

More than a hundred Narragansetts gathered at Goddard Park on Thursday, July 9th, at the Indian village for ceremonies and feasting. They were also entertained by moving pictures of themselves taken at the ceremonial opening of the village in June.

Miss Eva Dedham, of North Devons, N. B., Canada, enjoyed a month's visit at Camp Ki-Yi as the guest of Princess Red Wing.

Rev. LeRoy Perry will speak at the August Meeting on August 9th at the Narragansett Church.

The Narragansett Tribe celebrating the Coming of Roger Williams to the Lodge of Canonicus, July 4th and 5th at Camp Ki-Yi, Oakland, R. I., were pleased with the co-operation they received from many friendly folk of other races. They wish to thank the veterans for participating and the Sons of Veterans of the James E. Keegan Post for their lovely tribute to the tribe. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

Indians of forty-three different tribes were represented from the Micmac of Canada to the Seminoles of Florida and the Sioux of South Dakota and Cherokee of Oklahoma. White people from seven different states drove in to the affair and many camped over the week-end. One historian said the celebration was the best he had seen since Rhode Island had started her Tercentenary celebration and it far surpassed many that cost \$1000 to produce. This celebration cost the Narragansetts just \$200 to produce and a bit of work by the tribal members.

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# THE NARRAGANSETT DAWN

WE FACE EAST

Vol. 2 SEPTEMBER 1936 No. 5

# THE NARRAGANSETT DAWN

Published Monthly in the interest of The Narragansett Tribe of Indians.

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## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL . . . . . Editor

FIRST R. I. INDIAN DAY

THE PRIZE WINNING FLOAT

CHIEF THUNDER BIRD FLIES . . . Herald-Tribune

A BIT OF HISTORY

NARRAGANSETT MAIL BOX

GENEALOGY OF THOMAS JOSEPH HILL PIERCE, JR.

IN MEMORY OF . . . Mrs. Jessie Hazard Williams

SINUS TROUBLE LAID TO RACE INTERBREEDING

SUNRISE NEWS . . . . . Marion W. Brown

NEWS FROM CHARLESTOWN

## EDITORIAL

The weary struggling years of history of Rhode Island have been lived and re-lived in this Tercentenary Year of the State's foundation, in which the Narragansetts have been featured and re-featured. In these great celebrations by white Rhode Island, Narragansetts have been called upon to do their part from the days of Canonicus to Queen Esther. Rhode Island can show no great pageant of her historic years of the past without her Indians. In the many programs of the year, only a pleasant, bright and cheerful side of the Narragansetts have been portrayed. Always the Indian is giving up to the pale face. In the long run—"giving" brings a reward. We have given what we had to give in the past. In the present we gave of our members for entertainment and enlightenment into historic facts. Our reward is—Rhode Island knows now—The NARRAGANSETT TRIBE STILL EXISTS!

—EDITOR

## FIRST R I INDIAN DAY

In colorful regalia of their forefathers, the Narragansett Indians and many friendly tribes residing in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts, conducted exercises in Goddard Park, Potowomut, August 8th, 1936, officially opening the Indian Village and at the same time celebrating the State's first annual Indian Day.

On behalf of the State Governor Theodore Francis Green extended greetings, which were accepted by Chief Sachem Night Hawk, and Narragansett officials. The setting for the ceremonies which were witnessed by a large crowd, was a typical Narragansett Indian Village built as a WPA project by Narragansett Indians, who are descendants of the braves who inhabited that section at the time of Roger Williams settling of Rhode Island, 300 years ago.

Prior to the speaking program, a 9,500-lb rock, composed of Indian mortar was dedicated in memory of Capt. Michael Peirce, who was killed in a battle with the Narragansett Indians, and Sergeant Samuel Hill who fought in the King Philip War.

The mortar was presented by Thomas J. Hill Peirce, Jr., young son of Col. Thomas J. Hill Peirce, chief of the State division of forests, parks and parkways and a descendant of Capt. Peirce. Governor Green accepted the memorial on behalf of the State.

