

"Lo, the Poor Indian!"



"AN OSAJE SCALP DANCE", Painting by Stanley, 1945

Romance of the Osages and Oil.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

WHEN ALEXANDER POPE, some two hundred years ago, wrote the lines "Lo, the poor Indian! whose untutored mind sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind"; he little realized that he was giving to the English language an expression which was to become a classic characterization of a whole race of men. For American sentimentality has made "Poor Lo" and "Indian" synonymous terms, seemingly unconscious of the ironical fact that it has been the American people—the white usurpers of the land occupied by the original Americans—who are principally responsible for the "poor" half of the expression.

So "Poor Lo" became a part of our currency of speech until the modern history of the Osage Indians seemingly proved the falsity of this as of many of our other "rubber-stamp" expressions. But recent developments down in the Osage country in Oklahoma, where oil wells have been pouring a golden stream of material wealth into the laps of these Indians, now suggest that perhaps the "Poor Lo" designation is not so inappropriate after all. For the Osages' millions have brought death to some of them and sorrow to the others in the realization that they have yet much to learn of the bitter lesson of the white man's greed.

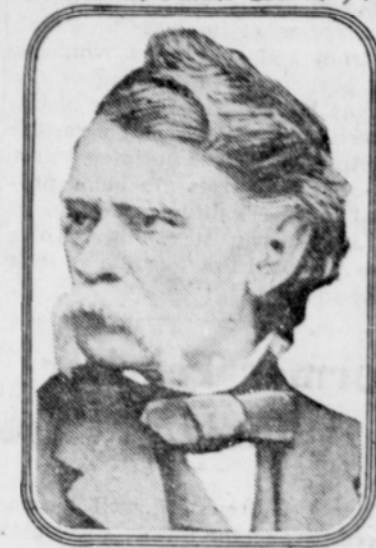
The "Osage murders," which have occupied so much space in the newspapers lately, have aptly been called "one of the blackest chapters in the history of the white man's dealings with the American Indian." They are the result of what appears to be the effort of a well-organized band of men to destroy with bullet, poison and bomb the heirs to some of the Osages' rich oil lands. This effort already has resulted in nearly a score of murders, and government officials who are investigating the case predict even more sensational disclosures as their case against the men already indicted for the crime develops.

In thus centering the attention of the nation upon this tribe of Indians, whose sudden rise to wealth within the last decade has kept them constantly in the limelight, these murders serve to recall some of the early history of the Osages which, in contrast to their later peaceful record, was one of much war and bloodshed.

The name Osage is a corruption by the French of Wazhazhe, their name for themselves. The Wazhazhe, or Osages, were the most important southern Siouan tribe of the western division, and their original home was along the Ohio river. But in the constant shifting of Indian population on account of tribal wars and the nomadic traits of the red men, they eventually crossed the Mississippi probably about 1500 A. D.

The first mention of the Osages in written history is in Father Marquette's map of 1673 which shows them located along the Osage river in Kansas and Missouri. In 1701, however, another French explorer, found them living near the Arkansas river, and he numbers them at 1,200 to 1,500. In 1714 they were helping the French defeat the Foxe Indians at Detroit, and three years later the tribe received its first official visit from the French. Du Tisne, a French officer, visited a part of the tribe which was then living along the Osage river, and records the fact that this village had 100 cabins and 200 warriors.

All of the early French travelers comment upon the warlike qualities of the Osages who were the inveterate enemies of the great Illini confederacy and who were held in terror by the Caddoan tribes of the southwest. Although they were constantly



JOHN MIX STANLEY, (1844-1922)

at war with the Illinois, at one time the warring tribes patched up a sort of truce, and when the Iroquois descended upon the Illinois from the east, the latter sought refuge for a time among their new-found friends, the Osages, across the great river.

