

NEBRASKA TRAILBLAZER



No. 01

Native Americans

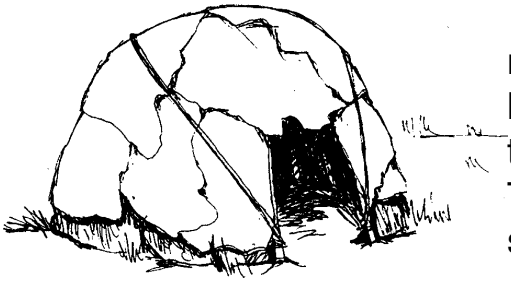
PAWNEE SCOUTS

In 1864 the United States Army needed help. The Army was at war with the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes. At the same time, the Civil War was raging in the East. Many soldiers were sent there. The Army turned to the Pawnee tribe living in Nebraska. Traditional enemies of these three Plains Indian tribes, the Pawnee united with the whites to fight their common foe. This is the portrait of one of the Pawnee scouts, named Rattlesnake, and his wife. He is wearing a soldier's blouse, and is holding a cavalry saber. Other equipment, weapons, and horses were supplied to the scouts. Members received the same pay as fellow cavalrymen.



The Pawnee Scouts were very successful. They protected the Union Pacific Railroad when it was being built across Nebraska. They accompanied several expeditions of the Army against the warring Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho. With the defeat of these groups in 1877, the Pawnee Scouts were disbanded.

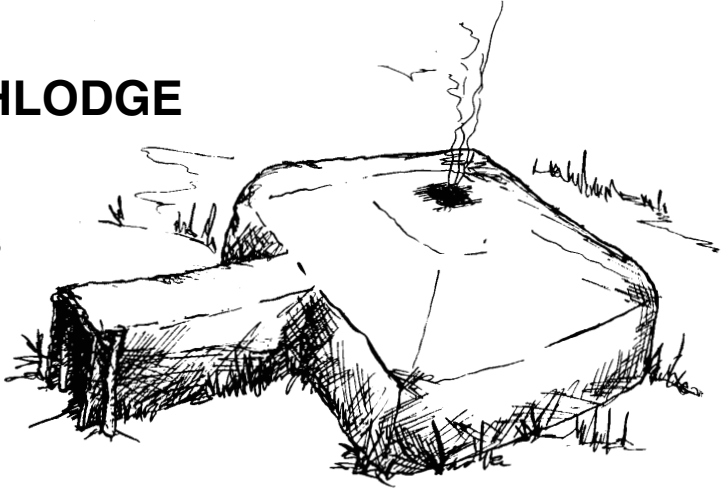
SKIN LODGE



Indian Groups who lived in Nebraska nearly 2000 years ago lived in skin-covered houses. A framework of bent poles, set into the ground, was covered by animal skins. These lodges were probably circular in shape.

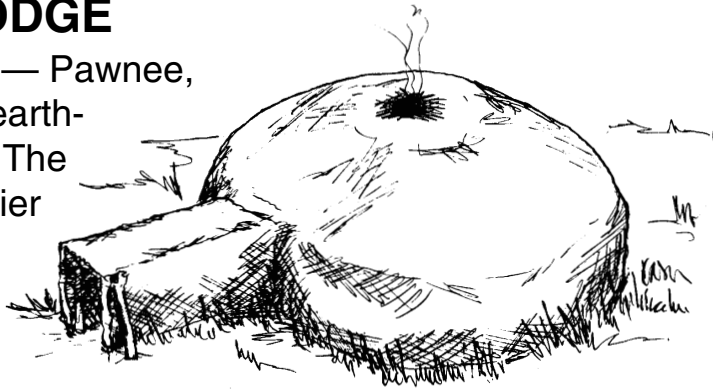
SQUARE EARTHLODGE

Before the time of Columbus, Indians of Nebraska lived in villages made up of small numbers of earthlodges. The earthlodge of that time was square-shaped. Large wooden posts were placed upright in the ground. These supported a framework of smaller logs. Then all of this was covered with grass and earth. There was no moving the house!

