



**DID
YOU
KNOW..**

CALUMET (The Pipe of Peace)

The ceremonial long-stemmed pipe of the North American Indians was often called the "peace pipe" of the Great Pipe. Its importance was sensed by its presence on many occasions, both for peace and for war.

Before setting out on a journey or hunting expedition it was used to assure success. Smoking the calumet was thought to bring about good weather conditions or rain, whichever was needed. It was also used to banish an enemy.

Representatives of different tribes smoked the peace pipe when sealing a peace pact, or assuring their friendship. Not only was it smoked for peace, victory and good — but it could mean war should the feathers on its stem be painted red.

Dances were given in honor of this Great Pipe. The Calumet Dance was given for the French explorers coming into the Mississippi Valley as the Indians received them.

When General John Charles Fremont, called "The Pathfinder", crossed the continent carrying the flag, it showed a bundle of arrows. To the Indians this meant war, and so he soon changed it to arrows crossed with the calumet in the talons of an eagle. The Indians then accepted him as a friend.

The calumet at first was just a bundle of reeds which was considered sacred. Later the bundle was combined with a pipe bowl in which to burn tobacco to their Gods. The Indians felt the Gods accepted the smoke from the calumet.

Though the Indians did smoke some tobacco, it was generally reserved for ceremonial purposes. It was used to

bring about cures of diseases or good fortune, and was also used to seal treaties.

Indians did not like tobacco in the straight form, and so they sometimes mixed it with bark and herbs. Another reason for mixing it may have been because it was scarce.

The shaft of the calumet was generally carved from wood and could be very decorative. For decorations the Indians used a variety of things: feathers, skins, bird heads, beads, and quills. Sometimes even the bowl was highly carved.

PIPE BOWL

Many pipes were made of a red clay stone found in Southwest Minnesota, where Pipestone Quarry is now. An early traveler by the name of George Catlin noted the stone. From this comes the name "catlinite" for the clay.

TOMAHAWK

Some peace pipes were a combination of hatchet and pipe with the hatchet on one side of the head and the pipe bowl on the other.

The well-known expression "bury the hatchet" comes from when tribes settled disagreements between themselves or between white man and Indians. The blade of the pipe-tomahawk was placed in the earth before the pipe was lighted.

*INDIAN LIFE-Rapid City, S.D.

AT ONE TIME MEN WOULD
GATHER TO PASS THE
PEACE PIPE!!



NOW THEY PASS THE
Jug!!