

The Story of a Real American



FLENTY COUPS AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
 NOVEMBER 11, 1922,
 when the Unknown Soldier
 was enshrined at Arlington
 cemetery, among the high
 officials and other dignitaries
 who took part in that
 impressive ceremony,
 was the figure of an Indian
 chief, resplendent in buckskin,
 scap shirt, fringed leggings,
 beaded moccasins and a
 magnificent war bonnet that
 swept to the ground. As he
 stepped forward to place on
 the white marble tomb a war
 bonnet and a coup stick, he
 said in his native tongue, "I
 feel it an honor to the red
 man that he has taken part
 in this great event today
 because it shows that the
 thousands of Indian soldiers
 who fought in the great
 war are appreciated by the
 white man. I am glad to
 represent the Indians of the
 United States in placing on
 the grave of this noble and
 unknown warrior this coup
 stick and war bonnet, every
 eagle feather of which
 represents a deed of valor
 by my race. I hope that the
 Great Spirit will grant that
 these noble warriors have
 not given up their lives in
 vain and that there will be
 peace to all men hereafter.
 This is the Indian's hope
 and prayer."



CHIEF FLENTY COUPS WITH HIS LIFE STORY

This chief who was chosen as
 the representative of all the
 Indian tribes to place the
 Unknown Soldier in the
 grave of the Unknown Soldier
 is known among his people,
 the Absarokes, as Aleek-chea-
 aboosh, meaning "Many
 Achievements." But the
 white men who call the
 Absarokes, he is more
 commonly known as Chief
 Plenty Coups, perhaps the
 best known Indian in the
 United States today. For
 that reason one of the
 outstanding biographies of
 the year is the book "Ameri-
 can," published recently by
 the John Day company, for
 it is "The Life Story of a
 Great Indian, Plenty Coups,
 Chief of the Crows," as he
 is called by Frank E. Lin-
 derman through the medium
 of an interpreter and the
 sign language in which both
 Plenty Coups and Linderman
 are adepts.

"American" is not the first
 Indian autobiography but it
 is outstanding because it is
 the story of a genuinely
 primitive Indian. When
 Plenty Coups was born in
 Montana in the late '40s
 his people were still living
 their normal nomadic life
 in the days before the
 buffalo herds were swept
 away, and these wild
 horsemen of the plains
 were almost untouched by
 any contact with the
 whites. His early life was
 lived under tribal conditions,
 but little changed over a
 period of hundreds of
 years; in his early manhood
 he witnessed the first
 conflict between the two
 races with their inevitable
 climax of the subjugation
 of the red and the domina-
 tion of the white and his
 declining years are being
 passed in an era which is
 seeing a century of history
 concentrated in a decade.
 So in a sense the life story
 of this Indian chief is an
 epitome of 300 years of
 American history, from
 savagery to civilization,
 from a wilderness to the
 industrial age.

Plenty Coups has remained a
 boy all his life and the
 naturalness of childhood
 is reflected throughout his
 story "What are your
 earliest memories?" Mr.
 Linderman asked him and
 the old man smiled, "Play,"
 he said happily. "All boys
 are much alike. Their
 hearts are young and they
 let them sing." And in his
 telling of the events of his
 boyhood and his training
 at the hands of the elders
 of the tribe, there is food
 for thought by the white
 man who believes that men
 of his color are superior
 in any way to men whose
 skins are red.

No doubt it will be a shock
 to most white men to realize
 that in the eyes of the
 Indians white children are
 so disgustingly ill bred.

So profiting by the example
 and instructions of his
 elders, Plenty Coups' boy-
 hood was spent in the kind
 of play which was the
 beginning of his education
 in physical development,
 in plains and wood craft
 and in strict self-discipline
 of body and mind. He and
 the other boys played at
 making war, and with
 great eagerness he looked
 forward to the day when
 he might go out on the
 first war party and have
 the chance for that distinc-
 tion so much desired by
 all prospective warriors—
 counting coups. This might
 be accomplished in one
 of several ways. He might
 strike an enemy with his
 coup stick, bow or quirt,
 before otherwise attacking
 him, or take his weapon
 while he was still alive.
 He might count coups by
 striking a dead enemy
 or his breastworks under
 fire or by stealing horses
 from the village of an
 enemy. Unlike the white
 man's idea it was not so
 much an honor to be
 wounded in action. When
 a warrior who had been
 wounded donned an eagle
 feather to commemorate
 the event, he must stain
 it red, and such a feather
 was esteemed less highly
 than one which bore the
 distinctive markings
 showing how a coup was
 counted.