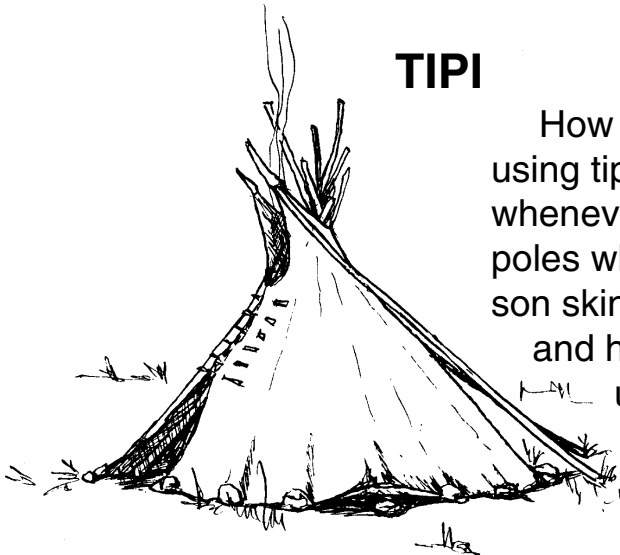


ROUND EARTHLODGE

Many of Nebraska's Indian tribes — Pawnee, Omaha, Ponca, and Oto — lived in earthlodges. Theirs were round in shape. The raw materials were the same as earlier earthlodges. Many of these houses were very large and sheltered as many as 30 people.

