



PRINCESS WHITE SUN WOMAN, more familiarly known to her friends as Miss Elsie Cannon, who is a commissioner of the Court of Claims, Washington, D. C. She is shown holding a sample of the head work of the Assiniboine Indians. During a recent trip west, Miss Cannon was inducted into the tribe.

HARLEM NEWS

PUBLISHED IN THE HEART OF THE FAMOUS MILK RIVER VALLEY

HARLEM, BLAINE COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1929

TESTIMONY COMPLETED BY ASSINNIBOINES HERE BEFORE CLAIM COUNCIL

The Hon. Douglas Whitlock and Everett Sanders of the firm of Sanders, Childs, Bobb and Wescott of Washington, D. C. and Chicago, and A. F. Busick of the firm of Davies, Jones, Beebe and Busick of Washington, D. C., Judge Dan F. Jackson of the Department of Justice and Miss Elsie A. Cannon commissioner of the U. S. Court of Claims stopped in Harlem Saturday before departing for the Fort Peck reservation, having completed taking the testimony of the Assiniboine Indians on the Fort Belknap reservation south of Harlem, in the case of the Assiniboine Tribe vs. the United States.

Some \$15,000,000 are involved in the claim of the Assiniboines who testified in the U. S. court of claims, their counsel being the attorneys, Saunders, Whitlock and Busick, while the Department of Justice was represented by Judge Jackson. The Hon. Elsie Cannon reported all the proceedings in shorthand, the testimony amounting to 150 typewritten pages. Each page of Miss Cannon's transcription was thumb-marked by the witness.

The Assiniboines base their claim against the government on the treaty of 1851 which granted to them not only their present reservation in this county but a much greater tract in east central Montana, south of the Missouri, west of the Yellowstone and north of the line connecting the mouths of the Musselshell and the Powder Rivers. Some years later, much of this land reverted to the government, according to the testimony, not to the general knowledge of the Indians at that time, but through an alleged treaty between a commissioner who came here and claimed the signatures of many Indians to a pact, whereby, for a small consideration, the Assiniboines relinquished all claim to much of the land. The rich valleys were opened to settlement of whites who flocked into the country. Wild game, including the buffalo, was killed for hides and horns, much game and food stuffs were poisoned in the ravages of the fortune-hunters who early invaded the Indian land.

Many of the witnesses on the reservation were over three score and ten, while one ancient woman claims her years to be 96. All evidence was taken through interpreters, August Moccasin acting as special interpreter, assisted by Simon First Shoot. The manner in which the Indians answered the questions put to them showed that they had remarkably clear memories and there was no question as to the integrity of their testimony, no question as to the sincerity of their evidence and no signs of coaching for their replies. Mrs. Medicine Bear, 96, also known as Iron Cradle, gave graphic descriptions of the making of the buffalo corrals and told of the Sun Dance in its original form. Her mind was remarkably clear as to detail and a wonderful memory was displayed.

The roster of witnesses is one of interest to the student of Indian names. There were Talks Different, Captured First, commonly called Sam King, Boy Chief Speaks Thunder, Strike, Attacks, Lemon, Wing, Many Coos, Tom Thinker and his wife, Lane Chicken, Old Thunder, Took the Shield, Walking Chief, Drop Child, who was totally deaf and spoke only in the sign language, and Standing-on-the-Mountain. None were under 56 years of age, the majority of the witnesses being in their seventies.

Their testimony brought out that, with one exception, no word of treaty to return the land to the government had reached their ears. One testified that he overheard an Indian talking with the commissioner and it is the supposition that through this one man the grant was made.

The case of the Assiniboine tribe is the first of numerous Indian claims to reach the department of justice. Congress has allowed the case to be filed in the court of claims, due it is thought to the justness of the claim as presented and the great number of witnesses ready to testify.

The attorneys in the case have been

in this vicinity for about two months, obtaining the testimony and interviewing old timers of the section among the Whites as well as the Redmen. While here Attorneys Sanders, Whitlock and Busick were adopted into the Assiniboine tribe at a tribal meeting before their departure. Mr. Whitlock was adopted as Chief Crazy Bear who went to Laramie in 1851 to sign the treaty. Mr. Busick was named for Chief First Fly who accompanied Crazy Bear on the memorable trip. Mr. Sanders, who, by the way, was secretary to former President Coolidge, was named Chief Pigeon Egg Head. Pigeon Egg Head was the first Indian who went to Washington, D. C. and returned with fine manners as evidenced by the tall silk hat he wore. Simon First Shoot of the Assiniboine conferred the names in formal Indian ceremony. Mr. Sanders entertained the tribesmen at dinner later in the day.

Less than 100 Assiniboines remain who will benefit directly, should this claim be allowed, the greater number of them residing on the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck reservations, it is understood. People of this vicinity will watch with interest the progress of their claim through the court of claims.

