

The Giddings News

March 28, 1941

LINCOLN 4-H CLUB

Story of The Indian Blanket.

Wild Flowers of Texas was discussed with the Lincoln 4-H Club girls with Mrs. Herman Kieschnick, at 8 o'clock March 21 at the home of Allyne Marburger.

The club girls with their sponsor intend to press wild flowers of Texas and arrange them in a book. The favorite flower was Bluebonnet, but the most interesting was the Gaillardia. The Gaillardia, Indian Blanket, is a popular, also native plant of Texas. The plants grow about eight inches tall and have a bright yellow to a brownish red color.

Long before white men ever came into this country the Indians had the story of the Gaillardia.

A certain tribe of Indian braves were on the way to war, leaving squaws and children behind. The wife of the bravest and highest chief sat in her wigwam wearing a blanket. In its folds her little daughter pretended she was playing hide and seek with her father. The squaw wove bright colored patterns into this blanket and every pattern was a symbol of a prayer that was to go to the Great Spirit, to care for and send back her husband.

This little girl was like all Indian children fond of birds, insects, and flowers. She talked with them like Hiawatha did, as playmates, brothers and sisters. One day while playing she was lost in the woods. Night came and unsuccessfully she tried to

find her way home. Finally she sat down prayed to the Great Spirit to keep her warm during the night. In the morning she was covered with red flowers like those her mother had woven in her father's blanket. The same minute she had heard her father's voice, she called, "See father, the Great Spirit heard my prayer, sent these beautiful flowers, the color of your blanket." The brave chief told every man: "From now on these new flowers shall be called Indian Blankets."

Mrs. Herman Kieschnick was elected sponsor. Elsie Boriack and Florence Schneider joined the club.

Members present were: Elsie, Edna, Mary Boriack, Inez and Gladys Boes, Florence Schneider, Emilie Woelfel, Allyne Marburger, Elsie, Bernice, and Elberta Kieschnick.