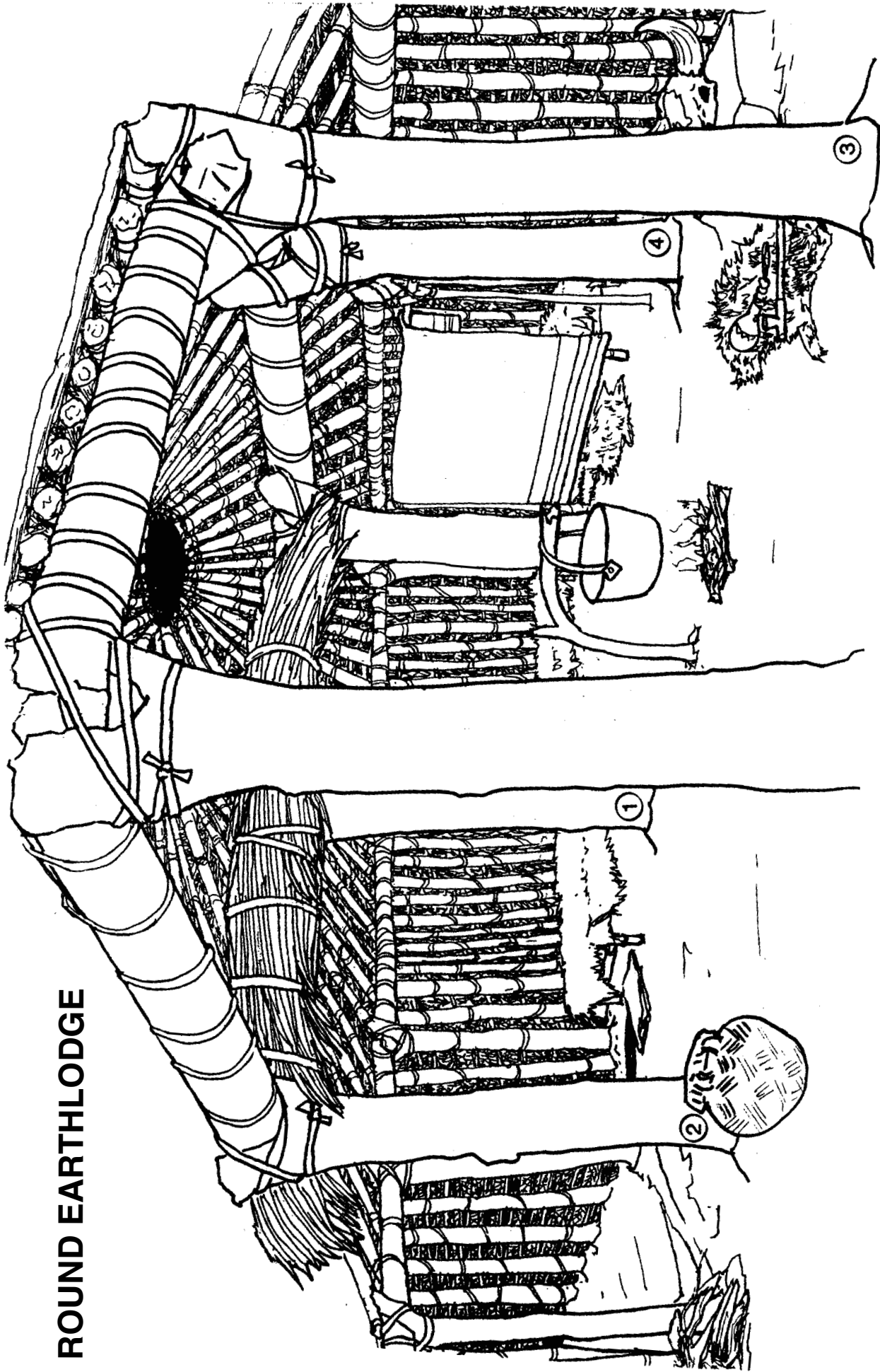


TIPI



How convenient it must have been! Indian tribes using tipis could move their house wherever and whenever they wanted. Their ponies dragged the poles which served as the framework of the tipi. Bison skins which covered the poles could be folded up and hauled by horses, too. Even the tribes which usually lived in earthlodges took advantage of this great invention. They used tipis during long journeys.

ROUND EARTHLIDGE



This coloring page shows the interior of a Pawnee earthlodge. Earthlodges were circular in shape. An opening in the center of the roof provided a smoke hole for the fire pit. A covered entrance usually extended to the east or southeast. Opposite the entrance, at the back of the lodge, was an altar on which a sacred bison skull was placed. Beds, made of small timbers, were placed around the outer walls. Buffalo robes were used on the beds.

Four of the central posts were painted different colors. Post #1 was painted red, the color of the Morning Star. Post #2 was black, the color of the Evening Star. Post #3 was painted yellow to symbolize the mountain lion. Post #4 was painted white to symbolize the wild cat.

After white men came to Nebraska, store-bought items, made of metal and glass, were in common use by the Native Americans. The brass kettle over the fire and blanket hanging in front of the bed were either store-bought, or they were purchased by the Native Americans who traded with the white fur traders. Early trade blankets were white with a black stripe at each end. A ceremonial pipe and rattle lie on a bobcat skin. Firewood is stacked by the door. Reeds and grasses are stored in the lodge, tied to the ceiling. They will be used to weave mats, one of the most important items of Pawnee house furnishings. The clay pot, near the lodgepost, is of the type which was in common use before metal was available on the Plains.

NATIVE AMERICAN ITEMS



DOLL

Female doll, 8 1/2 inches tall, with dark red checked shirt, black skirt, and green necklace.



SPOON

Spoon made from the horn of a buffalo. The handle is decorated with glass beads. Quill wrapped thongs with metal cones and horsehair at the end hang from the handle.



MOCCASINS

Woman's moccasins with soft-tanned uppers and rawhide soles. The beadwork displays a cross in red on a white background. Used by the Sioux.

PIPE

This pipe, made of catlinite, may have been sold as a tourist souvenir around 1900. Most pipes have a wooden stem (The stem is the long part which extends from the mouthpiece to the bowl section.). The stem and bowl on this pipe are both made of catlinite. Catlinite is a red stone found in quarries in southern Minnesota. It was sold or traded throughout the Great Plains region.



WAR CLUB

War club with stone blade and wooden handle covered with hide and decorated with brass tacks. Beads, wrappings of fur, red cloth, feathers, and horsehair were also used to decorate war clubs. Decoration on war clubs were highly personal and depended upon the taste of the individual.



FAMOUS NEBRASKA NATIVE AMERICANS



PETALESHARO (pet-a-le-sha-ro) was a Pawnee man called the “Bravest of the Brave.” He became famous for his brave act of saving a Comanche girl from being sacrificed by the Pawnees to the Morning Star. His actions touched many hearts. By the time he visited the eastern cities later, Petaleshoro had already become a national celebrity.

SUSETTE LAFLESCHE (“Bright Eyes”) an Omaha Indian woman, became a talented lecturer, painter, and writer. She championed the cause of rights for her people, not only for the Omaha but for all Indians. She lived in the worlds of the white and the red, a success in both.



