

At the Edge of the Great Smokies Is 'Cherokee,' a Fascinating Little Town

By The Old AAA Traveler

Grand old Chief Carl Standing deer, his face wrinkled like ancient parchment, but his spine as straight as in the days when we soldiered together along the Mexican Border, looks out over the green mountains from the eminence of Clingman's Dome and speaks:

"It's easy to see why Taali was willing to die that his brothers might live in this land of beauty."

Carl, of course, is referring to the blood sacrifice made by Taali, a minor chief of the Cherokees, more than a century ago; the sacrifice by which a certain number of Cherokees were permitted to remain in the Great Smokies, the Great Smokies they had so named because of the blue haze around their peaks.

Forced to Move

The story of Taali's sacrifice goes back to the day when the government decided to remove the Cherokees from their beloved mountains to the bleak wastes of a western reservation.

The Cherokees were herded into the stockades against the day when the long march to the West was to start, the march which was a journey of death for the Cherokees. As the red men were heading out of their hills a little band revolted and there was a sharp fight.

Cherokees died and soldiers also died in the flesh battle, but Taali and the small band escaped and fled into the mountains, finding ultimate sanctuary in a cave up Clingman's Dome way.

The other Cherokees were driven into the West and then the troops returned to fare it out with Taali and his little band. They could not find them, of course, for Taali and his followers knew

the mountains as you know your back yard.

Taali Is Shot

But the Cherokees did not want



to live as hunted animals. They wanted to live in peace in the country of their forefathers. In time a contract was set up and Taali agreed to surrender, with some of his followers and stand trial.

This little group did surrender, but there was no trial. Instead, they died before a firing squad at sunrise, asking only that their eyes not be covered, that they might die as the sun rose over the hills they loved.

Other members of the band were permitted to remain in the Smokies and in time there was created the Qualla Reservation. Almost on the Tennessee-Carolina line.

Today almost 3,000 Cherokees till their little farms and continue to live as they lived.

This Cherokee in full ceremonial might will be a reincarnation of Taali, the Cherokee who gave his life that his brother might live in the edge of the Great Smokies, Qualla Reservation is a highlight on the itinerary of the thousands of Michiganeans who travel Smokies-ward each vacation.

the magnificent handwork for which that tribe has been famous through the years. Cherokee itself is a fascinating little town. Two blocks of a main street lined with trading posts and packed with tourists.

Panorama of Color.

Cherokee women, papooses on their backs, parade the streets as they sell their blankets and beads, wares and pottery to the traders. It is a steadily changing panorama of color.

Let's drop into "The Cherokee Chieftain" for a quick visit with Rose and Louise Caldwell, who have lived with the Cherokees and know them probably better than any whites on the reservation. Rose and Louise Caldwell will greet you with "as-yo!" which means "hello," and is about the only greeting you will get from the Cherokee himself.

We will be surrounded by half a dozen Cherokee women offering their baskets and headwork, of course, while, on the other side of the post Ross Caldwell will be dicker with a Cherokee brave looking for bows and arrows or possibly,

some of the other leaders are planning a great Cherokee Ceremonial for the late summer of 1948. They plan to make the ceremonial comparable in size and color to the western ceremonials and to Michigan's own Ottawa ceremonials.

This ceremonial will provide just one more great urge to go into the Great Smokies and visit with those real Americans who add so much color to the land of their forefathers.

Across the street there is a steady stream of Cherokees in and out of the little post office where, behind the wicket is Kay Dean, a Cherokee girl, who is the answer to an artist's prayer.

The Cherokees are avid correspondents, and that is natural, for when the white came in more than a century ago, they found that grand old Chief Sequoi had created a Cherokee alphabet and had taught his people to use it.

Plan Cherokee Ceremonial

That high incidence of education has continued through the years, for today there is an excellent school on the reservation, a school from which a great many of the Cherokee students go on to college.

Right now Ross Caldwell and

group, not affiliated with any nationally recognized organization and is interested in taking a part in the civic affairs of Birmingham. They seek additional membership among the men of the city who served in any of the various military branches during World War II, who are interested in belonging to a group of men whose sincere interest is civic.

Deadline for CLUB NEWS remains at noon Mondays. adv. 17

BVO Opens Season's Meetings on Sept. 2

The Birmingham Veterans' Organization will hold its first fall meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Kingsley Inn. All local veterans are cordially invited to attend that they may become better acquainted with the group and its plans.

Celebrating its first birthday in June, the BVO marked a membership of 50, a gain of 73 members over the original three who met in June, 1946, to discuss its founding. It is an independent veteran

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Economical Star-Good Margarine 1 Lb. 27c

American Cheese Food Ched-O-Bit 2-Lb. Ctn. 81c

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Orange, Cherry or Chocolate Cup Cakes Each 5c

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Fruit and Nut Ring Coffee Cake Each 39c

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Delightful Variety Treat Parkerhouse Rolls Dozen 25c

Marvel Plain or Seeded Rye Bread 1 Loaf 17c

Jane Parker Crispy, Salty Potato Chips 8-Oz. Bag 25c

Marvel Sandwich or Hot Dog Rolls Pkg. of 8 16c

A&P's PRODUCE DEPARTMENT
Has the Making of Simple Salads

U. S. No. 1, New Mich. Potatoes 15-Lb. Peck 49c

Firm, Fresh, Snow White Cauliflower 1 Head 19c

U. S. No. 1, Mild Yellow Onions 4 Lb. 25c

HOME GROWN BANTAM Sweet Corn 1 Doz. Ears 45c

MICH. GROWN LARGE Pascal Celery 1 Stalk 30 size 15c

HOME GROWN Egg Plant 2 For 25c

Sweet, Juicy, Thompson Seedless GRAPES 1 Lb. 10c

A&P's MEAT DEPARTMENT
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Every one of A&P's "Super-Right" meats gives you more good eating for your money because every one is carefully selected from fine-quality corn-fed beef and pork, milk-fed veal and spring lamb, and Close-Trimmed to remove excess waste before your purchase is weighed.

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