Some things seem certain: Not much land in the Caddo Indians practically were forced to sell their lands and the $80,000 their ancestors were red-skinned out of a long time ago in 1835. Furthermore, he ascertained that the Caddo Indians to question him and to present supplemental information. In his report, Dr. McGinty concluded that the Caddo Indians practically were forced to sell their lands and the $80,000 was not a fair market price at that time— in 1835. Furthermore, he ascertained that when the area was surveyed and private sales were made between 1835 and 1850 the price averaged $7.03 an acre in Caddo Parish. By a process of amortization, he found the Caddo Parish land of that era produced $3.48 an acre.

ESTIMATED AT $3.48 AN ACRE

After considering various factors, such as the cost of surveying, fees for selling and the expense of clearing the land, Dr. McGinty evaluated the land at $3.48 an acre, or a total of $2,047.00, instead of the $80,000 the government paid. Under terms of the sale, the Caddo Indians, who numbered about 600 at that time, were to move within one year. They obtained permission from Mexico to enter that country but the Texas revolution interfered. In 1839-40, they began to drift over into Texas, after remaining on their old homesteads for four or five years, and eventually went to Oklahoma.

Be that as it may, enough of them are left for a war whoop to show they think their ancestors were red-skinned out of a heap big piece of change—and they probably don't mean heads. While the outcome of their claim remains to be seen, one thing seems certain: Not much land in these parts today is for sale at 13 cents an acre. "Ugh," as the Indians would say to that.

By KENNETH F. HEWINS
Times Special Feature Writer

Were the Caddo Indians "scalped" when they sold their lands to the United States government in 1835? Their domain of 590,501 acres located in what is now a choice part of the Ark-La-Tex was ceded for $80,000, or about 13 cents an acre. That's not much wampum. In fact, those Indians may have got the old tommyhawk to the tune of nearly two million dollars. Such a conclusion has been advanced by Dr. G. W. McGinty, head of the social science department and a professor of history at Louisiana Tech, who was requested to investigate the matter.

Dr. McGinty recently went to Washington to appear before the Indian Claims Commission relative to his study of last year concerning the value of the land ceded by the Caddo Indians to the federal government on July 1, 1835.

This perusal of the Caddo land value stemmed from Public Law 728 of Aug. 13, 1946, which set up the Indian Claims Commission and authorized Congress to dispose of numerous claims from the Indians for damages when they lost or ceded their lands.

The vast area also excluded 23,507 acres granted to Francois Grappe and his three sons. Grappe was of Spanish and Indian origin and his sons presumably were mothered by a Caddo squaw.

Excluded also was a section of land given to Luckie Edwards, who had been the Caddo interpreter for several years. Edwards was free to locate his section where he desired. He picked land located in the present city of Shreveport which measured 634 acres—six acres short of a section. The land later was sold by Edwards, for whom Edwards street in Shreveport is named, and the Shreve Town Co. was incorporated. The corporation platted the land and sold it as city lots.

The Caddo Indian land in question was comprised of such approximations as these: 420,000 acres of uplands, 133,000 acres in the Red and Sulphur valleys and 30,000 of creek bottoms.

For this realm of more than a half-million acres the United States government paid settlements as follows: $30,000 in goods, such as food and clothing, $10,000 in cash before the end of the year of purchase and $10,000 annually for the next four years, for the total of $80,000.

Following the enactment of the claims law, the Indian Claims Commission was empowered to set the conditions under which the Indians could employ counsel to procure justice, if it was found that justice had been by-passed.

NOW LIVING IN OKLAHOMA

It was under this act that the Caddo Indians, now living on a reservation in Oklahoma, filed suit in 1951. The Indian Claims Commission in 1957 determined the boundaries of these ceded lands.

This territory consisted of 89,954 acres in Miller County, Ark., south of the Sulphur River, and 500,347 acres in Caddo Parish. All of this acreage was terra firma. It excluded many thousands of acres of water, which could not be surveyed.

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