Plenty Coups' young man-
 hood was filled with in-
 numerable skirmishes
 between the Crows and
 their traditional enemies,
 the Sioux, the Cheyennes,
 the Arapahoes and the
 Blackfeet. His first
 real contact with the
 white men came when he
 enlisted as a scout with
 General Crook and served
 valiantly with that officer
 in the great battle with
 the Sioux on the Rosebud.
 For Americans with their
 traditional love of "good
 sportsmanship" there is an
 interesting example in
 Plenty Coups' attitude
 towards his enemies. In
 nearly every case in which
 he tells of a foe whom he
 fought and killed, he ends
 the story by adding
 gravely, "He was a
 good man, that Sioux,
 and a brave warrior."

But the opinions of the
 white man expressed by
 this old warrior is not
 such comfortable reading
 for those who fondly
 believe that the white
 race is superior to all
 others. But is good, per-
 haps, for the exaggerated
 self-esteem of the "con-
 quering white" to read
 these words of Plenty
 Coups and reflect upon
 them with an honest
 mind: "They spoke very
 loudly when they said
 their laws were made
 for everybody; but we
 soon learned that they
 were not. They expected
 us to keep them, they
 thought nothing of
 breaking them them-
 selves. . . . (Their
 priests) said we might
 have their religion, but
 when we tried to under-
 stand it, we found that
 there were too many
 kinds. . . . This
 bothered us a good deal
 until we saw that the
 white man did not take
 his religion any

more seriously than he
 did his laws, and that
 he kept both of them
 just behind him . . . to
 use when they might
 do him good in his
 dealings with strangers.
 These were not our
 ways. We kept the laws
 we made and lived our
 religion. We have never
 been able to understand
 the white man, who
 fools nobody but him-
 self. Now, too late, we
 know that the white
 man is not wise. He is
 smart, not wise, and
 fools only himself."

To read Plenty Coups' story
 is to realize that he de-
 serves the characterization
 of a "great American" by
 whatever standards, either
 white or red, he may be
 judged. A part of his
 greatness lies in the
 adjustment he made
 between his people and
 ours, in his patience,
 his diplomacy and his
 firmness which saved
 the Crows from the
 tragic fate which over-
 took other Indian
 tribes. Of them he says:
 "We saw that those
 who made war against
 the white man always
 failed in the end and
 lost their lands. Look
 at the Striped-Feathered-
 Arrows (Cheyennes).
 Most of them are living
 where they hate the
 ground that holds their
 lodges. They cannot
 look at the mountains as
 I can, or drink good
 water as I do, every day.
 Instead of making a
 treaty with the white
 man and by holding
 their country which they
 loved, they fought. Ah!
 how those warriors
 fought! And lost all,
 taking whatever the
 white man would give.
 And when the hearts
 of the givers are filled
 with hate their gifts
 are small."

"The Cheyennes and the
 Sioux, who fared a little
 better, have always been
 our enemies, but I am
 sorry for them today.
 I have fought hard
 against them in war,
 with the white men
 more than once, and
 often with my own
 tribe before the white
 man came. But when
 I fought with the
 white man it was not
 because I loved him
 or because I hated
 the Sioux or Cheyennes,
 but because I saw
 this was the only way
 we could keep our
 land—and it was my
 dream that taught us
 the way."

Although Plenty Coups
 talked freely about his
 early life, even to the
 intimate details of his
 dreams and all the other
 elements which make
 up the mysticism of the
 Indian—a rare occur-
 rence for the red man
 to bare his soul to the
 white man—his book
 tells little of his life
 after the passing of the
 buffalo. The descent
 into poverty and depend-
 ence upon the white
 man's bounty broke his
 spirit. "When the
 buffalo went away the
 hearts of my people
 fell to the ground and
 they could not lift them
 up again," he says.
 "After this nothing
 happened. There was
 little singing any-
 where." And those
 mournful words are a
 fitting requiem for the
 whole race of red
 men.

