

# Weekly Chemawa American

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## Noted Indian Chief

Lawton, Okla., Oct. 3.—Although old Geronimo is fast failing in years, caused by the awful hardships he experienced during the days that he held the west and southwest in terror prior to 1886, he can still lariat a steer with great accuracy. He is now busily engaged, with many of the Apache bucks, roping the young calves of the Apache cattle and assisting in the branding of several thousand yearlings. This work is being done while the Apache Indians are making their annual round-up of cattle on the range of the Fort Sill military reservation. All cattle are being collected at the Rock Island tanks near Elgin, where the calves will be branded.

Lieutenant George Purington, who has charge of the Apache prisoners of war and their possessions, is overseeing the round-up. Working under him and assisting in the roundup are 100 Apache men and boys.

A complete invoice of everything belonging to the Indians is to be made. It is estimated that the Apache herd of cattle contains 10,000 head, probably the largest single herd in Oklahoma.

One of the interesting things in connection with the herd is the fact that there are very few dry cows. This year there was the largest "crop of calves" ever raised on the reservation.

According to the usual custom of handling the Apache cattle, the cows are numbered, and in branding all calves are branded with the same number as their mother. The heifer calves are retained—no cows being sold until too old for active life on the range—and the greatest number of steers are shipped and sold.

Each Indian owns cows bearing his numbers, and the young cows bearing the same number, becomes his property. It is estimated that there are approximately 500 steer-calves this year, which will bring the tribe about \$25,000.

Old Geronimo was in Lawton today and expressed himself, through an interpreter, on the Indian and his future. "My people going fast," he said in broken Spanish. "Nearly all dead now." Soon all be dead. Too much whiskey kill Indian. Soon no more at all." That branch of tribe prisoners at war upon the Fort Sill military reservation

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