

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM RICH STOREHOUSE

By **ESTON McMAHON**

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"Here lived and loved another race of beings. Beneath the same sun that rolls over your head the Indian hunter pursued the panting deer. . . . The Indian of falcon glance and lion bearing, the theme of the touching ballad, the hero of the pathetic tale, is gone."

—THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

Clearly visible from the Highland Park section of the Pasadena Freeway and perched on a steep hillside overlooking the Arroyo Seco below is an imposing, fortress-like, white stucco structure.

The building with its castle tower is the Southwest Museum at 234 Museum Drive, for over half a century a community landmark, about five miles north of Los Angeles Civic Center.

The two-story building and tower is a storehouse rich in the lore of archeology, ethnology, history and aboriginal American art.

"Everything we have here is art in that it may be identified with the American Indians to whom we owe so much in the way of food-stuffs, philosophy, arts and crafts," says the museum's enthusiastic director, Dr. Carl S. Dentzel.

ADMISSION FREE

"It is a place where grandfathers come with their grandchildren, recalling when they visited the museum as children," he added.

"Furthermore," Dr. Dentzel said, "this museum has never received a cent of taxpayers' money."

He explained that the expenses of the admission free museum are met from the income of various endowments supplemented by private contributions. The long list of donors is a veritable "Who's Who" of prominent civic and business leaders of Southern California.

The Southwest Society, out of which the museum grew,

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Museum Shows Rich Indian Lore

(From Second Front Page)

was founded in 1903, and the Southwest Museum was founded by the late Dr. Charles F. Lummis in 1907. The first collections were housed in two rooms of the old Chamber of Commerce Building.

O'MELVENY AID

Later, Henry W. O'Melveny, prominent local attorney now deceased, raised \$22,000 for the purchase of 17 acres where the museum now stands.

The cornerstone of the building was laid Dec. 6, 1913, and its doors opened to the public on Aug. 3, 1914.

In 1920 a tunnel was driven into the hillside and a vertical shaft with an elevator was constructed to carry visitors to the museum above.

In 1940 a wing was built by the late Col. John Hudson Poole and John Hudson Poole Jr., to house the Caroline Boeing Poole collection of Indian basketry.

SPECIAL TOURS

Now the museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. daily except Monday and is closed on the holidays.

From 9 a.m. to noon week days, tours are conducted for students in school classes who have made reservations for their visit at the beginning of the year.

Dr. Dentzel's aides include

Bruce Bryan, assistant director; Miss Valerie Dembrowski, the director's secretary; Mrs. Charlotte T. Tufts, librarian, and Miss Louise Foreman, docent.

The library contains more than 100,000 volumes and last year, the board of trustees approved plans for a new research library in an independent building.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

The museum's publications throughout the years have thrown much light on the development of man and his culture in California, Nevada, and Arizona.

And now to name just a few of the eye-catching exhibits and artifacts:

- A 20-foot Blackfoot teepee with a scalplock dangling from the top.

- An ornate Winchester rifle said to have been owned by Sitting Bull, Sioux chieftain.

- A pictograph of Gen. Custer's defeat in the Battle of the Little Big Horn by Chief Kicking Bear who participated in the battle.

- Life size figure of a Seneca Iroquois warrior wearing a fearsome hand-carved wood mask of the "False Face Society."