Community Building

Realtors See Benefit in Longer City Blocks

Radical lengthening of present
 typical city blocks is strongly
 advised as a measure for cutting
 down the costs of home owner-
 ship in a resolution which was
 adopted by the board of directors
 of the National Association of
 Real Estate Boards at their
 quarterly meeting held in Chicago.
 The resolution puts the realtors
 of the country on record as favor-
 ing residential blocks 1,000 feet
 or more in length. The general
 use of the motor car now permits
 a radical lengthening of blocks
 in residential areas in keeping
 with present-day convenience
 and economy, the resolution
 points out, and goes on to give
 the following reasons which
 make advisable this increased
 length in laying out blocks in
 residential districts:

Substantial economies in the
 use of the land can be obtained.
 Longer blocks mean reduced
 street area in relation to total
 area.
 Frequent crossings invite
 personal accidents, delay traffic
 and increase the problem of
 traffic and pedestrian supervi-
 sion.
 Longer blocks not only aid
 in speeding up traffic movement
 but also contribute a semi-
 suburban effect of beauty.

Comfort and Safety in Properly Built House

Twenty years ago fire-safe
 construction was considered an
 expensive luxury. Today inflam-
 mable construction is as out
 of date as whip sockets—yet
 the average builder of houses
 goes blithely on, designing and
 building houses that will burn.
 John Smith, 1930, knows that
 fire safety is inexpensive, but
 he gets little encouragement.

The really modern 1930 house
 contains no waste space, but it
 is not cramped. It welcomes
 sunlight and the harvest time
 of our man-managed forests.
 Others believe that they will
 form a permanent source of
 timber to replace some of our
 special purpose hardwoods.

All are agreed that, in any
 case, we cannot fully and com-
 pletely outline our own forestry
 program without taking into
 consideration all the factors
 that may influence the out-
 come.

Beautiful Cities and Towns

Our cities should be kept in
 the best condition possible. Streets
 or mar a city or town. Holes
 should be filled in when they
 appear in the streets. Good
 drainage is very important.
 Weeds should be kept cut
 and grass should be planted
 along the sidewalks.

Roads leading into the cities
 should have advertisements
 about business houses. Bridges
 should be kept up to prevent
 detours. A petty, clean road
 leading into the city attracts
 tourists. A beautiful park
 with flowers, trees, and recre-
 ation opportunities attracts a
 crowd.

A city should have a good
 water system. Cans for trash
 and paper should be placed
 conveniently. Telephone lines
 and poles should be kept in
 good condition, and old
 posters should be torn off
 and destroyed as soon as
 useless. Glaring advertisements
 do not add to a city's attrac-
 tiveness.—Grit.

Charm in Colored Mortar

Many world-famous brick
 buildings owe the charm of
 their exteriors to the color
 harmony between brick and
 mortar. This same harmony
 can be had in the smallest
 residential buildings.
 With the older buildings
 this was sometimes due to
 the sand used, and in other
 cases to the misleading influ-
 ence of age. However, either
 effect may be produced today
 through coloring matter in
 the mortar. Mortar colors
 cost but little, yet they often
 contribute as much to the
 appearance of a brick home
 as any other single item.
 They are available in a wide
 range of colors.

Attractive Highways

The rapid building of high-
 ways in America for several
 years was allowed to remain
 what seemed to be a virtual
 invitation to a kind of cheap
 commercialism to make these
 thoroughfares lanes of ugliness.
 Indifference and neglect
 of property owners along
 the highways contributed to
 the unsightliness. But the
 tide, here and there if not
 generally, is turning in the
 other direction. Through
 organized and individual effort,
 through official and citizen
 enterprise, a movement for
 attractiveness is being
 pushed forward.

Lure of Modernizing

One of the most attractive
 features of home modernization
 is that owners can do as little
 or as much as they desire,
 never losing sight of the fact
 that modernizing on either a
 large or a small scale adds
 much to the comfort, con-
 venience and value of the
 house.

Beautifying Roadside

Prizes worth more than \$1,000
 have been offered for the best
 five examples of roadside
 beautification in a contest
 conducted by the Missouri
 highway department.

