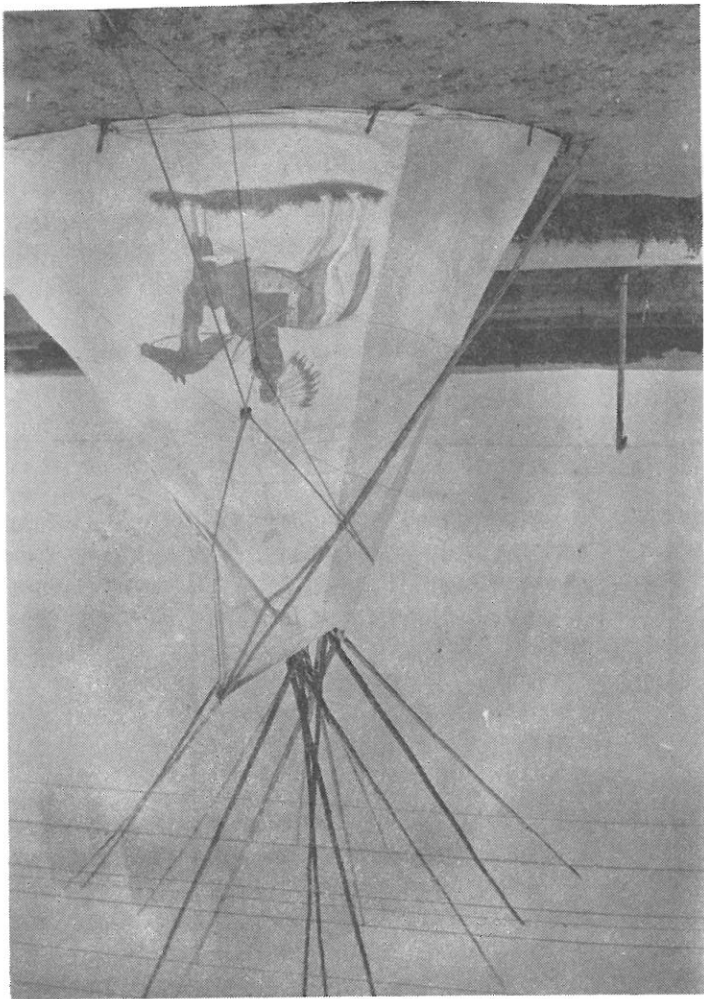


efforts of the churches and the government. These were the whiskey traders whose acts resulted in broken treaties and corruption. White men seeking to settle the northwest were successful in pushing back the boundary of the reservation from the Musselshell to the Sun River and then to Birch Creek and the Marias. A great tragedy in 1870 was the Baker Massacre on the Marias which forever broke the spirit of the Piegans. This was followed by the Starving Winter of 1883-84 when a quarter of the Piegans died of starvation. These people troubled by the nightmare of their recent tragic past, discouraged in their helplessness in the present and with little hope for the future, seek to readjust to a new way of life. They are citizens of the U.S.; are intensely patriotic and have much to offer when accepted.



Authentic Indian tipis such as this are fast disappearing.

HEART BUTTE SCHOOL School District No. 1 Mrs. Leon Anderson

Leon Anderson was the first teacher at the then new Upper Birch Creek school after the log schoolhouse across the creek to the south, was abandoned. Classes in this new school started in October 1931. Mr. Anderson taught there three years.

Mrs. Leona Reinhelt was County Superintendent of

work with. After a blank had been spauled, the Indian would then take a deer antler and by exerting pressure against the blank he would soon have it shaped into an arrow-head. This seems like a very crude method of making arrow-heads; however, with a little practice some of these people became very adept. There are white men today that can use the tools the Indians used and turn out work that would appear almost identical to the best craftsmanship of the days of the Indian. As we explore along the eastern slopes of the Rockies in the far west of Pondera County, we find that there was considerable movement north and south in this area that moved along what is known as the Old North Trail. In the early days of the ranchers some would plant a small tract of ground to oats. While they were preparing the ground for seeding the high winds that come off the slopes of the mountains would blow the top soil away and expose a great number of these arrow-heads. Again the points found here seem to differ greatly from those that are found in the buffalo slaughtering sites out on the prairie areas. Many of these points are thick, large, and their penetration ability would be very poor. These points have been found in the area of Davis Creek, near the headwaters of Sheep Creek, also in the area presently covered by Swift Reservoir, and in the small valley at the head of Whitetail Creek to the southwest of the town of Heart Butte. In the area of the Rigby cabin in the west end of Pondera County can still be found traces of the Old North Trail by travel markings along one of the benches of the area.

STORY OF THE BLACKFOOT NATION Source, John C. Ewers

The modern Blackfeet are the descendants of a people who were the most powerful and most numerous Indian tribe of the northwest plains. Three tribes made up the Blackfoot Nation; the Piegans, the Bloods and the Blackfeet. A century ago they claimed a vast area east of the Rocky Mountains, from North Saskatchewan to the head waters of the Missouri. They probably saw their first horses about 1730 when the Shoshoni used them against their age-old enemies, the Blackfeet. Before they in turn obtained horses themselves, buffalo were killed by running them over cliffs or into enclosures. The Blackfeet were the last great tribe to succumb to the white men. By 1800, they had been trading directly for a generation with the British posts but the country remained free of the hated Americans until 1830. Their defeat began with the ruthless slaughter of the buffalo and the terrible epidemics of smallpox. The Blackfeet were little affected by the government in 1853 sent out exploring parties to determine a practical railroad route to the west. In 1855 a treaty was concluded with the Blackfoot Nation to perpetuate peace with the government. Much good work was done under the treaty, but another group of men were busy. Their lawless operations went far to counteract the earnest