The statue by Lorado Taft above the Rock River does not pretend to be moulded in the image of Black Hawk. It is more the embodiment of the spirit of the Indian. Yet, as one looks up to behold it, forceful vibrations like thunder rolling over Illinois hills seem to echo the challenge, "I am Black Hawk, the man."

There are conflicting stories as to why Black Hawk returned. Perhaps there is a little truth in all of them; certainly tribal politics played a part. Personal ambition on the part of Neopope, the leader of the young braves, led him to carry false information to his Chief. The other bands of Sacs and Foxes, the Pottowatomies, Winnebagoes and others, he said, would dance around Black Hawk's war post if only he would take the lead. Black Hawk was the rallying point for all the neighboring tribes. The British would help, too, Neopope told Black Hawk.

On April 6, 1832, Black Hawk and nearly a thousand of his people crossed the Mississippi about 50 miles below their old village, the village of Saukenuk, and made the long trek home. It was a sad homecoming; the white men had burned the village to the ground. An army officer rode up to tell Black Hawk that he must cross back over the big river or troops would be sent against them. The Chief replied that he had come in peace. (In his biography, the Chief claims that he did not return to Illinois to make war, but to make a corn crop among his friends, the Winnebagoes.) However, Black Hawk moved his band up the Rock River to the village of the Prophet, Wabokieskiek, who had sent word that the Sacs might rent land from his people to plant crops. Sac runners sent to other tribes came back with similar messages to the Chief: "If the White Soldiers permit you to remain, we will help you. If they will not allow you to remain we cannot help." These messages made Black Hawk realize that he had been deceived by Neopope and other false advisers. He decided to take his people back across the Mississippi to Iowa and accept the inevitable.

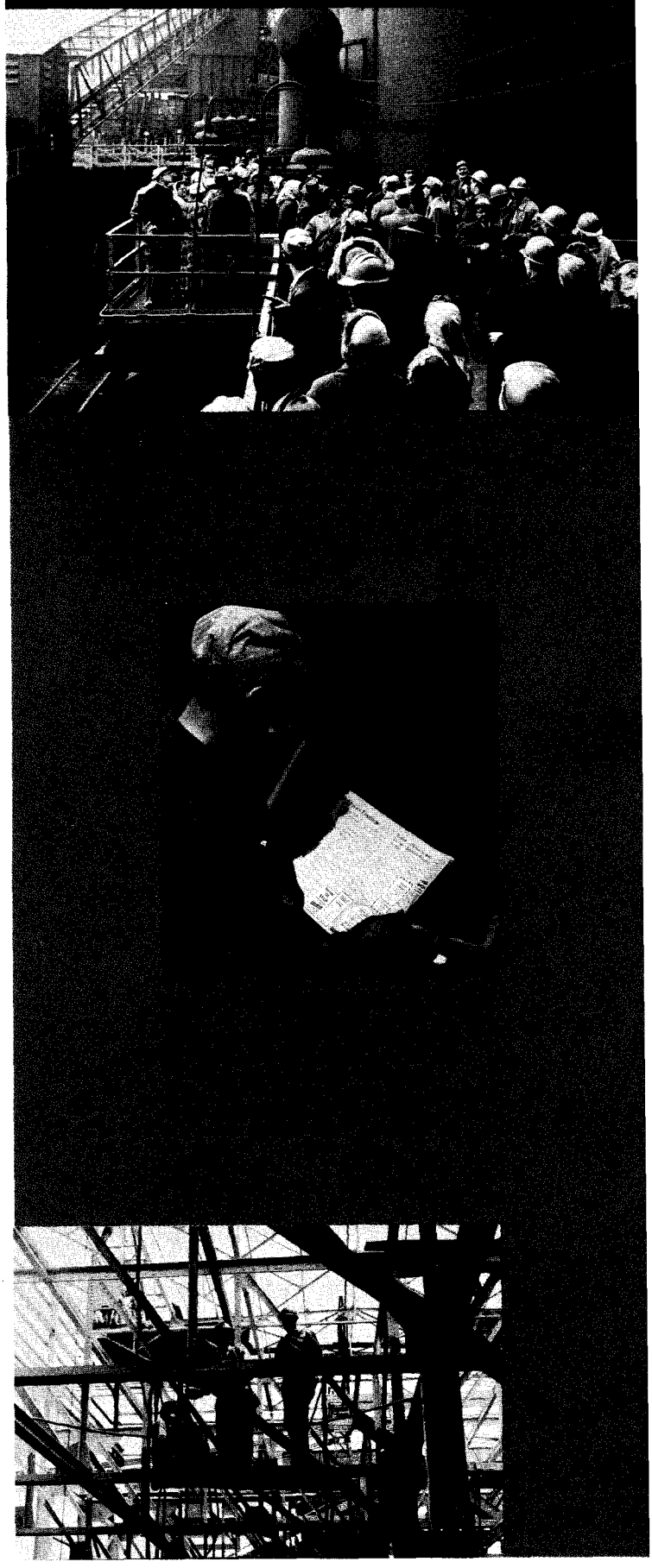
ABOUT COLONEL TIM McCOY

To many, Tim McCoy is best known as a star of western pictures. But the real McCoy goes far beyond that. He is an authentic westerner from Wyoming. He was a cavalry officer who saw service in both World Wars, and a protege of General Hugh Scott, former Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army and last of the great Indian fighters. Tim McCoy was Adjutant General of Wyoming. He is a friend of the Indian and a student of Indian lore and military history. He is the foremost living authority on the sign language of the Plains Indians.

McCoy first became associated with motion pictures when he brought 500 Indians from Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to Hollywood for the filming of "The Covered Wagon," and acted as Technical Director of the production. Later, he took 50 Arapahoe Indians to London and Paris in a prologue with the picture. Upon his return he became a star for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Today, Tim McCoy has his own television program portraying the history of the West with special emphasis on the Indian phases.

In this treatment of the Black Hawk War, he does not get involved with the day by day events, nor with the ramifications of the official records. He merely tries to tell briefly and from his own viewpoint what the war was about and what happened to a great Indian Chief.

Inland in Focus



NUMBER THREE. *Structural steelmen work on the cooling tower of the Inland's third continuous galvanizing line at Indiana Harbor. This new line, rapidly nearing completion, will substantially increase Inland's production of TI-CO galvanized sheets.*