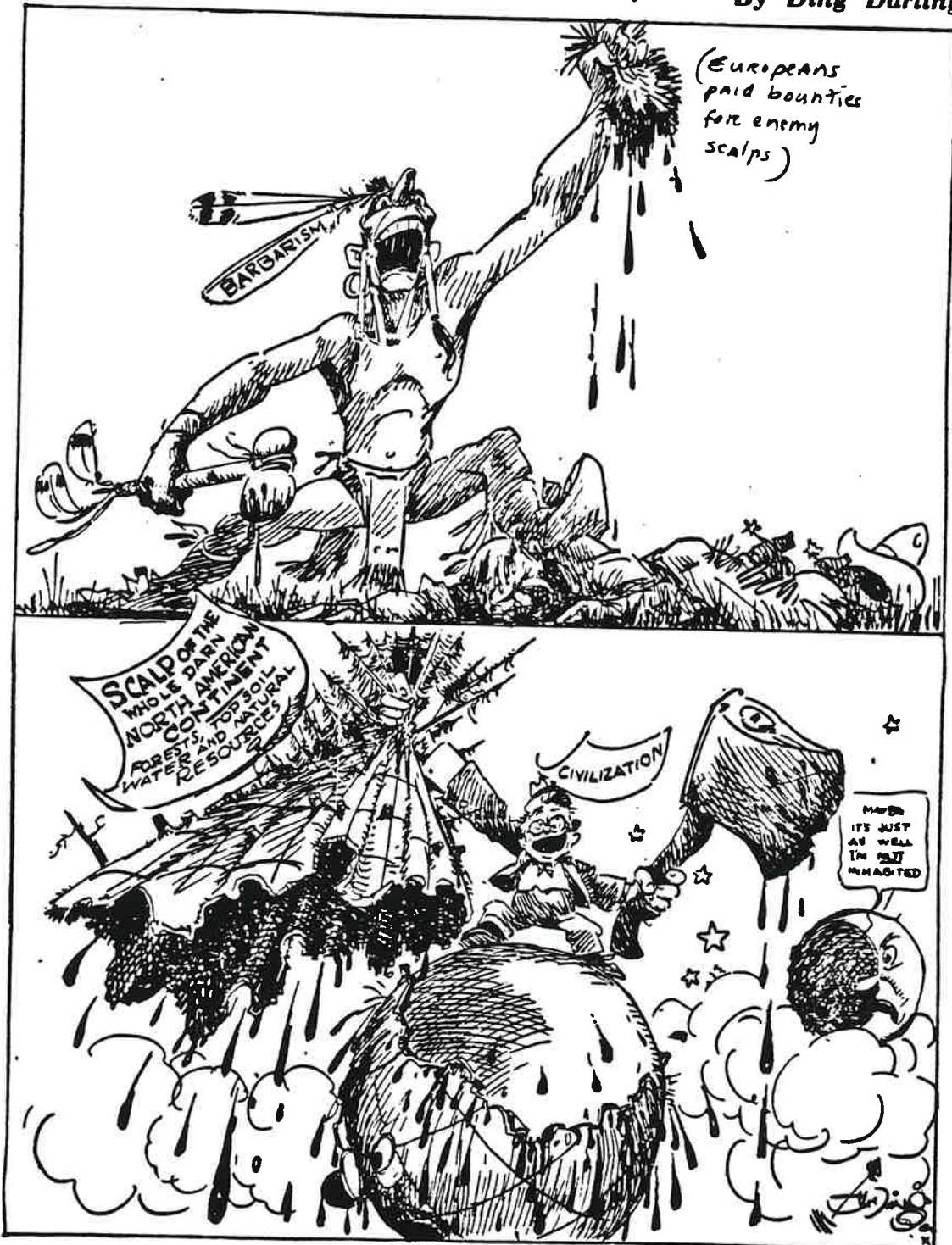


# GOING THE INDIAN ONE BETTER

By Ding Darling



Courtesy, National Wildlife Federation

The Second Annual Wildlife Week will be observed throughout the nation March 19th to 25th, inclusive, at which time another serious attempt will be made to inform the general public of the need for immediate and concerted action, if our wildlife resources are to be saved.

You are invited and urged to take part. Volunteer your services now to the president of your local chapter, or write to this magazine for information. Talks must be made to all civic organizations, clubs, schools and churches, and a new series of eighty wildlife stamps must be distributed. Tennessee ranked fifth in the United States last year in this observance, let's rank first this year!



### Where is the Eagle - Gone

The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. How can you buy or sell the sky-the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. Yet we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water. How can you buy them from us? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people.

We know that white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother but his enemy, and when he has conquered it he moves on. He leaves his father's graves, and his children's birth-right is forgotten.

There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand, the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog around the pond at night.

The whites too, shall pass-perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket - gone, where is the eagle - gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and the beginning of survival.

-Chief Seattle to President Franklin Pierce  
1855



(Tenn. Prehistory—Continued from page 50)

In Greece, where mankind has been so long, I have seen miles of desert-like mountains. The land was so overgrazed and abused that it still barely absorbs rainfall. Even Plato observed over 2000 years ago that there were mountains in Attica once forested that even then were only fit for bee pastures. The wealth of these green isles was used to build a superculture even as we do in America today.

Thus have civilizations risen and fallen without realizing their impact on the land. From now on, hard decisions must be made as to what sacrifices are necessary. The land abuse of the early 1900's that made the TVA dams desirable have now come down to the Tellico Project. The real use of archaeology should be to understand the past so that we don't repeat its mistakes. Sadder than the tragedies of Euripides would it be to bury the traces of the Cherokee beneath Tellico Dam.