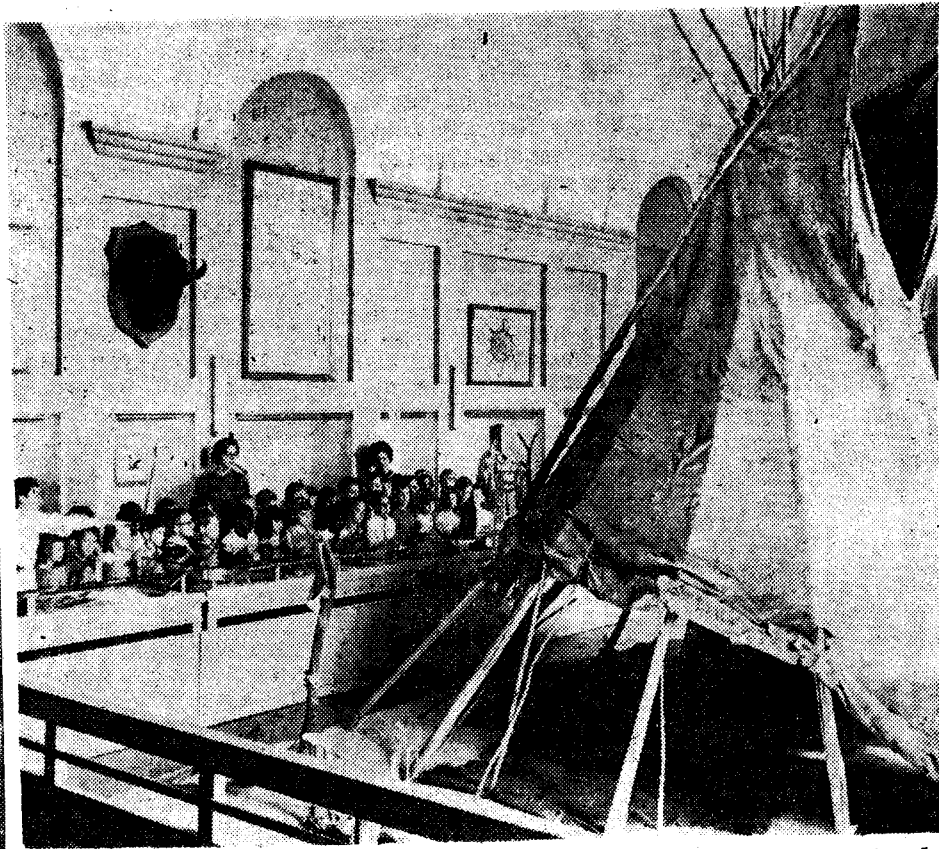
- An exhibit of skulls of Pre-Columbian (before the arrival of Columbus) man in the tower of the museum.

Indian Lore Preserved

Totem Pole Art Made in Alaska

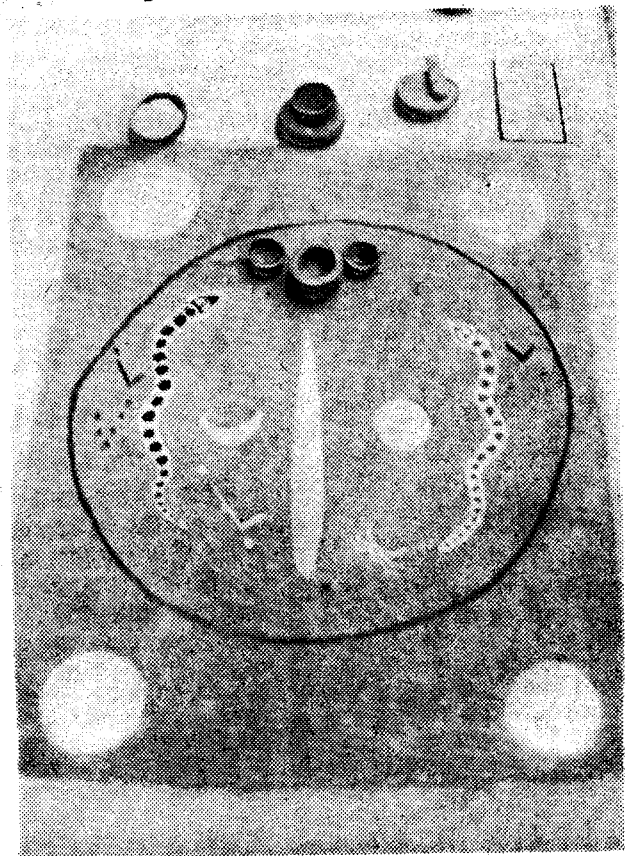


Dr. Carl S. Dentzel, Southwest Museum director, sits before totem pole made by Alaskan Indians.



Webster Elementary third graders view a Blackfoot tepee. From left,

standing: Louise Foreman, teacher, Geraldine Berry, Mrs. Otto Fre...

