields in the East, is laying in some diesel switch engines.

But the most interesting conversions are taking place on the Union Pacific. That road has long burned oil to some extent, but it also happens to be the sixth largest coal producer in the world, with a production of 6,500,000 tons annually.

The towns of Rock Springs and Hanna, Wyo., are almost entirely dependent on coal mined for the Union Pacific. Today, however, those towns may become like the skeleton mining cities of the gold-rush days.

For, in addition to 600 oil-burning locomotives, the Union Pacific now is converting all mainline passenger trains to oil. In addition, their "Big Boy" freight locomotives, the world's heaviest, are converting, together with 115 switchers and 45 diesel units.

The Santa Fe also has just ordered new diesel units.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Gen. Mark W. Clark will be withdrawn as Allied commander in Austria immediately after the Moscow conference. He then will receive a new army post in the United States. . . . Ex-congressman Wesley Disney of Oklahoma, who lost out in the Democratic primary two years ago against Sen. "Cotton Elmer" Thomas, will try again in two years. He may face a primary fight from Gov. Bob Kerr. . . . Assistant Postmaster General Gael Sullivan has been offered the presidency of Air Cargo.

Consumption of milk products (not counting butter) increased from 169 quarts per capita in 1900 to about 237 quarts in 1945.

Cattle 'Creeps'
Lacking enough phosphorus in their feed, cattle may develop nutritional diseases, the most common of which is known as "creeps."

REFRIGERATION
AIR CONDITIONING
VETERANS
O. I. BILL OF RIGHTS
CIVILIANS
EASY PAY PLAN
THEORY & SHOP PRACTICE
TRAINING INSTITUTE
3212 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa.
EVergreen 6-8455

COLD SUFFERERS!
666 STARTS RELIEF IN JUST 6 SECONDS
Get famous, prescription-type 666, for super-speedy relief from cold misery. Try Cold Tablets, or 666 Liquid Cold Tablets. Details write: 666. Caution: Use only as directed.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT
AUTOS, TRUCKS & ACCESS.
JEEP TOPS FOR SALE
Made best material; miles and waterproof; fire resistant; Olive green. Top with side curtains, three windows and no doors \$45.00; top complete with five windows, two doors \$65.00. 25% deposit with order. Will ship immediately. Make your jeep cozy for winter.
SOUTHERN TENT & AWNING CO.
206 S. Main St., Charlotte, N. C. Ph. 4-3278

BUILDING MATERIALS
Concrete Block Machines, Electro-Pac, all automatic plain masonry block machine, electrically operated, air hoist off-bearer, automatic pallet feeder, no cumbersome cams to wear out, chrome-plated reversible liners. Makes 2 blks. at a time; 300-600 per hr. makes any size, shape blk. on 1 set pallet. Price \$950.00. D. & W. Full S. W. Write: Joe P. Belack, Eastern Electro-Pac Distrib. P. O. Box 123 WNU, Coplay, Pa.

BUSINESS & INVEST. OPPOR.
CONCRETE BLOCK MACHINE, Appleby Little Giant Concrete Block Machine, makes 8 sizes of blocks. In 9 months 1,000 of these machines have been sold. Price \$950.00. D. & W. Full S. W. Write: JOSEPH P. BELACK, P. O. Box 123 WNU, Coplay, Pa.

HELP WANTED—MEN
SALESMEN—Crew Managers, to organize crews for fast selling book deal, paying \$5 commission on each \$9.95 sale. Apply or write to MR. MITCHELL WERNER, 1227 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Foundry Opportunity—Molders, Squeezer Operators, Trainers, Apprentices training under G. I. Bill Flynn & Emrick Co., Grant Rd. & Western Md. R.R. west of 4300 Mt. Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore (15) Md.

HELP WANTED—WOMEN
NURSES, New salary plan for staff nurses at Jewish Hospital, \$1440 to \$1800 per annum with full maintenance or \$1800 to \$2040 per annum with meals and laundry, but living out. Higher rates for night and special assignments. \$500 life insurance policy free. Liberal retirement plan. Apply to Director of Nursing, Jewish Hospital, York & Tabor Sts., Philadelphia 41, Pa.

MISCELLANEOUS
FILATEL'S REPORT ON CHRIST'S Crucifixion. Remarkable document. \$1.00. Publishers, 717 E. 17 St., LaCrosse, Wis.

CHRYSLER MARINE ENGINES
Immediate deliveries most all models. JOHN HUGHES CURTIS, Distributor West Norfolk, Virginia

CHRYSLER MARINE DIESELS—Immediate delivery 3 models. JOHN HUGHES CURTIS, Distributors, West Norfolk, Va.
NEW 10 K. W. heavy duty Onan electric plant powered by Willys jeep engine. Delivers 110-220 a. c. with 15 volt d. c. outlet. Completely equipped with spare parts. List price over \$2,000.00—our price \$995.00. L. & B. Norfolk. Call or write: BUSS EQUIPMENT COMPANY, 200 W. 21st St., Norfolk, Virginia.

Beauty and Health By Simple Exercise

GOOD FIGURE HINTS

MIDDLE age often begins at the waistline. You can beat Father Time at his own game, however, by exercising those fatty pads off waist and hips. The toning-up will improve your entire figure.

Maybe unattractive "dowager's hump" or a bulging abdomen is adding years to your appearance. You can correct these posture-faults through exercise, too.

Whatever your figure problem—waist, hips, posture, bust, legs, chin—our Weekly Newspaper Service Booklet has result-getting exercises to help you. Send 25c (coin) for Beauty and Health Through Simple Exercises to Weekly Newspaper Service, 243 W. 11th St., New York 11, N. Y. Print name, address, booklet title.

PALCO GRANULATED SOAP
For fine laundering. Will work wonders in your washing machine.
10 lb. can 30¢ per lb.
110 lb. drum 25¢ per lb.
ORDER F.O.B.
Send check or money order to—
PAL PRODUCTS CO.
BROOKLYN 32, N. Y.



HAIR CUT AT FOUR MONTHS . . . Stephen Aprigliano, Brooklyn, N. Y., a mighty young man of four months, is getting his first haircut. His mother keeps him in good humor with his diet of milk while Terry the barber carries on. Stephen actually was bored with the operation. Terry said Steve was the youngest customer he had ever served—and about the hairiest one to clip. Usually most boys get their first barber shop hair cut after they have reached ripe age of one year.



MISS SLICK CHICK OF 1947 . . . The Poultry and Egg National board has announced that they will pick Miss Slick Chick of 1947 at the premiere showing in New York City of "The Egg and I." Selection will be made on charm, personality and sex appeal, including cognoscibility of eyes, contour of figure and sweep of tail.



MAN OF THE YEAR . . . Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, who was recently selected by Times magazine as "the man of the year." The selection was made on the basis of outstanding work done by Secretary Byrnes during United Nations' meetings.



PRINCE'S TEACHER . . . Elizabeth G. Vinag, Philadelphia, who is serving as tutor for Crown Prince Akhito, also is teaching Japanese teachers on "education for democracy."