RED CLOUD was an Oglala Sioux chief. He had the difficult task in leading his people in both times of peace and of war. A great warrior, he defeated the United States Army in 1866. Peace followed but did not last long. In 1876 Red Cloud and his followers did not follow Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and others on the war path. He lived his life on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

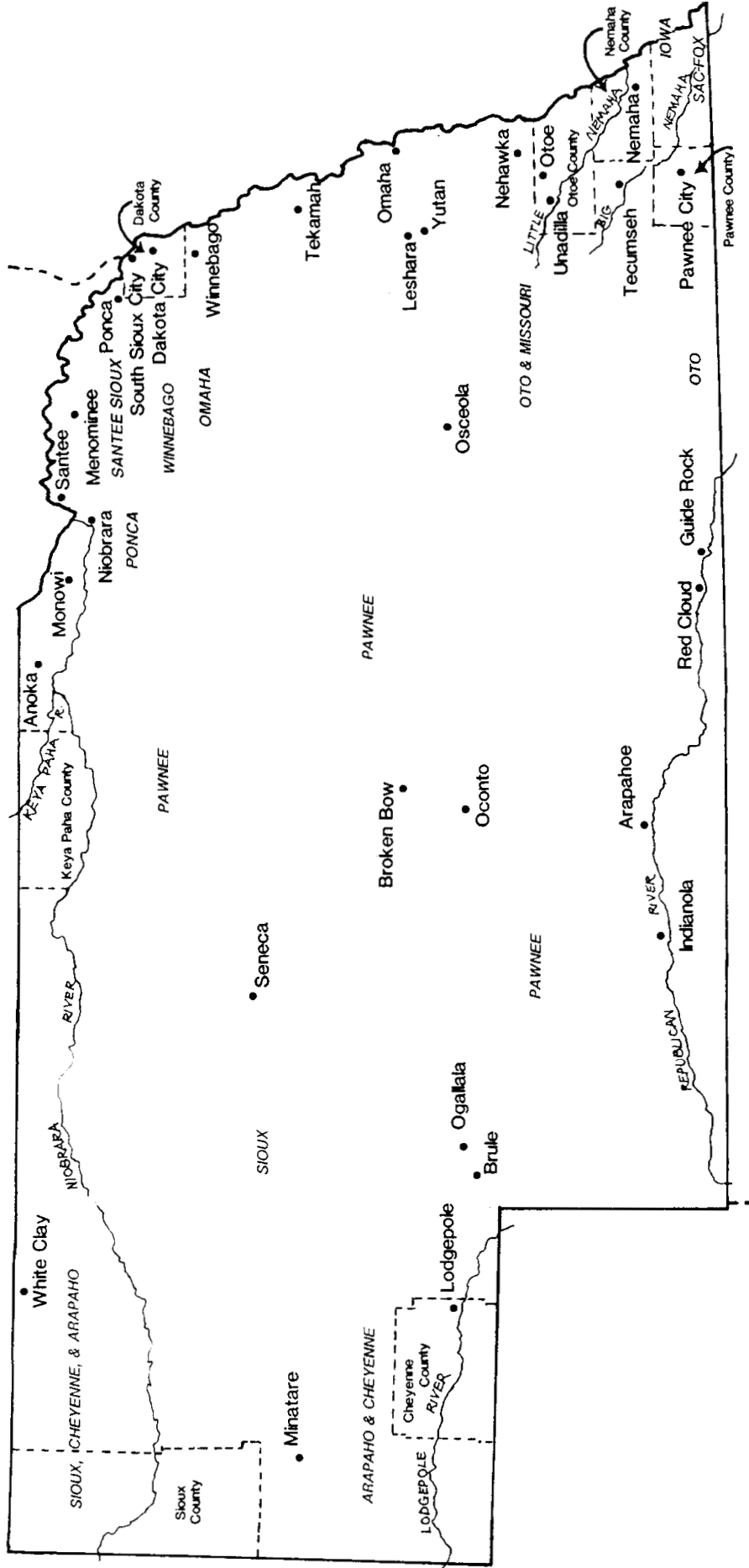


SPOTTED TAIL led the Brule Sioux. Like Red Cloud his early years were spent in fighting the whites. Seeing the eastern settlements and cities, Spotted Tail realized the hopelessness of this struggle. His later years were spent in trying to work for the best interests of his people without resorting to war. Spotted Tail and the Brules lived on the Rosebud Reservation, located in South Dakota.



