

# LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH

Crawford Lake Conservation Area

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The Huron usually slept on raised platforms that ran the length of the longhouse, down either side. Amanda Heale, nine, and her brother Joseph, five, are seen here reclining on a buffalo hide. The Huron Indians would place pine tree boughs under the skins they slept on, to make for a more comfortable bed.



The mode of transportation used by the Huron along the rivers was, of course, the birchbark canoe. Susan Taylor is a student working as a resource interpreter at the Crawford Lake Conservation Area. She is seen here with a canoe which was made and donated by an interested individual. The canoe is virtually authentic, right down to the bark threading which helps hold it together.



The Indian Village at Crawford Lake is carefully constructed to give visitors a look at what it would be like at the site hundreds of years ago. Pottery and food dating back to the days of primitive native life are on display. (Herald photo)



Palisades of the Indian village were constructed so that it was difficult to pick out an entrance or exit. It was one thing for an intruder to find his way into the village, but once inside, it was unlikely he would be able to find his way out again before being spotted.



It wasn't all work for the Huron villagers. The men of the village played lacrosse, while the women catch with two sacks connected by a length of lace. Here, Amanda and Joseph try their hand at lacrosse using a forked stick to play throw and with sticks similar to those used by the Indians hundreds of years ago.

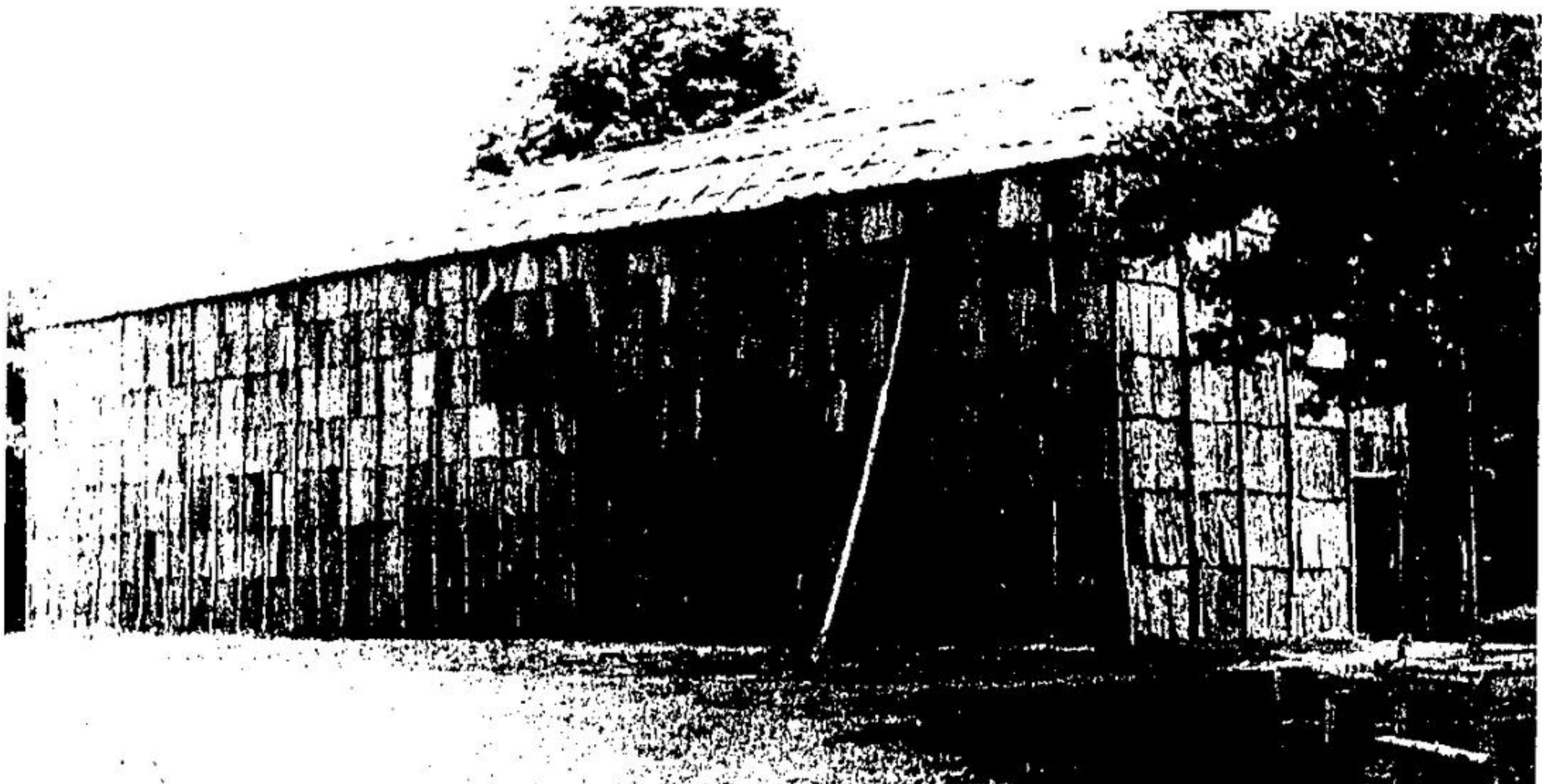


The diet of the Indians who lived in the Crawford Lake area is being examined and uncovered by archaeologists working on the site. Here, inside one of the longhouses a native meal is on display for visitors. (Herald photo)

