

GLADE CROSS MISSION,
EVERGLADES, FLA.

Seminole Indian
Celebration

Christmas 1941

The two days after Christmas were very busy ones, preparing for the Indian Feast and Celebration, held on Wednesday the last day of the year. It was held south of the Trail back of one of the Indian villages and no white people except me were allowed to come. There was much interest shown and I was specially pleased that four members of the Indian Council were willing to personally to help. One saw that the ground was cleared, a pretty tree planted, wood cut for the fires, etc. I say "fires" because on account of the clan system all could not eat together. Ten fires were started. Chestnut Billy and William Osceola distributed the meat and other food. It was a most attractive sight - the women going for their share of meat and at the fires cooking, the men standing around in groups, and the children playing ball and blowing balloons - all in their colorful costumes.

After the feast they listened to the Story of Christmas interpreted by Cory Osceola also one of the Councilmen. After prayer the gifts. This year upon the advice of Cory who was in charge of the gifts and who came to the Mission to plan for the giving, we decided to make family bags and they were delighted to hear me call the heads of each family by his Indian name.

The mothers and babies were called around the Tree for the pretty baby blankets; then all the children came in line for a bag of candy and orange. It was a joy to see their happy expectant faces.

The Council was willing also for the young men to sing Indian songs - songs without words - songs they sing when they are happy.

After visiting for awhile we left for our homes. Christmas 1941 was over.

We are grateful to all who helped us. Without you we could not have had the joyous Christmas that we had. May we have your continued interest and prayers that we may win these Seminoles for Christ and His Church.