The first Americans to come into contact with these people were Lewis and Clark. By this time the tribe seems to have been divided into two main groups, the Great Osage and the Little Osage. The American explorers state that in 1802 the Great Osage, under the leadership of a chief named Big Track, had migrated to the Arkansas river, and in 1804 they found this subdivision, numbering 500 warriors, in a village on the Osage river. The Little Osage, then only a half as numerous as the Great Osage, were occupying a village six miles distant, but a group, known only as the "Arkansas band," 600 warriors strong, was located on the Vermillion river, a branch of the Arkansas.

On November 10, 1808, the first treaty between the American government and the Osages was signed at Fort Clark, near Kansas City, Mo. In it the Indians ceded all of their lands except those comprising the present state of Oklahoma north of the Canadian and Arkansas rivers. But this treaty was only the beginning. Later cessions—at St. Louis, June 2, 1825, at Fort Gibson, I. T., January 11, 1839, and at Canville, Kan., September 29, 1865—gradually cut down their holdings until of all the vast territory which the Osages once claimed, and to which they held a precarious title by force of arms, but little remained.

Although the relations of the Osages with the Americans from the beginning were more peaceful than those of many western tribes, these warlike people did not give up their lands complacently. Evidently they were troublesome enough a century ago, for one of the provisions of the treaty made in 1825 was that the Osages were to refrain from molesting the trade with the Southwest, which was just then beginning and which was destined to make the historic Santa Fe trail, which ran through the Osage country, a great trade artery.

One of the finest of the canvases painted by the celebrated artist, John Mix Stanley, is "An Osage Scalp Dance." The artist, who visited the Osages in the early forties, says of this painting: "On returning from the scene of strife, they celebrate their victories by a scalp-dance. This picture represents the scalp-dance of the Osages around a woman and her child; and a warrior in the act of striking her with his club, his chief springing forward and arresting the blow with his spear."

However, the United States never engaged in a general war with the Osages, and it is noteworthy that they were more often our allies in wars with other tribes than our enemies. It was a band of Osage scouts who guided General Custer to Black Kettle's camp of Cheyennes in Oklahoma in the winter of 1868, and took part in the much-discussed Battle of the Washita which greatly weakened the power of the hostiles.



JACKSON BARNETT

The lands which the Osages now hold were given them when a reservation was established for them in Oklahoma by an act of congress on July 15, 1876. The land was hilly and regarded as almost worthless; so much so, in fact, that another tribe to whom it was first given, refused to live on it. So the Osages, who, by this time, seem to have lost their warlike qualities and who seemed unlikely to protest, were given this tract of approximately a million and a half acres. By an act of congress on June 28, 1906, this land was divided among the Osages, then numbering nearly 2,000 persons. At this time the tribe had to their credit in the United States treasury more than eight and a half millions of dollars in treaty money, yielding an annual income of nearly half a million dollars. They also drew about \$100,000 a year for pasturage leases, so that their total annual income per capita was approximately \$235. Even at this time, the Osages were known as the richest Indians in the United States.

When Oklahoma statehood was declared in 1907, the Osages continued to live a peaceful existence comparatively untouched by outside influences. Then along in 1912 and 1913 oil was discovered on their lands, and almost overnight the Osages became rich beyond their wildest dreams. Then, too, their troubles began. Unaccustomed to this great wealth, the Indians fell prey to all kinds of white tricksters. The culmination of their troubles was the series of mysterious murders which began in 1922 and which have recently been exposed. Apparently unable to get as much of the Osages' wealth—and the wealth of the Osages is constantly increasing; the last announcement was that the 2,227 headrights in the tribe will pay \$2,400 each for the first quarter of 1926 instead of \$1,400 as was expected!—by trickery as he desired, the white man has resorted to violence.

So although their wealth has brought the Osages considerable happiness, it has brought them sorrow, too, just as it did Jackson Barnett, the Creek Indian, whose philanthropic and matrimonial troubles were so prominent in the newspapers only a short time ago. But out of all their troubles may come a better day, not only for the Osages but for every Indian in the United States. The Osage case now seems likely to be a history-making one, for recent agitation in the press and in congress over the Indian question in general may soon result in some sweeping changes in the whole conduct of Indian affairs, and "Poor Lo" may soon gain the tardy justice which his friends believe he has so long been denied.