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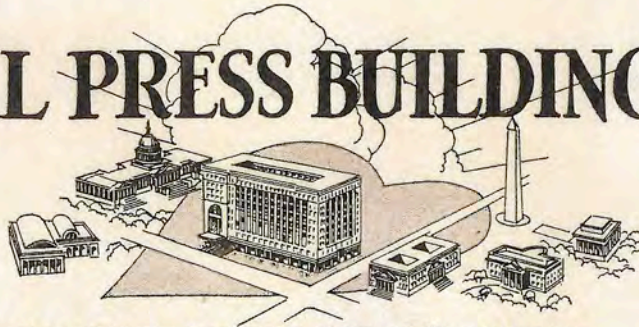
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NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING NEWS

*Distinctive News
of a Distinctive
Community*



*Where Government
Finance and
Business Meet*

IN THE HEART OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL
The BEST KNOWN ADDRESS IN AMERICA

VOL. 1, No. 9

WASHINGTON D. C.

NOVEMBER, 1929

National Woman's Country Club To Develop Old Estate

Women's Exclusive Organization, Tenant of This Building, Numbers Many Socially Prominent Figures Among Members

The historic old Montgomery Country Club estate, located just outside of Washington, on Bradley Boulevard, in Montgomery County, Md., has been purchased as the home of the National Woman's Country Club, a new and exclusive organization which includes in its membership nationally known and socially prominent women.

The club maintains its downtown offices at Rooms No. 1043-5-7, of the National Press Building, where organization plans are going forward rapidly.

The membership of the National Woman's Club is limited to women whose names have been approved by the Board of Governors of the club. The board includes the following: Lady Isabella Howard, Mrs. Charles Francis Adams, Mrs. Robert P. Lamont, Mrs. William E. Borah, Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. Edith Cummings, Miss Natalie Sumner Lincoln, Mrs. Frank Mondell, Mrs. Virginia White Speel, Mrs. T. A. Scott Thropp, Mrs. Walter R. Tuckerman, and Mrs. Henry Price Wright.

Mr. Woolums Tells Best N. P. B. Story of Month

Neither State Nor City Designated, He says, on Envelope Addressed To National Press Building— It Got Here

The Safety Signal Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of automobile safety signals, maintains offices at Room No. 993 National Press Building.

"It may be of interest to know," writes W. H. Woolums, president of the company, "that we received a letter from a western state, addressed Safety Signal Mfg. Co., National Press Building, no other address. This shows how well-known the National Press Building is."

Bronze Tablet Marker Placed On Building

Commemorates Incidents of Local History on Site Now Occupied By This Building

With appropriate ceremonies, a handsome bronze tablet prepared by the Permanent Committee on Marking Historical Sites of the District of Columbia, was placed on the National Press Building on November 14, 1929. The following words appear on the marker:

**NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
Corner Stone Laid April 8, 1926,**

**By
President Calvin Coolidge
Building covers site of
Ebbitt House
Where Resided**

**President William McKinley
While Serving in Congress
And Other Men Including Such
Distinguished Soldiers and
Sailors as**

**Rogers, Farragut, Worder,
Canby, Thomas, Porter, Win-
slow, Boggs, Case and
Drayton.**

**The Building Also Covers a
Part of Historic Newspaper
Row.**

During the exercises, which commenced at 2.30 p. m., all traffic on Fourteenth Street was halted. Band music was furnished during the dedication exercises.

Wall St. Journal Expands

To provide space for expansion of its Washington activities, the "Wall Street Journal" has added another room to its suite on the tenth floor of the National Press Building. The "Wall Street Journal" and Dow Jones were among the first tenants of the building. The new room which has been leased adjoins the present suite, which has its entrance at Room No. 1089, on the tenth floor of the building.

Miss Cannon, N.P.B. Tenant, Becomes Full-Fledged Indian

Commissioner of Court of Claims, She Is First White Woman to Be Adopted By Assiniboine Tribe of Montana

The singular honor of being the first white woman to be adopted by the Assiniboine tribe of Indians of Montana has been conferred upon Miss Elsie A. Cannon, Commissioner of the Court of Claims, who recently returned to Washington from the West.

Commissioner Cannon maintains offices at Room 1149, National Press Building, where she also conducts a stenographic bureau.

For several weeks Miss Cannon was at Wolf Point, Mont., taking testimony in connection with the Indians' \$15,000,000 litigation against the United States Government. While there she won the affection of the Assiniboine Indians and before leaving was made a member of their tribe at an impressive ceremony. Never before has this distinction been conferred upon a white woman and few white men have been accorded this honor.

She was given the title of an Indian Princess, "Haniyegawin," which is interpreted as "Brilliant Sun Woman."

Ancient Indian rites were observed in the adoption of Miss Cannon by the Assiniboines. She rode in a big wagon from her hotel in Wolf Point a distance of two miles to the White Man home. With her rode Mr. and Mrs. Cloud, Moses Whitehorse, a grandson of Chief Redstone, and his family. She was greeted by members of the tribe in full costume.

Following an elaborate dinner, members of the tribe donned their dance costumes of bead and porcupine quill work and a dance was held in her honor.

As a token of their esteem, she was given many valuable gifts by the Indians, including beadwork and heirlooms. A beautiful brooch, a family heirloom set with 31 diamonds, was presented to her.