The Indians expressed gratitude and gladness at the State's having set aside a day in honor of that race.

Their chief speaker was Chief Ousa Mequin or Yellow Feather of the Wampanoag Tribe (Rev. LeRoy Perry), pastor of the Indian Church at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard.

Declaring that the Indians were men of peace and not savages, he expressed hope that the date of Indian Day would be changed to sometime during the school year so that children might have one day on which to learn to know and understand the Indian.

Governor Green said the Indian village would be of interest not only in this tercentenary year for which it was primarily constructed but also for years to come.

He declared that it would represent a bond between the red man and the white man "as long as it stands and I think it will stand for a long time." He expressed pleasure at having signed the Indian Day proclamation.

The similarity of the ceremonial site to the same land 300 years ago was stressed by Burton K. Harris, director of the State Department of Agriculture and Conservation.

"There has not been much change," he said. "It is the same earth on which we stand, the same sun overhead, the same water nearby and the same odor from the pine trees. In the veins of many of you runs the same blood as that of those first Americans.

"There is the same spirit of peace and friendliness. The same desire to live peaceably with one another. This village represents 300 years of that feeling."

Chief Pine Tree (William Wilcox) a medicine man said:

"I welcome you as our chiefs did when the white man first came to this country. I am glad for this glorious day and for what the officials have done for the Indians of Rhode Island. I have prayed for this day. For me, it is one of the happiest I can remember. I thank the Great Spirit."

Other Indian speakers were Chief Blackhawk, a Powhatan of Virginia; Princess Red Wing (Mrs. Ella Peek) of Oaklawn; Eagle Eye (Ernest Hazard), a Narragansett, and Sachem Rainbow (Ernest E. Onsley) of Algonquin Council. Princess Firefly (Miss Eva Dedham) of Canada recited an Indian poem. Others sang native songs.

The Indian village and its construction was described by Col. Peirce, who was in charge of the work. Its site he said, was representative of an Indian village of the period 300 years ago, near a field for planting, a forest for hunting and water for fishing.

A stockade, or fort, attached to a "long house," three circular houses, a teepee, and a garden nearby with corn growing, he pointed out, had been designed in accordance with the best available records of the Colonial period.

The late Dr. Charles C. Willoughby of the Peabody Museum of Ethnology, Harvard University, was responsible for much of the research to assure historical accuracy, as was Dr. Douglas S. Byres, assistant director of the Department of American Archaeology, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., said Col. Peirce.

Exact in every detail and measurement, he said, the one variation was in the covering of the long house, for which imitation bark was used. This was necessary because of scarcity of the bark of the required size and a desire not to cut what little is still growing, he said.

Inside the long house was an Indian fireplace, bough couches and native utensils, while in the blockade was a genuine dugout canoe.

## THE PRIZE WINNING FLOAT

The week of July 20th, 1936, the International Lions Clubs' Convention met in Providence, R. I. This being the tercentenary year for the state, a great welcome was planned and a great program carried out by the Lions and friends. Seven countries were represented, and all in the colorful parade which was on July 21st at mid-day. This parade with delegates and bands from all over the U. S. and other countries, was one like Providence had never seen before. Rhode Island Lions put forth especial efforts and the prize came to the South Kingstown and Westerly Lions of Rhode Island. It was constructed and directed by Mr. Leroy Bell, a Lion of Wakefield, R. I., with the help of Mr. Theodore Brown, Mr. Chris Noka, and Princess Red Wing.

