



GIFTS OF PEACE

(The Great Peace Council of 1840 between the Kiowa and the Cheyenne/Arapaho 70 miles east of Bent's Old Fort on the Arkansas River.)

[The Kiowa presented all the Cheyenne with horses as presents on the second day of the peace council. Then it was the Cheyenne's turn]

High Backed Wolf then invited all the southern people to come to his side of the river the following day. Over there, inside the big camp circle, the Cheyenne brought out exotic foods traded at the fort for the occasion: steaming kettles of rice and pots of dried cooked apples, how stews of meat and bone marrow, the gravy thickened with ground corn meal- and to sweeten the food, New Orleans molasses. When they had eaten, High Backed Wolf cried out to his people to bring presents. They brought brass kettles, beads, blankets, calico, guns. High Backed Wolf cautioned his guests that his warriors like to fire a gun into the air before giving it away. For a time the camp was in an uproar as the Cheyenne men fired the noisy muzzle-loaders; then they presented the guns, still warm and smoking, to the visitors. Thus they made peace.