

Replica Of Early Indian Tribal House Produced By Skilled Woman

Indians of Western Canada have known for centuries the importance of western cedar to their civilization. It built their homes, provided transportation in the form of canoes, clothed them with its bark, helped catch their food, and was made into utensils and furniture.

For western cedar, which grows abundantly in British Columbia and today is one of the most modern of building materials, was the backbone of Indian civilization and progress for hundreds of years.

Now, 25,000 professional home builders will be told the story, by the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association in January, at the National Association of Home Builders Show in Chicago. In their exhibition, the association has included actual demonstrations of

the ancient art of Indian totem pole carving.

Mrs. E. L. Neel, Vancouver, British Columbia, nationally known carver of authentic Indian art, will finish a four-foot long totem pole which traces the history of housing. Purpose of the carving is to demonstrate how easily western cedar is worked, even with Indian hand tools.

Contrasted to Mrs. Neel's carving will be exhibits of beveled siding and paneling, and western cedar used on the interiors and

outside modern, architect-designed Canadian homes. Other exhibit features include displays of how easily western cedar is painted and applied.

The totem pole will be given to some lucky person attending the show. Lucky, because as a builder he will have a unique, truly authentic piece of Indian art from Western Canada that tells a story of housing.

It's the "Legend of the First House," and it is woven around the thunderbird. In describing the legend Mrs. Neel speaks with authority. She is a member of the Kwakiutl Tribe, whose history reaches back into the heart of the cedar country.

Mrs. Neel's tribal name, Kakasolas—which means "many people come long distances over water seeking her advice"—is appropriate to a show attended by 25,000 from all parts of the United States and Canada.

Briefly, as Mrs. Neel explains the legend, the Great Spirit, in the beginning of time, placed a man named N'mugwis "all alone on the beach"—a sort of Indian Eden. He began to build a house of

western cedar logs, but couldn't put them in place by himself.

The thunderbird—who had the remarkable power of changing from bird to man and back again—flew down and helped him. Later, thunderbird brought a woman to become the wife of N'mugwis, and the tribe grew. Thunderbird himself married the daughter of N'mugwis, and over the years taught the tribe how to carve the western cedar tree into many useful things.

Western cedar provided the structural timbers for their houses. It was carved into long planks with interlocking edges, for use on roofs and sidewalls—providing the same long-wearing, rich qualities of modern beveled siding and tongue-and-groove paneling.

Western cedar was used for boxes to store food and cook in, and boxes for burials. It was carved into feast bowls and serving platters, spoons and kitchenware. Halibut hooks were carved from western cedar hundreds of years ago, and you can see them today, still perfectly preserved, in the Vancouver, British Columbia, museum.

This remarkably adaptable wood was used for sleeping platforms and stools. And the inner bark was used for cloth.

Western cedar canoes, still seen today in colorful Indian ceremonies, were used for freight, and in times of war.

Authorities on Indian culture concur in the belief that without western cedar, the tribes of Western Canada would not have survived. Using the wood, they progressed slowly through the culture of the Stone Age into a complex civilization, long before the arrival of the white man.

Mrs. Neel concludes the story of the legend of Thunderbird: "Thunderbird remained with them a long time, but finally he went to N'mugwis and said 'Now, I must go back to Skyland, as my father, the Great Spirit, has other things for me to do. When I leave, you will cause a memorial to be made for me.'"

The memorial—the traditional thunderbird totem pole which tells the story of the first house—will be carved in Chicago, amid modern building displays, telling again the story of western cedar.

U.S. Facing Competition For Markets

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Carlos Taurel of Buenos Aires, Argentina, would like to buy a 1959 Ford. But he can't, for two reasons.

First, transportation costs and other factors make the price too high for his pocketbook. Second, Argentine car dealers have few U.S. dollars to spend on Detroit's products. Argentina can earn dollars only by exporting its own goods to the United States, and there isn't much demand for Argentine meat, wheat and other products in the U.S. market.

So, Carlos Taurel has decided to buy a European car. It is smaller, and less expensive. And his car dealer has no trouble getting British pounds, French francs or German marks. Europeans buy a lot of Argentine beef and other products.

Carlos Taurel is, of course, a fictitious name. But his case describes the situation that exists between the U.S. and many of the South and Central American countries—they are turning more and more to Europe and Japan for what they buy and as markets for what they sell.

And, to a small but significant extent, they are also turning to the Soviet bloc. For example, the Communists have purchased \$30 million worth of Uruguayan wool in exchange for 1,250,000 barrels of crude oil which the Soviet bloc is shipping to petroleum-hungry Uruguay.

Argentina is getting \$27 million worth of Soviet crude oil and machinery in return for a shipment of Argentine hides and grains of about the same value. Brazil is considering a Soviet offer of 1,500,000 barrels of crude oil in exchange for cacao, cotton and coffee.

All this worries the U.S. State Department. It knows that once the Communists get their economic foot in the door, they go to work on pushing their political propaganda. This Soviet invasion of the Latin American market, experts believe, is directly responsible for the recent showering of U.S. attention on its neighbors to the south.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that U.S. interest in Latin American trade is exclusively designed to keep Russia out. What Latin Americans buy from us, and what we buy from them, is of tremendous importance to our economy and theirs.

The United States sells about \$3.7 billion worth of goods—mostly machinery, automobiles, trucks and other manufactured goods—to Latin America each year. This is nearly one-fourth of our total export trade and about half of all Latin American imports.

Latin America sells us about \$3.6 billion worth of goods each year—including coffee (from Brazil, Colombia, and 13 other countries); petroleum (primarily from Venezuela); sugar (Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, Peru); copper (Chile); lead and zinc (Peru) and iron ore (Brazil, Venezuela).

OLDER FOLKS LOBBY

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — By 1960, there will be enough Americans 45 and over to elect any Presidential candidate who promises to solve all their problems, according to Louis Kuplan, president of the International Gerontological Society.

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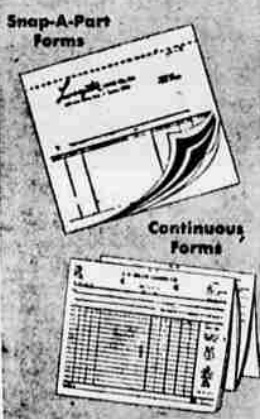
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MULTIPLE HOUSING, INDIAN STYLE — Mrs. E. L. Neel, Vancouver, B. C., who is widely known as a carver of authentic Indian totem poles, poses with model of Indian ceremonial house which she built for the Vancouver, B. C. museum. Ancient houses, for centuries center of life for Pacific Northwest Indian tribes, were built entirely of Western Cedar. Hand-made paneling, similar to modern tongue-and-groove, was used for walls and roofing. Structural timbers were Western Cedar logs. Totems were carved of Western Cedar and placed both inside house and at doorway in keeping with Indian lore.



FINAL INSPECTION is made by Mrs. Henry Wolff before the spuds go into the correct bags. She is shown here at her station along with Landry Delayney.