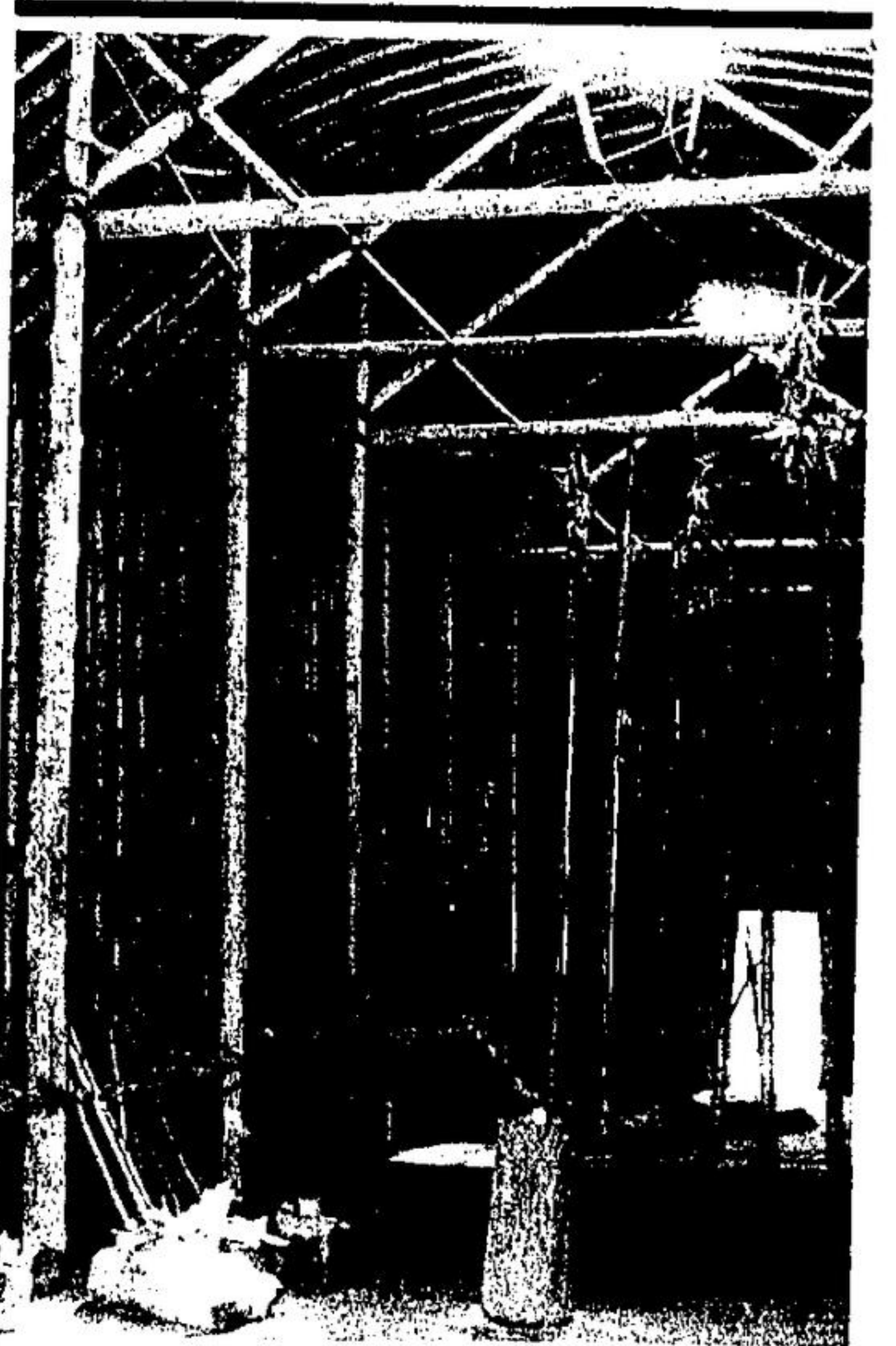


A series of fire pits, one for each member of the family would sleep Huron family living in the on the ground to be closer to the longhouse, is set along the length of warmth of the fire. During the winter,

Photos by  
Mike Turner



The Crawford Lake Indian village is being reconstructed as archaeologists learn more about the Huron Indians who lived their, dating back to the 15th century. It is believed as many as 300 people lived in the village, and as many as five families would have shared a longhouse like this one.



Fire pits were used in the longhouses for warmth and cooking, which made for a smoky interior, despite vents in the roof of the structure. Since the Huron women spent most of their time working inside the longhouses, many were virtually blind by the time they reached the age of 20.