

The chief appointed was told to be good to all people. If he sees one who is unfortunate he was to give of his best, be good to all, a small child crying was comforted by wiping away his tears, restoration of family troubles, planting seed to grow foods to give to the unfortunate, which was harvested in the fall.* Surplus food was stored by digging a hole in the ground and covering it up for future use by covering it with certain grasses. Winter they hunted for meat in any form such as buffalo, deer, elk, or antelope and was dried in their teepees, smoked and put away. The skins of these animals were used after tanning the hide. The hide of the buffalo which was the largest was used for their shelter or teepees. The most magnificent of tanning was of the buffalo which is equal to or better than the beautiful tanning of the white man today. The deer, elk, or antelope hides were used for their clothing and moccasins. The Almighty showed the Indian how to do these things, even the coyote and wolf had their part as well as the beaver, mink, muskrat. These were used for caps, gloves, leggings, buckskin shirts and whatever other things were needed. Otter hides were also used for fur caps, and mink to tie their hair in place of ribbons.

There were seven different clans among the Ponca people and of this seven clans one man was appointed as the main chief of all the people. The leader chose some young men to look for game when the food was running low. When they scouted around and found buffalo they reported back to the people who moved to the place where the buffalo was found, and the men on the fleetest of horses were told to cut some of the buffalo apart from the main herd and the round up began. These animals were kept in a running circle until they were exhausted or all shot down with bows and arrows, and spears. No meat was left behind as they only killed what they could use.

*We thought it would be interesting to note the comparison between the white man chiefs and the Indian chief. Yes, we do have a lot to offer the Anglo Society, in actuality, who preaches and who lives it.