

BAPTIST FEATURES

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SEMINOLE INDIANS By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

Seminole Indians are so picturesque in their gay colored clothes that often a few are hired as a tourist attraction for some Florida park.

Several families will live together in a park "village." Here they build one room houses called chikees. The floor is a platform from twelve to eighteen inches above the ground. The roof is made of thatched palmetto fronds. The sides are all open. The Indians put up netting around the house at night to keep off mosquitoes and for sleeping. They have no furniture. Their few possessions are kept in the rafters. And their clothing is hung on pegs at one end of the house.

They have a separate chikee where they eat. Staple foods such as salt, flour, etc. are kept in the rafters. They cook in a big pot and sit on the floor to eat.

The women have small sewing machines with which to make their multi-colored clothes. The voluminous skirts have row after row of colored strips sewed on them. With these skirts the women wear capes of solid color that extend below their waists.

The women are especially fond of beads. They wear strings extending from their shoulders to their chins like huge collars. These beads weigh many pounds. A girl has a string of beads given to her when she is born. Then she accumulates them as the years go by.

The men's shirts are patterned of many colors, too. Small boys dress in long skirts.

The Seminole men and women make many novelties which are sold in Florida gift shops. These consist of costumes, carved coconut heads, bead work, dolls, silver ornaments and other items. Some dolls are made of palmetto fiber. Others are carefully carved of wood. All dolls are dressed true to Seminole styles including collars of beads.

The language of these people is peculiar. For the word dog they say, "ifi". Fire is "iti". A mosquito is called "hos-ko-ton-i." Seminoles find the learning of English quite difficult.

The Indians use dugout canoes which take quite some time to make. Seminoles usually return to the Everglades for the Corn Dance Ceremonial. They often travel by canoe which they propel by the aid of a very long stick.

These Indians take to the Christian faith rather slowly. But a Baptist church was built in the Everglades. And perhaps in time the younger generations will all become Christians.

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MOTHER'S CALLERS

By Marjorie Allen Anderson

Often when the doorbell rings
Mother's busy doing things,
So she has taught me what to do--
I say, "Come in, and how are you?"
I say, "Take off your coat and hat,"
Then we sit down and have a chat
In our most comfortable chairs
Until my mother comes downstairs.

Long ago a friend of Jesus wrote to
some churches: "Practice hospitality."
(Romans 12:38b)

Do you know what hospitality means?
Ask your mother or father to help you
plan ways to practice hospitality at home.

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HOW BIBLES ARE MADE
By Bessie Hastings

Do you have a Bible?

The Bible is the world's best seller. This means that each year more Bibles are sold and given away than any other book in the world.

Many people are kept busy all year making these Bibles. Would you like to meet some of them?

The translator. When the Bible is published in a foreign language, a man called a translator writes out each verse as it will appear in the new language.

The typesetter. He takes the copy and sets it in type so it can be printed on the big printing presses. Every letter of every word requires a little piece of metal. The typesetter arranges these thousands of pieces of metal for printing.

The proofreader. He reads everything prepared by the typesetter before the Bibles are printed. He corrects mistakes so every Bible will be printed perfectly.

The press operator. He operates the big presses that turn out sheet after sheet of printed copy. He sees that just enough ink is used, and that the copy is clear and neat.

The binder. He takes the pages of printed copy from the presses and binds them together in individual Bibles. Some have expensive leather covers. Others have cheaper binding of paper or cardboard.

The shipping clerk. He packs the Bibles in cartons for mailing to book stores, missionaries, military chaplains, and others who help sell and distribute the Scriptures.

Finally the Bibles reach the hands of those who are to distribute them. Missionaries and chaplains often give Bibles away. Almost everyone can afford to buy at least a cheaper copy. When we see a new Bible, we are looking at the most important book in the world. It tells us of Jesus and his love for us. All of our lives can be happier because of reading and obeying its teachings.

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