The float represented the coming of Roger Williams up the Seekonk to Narragansett Territory in 1636. It carried the sign "Netop," meaning "Friend" in the Narragansett tongue. It was seventy-two feet long built upon a truck and trailer. Upon the hood, protruded a platform on which was built an Indian village, where reclined the aged Narragansetts and small children. On the hilltop, which was the top of the cabin watched larger children. On the shoreline stood Canonicus and Miantonomi, with outstretched hands towards Roger Williams rocking in the morning breeze on the water, in a storm-tossed boat with his weary companions. They even looked as if they sought shelter and friendship from the friendly Indians as did Roger Williams, 300 years ago. The Indians were of the same blood of those who did live on these shores in 1636. Twenty-nine of the present Narragansett Tribe were there in the garb of their ancestors, and holding ancient weapons and peace pipe. There were descendants of the Ninigrets, Canonicus, Harry, Tobey, Secator, Niles, Rodman, Nokagg, Babcock, Brown and Primis, and Simons. Daniel and Luther Ninigret Harry represented Canonicus and Miantonomi. Behind them stood the stalwart braves, Rodman Noka, David Fry, James Fayerweather and Jerry Stanton. Curiously behind them were their squaws in realistic fashion, under the shade of weather beaten trees. They watched the pale faces as they approached.

The space between the truck and trailer was cleverly converted into a neat looking river with moving waves and a rocking boat. The boat was placed on an unbalanced wheel to give this very natural effect. Roger Williams and companions wore clothes that looked as if they had traveled days in the wilderness of New England in 1636. They received a loud applause all along the line of march, through the streets of Providence. Before them marched the tom-tom beaters and the flag bearer, dancers and braves. These were officers, chiefs and officials of the Narragansett Tribe of Indians. Sachem Night Hawk and Princess Red Wing, Editor of the Tribal Monthly, beat the tom-toms, Princess Kathita carried the tribal banner. Chief Pine Tree, Medicine man carried the totem of the tribe, the Calumet. With these were Strong Horse, Great Oak, Lone

Wolf and Two Bears who danced and yelled at intervals, to herald the historic float which received the beautiful silver cup. Characters, customs, and setting were in perfect unison with the Tercentenary of Rhode Island and gave the visiting Lions a true page of the State's history.

## CHIEF THUNDER BIRD FLIES ON SHIP NAMED FOR HIM

*Rain Omen Painted on New Plane Brings Plenty of Rain*

NEWARK, N. J.—With Chief Thunderbird and Princess Wynemah, Indians of the Cherokee tribe, aboard in full regalia, the Navajo Thunderbird, new transcontinental transport plane of the Transcontinental and Western Air, Inc., completed its first flight from Los Angeles to Newark Airport today at 11:12 a. m.

The fact that the plane was one hour and thirteen minutes behind schedule elated sponsors rather than disappointed them. It seems that Chief Willowbird, an Indian artist, painted a thunderbird as a good luck omen inside the cabin door just before the plane left Los Angeles. This omen is supposed to bring rain. According to Pilot John Graves, it rained so hard between Los Angeles and Pittsburgh that the plane was delayed.

"Five minutes after we started, the rain set in," Graves said, "and it continued until we reached Pittsburgh. It was so bad from Amarillo to Kansas City that at one time we thought we would have to turn back."

Besides Chief Thunderbird and the Princess, there were twelve passengers. The plane left Los Angeles at 2:10 p. m. Wednesday.

(Herald-Tribune)

## A BIT OF HISTORY

The State began to have schools for the Narragansett Indians as early as 1765. In October 1767 the General Assembly voted to give a deed of an island in a certain swamp in Charlestown containing about three acres, where stands a school house for the use of the Indians. It may seem strange that the Indians owned the first schoolhouse; but it is nevertheless true.

It is well known that Dan King bought a certain tract of land of Joseph Stanton, March 16, 1831 and built himself a small mill, in which he manufactured Negro cloth. "King's Factory" for so it was called was situated on the road between Cross Mills and Richmond Switch, now known as Wood River Junction.

Pasquesett pond has an estimated area of seventy-five acres and lies east of the home of Chief Sachem Night Hawk. This pond has a depth of twenty feet and by means of a brook which runs north, discharges its water into the Pawcatuck River.

