ROCHESTER MUSEUM
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Director's Office

Edgerton Park
Rochester, N.Y.

Miss Helen M. Post,
142 Lexington Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Post:

Why not drop in Superintendent Berry's office in Buffalo and get his directions as to what should be seen on the reservations ? I know he would be very helpful.

With Buffalo as a center you can visit the following reservations: Allegany, near Salamanca, N.Y.; Cattaraugus, near Gowanda or Irving; Tonawanda , near Akron, N.Y. The latter has a fine Community House.

The trouble with our N.Y. Indians is that now they only "play" Indian, few of them ever using anything but a circus costume modeled after the Plains regalia. In Rochester we have some authentic costumes and good models. However, at the reservation near Akron, N.Y. tyou will find many who know the correct costume. See there, for example, Jesse Hull, Aaron Poodry (who tries to imitate a Sioux), Jesse Cornplanter, who will ask you for a couple of dollars but who has an authentic costume, and be sure to visit Mr. Postelthwaite the Superimyendent of the Community House. At the Cattaraugus Reservation most of the Indians who have costumes are at a section called New town, not far from Gowanda. Find old James Crowe and perhaps young Richard Kettle who also puts on a Sioux ewar bonnet,(something the Senecas never had until the advent of the circus). Ask on the Cattaraugus Reservation for the Thomas Indian School and meet Mr. John C. Brennan, Superintendent. He will also be a help. -- But for the quill you should get a glimpse of our Rochester models. See Arleigh Hill

our custodian of motor equipment. He has a correct outfit. We also have case models, and full size houses as well containing was figures. However---- you can get excellent " as they are today" pictures of our Indians in their boots and jeans and can snap them as they try out their fourth hand Fords and perhaps a new car. They have interesting log houses at the reservation near Akron but most of the houses are disconsolate looking shacks, though there are also a number of comfortable homes. While there ask for Maizie Tahamont,, Inez Brackchief, Cephas Hill our project manager, and also Harrison and Ben Ground, all good types as is Kidd Smith our wood carver.

You'll find good pictures. I have made them for over 40 years and still get good shots.

Very sincerely yours,

Arthur C. Parker