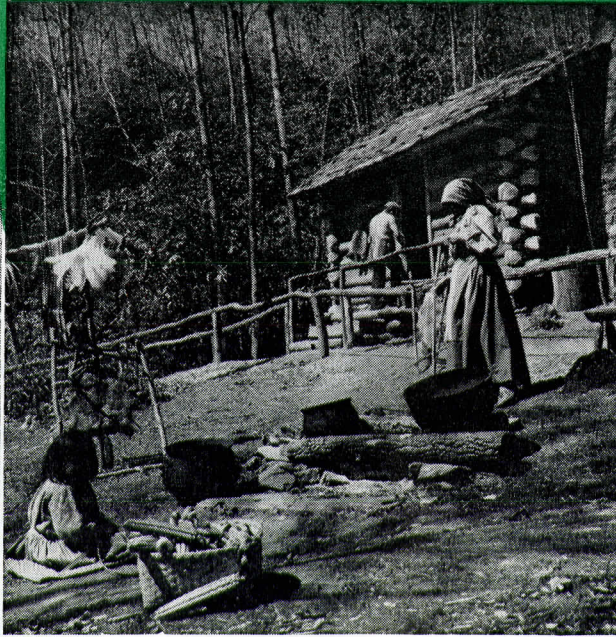


# OCONALUFTEE



Rescued from oblivion, a proud and colorful chapter of ancient Cherokee Indian culture has been re-created here at Cherokee, in the mountains of Western North Carolina, so posterity can see what life was like before the white man tamed the American wilderness.

In a forest primeval setting near Mountainside Theatre an Indian village of 200 years ago has been reproduced in authentic detail and peopled with descendants of the earliest known inhabitants of this country.

Known as Oconaluftee Indian Village, it is a unique project in visual education and the preservation of the primitive culture of the Red Man.

Inside the village Cherokee men and women daily carry on an ancient way of life, practicing the centuries-old arts of basket-weaving, cooking, bead work, pottery, and weapon-making.

It is there visitors will find the one place in the world where still can be found the weaving of the old Cherokee baskets, such as the pack basket which was used to carry corn and grain.

There Cherokee craftsmen with primitive ax and fire can be seen hollowing dug-out canoes from poplar trees that were sapling 200 years ago.

The village is sponsored by the Cherokee Historical Association and supervised by the Tsali Institute for Cherokee Indian Research. The Institute was established by the Association with the co-operation of the University of North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

Photos on this and the adjoining page show Indian men, women and children inside the palisaded village at work making pottery, baskets, bows and arrows, blowguns and dug-out canoes—practicing techniques that are ancient and almost extinct.

The village is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., from May 15 through October.



# INDIAN VILLAGE



## Museum of the Cherokee Indians

A visit to the Museum of the Cherokee Indians is an educational experience for the whole family.

Owned and operated by the Cherokee Historical Association, the museum is located in Cherokee at the intersection of U. S. Highways 441 & 19.

Here under one roof has been collected the finest display of Cherokee Indian artifacts in existence.

Rescued from burial grounds and ancient camp sites dating back 10,000 years, these artifacts trace the Red Man's history from the time of the Dawn Age to the present.

They tell a story of what a people without knowledge of metal could achieve in the way of tools, household utensils, ornaments, money and weapons.

From these artifacts emerges a vivid picture of day-to-day life as the Cherokee lived it—the foods he ate and how he prepared them; what he wore; his games and religious rites; his unique language and religious beliefs.

Dramatically displayed in the most modern museum technique, artifacts of cane, stone, bone, shell and wood have been arranged to spell out the story of the Cherokee Indian.

Here on display is the ancient rifled blowgun with its poised dart; the great bow that hurled its flight arrow more than 400 yards; the grotesque hand-carved ritual masks of the medicine men; the delicate and laboriously chipped arrowheads and spear-points of crystal and quartz and flint; stone axes, some weighing 14 pounds; celts, chisels, and hammers of stone; fine ritual pipes of stone and clay and catlinite, elaborately carved and uncarved.

Of the greatest significance is the exhibit of the historical hatchet of Tsali, the great Cherokee martyr whose story is re-created in *Unto These Hills*.

Here, too, are the pictures of the great Cherokee chiefs, wearing their colorful costumes, pieces which were adapted from the white man. Some are wearing turbans, such as Sequoyah. No one knows where the Cherokee picked up the idea of wearing turbans. But they had no sooner begun trading for cloth with the white man in the early 1700's when they began binding their heads in turbans.

This great collection of Cherokee artifacts was gathered by Samuel E. Beck, who grew up in the heart of the Cherokee country and who, with his wife, Alma E. Beck, founded the museum in 1948.

The museum is open daily from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. from May through October.