Royal Indian Burial Hill, made famous by the graves of the Niantic Chiefs occupies a position about half a mile northeast of Dodwell's Hill and it is one of the southern summits of the noted range.

## NARRAGANSETT MAIL BOX

Dear Editor:-

I attended the Pow Wow held by the American Federation of Indians, Sat. July 11th and to my great surprise found a decided case of Indian discrimination by those in charge.

Other Indians who attended were voicing their surprise and disgust in not being allowed to dance. Incidentally the whites were dominating the hall as well as the grounds.

There are some Narragansett Indians, members of this federation and it has always been beyond my comprehension, why, after such unfair and inconsiderate treatment, to continue as a member would show him a traitor to his own race.

Having an Indian friend from New York with me to whom I had promised a pleasant evening at what I supposed was an Indian Pow-Wow, I was very much hurt to find that such a condition could exist. Couldn't the National Council Fire do something for the Narragansetts towards who they have shared a friendly attitude.

Again, being an Indian, a Narragansett, I think we should join the great national war against impostors of Indians. I feel that in making these statements I am voicing the sentiments of the entire tribe who welcomes all Indians of other tribes to all their social affairs.

Signed, THEODORE D. BROWN

It is the wish of the editor that Narragansetts would read this letter and send in comments at an early date. All our readers are welcome to comment.

Peace Dale, R. I.

July 30, 1936

Princess Redwing,  
Narragansett Tribe,  
Oakland, R. I.

In behalf of the South Kingstown Lions Club Float Committee, I wish to thank you and your workers for the splendid cooperation given us in securing the twenty-nine Indians from the Narragansett Tribe, which was such a large factor in making the float the success that it was.

We wish we could thank each one personally but as this is quite impossible we thought that the "Dawn" of which you are editor could mention the fact in the August issue.

I have no doubt that you were as pleased as we when the news came that our float had won the prize; the cup has been on display in the window of the So. County Electric Shop on Main Street, this week and makes a very attractive display. I hope that those who took part have been able to see it.

Again thanking all the Indians for the part that they carried out

so well, I remain,

Sincerely,

Float Committee,

R. B. EATON,

L. V. BELL, Chairman

CHARLES BARBER

LEONARD HOLLEY.

## GENEAOLOGY OF THOMAS JOSEPH HILL PEIRCE, JR.

## PEIRCE LINE

Richard, born in England 1590, brother of William, Captain of the ship "Lyon"; Richard, Jr., born in England 1615; Michael, born in England 1614, arrived in Plymouth in 1645, settled at Hingham, thence Scituate, and built first sawmill in the colony, burned 1676; Commissioned by Colony Court 1669; in Narragansett Fight 1675 and during campaign that followed, and was killed March 26, 1676; home near Herring Brook in South Scituate; wife died 1662; second wife Anna James of Marshfield.

Ephriam, 3rd son of Michael, moved to Warwick, R. I., married Hannah Holbrook; freeman of Colony of Providence May 3, 1681; died Sept. 14, 1719; wife died the same year.

Ephriam, the 2nd, first son of Ephriam, born 1674, lived at Rehobeth and Swansea; married Mary Low.

Mial, first son Ephriam, 2nd, born April 24th, 1693, resided at Warwick, Rehobeth, Swansea; married Judith Ellis, who was born in 1686 and died Oct. 6, 1744. He died Oct. 18, 1786.

Joshua, 9th child of Mial, born 1730, resided at Swansea and Rehobeth; Married Mary Horton, March 24th, 1748.

Barnard, 4th child of Joshua, born Feb. 4, 1764, resided at Rehobeth; married Mary Clare Rounds, January 14, 1786, who was born Nov. 12, 1767. He died Nov. 16, 1849.

Charles Mason, 6th child of Barnard, born August 9th, 1799, and died Aug. 9th, 1880.

Charles Mason, 2nd, first child of Charles Mason, born July 26, 1823 and died Sept. 12, 1875, New Bedford; married Amanda Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Hill, Nov. 28, 1860.

