

Most eye-catching of Indian objects on sale at Pawnee Bill's Trading Post is Indian headdress. War bonnet, made of eagle feathers, is in great demand.

THE DARNEDDEST BUSINESS

An O.U. alumnus describes his work that way. His business is to trade and barter with the Indians at Pawnee Bill's Trading Post.

A PAWNEE, OKLAHOMA, ALUMNUS is engaged in what he describes as "The darnedest business." His business is to buy, trade and barter with Indians. His name is Bryce Privett, '42bus.

"We buy raw material for the Indians; they barter or buy from us; we buy back the finished product." The finished products that interest Pawnee Bill's Trading Post are objects of Indian arts and crafts. Beaded work, tom-toms, teepees, headdresses,

leathercraft all find their way from Indian artisans to the Trading Post.

The name of the firm figures. Privett's partners, Ray O. and Glenn Lyon, became partners of the famous showman, Pawnee Bill, in 1935. Upon his death they maintained the name and preserved his personal collection of Indian and western articles. His possessions are on display in a free museum in the Trading Post.

The Trading Post supplies retailers in

every state of the Union. A somewhat surprising fact: authentic Indian articles sell best in states with large Indian populations. The Southwest offers one of the biggest markets.

Also supplied by the post are costume houses, who in turn rent to the movies. At the present time a Culver City, California, customer has on order six headdresses. The post also supplies headdresses for important dignitaries. Herbert Hoover was the first



Standing in front of war bonnets and other Indian items, are secretary and partners in Pawnee Bill's Trading Post—Mrs. Pearl Nuttle, secretary; partners Ray and Glenn Lyon, Bryce Privett.

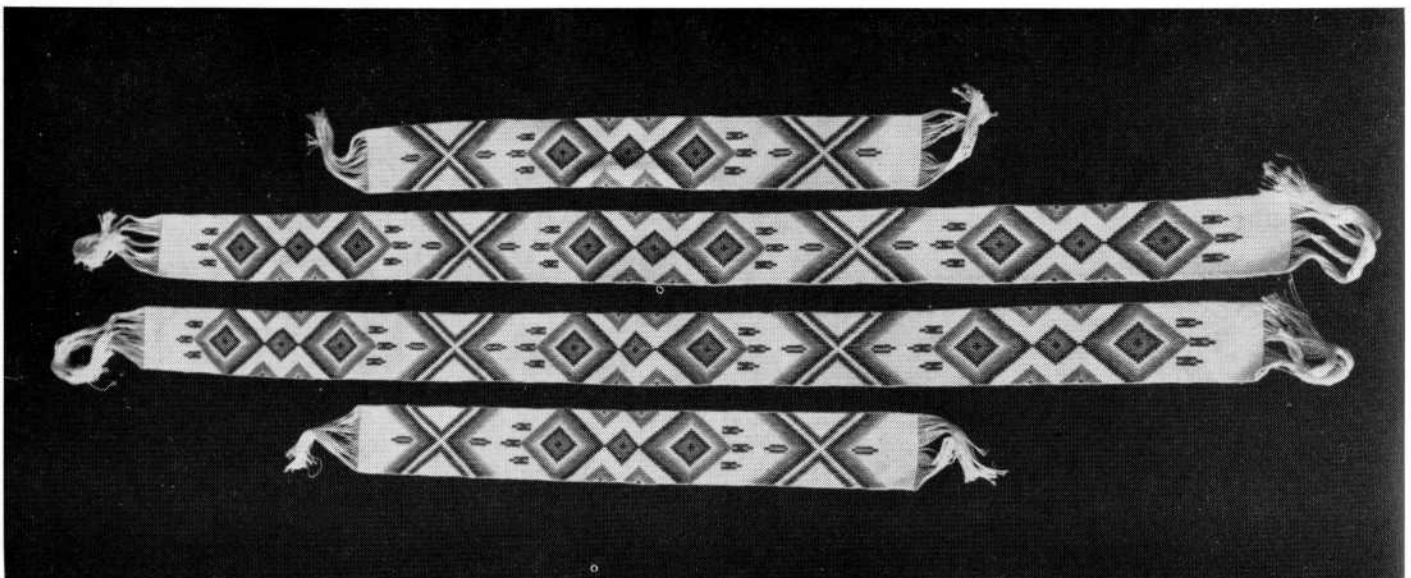
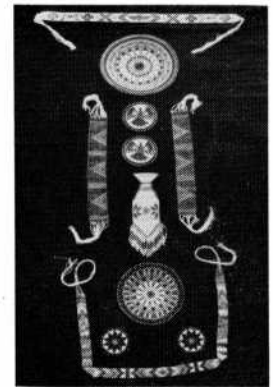
man of his importance to receive a Trading Post headdress. Since that time other political figures and visiting royalty have worn a Pawnee product.

How did Privett happen to get into the business of swapping with the Indians?

Like many other ex-GI's, he was looking for an interesting job when he left service in 1946. A native of Pawnee, he grew up with Indians and was interested when a partnership was available in the Trading

Post. (He married another Pawnee native, Urna M. Wilson, '41, shortly after Pearl Harbor in '41. They have two children.)

As Privett talks about his job, he gives the impression of a man who isn't quite sure it is a position for any sane man; it's too much fun. Fun or not, the Trading Post is serving the Indians well. Using it as a clearing house, they are able to secure a means of livelihood and at the same time perpetuate their arts and crafts.



Some of the most impressive examples of Indian arts and crafts are indicated above and below in head work. Included in the pictures are: head band, arm bands, belt, tie, decorative rosettes.