The importance of Miss Cannon's adoption by the Assiniboines is best indicated by the columns of space devoted to the ceremonies by newspapers in the vicinity of Wolf Point.

Wolf Point Herald

AND A CONTINUATION OF THE WOLF POINT PROMOTER

WOLF POINT, MONTANA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1929.

ASSINIBOINES' \$15,000,000 CASE HEARD BY CLAIMS COURT

Unheralded by any blare of publicity there took place in Wolf Point last week one of the most significant events of many years. Though few citizens knew that anything unusual was happening, for three days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, in the Sherman hotel palm room, the United States Court of Claims was in session and testimony was taken in the \$15,000,000 litigation suit instituted some time ago by the Assiniboine Indians against the United States. For years they have been working for an opportunity to present their case in the white man's court but it was only recently that the way was cleared for them to do so.

Honorable Elsie A. Cannon of Washington, D. C., commissioner of the court of claims, presided and took down the testimony of the 32 witnesses called. Judge Dan M. Jackson, Washington, was attorney for the court of claims, while the Indians were represented by Everett Sanders, formerly secretary to President Coolidge, but now of the law firm of Sanders, Childs, Bobb and Wescott, Douglas Whitlock, and A. Busick, all of Washington, D. C.

Many Witnesses

Taking of testimony was a slow process inasmuch as many of the witnesses were old or middle aged Indians who could neither understand nor speak English and with them interrogation and replies had to be made through an interpreter. James Archdale, Joshua Wetsit, George Connors and Mrs. Mary LaRoque acted as interpreters. Those who gave testimony during the three days were Bear Cub, Martin Mitchell, Last, Blue Cloud, Nick Alvares, Red Dog, The Man, Eagle Feather, James McDonald, Sr., Blue Horn, James Fast, Iron Horn, Warren Carl, Henry Archdale, Sr., Smoking, Mrs. Annie Roberts, Crazy Bull, Thos. Duck No. 2, White Man, Rattling Stand (or Standing as he is now called), The Shooter, Red Feather, Night, Thos. R. Forbes, Gabriel Beauchman, Circling Eagle, Beats His Wife, Mrs. Medicine Wolf and Crooked.

In brief, the history of the case is this. The Assiniboines claim that under the Laramie treaty of 1851 they were given a tract of land between the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers and extending west as far as a line running between the mouth of the Musselshell and the mouth of the Powder river. A considerable tract of land north of the Missouri river was also theirs according to their claim.

Winter of Starvation

In 1880 the country between the Missouri and Yellowstone was opened up to white settlement without, the Indians claim, their being given any recompense for the land thus taken from them. The white hunters came in and wantonly killed off the buffalo by the thousands. Following the extermination of the buffalo, which had supplied the primitive Indians with the sport of the chase, with meat for winter and with hides from which to make tepees and robes, there came the winter of starvation, 1883-84. It was estimated that that winter in Wolf Point some 200 Indians died of starvation. The bodies were wrapped in blankets and they lay scattered along from Oldtown to the foot of the hills. Conditions were pitiful according to Indian testimony. Meagre rations were issued by the agency, but there wasn't enough food to keep them all alive. Now the Assiniboines are asking the government to pay for some of those buffaloes so ruthlessly slaughtered by the white hunters nearly half a century ago. They are asking pay also for part of the land which they say was taken from them fraudulently.

Land Taken Away

It seems there was another treaty, the treaty of 1836, by the terms of which the Assiniboines relinquished the rest of their land for the territory included in the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap re-

servations. Testimony was introduced here to show that many of the signatures on this treaty were neither genuine nor authorized. It was stated that some of the names attached to the treaty were those of men who had died previous to 1886, others were mere children at the time. Still others were those of young men at the time, full of life health, who neither desired to sit in the councils of the old men, nor were considered sufficiently wise to be included in the councils, much less sign a treaty of such nature. But to offset the ones who did not sign that treaty, there was found one man—a Sioux, not an Assiniboine—who signed, or made his mark, on the treaty four times.

What They Told

Without attempting to go into the individual testimony of the various witnesses, it may be said that this testimony showed that the Assiniboines roamed over a certain wide territory which they considered their own. They spent their summers north of the Missouri and their winters south of the river. Deer and antelope as well as buffalo were plentiful before the white hunters came. They knew where the best berries were to be found. They seldom went beyond the confines of their own territory because they were a peace loving race and did not want to get in any trouble with their enemies, the Nez Perces, the Sioux and Crows. The best hunting grounds were along the Musselshell and the Big Dry although there were antelope all over the southside. Then came the hunters with their high power rifles, their bands of skinners and soon there were no more buffalo grazing on the hillsides, but piles of dry buffalo hides waiting to be freighted out of the country.

Thos. R. Forbes testified to conditions existing at the time he came into the country in 1880 as an employee of the Leighton and Jordan company who had large freight steamers on the Yellowstone and a trading store at Buford and another at Wood Mountain, Sask. They freighted out many buffalo hides, and shipped out several thousand buffalo robes