Indian Plays Important University Role

By LAMAR STILLMAN

Remember the guy with the top-knot and feather in his hair who used to romp over the plains in his moccasins? The top-knot and feather may still be on his head, but the romping has been reduced to jumping over gopher holes on the reservation.

The Indians as a nation or people of prestige are through, and since the hatchet hasn’t been buried in a pioneer scalp for decades, they are beginning to gain respect throughout the nation.

The local representative of the Indian nation was the Ute tribe. These people called their land “Estaw,” meaning “high up.” They furnished the state with a name and the university with an appropriate symbol.

In need of inspiration, the students at the university have picked up a tomahawk of their namesake and are using it to good advantage in the pursuit of education. Needless to say, the Indian customs have suffered mightily and have been thoroughly reconditioned in the process.

Indian traditions were great but they just don’t fit into modern life. No self-respecting coed could stand the strain on her social reputation if she wore a Pocahontas outfit to class.

A loincloth has its advantages, but Utah braves will have to be content to smoke a modified peace pipe in their shirt-sleeves.

The jazz age dresses and bangs on the local Indian maidens create much to be discussed at the council fire. Such a radical change in hair styles hasn’t been seen since Sitting Bull lifted Custer’s wig at the Little Big Horn. The ladies are taking a fashion step that would have been a major journey for an Indian lass.

Cars and traffic have replaced the Indian pony as students hustle back and forth over the Annex trail. Frame buildings serve as tepees and hogans for the Ute braves who move noisily over the campus warpaths. The emphasis has shifted from firelight and savage ritual to incandescence and parties.

The Indians are gone, and with them went their customs and traditions. Other races may imitate but none can rival the people that are the symbol of history and the greatness of the American past.

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