William Copeland, 2nd child of Charles Mason, 2nd, born Nov. 21, 1863; died March 28, 1934; married Isabelle Louise Baker, Aug. 26, 1886.

Thomas J. Hill Peirce, 1st son of William Copeland, born May 25, 1888; married Alice Gertrude Buskard, born London, Ontario, August 28, 1889; children: Mildred Gertrude, Stanton Baker, Mason Copeland, Eleanor and Thomas J. H. Jr., born February 14, 1925.

## HILL LINE

Sergeant Samuel Hill, son of Joseph, born at Malden, July 1652, died at Newbury, Mass., August 18, 1732; served in King Philip's War at

Battles of Bloody Brook, Sept. 18 and of Narragansett, Dec. 19, 1675; married on May 20, 1679, Abigail Wheeler, born Feb. 2, 1655, died April 13, 1742, daughter of David Wheeler, arrived on "Confidence" 1638. Both buried at Rockridge Cemetery, West Newbury.

Samuel, 2nd, son of Samuel, born at Newbury, Feb. 16, 1680, died at Rehobeth, July 27, 1732; wife Anne died Dec. 3, 1749.

Benjamin, 6th child of Samuel 2nd, born at Rehobeth, July 4th, 1718, died June 23, 1754; married July 11, 1745, Elizabeth Ide.

David 2nd, child of Benjamin, born at Rehobeth Oct. 18, 1747; married March 31, 1767, Rebecca Peirce.

Cromwell, 4th child of David, born at Rehobeth, July 9, 1771, died Dec. 23, 1822; married Cynthia Walker, born June 10, 1771, died Dec. 15, 1848; moved to Pawtucket.

Thomas Jefferson, 3rd child of Cromwell, born March 4, 1805, died August, 1894; married Betsy Brown who died May 9, 1859.

Amanda Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Jefferson, born August 7, 1836, Married Charles Mason Pierce, Jr., Nov. 28, 1860.

IN MEMORY OF

By Mrs. Jessie Hazard Williams

Within the gates of Elmwood graveyard,  
There is a spot fresh dug with care;  
As if dug by the loving angels,  
For the dear form resting there.

The mound high piled with flowers,  
Placed there by loving hands;  
Plucked in the early morning,  
From his own dear native land.

Pure can hardly describe him,  
Who lies in old Elmwood now,  
Bitter tears our eyes doth dim.  
My head shall always bow.

He passed from earth to Heaven  
He lived his time on earth;  
So his soul is yielded to Jesus,  
Who has watched o'er him since birth.

So under the gravel and greenwood  
Deep down in the cold, cold earth  
Lies a casket of plush and velvet,  
Holding a form no gold is worth.

Mother, father and sister,  
And friends, Let's meet him there.  
He is waiting for us in Heaven  
Where we all a crown shall wear.

His Spirit has soared to glory  
Leaving only his body here.  
But its resting place shall be tender  
For that form to us is dear.

We shall meet though we now miss him,  
But upon some golden stair  
We shall meet him and greet him  
He will be looking for us there.

We saw him start, his form grow dim.  
We fear not that he'll be last;  
For dear Lord, I know you'll wake him  
When the river Jordan's crossed.

O short is life at the longer,  
It is only a little while;  
All die, the weak and the stronger  
The old folk and the child.

But I will say now as ever,  
When I lay me down in rest,  
May I greet our boy in Heaven  
After all, our Lord knows best.

SINUS TROUBLE IS LAID TO RACE INTERBREEDING

One reason for sinus trouble in America is the interbreeding of races, Dr. C. Paul Snyder, of Philadelphia, said yesterday at the American Osteopathic Society of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology convention in the Waldorf-Astoria.

"It is safe to say," Dr. Snyder asserted, "that most Americans have some form of nasal deformity due to accident or abnormal bony growth. Interbreeding of race is conducive to overgrowth of septum or other deformity of cartilage. A slightly deflected septum may seem negligible clinically, but later in life may give rise to vacuum headaches."

