

# Indian Problem Continues To Plague Government After Many Experiments

By LOUIS CASSELS  
UPI Correspondent

Washington—UPI—What to do about the Indians is America's oldest problem of public policy. It confronted Capt. John Smith soon after he led the first band of white settlers ashore at Jamestown. Today, after 351 years of experiment with all sorts of possible solutions, including wars of extermination, the problem remains unsolved.

Glenn L. Emmons, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, estimates there are about 450,000 Indians, on and off reservations, who are still under the "trusteeship" of the Federal government.

A few of them are rich from the proceeds of oil, timber or other valuable resources found on their tribal property. But for every Indian who drives around in a limousine, there are at least 100 others whose living standard is as low as that of any undeveloped country of Asia or Africa.

Statistics Shocking  
Not many statistics have been gathered on the Indians' plight, but the few that are available are pretty shocking. A majority of the families on the big Navajo reservation live on incomes of less than \$17 a week. Tuberculosis and infant mortality rates among all Indians are three times as high as among the white population. Average life expectancy for Indians is only 36 years—just half that of white men.

Emmons says, and most other authorities on Indian affairs agree, that the immediate cause of Indian poverty is clear: There are too many Indians living on too little land. It may come as a surprise to devotees of TV westerns, but there are a lot more Indians in America today than there were when the wagon trains rolled west a century ago. While the Indian popula-

tion has been growing, its "land base" has been drastically reduced. In 1887, Indians owned 138,000,000 acres of land. The U.S. government had promised them in solemn treaties that it would remain theirs "as long as the sun sets in the west." Then Congress passed an "allotment law" under which most of the Indian reservations, except in the Southwest, were divided up among individual families. Many of the allotments were soon grabbed off by land-hungry white settlers who found it easy to trade an illiterate Indian a bottle of whiskey or a rifle for a land title.

Today, Indians own only 55,000,000 acres of land. Much of this desert and wasteland. There are two sharply opposing schools of thought about what should be done to solve the Indians' dilemma. One holds that it is increasingly impracticable for large groups of Indians to "live off the land" as their ancestors did; that the only long-range solution is to prepare them as rapidly as possible for assimilation into an urban, industrialized white civilization.

Commissioner Emmons is a chief spokesman for this viewpoint, which has been embodied in official government policy since he took office in 1953. The opposing school holds that Indians have a right to continue living like Indians; that it would be possible for them to do so if the selling off of their lands was halted and the government undertook a "domestic point four program" to develop economic resources on the reservations.

This view point is shared by several groups working for Indian welfare, including the National Congress of American Indians and the Association on American Indian Affairs. The controversy has centered in recent years around the "termination" program under-

taken by Emmons' Bureau of Indian Affairs, a branch of the Interior Department. Under this program, the government is seeking to terminate its trusteeship responsibilities over Indian tribes that are considered ready to go it alone.

Double Meaning  
For the affected Indians, "termination" has a double meaning. On one hand, it means they are free to manage their own property and affairs, like other citizens. On the other hand, it means that they lose the exemption from taxes and the special federal health, education and welfare services which they receive while they are wards of the government.

The termination drive began in 1953 with the enthusiastic backing of Congress, which saw in it a chance to curtail the \$150,000,000 a year Federal outlay on Indian services. Termination laws were enacted for the Klamath Indians of Oregon, the Menominee Indians of Wisconsin and four smaller tribes.

Then protests began to roll in from Indians and their sympathizers, who charged that the government was using the termination program as a device for welsching on its treaty obligations to Indians.

Not Quick Solutions  
Although the Eisenhower administration is still committed to trusteeship termination as a long-range goal, Secretary of the Interior Fred A.

Seaton has recently assured Indians that it will not be pressed as a quick and easy solution to Indian problems.

In a statement that has been widely circulated by Indian organizations, Seaton said it is "absolutely unthinkable" that any Indian tribe be "forced into a termination program without its full understanding and consent."

He also said it would be "incredible, even criminal, to send any Indian tribe out into the stream of American life until and unless the educational level of that tribe was one which was equal to the responsibilities it was shouldering."

Most Desperately Poor  
While Indian leaders have cheered Seaton's stand, they recognize that it does not of itself solve any of the basic problems. There are still "too many Indians on too little land" and most of them are desperately poor.

Commissioner Emmons has been trying to interest some of the big private foundations in sponsoring a nationwide survey of Indian needs, which could become the basis for a comprehensive development program aimed at preparing Indians for independent status within a period of about 20 years.

No foundation has been willing to take on this job, and it now appears that if it is to be done at all, the administration will have to ask Congress for the money to finance it.

## JACKSONVILLE School Open House Held

By BETTE HOSKINS  
Jacksonville—The Jacksonville Parent Teachers association reported a good response to the open house held in conjunction with National Education Week. Open house was held Wednesday, Nov. 12, in the primary school on Hueners lane. Mrs. Woodrow Davis, president, presided.

Francis Guidry, principal, talked on dividing classrooms. Room mothers from grades one and two were in charge of table decorations and refreshments.

Seventh and eighth grade girls assisting with refreshments were Melba Graham, Susan White, Nancy Harter, Judy Hueners, Doris Meyers and Gayle Offenbacher. Home room mothers were identified by corsages made by Mrs. John Taylor.