Mild Creatures' Vision

A hot controversy is being conducted between two men over in Canada. Bonnycastle Dale asserts that moose cannot see far, while the other faction, led by a man in northern Alberta, started the affair by stating they could see for four miles.

Moose possess very poor eyesight and persons have paddled up on them in midday. Their most effective sense of protection is their sense of smell—

and no animal possesses a keener one. This often has been a source of wonderment because their nostrils are most frequently literally filled with mud which seeps in when they are grubbing on the bottom of a muddy lake or stream, feeding.

Deer, like moose, are not noted for their eyesight, though they have a quicker and longer vision than the moose. Both also have sharp ears (moose usually have their ears also filled with enough mud to grow the proverbial potatoes), but on sharp

eyesight they don't rank with wild ducks, hawks and many other denizens of the wilderness.—Detroit News.

Ancient Nursery Tale

The seven-league boots are introduced into the nursery tale, "Tom Thumb," which is from the French "Le Petit Poucet," by Charles Perrault, written about 1630. The story, however, is probably of Anglo-Saxon origin. There is in the Bodleian library, at Oxford, a ballad about Tom Thumb printed by John Wright in 1630.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER
THE COSCORBA GOOSE

"I am not exactly one thing and I am not exactly another," said the Coscorba Goose, named for short, Goosey.

"Ha, ha, quack, quack, quack," said the little Coscorba Goose, "Papa is going to make a speech."

"You are all just like me," said Goosey.

"We're all just like Papa," they quacked.

"Ha, ha, just like Papa," "Geese children," said their Papa severely. "It is not a joke to be like your Papa."

"It's an honor."

"Quack, quack, it's an honor to be like Papa," they said.

"You should know that without being told," said Goosey.

"We should know that without being told," quacked the little geese.

"Dear me, quack, quack," said Goosey, "my children are more like geese than ducks."

"They are silly and stupid," "You said we took after you, Papa," they quacked.

"Silence, children," said Goosey, "no impertinence, if you please."

So they all kept very quiet and looked very well behaved while their father settled himself by the bank of the pond and began to speak to them.

"I am not exactly one thing, and I am not exactly another," he began, and one of the children was just about to say that he had told them that before, when one of the others stopped him just in time.

"I am partly duck and I am partly a goose. In size and in my handsome colorings, I am handsome Mr. Snow



Handsome Mr. Snow Goose.

Goose, of whom everyone has heard."

"Has everyone heard of Mr. Snow Goose, Papa?" one of the Geese children asked.

"If anyone has not," said their Papa severely, "he should be ashamed to admit it."

"Please tell us some more," said one of the other little Geese children who hoped to be given a juicy bug as a reward for being so polite.

"I have long, long legs which are pink in color and my beautiful bill is pink—and your legs and bills take after mine."

"I have black touches here and there which look very smart. But my nature and ways are half like a duck's and half like a goose's."

"That makes me out of the ordinary, and makes me uncommon, rare!"

"I am no ordinary goose."

"I am unusual."

"They would never have called people geese when they wanted to be rude had they known me first," he ended, with his head high in the air.

And the children sang this song:

"Quack, quack, quack,
We're neither one, alack!
We're somewhat ducks
And somewhat geese,
Which makes it hard to tell
Just what we are, just what we are."

Quack, quack, quack,
We really should not say alack,
For we're very proud indeed,
And think it very fine indeed,
To be partly ducks,
And partly geese, yes, partly geese as well."

Quack, quack, quack,
Our beaks we love to smack,
As we eat and drink,
For we do both things,
You do them both if you're ducks,
And you do them both if you're geese as well."

Ninth Commandment

"What is the ninth commandment?" asked the Sunday school teacher of a small pupil.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbors," was the reply.

"What is meant by bearing false witness against our neighbors?" queried the teacher.

"It's when nobody does anything and somebody goes and tells it," answered the little fellow.

Why, So It Does!

Teacher—What animal requires the least nourishment?
Student—A moth.

Teacher—How's that?
Student—It eats hoies.