(Clipping submitted by Medicine Man)

## SUNRISE NEWS

*By Keeper of Records*

South Kingstown's celebration of Rhode Island Tercentenary was marked by a colorful parade on Wednesday, August 19th. This went through the streets of Wakefield and Peace Dale. Two floats, depicting a variety of subjects in the history of colonial Rhode Island and South County were in this parade which was described as one of the most colorful in the history of the town. The one, depicting Roger Williams talking with Narragansett Indians in 1638 about a piece of land was judged the most historical float. It was prepared by Mr. Theodore Brown and a group of Narragansett Indians. The prize cup Mr. Brown will turn over to the Narragansett Meeting House in Charlestown, R. I.

Miss Eva Dedham of North Devon, N. B., Canada, returned home after a delightful visit among the Narragansetts. While in the States she was the guest of Princess Redwing and family in Oakland, R. I.

Among those present at the Progressive Club's dinner-dance held at the "La Montmartre" Ossweggatchie, Waterford, Conn., were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hamilton, Mrs. Marion Brown, Mr. Julian Tattoon, Mr. Joseph Baboza, Melvin Valentine and Rudolf Michael of Westerly, R. I.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dove of Westerly and their guest Mrs. Rosa Booker of Washington, D. C., visited the Narragansett Village at Goddard Park, East Greenwich, R. I. Sunday, August 9th and later called on Mr. and Mrs. Charles Babcock of Alton, R. I.

Camp Ki-Yi held Camper's Nite at Monroe's Shore Dinner Hall on August 25th. The Kiddies' Revue, featuring Paul Reeres, Jr., and his sister, Miss Barbara Nash, Miss Virginia Depass and the Callender Twins of New York, was well received by a host of friends. A social hour with dancing after was enjoyed by all with music by Bruce Whitley and his Boys.

The How-Was-Wec Council of Gay Head, Mass., held their annual Pow-Wow August 29th and 30th at Gay Head. The Narragansetts appreciated the cordial invitation which they received from the How-Was-Wec Council and send greetings to their neighboring red brothers and sisters.

The James E. Keegan Post, Sons of Veterans of Foreign Wars of Pascoag, of which Walter Peek, Narragansett, is a member, winners in the Junior Group, with Frank McNab, as leader drew more applause than any other unit in the Old Home Week parade in Riverside, R. I. on August 19th. At the command of Leader McNab, the small boys executed musi-

cal drills on the avenues. They formed many letters and symbols as they walked in and around their comrades in the unit. Many state officials reviewed the parade.

Several Narragansetts took part in the Westerly historical Tercentenary pageant on August 26 at Wilcox Park, Westerly, R. I. Mrs. Ada Anderson of Boston, an offspring of old Narragansett family lines was crowned as Queen Esther by Mr. Philip Peckham and Mr. William Wilcox, chiefs, while 50 braves and squaws made merry at the coronation. The while cast of the pageant "Westerly Thru the Years" included 500.

## NEWS FROM CHARLESTOWN

This month our "Dawn" is dedicated to Charlestown, the most historical spot in South County. It holds more history and records of Indian lore than any other community of which has its own Indian Church and a small reservation.

Miss Marion Hazard has returned to her home from spending a week at Portsmouth Camp Meeting, Portsmouth, R. I.

Guests of Chief Sachem Night Hawk, Philip H. Peckham and family over the week-end were: Chief Black Hawk and Snowfeather and family with their chauffeur, from the Powhatan Confederacy of Virginia, Miss May Booth from Providence, Miss Beatrice McCloud of Warwick, Mr. G. G. Burton of Canonchet, R. I., Ousa Mequin, Rev. LeRoy C. Perry, Wampanoag from Gay Head, Mass.

There was a large representation of Indians from this section at the Narragansett Pow-Wow, held at the Narragansett Indian Village on August 8, on the first Indian Day in Rhode Island.