

# Delaware Indians once found in area

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handled differently.  
"Revenge was the duty of  
the nearest relative of the  
slain person."

Other punishable offenses  
were adultery, desertion of  
children, drunkenness and  
slander. Misfortune was at-  
tributed to "evil spirits"  
and a devil, whom the  
Delawares believed was  
created "holy" and later  
rebelled against the  
supreme being, called  
"Keshaallemoonkungk"  
(He who created us by  
thought).

Col. Ketcham recalled an  
occasion when it was decid-  
ed to take the war to the In-  
dians, rather than retaliate  
after an Indian raid. He and  
his fellow rangers in Capt.  
Bigger's company set out to  
find Indian villages to  
destroy. During that excur-  
sion they crossed Monroe  
County to find the villages.

They came upon three In-  
dians camped on the bank  
of a river. Their supper con-  
sisted of three deer heads  
simmering in a big brass  
kettle.

The Historical Society  
issue devoted to a  
description of the  
Delawares quotes one of the  
tribe as stating that  
"nothing short of the most

pressing hunger could in-  
duce them to eat of certain  
animals, such as the horse,  
dog, wildcat, panther, fox,  
muskrat or wolf." In addi-  
tion, the Delawares avoided  
eating the opossum,  
because they thought that  
particular animal had  
supernatural powers and  
was a "trickster."

When one of the  
Delawares who acted as an  
informant for the study in  
the Historical Society docu-  
ment, was asked about  
human relationships, he  
gave a terse reply. The  
question was: Any dif-  
ference in treatment of  
legitimate and illegitimate  
children? His reply was:  
"No difference because  
Delaware never had latter.  
Young folks did not play  
around — old folks watched  
them too close."

SATURDAY



like any day