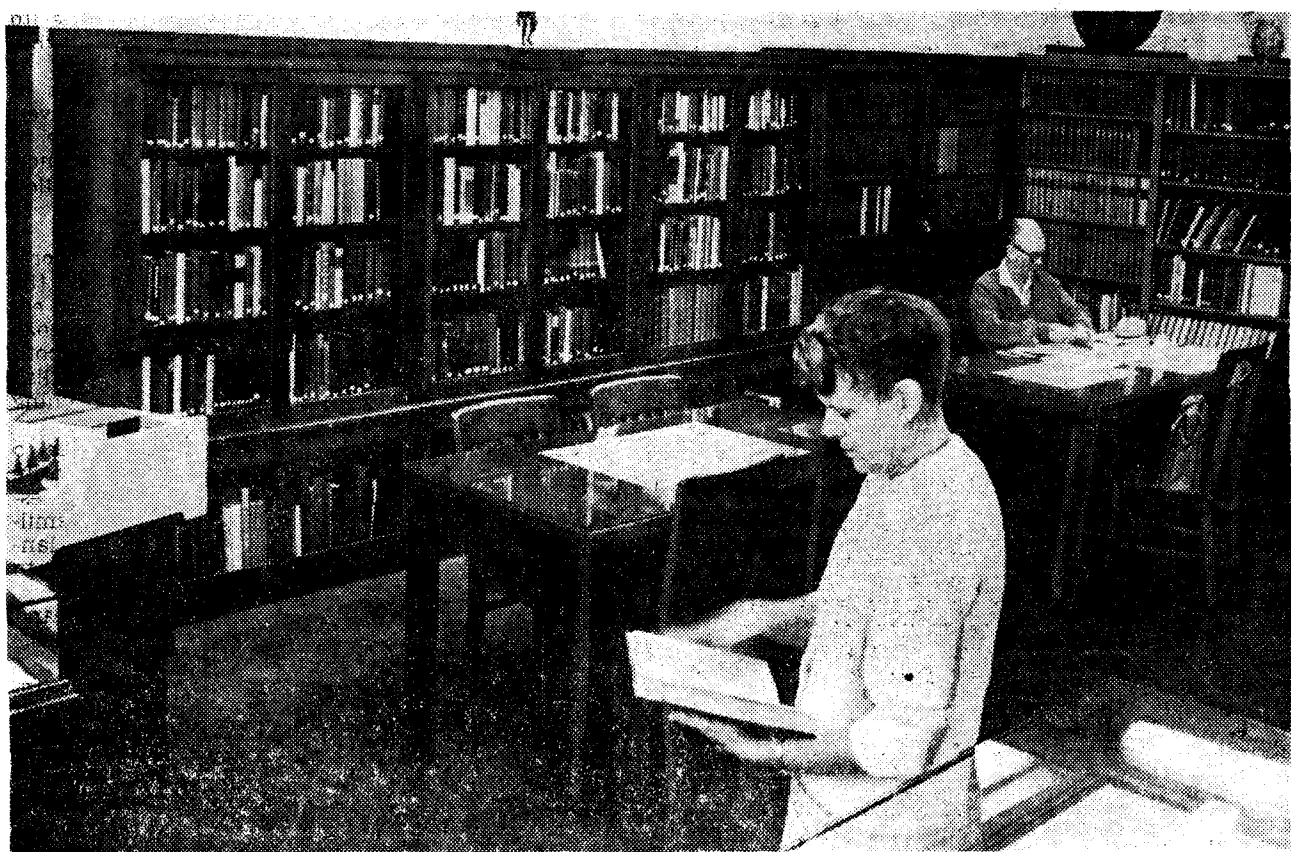


Sand painting for ceremonials consists of colored earths, plant pollens, ashes and powdered shells.



This hand-carved wooden ceremonial mask is product of the Seneca

Iriquois Indian tribe. It is displayed on a full-size figure at the museum.



The Southwest Museum in Highland Park has a research library which contains more than 100,-

000 volumes. Librarian there is Mrs. Charlotte T. Tufts, pictured in foreground in the library.



Valerie Dembrowski holds Winchester repeating rifle, said to be weapon

of Chief Sitting Bull, whose braves defeated Custer at Little Big Horn.