M-29 INDIAN DAY
This Manuscript was taken from the
PRYOR JEFFERSONIAN, November 15, 1956
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Date: February 18, 1970

WRITER SAYS HISTORY OF INDIANS NOT OF BARBARIC SAVAGES

Indian day was celebrated in Oklahoma September 28, 1956 and John Armstrong of Pryor is in receipt of an article appearing in the Miami Daily News Record in commemoration of the event. The article was written by Guy Jennison, chief of the Ottawas, and a recognized historian.

Jennison says in the article "It is a matter of deep regret to our people that most material published about Indians, is either sentimentally unrealistic or harshly untrue."

The historian also declares that "Indians were and are neither ignorant nor blood-thirsty savages, nor misunderstood heroes, as most white writers depict them. Indians are human beings like all the people of the earth. They live interesting normal lives in accordance with customs and beliefs which are generally modified by several hundred years of contact and integration with white people."

Continuing, Jennison writes; "We were called uncivilized barbarians but what is civilization?" It is distinguished by a noble religion and philosophy, original arts, stirring music, rich stories and legends. We had all of these.

We made blankets, baskets, pottery, beads and colored quills; We tanned skins and chipped arrowheads into beautiful precision. We had many other handicrafts that were useful, sturdy and beautiful and were not mere decorative motifs. They were the outward expression of our very thoughts. Some of them the white man, with all his ingenuity and intricate machinery has not been able to duplicate.

The Indians sang songs that carried in their melodies all the sounds of nature, the ruming of waters, the sighing winds, the call of birds and animals. Teach our songs to your children that they may come to love nature as we love it.

We had our statesmen and their oratory has never been equalled. Teach your children some of those great speeches: Tecumseh's reply to General Harrison; Pontiac's speech to the Northwest Confederacy in the uprising of 1763.

We had out lighter moments too. We played games that helped to build good health and sound bodies. Many were the forerunners of the games played by the whites today.

Why not teach school children the wholesome proverbs and legends of our people. Tell them that we loved all that was beautiful; that we killed game only for food, not for sport. The Indian did not waste. When he had eaten a beaver he did not throw the bones to the dogs, least other beavers should be insulted. Before he set out to kill the buffalo he