PTA committee chairmen for this year are: membership, Mrs. Chris Christianson and Mrs. Ruppert Maddox; program, Mrs. Ted Rundle and Dealous Cox; hospitality, Mrs. Harold White and Mrs. Charles Kimball; health, Mrs. Albert Griffin; publicity, Mrs. Mack Griffin and Mrs. Ernest Rasmussen; Christmas treats, Mrs. Warren Davis; room representative, Mrs. Bob Canty; student representatives, Nancy Neidermeyer, and Eddy Graham; baby sitting, Alma Beriman; transportation, Mrs. James Skog.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy L. Reed of Denver, Colo., were recent visitors at the homes of relatives here and in Medford, where they visited his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Meno Schmidt. While here the Reeds were guests at several

family dinners. The Schmidts, former residents, returned in July from Florida and are now making their home in Medford.

Dick Sanford recently visited his family. He is stationed at the Oakland Naval base. He also plans to be home on Thanksgiving.

City officials have expressed thanks for the large turnout in the recent city election. Of 565 registered voters, about 400 votes were cast, according to City Recorder Mrs. Jean Hewlett.

Newly elected Mayor E. O. Graham and Councilman Francis Guidry will take office Jan. 2. Councilmen re-elected were Everett Ravenor and Art Davies. Councilmen whose terms do not expire until next year are Robert Welch and Earnest McIntyre.

The mayor and council will appoint some one to fill Graham's unexpired councilman position. John F. Keavney is the retiring mayor.

Mrs. Tom Burnfiel returned this week from a visit with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Dewey, of Newark, Calif. The restoration program for Jacksonville showed some evidence of progress this week with remodeling starting at the Jacksonville Pharmacy. The store is to be modern with a "pioneer look" and atmosphere with all its modern fixtures painted in that period finish. The newly hung sign over the side walk is a good example of the restoration plan to be carried out.

Another resident with "Centennial thoughts" in mind is Mrs. Hueston L. Valentine, who plans to turn her home into "Aunt Edna's Guest House" an authentic pioneer stop-over house for weary travelers, or as they are now called, tourists.

The house will be furnished with antique pioneer furniture and fixtures in home-like styles. Mrs. Valentine will dress the part in gowns and bonnets she has copied from the era and will wear her hair which she has let grow, in recreated hair dos of that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Valentine are visiting a son this week in Mesa, Ariz. The son is an interior decorator and is planning to do the interior of the guest house.

It would seem that our pioneer Gold Rush town, which has never been a ghost is about to awaken to a big future with its well preserved "Gold Mine" of old buildings, historic sites, places and things. Where is a more appropriate place to celebrate Oregon's birth than in one of its oldest towns, with a wealth of living history, and a fantastic past?

PARKING PRIVILEGES  
Hartford, Conn.—(UPI)—Fruit peddler Bennie Adelman has no intention of trading in his horse and cart for a truck. "Who ever heard of giving a parking ticket to a horse?" he asked.

# Russian Tourists, Plus Few Yanks, Find Manhattan 'Very Exotic' Place

By DOC QUIGG  
UPI Correspondent

New York—UPI—A group of us rubberneckers—18 Russian tourists plus a few Americans hangers-on such as reporters and guided-tour personnel—went on a bus tour of Manhattan Tuesday and found the place, as one of the Russians said, "very exotic."

We examined a parking meter (a very curious device), a drunken bum on the Bowery (he asked for a handout but didn't get one), the building where Al Smith went to school, the Brooklyn Bridge (there is a famous poem, by a famous poet, about it in Russia), the nice people feeding the pigeons in Times Square; Chinatown, and other Gotham curios.

We bought two copies of the Hobo News, a Bowery newspaper; drove down the high-capitalist thoroughfare

DEN OF THIEVES  
Hartford, Conn.—(UPI)—Jail matron Margaret De Leo reported that she left her handbag in a locked, unoccupied cell and returned to find \$29 missing from it.

named Wall Street; saw the statue of Georgi Wassington, the leader of the glorious revolution who later became first president of the United States on the spot where the statue stands. Also, we got into an awful traffic jam at 30th st. and 6th st.

A Quick Starter  
The Russians had just arrived by plane from Moscow to start a 12-day tour of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. They are members of the Russian state and film worlds—actresses, directors, producers, writers—who booked the tour through the Cosmos Travel Bureau. They will spend five more days here. Tuesday was a quick starter.

We would have gone to Brooklyn, too, but Brooklyn is one of the U. S. places that are off-limits to visiting Russians, by State Department order. We gazed at it from a safe distance across the East river, its towers ghostly in heavy fog, and wondered what dark mysteries it held.

Russian-Speaking Guide  
The travel bureau hired a regular Manhattan sight-seeing bus for the trip but had

to have one of its own employees, a lady, to act as speller because the spelling, naturally, had to be in Russian. The way it got translated back, by another employee, in English for me was interesting.

Such names as "Washington Square," "Washington Arc," and "Greenyitch Village" were recognizable without translation. At one point, a Russian asked why people were standing in line in front of a studio. The answer was: "Televysshnan."

It was a good tour. At one point, when we passed one of the gangs of workers who seem to be perpetually tear-

ing up Manhattan streets, to time." "I am living here and I am somebody asked: "What are they doing in the streets?" replied a guide, and let it go. They are fixing it all the at that.

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