

Native Americans

Never before has the Native American Festival presentation been so closely interrelated to American history. The focus for the 1975 presentations is the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy: the Mohawk, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and Tuscarora, tribal groups whose government has been in effect for hundreds of years and served as a model for our federal system. The Grand Council directly influenced the creation of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the U. S. Canasatego, Chief of the Iroquois, is recorded as advising the Colonial Governors meeting in Lancaster in 1744:

"Our Wise Forefathers established Union and Amity between five nations.

This has made us formidable; this has given us great Weight and Authority with our neighboring Nations. We are a powerful Confederacy; and by your observing the same Methods our Wise Forefathers have taken, you will acquire such Strength and Power. Therefore, whatever befalls you, never fall out with one another."

Benjamin Franklin did not miss the point. "It would be a strange thing," he advised the Albany Congress in 1754, "if Six Nations of ignorant savages should be capable of forming a scheme for such an union, and be able to execute it in such a manner as that it has subsisted ages and appears indissoluble; and yet that a like union should be

impracticable for ten or a dozen English colonies, to whom it is more necessary and must be more advantageous, and who cannot be supposed to want an equal understanding of their interest."

The Grand Council of the Iroquois Confederacy will be discussed in workshops in the Learning Center where a history in photographs is on display.

Among other areas, agriculture, architecture, crafts, members of the chitecture, crafts, members of the Iroquois are a major force in the lacrosse industry—from creating sticks to providing the athletes. Lacrosse will be played in competition in the Native Americans area daily. A championship tournament is scheduled for Sunday, July 6 at 2:30 pm. Lacrosse stick making will be part of the crafts demonstrations along with silver smithing, wood and bone carving, basketry and beadwork. Crafts will be available for purchase in the crafts sales area.

Singing and dancing will take place daily. Friday evenings visitors are invited to participate in social dancing. The Friendship dance, round dance, rabbit dance and stomp dance will be demonstrated.

Native American food to be demonstrated and sampled include fry bread, corn and sassafrass tea.

Iroquois orators such as Irving Powless, Sr., Irving Powless, Jr., Huron Miller (whose prayer appears below), Elwood Green, Oren Lyons and Rick Hill will be discussing the clans and nations, the formation of the Confederacy, wampum, food, sports and games.

In the Learning Center will be participants from various other Eastern Indian tribes who will relate their influence on *Corn Husk is used in many of the crafts of the Iroquois. Here braids of corn husk are sewn together into a mask.*

the settlers, beginning in 1620 when the Wampanoag tribe welcomed the Pilgrims (in English), provided food for them during the first difficult winter on the New England coast, and then shared the first Thanksgiving. Tesquanto (Squanto), the Wampanoag Chief and inter-cultural go-between whose role was so crucial to the survival of the early Pilgrims, is known to many school children. His direct descendent, Komi Haynes, will retell the story of her tribe's role at the Native American Learning Center.

The Wampanoag tribe introduced the Pilgrims to corn, a Native American product. Festival presentations will trace the role of maize from crop through harvest; from food preparation in soups and breads, to the use of husks by the craftsmen in toys, dolls and ceremonial masks.

The Narragansett Indians, or "praying Indians" as they came to be called, occupied the state of Rhode Island. They welcomed Roger Williams when he was forced to flee Massachusetts. Their interdenominational church is pictured in the Learning Center. Tribal representatives Mary Brown and Alberta Wilcox will talk about the architectural contributions and the history of the people.

The Passamaquoddy from Maine are known for their intricate quill work and importance as trappers and fishermen to the early settlers. Tribal representatives will discuss their role in American history.

Other Native Americans who will participate in discussions are from the Shinnecock tribe of Long Island, New York; Indian Mountain Lookout Intertribal Native Americans, New York; the Lumbee, Haliwa and Coharie from North Carolina; Catawba from South Carolina; Tunica-Biloxi of Louisiana; Chippewa



of Wisconsin and Potawatomi of Michigan. These participants are all members of the Coalition of Eastern Native Americans (CENA) an organization whose purpose is to identify and assist in the socio-economic and organizational development of Eastern Native Americans. CENA includes non-reservation, urban and federally recognized tribes and groups.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN PRAYER

Creator of earth whose voice I hear in the wind
Whose breath gives life to all the world—
hear me.

I have and many of my people have become
lost in the turmoil of this world.

So humbly I appeal to you for help for I need
your guidance, I need your strength and
wisdom.

Oh Creator of earth—Teach me to walk
along the narrow path.

Open my eyes—so that I may behold a red
and purple sunset.

Teach me to respect many things you have
created

And make my ears eversharp so to hear your
voice.

Help me to learn again all the wonderful
things you have taught to my great
grandfathers

And the lessons you have hidden in every
flower, in every leaf and rock.

Oh Creator of the earth, I seek your
strength—

not to be superior to my brother, but to be
able to fight my greatest enemy, the evil
within myself.

Help me to be forever ready to come to the
land of heaven with clean hands and
steady eyes

So that when my life fades away from this
earth—

that I walk on like a beautiful sunset.

The heart that you have given me may come
back to you without shame or fear.

DANAHO '1968'

"Chief Hiawatha" Huron S. Miller



Elwood Green, Canadian Mohawk, is one of a long line of Iroquois Silversmiths which began before the American Revolution.