

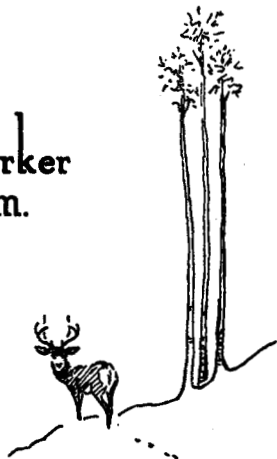
S. Omar Barker  
Sapello, N. M.

Fiction

Articles

Verse

Oct. 3, 1953.



Dr. Walter S. Campbell,  
Professor, Dept. of English,  
University of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Okla.

Dear Walter:

Rather presumptuously, I'm afraid, I run a department in TEXAS RANGERS (pulp) called "Sagebrush Savvy" in which I attempt to answer any and all questions from readers about the west. And at the moment I am stuck. At least the only answer I could give would be rather general and probably not very authentic. Would it be too great an imposition to ask you to help me out?

Here is the question: "Can you tell me how the Indians made their war paint. All I know is that they used ochre for a base. Can you tell me what colors they used and what color came by what method from what mineral and what plant?"

That's the reader's exact wording, and I suppose a really complete answer would run to a good many pages. But I can allow only from 150 to 200 words at the most for it, and would be eternally grateful to you for the essential information in brief. I'm sure it's something you know more accurately than anybody else in the country. Now if you can't spare the time, please don't bother. I can get by--but I'd much rather have it really right, and will be greatly in your debt if you can spare the time to help me.

No news here except that it is so dry that you can't tell a trout from a horned toad. Our once fine spring isn't even muddy any more, and the main stream just a trickle. So has been my "literary" output for the summer!

With sincere thanks and warmest regards,  
in which Elsa joins me,

Sincerely,

Blue clay  
white clay  
Sapello

Hamate  
brown, gray  
red  
Blue clay

belonging to a shield  
a weapon  
- Vermilion -

Time crazy  
red, green, yellow  
black blue  
Sapello alone