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(Book Reviews—continued from page 57)

chapter which would not reflect his own deep knowledge of the period and his own inimitable literary style. It becomes, then, the final literary monument to Dr. White's historical career and his contributions to the State's recorded history."

Volume VIII covers the administrations of Governors Benton McMillin, James B. Frazier, and John I. Cox. The years surveyed are 1899 through 1907. Each administration had its own interesting attributes which of course are covered in the book. For example, Governor McMillin urged the legislature to re-enact a law banning the sale of cigarettes, which had recently been nullified on technical grounds by the State Court, but found constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. He recommended, however, that this time the legislature carefully avoid "the defects in its passage by reason whereof it is now claimed to be null and void." Governor Frazier contended in one of his legislative messages with the age old problem of office space. Calling the legislature's attention to the crowded conditions in the Capitol, he offered one possible solution: the construction of a state office building. Governor Cox proposed a Bureau of Immigration within the Agriculture Department that would "send agents to the North European countries to secure an adequate and satisfactory labor supply for all our needs."

We commend Mr. McBride's judgement in allowing Volume VIII to be a final tribute to Dr. White. Very beautifully printed and bound, as all of the Commissions' publications are, this latest effort is a welcome addition to the rest of the series.



**EXPLORERS AND SETTLERS.** Historic Places Commemorating the Early Exploration and Settlement of the United States. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 506 pp. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1968. \$3.50.

There are still many people who are not aware that the U.S. Government Printing Office is literally a gold mine of very moderately priced, quality literature regarding a variety of subjects. *Explorers and Settlers* is a prime example. This book, one of a series designed by the National Park Service "to make available to the public the studies of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings," contains scores of photographs of these historic sites, along with 10 color maps outlining areas of penetration in the U.S. by the major European explorers. The first part of the book, consisting of 133 pages, presents a historical background

# TENNESSEE PREHISTORY

By MACK PRICHARD\*

The 1970 General Assembly passed the Tennessee Archaeology Act creating a Division of Archaeology within the Department of Conservation. Recognizing that our rich heritage of archaeological resources was non-renewable, this act requires a survey of sites, an excavation and preservation of archaeological materials, and a coordination of archaeological activities on public lands. The Act protects all archaeological sites on state property from unauthorized excavations. It establishes an Archaeological Advisory Council and encourages public responsibility for the preservation of our Tennessee antiquities. The Act further stipulates that the Division shall cooperate with established university programs and with private archaeological societies. The Division shall encourage publications, displays, and the establishment of museums and parks for the purposes of archaeological conservation. Finally, the Act deems it a misdemeanor for anyone to remove artifacts from private lands without first obtaining the owner's permission.

This Act represents a great step forward in the preservation of our State's prehistory. During the past century many museum expeditions have probed into our mounds and caves. Many outstanding archaeological specimens have been taken out of the state and can still be seen in the country's principal museums. For all the objects salvaged, however, there have been thousands of valuable articles destroyed for lack of competent attention. The construction of roads, dams, and urban buildings wipes out whole village sites, removing forever the information we might have had of our Indian antecedents. When we consider most Indian campsites were on high ground ideal for our development, conflict is inevitable. The bulldozers bite into nearly 20,000 acres a year in this state that are either roofed over or removed from open space. Since the archaeologist excavates slowly with a camel hair brush or grapefruit knife, we must get more help to salvage what we can.

Over the past thirty years most of the notable archaeological work in the state has been the salvage of sites flooded by TVA dams. The University of Tennessee has conducted some very fine studies on these projects and continues this work to date. About ten years ago Memphis State University began a long term excavation on the Chucalissa Site in Fuller State Park. Other university archaeological programs are active but few staff members are able to drop regular activities and rush out to a salvage emergency. Therefore, the Division of Archaeology is seeking funds from the

current legislature to hire three more full time field archaeologists. These men would be stationed in the three grand divisions. They would conduct an on-going excavation in one of the archaeological park sites. However, as soon as a new site was exposed by construction, they could move in with a small crew, plus volunteer amateur archaeologists, and quickly salvage the archaeological material.

Funds are also being requested to preserve several of Tennessee's most notable Indian sites. These archaeological parks would include the Mound Bottom on the Harpeth River, the Reelfoot Mound in West Tennessee, the Brick Church Mound of stone box graves in Davidson County, the Dover Flint Quarries, the Cherokee capital of Red Clay near Cleveland, and others. In some cases archaeological sites lie along scenic river or scenic trail routes, and in the Trail of Tears and Chickasaw Bluff Trails effort will be made to include sites in the right-of-ways acquired for these projects by the Conservation Department. Plans include the development of small museums on these sites where artifacts found on the site and in the area may be displayed for public appreciation. In time these archaeological parks will properly interpret our Indian heritage with its natural scenic context. This should give a more accurate understanding to tourists and students of our unwritten history which we may read from the dust.

Many hearts have been gladdened by the discovery of an Indian arrowhead. Yet, when we collect only the artifacts, we miss the real treasure of information. "T'is ye, t'is y'er estranged faces that miss the many splendored thing." The archaeologist must be as eagle-eyed as the Indian to dig deeper into the dirt for clues that tell the story. He must read the soil color for subtle hints of what happened here? He must save the pieces that have escaped time's erasure, and he must record every detail for future digestion. Because when we dig, we destroy the layers of ages of accumulation. If our excavations are done with skill and patience, we may gain an insight into time itself and some meaning even of death. For archaeology bridges every class and race and shows us the continuity of humankind. As we have built upon the shoulders of peoples past, so shall someone, ages hence, continue the life we love. We dig for insights and information that someday we may comprehend the values of the Redman, and perhaps, before it is too late come to cherish mother earth as well as they did.