

## PRESERVATION OF INDIAN PICTURES

*By Stanley Vestal*

People never tire of pictures of old-time Indians, for they are associated in our minds with the heroic age of the pioneers. Moreover, their costumes are colorful, and their way of life strikes a romantic note. A camp scene showing smoking lodges, a papoose in its cradle, a warrior on horseback or posing in his native costume are always interesting. Pictures of Indians appear in our magazines as regularly as the years roll by. Everyone has an Indian picture or two.

But the historic value of these old photographs is not always appreciated. Up in your attic, probably, in that old trunk of letters and knick-knacks may be the portrait of some famous chief, of a treaty camp, or a dance no longer practiced. That photo of the beef issue, of the old-time agency, or the mission school, may be the only record of the time and place it illustrates. Sooner or later, someone who does not know what it means will burn it. You should send it to the State Historical Society in Oklahoma City, for permanent preservation. Attach a sheet of paper, giving whatever information you have as to the subject of the photograph, the time it was taken, and the place. Oklahoma will be grateful.

Now, when everybody is combing his home for scrap to aid in the war effort, is a good time to sort out those old records and put them where they cannot be destroyed. Even if you do not know what a photograph shows, historians may be able to discover that. Send it in, and give your descendants a fuller knowledge of the good old days. Writers, artists, educators will profit by your gift, which will help them to present a truer and more interesting picture of the past.