Fond of Meringue

Jane was very fond of the meringue on pie. Seeing the ground white with the first snow of the autumn she exclaimed: "Oh, mamma, lots of pie!"

Ran Too Fast

"Say, Teddy, where'd you get the black eye?"
"I was chasin' the kid next door and I caught him."

LIVE STOCK

PIG DISEASES ARE WORSE IN SPRING

Lameness, unthriftiness, partial paralysis or rickets in pigs are very prevalent especially in the winter and early spring. It has been demonstrated that deficient rations will cause such ailments, which affect not only the bones but also other tissues of the body, especially nerve tissue. The addition of minerals only to the basal ration may not prevent the onset of rickets or related disorders. It is green growing grass and forage crops with their abundance of vitamins and minerals that are the natural practical carriers of these essential food constituents. Good substitutes for grass when pigs are most troubled with rickets are green leafy legume hays, preferably alfalfa hay to which pigs and sows should have access, or which after being chopped or ground may be to the extent of about 5 per cent in their feed mixture. Both vitamins and minerals in a ration are necessary for proper growth and health of pigs. Vitamins and minerals go hand in hand for proper growth of bones and other tissues, according to E. R. Frank, of the animal pathology division, college of agriculture, University of Illinois.

In some sections there seems to be a deficiency of iodine which is shown by the condition known as hairlessness in pigs. This condition may be prevented by putting one dram of potassium iodide in each 100 pounds of feed fed to sows during the gestation period.

It is well known that dairy cattle need minerals as part of their daily ration. These minerals are needed to develop the skeleton and for the proper functioning of the glands and organs of the animal body. The tremendous increase in milk production of the modern dairy cow has caused a greater mineral requirement. On the other hand, dairy feeds are often grown on soils that have been depleted of the essential mineral elements and as a result there is deficiency in the crops grown on such soils. The two mineral elements most likely to be deficient in the ration are lime and phosphorus. These two minerals combined make up about 85 per cent of the bone. Lime also is necessary not only for bone building and milk production but also muscle development. When these two elements are not present in sufficient amounts it may result in weak bones and diseases of a rachitic nature. Minerals are also needed for proper reproduction. Considerable lime and phosphorus are found in the skeleton of the fetus.

The best use of minerals in the ration depends upon the presence of a certain vitamin that aids in their utilization. This vitamin is found abundantly in cod liver oil, green feeds and well cured hay. Pasture usually furnishes a sufficient amount of the mineral retention factor. When pasture is not available this is furnished by well cured hay. Well cured alfalfa hay is the dairyman's best feed since it supplies lime and vitamins as well as good protein.

Distemper in Colts Has No Known Medical Cure

Distemper in colts, like measles in children, commonly has to be put up with some time during the young animal's life. Once the disease is manifest it cannot be cut short by any form of medicinal treatment. Therefore, the animal affected should be placed in such surroundings as will offer it the most comfort and the best opportunity to cope with the disease. A good, roomy, clean, airy stable is a decided aid to such animals and when the weather is mild they preferably may be kept out of doors. The abscesses forming under the jaw should not be meddled with until they are ripe. Then they should be freely opened. The escaping pus should be collected and burned, as its distribution in a stable only increases the infection chances of other horses.

Live Stock Hints

One reason for ewes sometimes failing to breed is too much flesh and too little exercise.

One of the handiest devices on the farm is a chute for loading hogs. It may be made stationary, as a part of a pen, or it may be mounted on a couple of old mower wheels.

Extra feed for ewes at breeding time (flushing) has increased the lamb yield 15 to 20 lambs to the 100 ewes above the usual yield, according to United States bureau of animal industry.

Hogs suffer more frequently from unbalanced, inefficient rations than does any other class of live stock.

Ohio specialists say that in 1840 the average sheep in that state sheared two pounds of wool—today seven and three-tenths pounds.

The horse perspires through all the pores of his body, the same as man. To a limited extent, cattle do the same, but with the hog, his escape valves are confined to the orifices upon the inside of his legs.

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