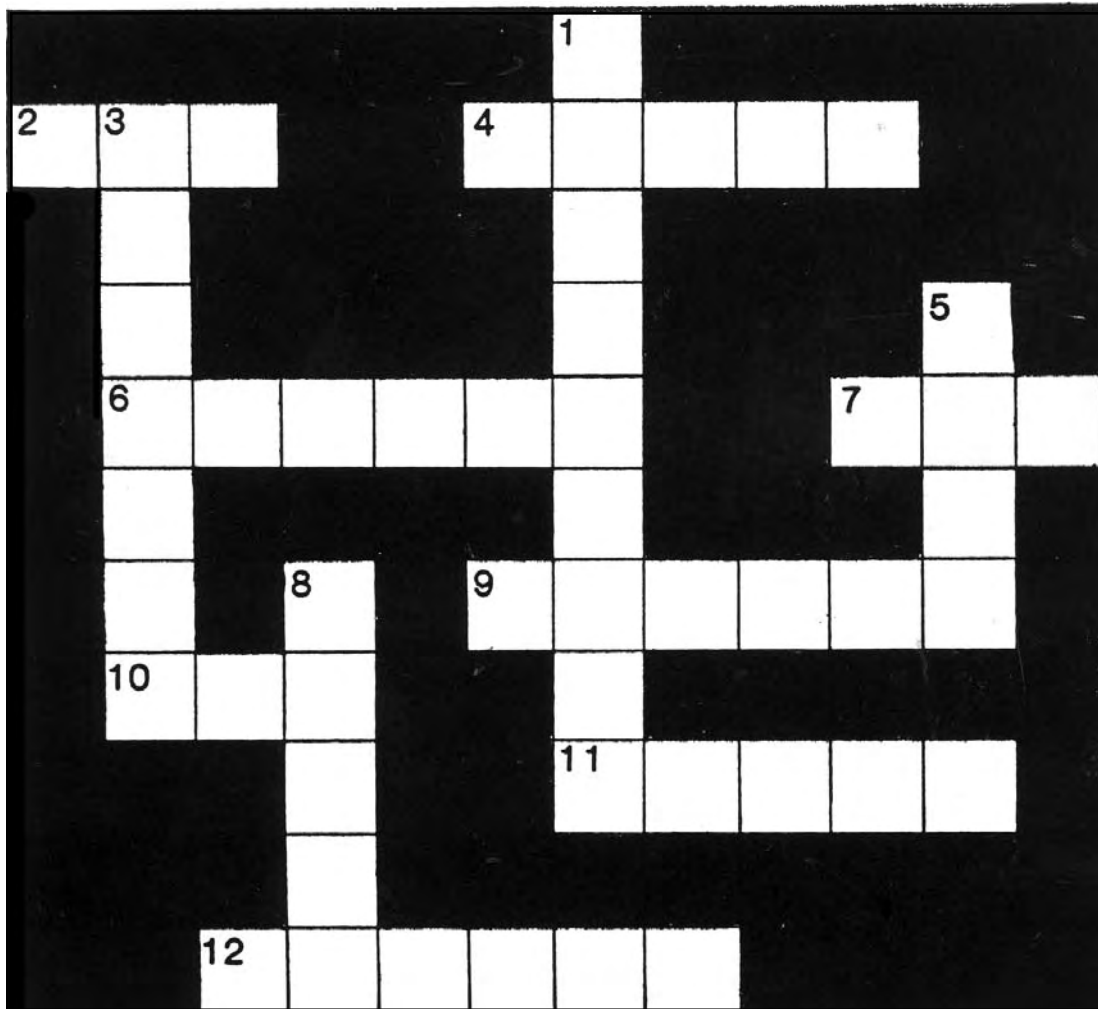
IETAN (i-ah-tan) was an Oto chief who lived in an Indian village in eastern Nebraska. The town of Yutan in Saunders County carries his name. The site of his village has been preserved by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Ietan was considered a great warrior and leader of his people in the days long before Nebraska became a state.

NEBRASKA



Nebraska has many places named after its Indian tribes. Our state's own name is an Oto or Omaha word meaning "flat river." Other features carry names relating to our Indian past — rivers, counties, and towns, even our largest city. Indians still live in Nebraska.

Indian Tribes of Nebraska



ACROSS

2. Tribe with reservation in Richardson County
4. Brule and Oglala are branches of this tribe
6. "Bravest of the Brave" was from this tribe
7. Tribe mentioned jointly with Sac after 1700
9. Branch of Sioux after which a northeast Nebraska county is named
10. Yutan, Nebraska, was named for this tribe's chief
11. Bright Eyes came from this tribe
12. Sioux tribe with a reservation in Knox County

DOWN

1. Tribe given a reservation near the Omaha tribe
3. Town in Furnas County was named for this tribe
5. Tribe originating "across the wide Missouri"
8. Chief from this tribe was involved in 1879 trial in Omaha