

SPIDER - Blackfeet Indian Song and Dance Man

According to Blackfeet legend, Spider Man is the keeper of the gate which leads to the Sky World. It is still believed by more than a few oldsters that the North Star, which appears stationary, is a hole through which shines the light of the Sun Lodge. Nearby is the home of the Spider Man — a teepee weighted down on the bottom by the half-circle of stars which forms the Northern Crown.

Five Stars in the constellation Hercules indicate Spider's fingers with which he spins a spider web ladder. Upon rare occasion this ladder has been let down through the North Star hole to enable privileged humans to enter into the Sky World.

On a night long ago, Acting Bear, veteran of many wars, and known throughout the Blackfeet Nation not only for his prowess in battle but for unusual generosity, dreamed of the legendary Spider Man. The experience, it was believed, endowed him with certain supernatural powers.

And so, when his son grew into a handsome and promising youth, Acting Bear bestowed upon him the name of his spirit-guardian.

Young Spider, also known as "Good Looking," turned from the ways of war to peaceful pursuits because of the wishes of his parents and upon the advice of friendly white traders. He and his bosom

comrade, Eagle Tail Feathers, instead gained fame as singers and dancers. They traveled to various United States and Canadian reservations to take a prominent part in dances and celebrations. Their talents are still fondly remembered by elderly Blackfeet who knew them.

In the colorful portrait executed in pastels by the late Winold Reiss, Spider is shown in his prime. Despite his handsome appearance, he did not marry until comparatively late in life, when he took Narrow Shield Woman as his wife.

Reiss spent many summers in Glacier National Park which adjoins the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in the Rocky Mountains of Montana, portraying representative members of the tribe for posterity.

During the summer months, costumed Blackfeet Indians are on hand at Glacier Park Station, eastern entrance to the Park, to greet the many vacationers who arrive abroad the streamlined Western Star.

Glacier, the nation's third largest and most spectacularly beautiful of all national parks, is a million-acre paradise located on the main transcontinental line of Great Northern Railway. It is joined on the north by Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park.

From June 15 through September 10, the operating period of the Park's fine hotels, motels and other

visitor facilities, hundreds of thousands of vacationers visit Glacier with its hundreds of rugged mountains, sixty glittering glaciers, countless deep green valleys, innumerable lakes, streams and waterfalls.

Detailed information about summer vacations in Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks, the evergreen Pacific Northwest, the Western Dude Ranch Country, the Canadian Rockies, California via the Pacific Northwest and other scenic and historic areas served by Great Northern Railway may be obtained by writing to:

Passenger Traffic Manager
Great Northern Railway
Saint Paul 1, Minnesota

A Second Edition of a portfolio containing twenty-four full color reproductions of Winold Reiss' famous Blackfeet Indian portraits, together with an authentic and up-to-date history of the tribe by the noted authority Dr. Claude E. Schaeffer, will be available early in 1958 from the Saint Paul Book and Stationery Company, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The portfolio also may be purchased at leading book stores and book departments in retail stores in many cities of the United States and Canada.