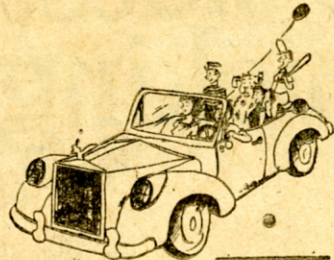


# Family Outing



By JEAN SANFORD

THE END of a country road overlooking Mount Hope Bay seems an unlikely place to find Eskimo kayaks or Iroquois masks. But that is the location of the Haffenreffer Museum where Brown University displays its collection of Indian art and artifacts. And if you are interested in Indian lore, it is worth following that country road and spending some time there.

The kayaks, made from sea mammals' skins, are part of the exhibit of Alaskan archeological items gathered by the museum director and Brown University students during the summer months. Masks, drums, ivory carvings and flint knives are other trophies of anthropological research at the University's Alaskan dig. Charts trace the various levels of civilization in that area from 5000 B.C. to the present.

During a leisurely walk through the museum you can learn a lot about the past and present life of Indians of North and South America. Why are Navaho rugs made in geometric patterns? Because the type of loom on which they are made limits the design elements to straight lines. There is a handsome display of these rugs and

there is explanatory material with the exhibit, as there is with all the regional displays. We learn that Indians used flattened and dyed porcupine quills for decorating their clothing until European traders brought them beads. And we find that the economy of the Plains Indians was based on the buffalo. They ate the meat of the beasts and from their hides made most household necessities such as tents, clothing, bags and pouches. Everything had to be portable so the Indians could move freely in pursuit of the herds.

The Northwest Indians were carvers and painters. Most animals on the totem poles they made are recognizable only by experts because the form of the animals was altered and simplified to fit the space to be decorated.

Baskets, pottery, tools, weapons, pipes for smoking the sacred tobacco, Iroquois falsefaces, an Indian burial from Block Island, a model of a Hopi Village in Arizona, Apache and Zuni skin paintings, a Peruvian vicuna rug, an Andean knitted mask — Indian arts and crafts from all parts of the Americas fill the cases at the Haffenreffer.

Besides the American Indian collection, there is a display of tribal arts from

different areas. African masks and wood carvings, Javanese puppets, tapa cloths, jewelry, and other crafts from places as widely dispersed as Costa Rica and New Zealand.

If Indians are of interest to your youngsters, they will enjoy finding out how these earliest Americans really lived. The museum is a fine place to spend a rainy afternoon when the garden and long country drives are impossible, or any afternoon you happen to be in the mood for Indians.

The Haffenreffer Museum is open Saturdays from 10 to 4 and Sundays from 1 to 4, September to May. During the summer months, June to August, it is open daily except Monday from 1 to 4. Admission is free.

**HOW TO GET THERE** from Providence: Take 195 east and Route 136 south. In Bristol look for a large Haffenreffer Museum sign on the left at Tower Street. Follow Tower Street about a mile to the next Haffenreffer sign on the left. The museum is at the end of this short road, a flat-roofed white building on a spectacular site overlooking Mount Hope Bay.

**HOW LONG** from Providence: About 45 minutes.