Unenviable Status of Jackaroo in Australia

The name "jackaroo" was
 given to a youth sent by his
 parents to an Australian
 sheep or cattle station to
 learn stock and bush work.
 As he resided and had his
 meals with the manager,
 overseer and storekeeper,
 but had to work with the
 hands, he was generally
 looked upon as a useless
 nuisance until he learned
 things. Having no special
 job and no status, he was
 given any job of work,
 hence a "jack of all work."
 The old joke was, he was
 expected to "jump" at the
 call of the manager or
 overseer like a kangaroo.
 Most jackaroos, if they
 showed character or pluck,
 etc., became popular and
 after four or five years
 became overseers; or, if
 they or their relatives had
 money, they bought a
 sheep or cattle station
 or took up a section.
 —Lieut. Col. K. C. Brazier-
 Creagh, in the London Times.

Powder Lacquers Your Car

Few people know that the
 lacquer which gleams on
 the bodies of thousands
 of automobiles today may
 have once been on the
 point of hurdling a shell
 many miles into space or
 blowing up a trench, says
 Popular Science Monthly.
 The conversion of millions
 of pounds of powder left
 over from the war into
 industrial finishing prod-
 ucts was the unusual story
 told recently to the Ameri-
 can Chemical Society by
 R. G. Woodbridge of the
 Du Pont company. The
 new cellulose lacquers,
 he said, bear so close a
 relation, chemically, to
 the nitrocellulose base
 of smokeless powder
 that changing the war
 product into a peace
 product is comparatively
 easy.

Timber Problem Solution?

It is recognized, says the
 American Tree association,
 that the forest resources
 of tropical America may
 be a very important factor
 in our domestic timber
 problem. Some believe
 that those forests will be
 called upon to bridge the
 hiatus that is bound to
 exist between the exhaus-
 tion of our wild timber
 crop, and the harvest time
 of our man-managed
 forests. Others believe
 that they will form a per-
 manent source of timber
 to replace some of our
 special purpose hardwoods.

All are agreed that, in any
 case, we cannot fully and
 completely outline our
 own forestry program
 without taking into con-
 sideration all the factors
 that may influence the
 outcome.
 Largest Drydock
 The largest drydock in
 the world are the Boston
 navy dock and the Saint
 John (N. B.) drydock.
 The former is 1,170 feet
 long by 120 feet wide
 and the latter is 1,165
 feet long and 125 feet
 wide. The Boston dock
 is longer, but the respec-
 tive areas covered by
 the docks give Saint
 John a decided advan-
 tage with 145,025
 square feet, the dock at
 Boston covering 130,400
 square feet.

Concerning Happiness

No man is happy. Man
 strives all his life through
 for imaginary happiness,
 which he seldom attains,
 and if he does, it is only
 to be disillusioned.—Schopenhauer.

Job Was Done

A grammar school student
 was asked to answer a
 question in an examination
 paper—"If twenty men
 reap a field in eight
 hours, how long will it
 take fifteen men to reap
 the same field?" The
 student thought long
 and carefully before
 writing the answer, and
 when he handed in his
 paper, this is what the
 examiner read: "The
 field having been reaped
 by the twenty men
 could not be reaped by
 the fifteen!"—Toronto
 Globe.

To understand is to forgive.

For Older Women



MRS. CLARA RILEY
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"I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at Change of Life. Now I take it every spring and fall and it keeps me in good health. I am able to take care of an eight-room house and garden at the age of 71 years. I will praise the Vegetable Compound wherever I go for it is a wonderful medicine for women. They should give it a good trial by taking about five bottles."—Mrs. Clara Riley.



MRS. BERTHA STEPHENS
 21 E. Ros St., Lancaster, Pennsylvania

"I was very nervous and rundown and weighed less than one hundred pounds. I felt tired and weak and I often had to lie down. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound because I read the advertisement in the paper. Now I eat well, sleep well, and have good color. In fact, I couldn't feel any better and I weigh one hundred fifty-five pounds. I am glad to answer letters from any woman who wants to know more about the Vegetable Compound."—Mrs. Bertha Stephens.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

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