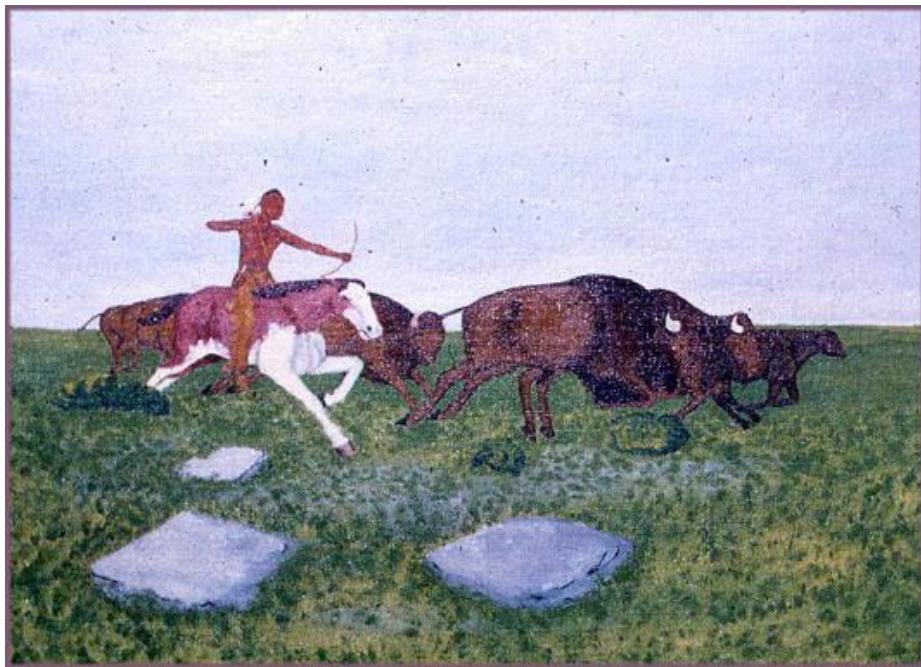


The Man and His Horse

Told by Martha Ellis
Told to Jim Rementer

I have one story I wanted to tell but I could never do it. It's a man he's going to go hunting, and long time ago when they, men, go hunting they always had some kind of sack made out of buffalo rawhide that is dry, they put it on the horse so they can pack that meat. He's going to go hunting buffalo, deer, anything he can find. He'd be gone maybe a couple of months. He took one horse and he led one horse, the pack horse, and rides the other.



Hunting Buffalo by Delaware Indian Artist Jacob Parks

So he went and he told his wife, "Now you're going to see me sometime when I bring some meat." The men folks long time ago go dry that meat way out in the woods somewhere. They don't get to see their wives, children, for a long time. So he went and he finally got everything he wanted everything what he want, dried you know. Finally one of his horses he ride it so much I guess he got so bad and he couldn't ride it anymore that horse is just sore. So he thought to himself, "Well I guess I better go home. I have to walk because this other horse already has a lot of meat on there." So he left his horse there. He took what was on that horse. (He told the horse) "Gonna leave. You can't go. You just have to stay." So he (the

horse) went down to the creek. So he left, this man, and he went home. After he got home he told his wife what happened and just got that one horse. "Well," he told her. "I've just got one horse now." He said, "I'll have to look for another one sometime."

Oh, I don't know how many years and he's going to go hunting again and he went to the same place where he went. So, he got up there and hunting around there and he recognized the place where he was camping before. He said, "Oh, I forgot about my horse. I wonder what happened to my horse? I wonder if I could find him? I wonder if he's living, or maybe he died." So he was looking around and pretty soon he saw a tree standing way on top of the hill. He saw him switching his tail standing under a tree. He thought, "That's my horse over there. I know that was my horse. I'm going to go down there and see."

When he went there he could hardly recognize that horse. He had that sore back I guess and a Hickory nut dropped on his sore back and it closed up and every time he'd go drink he rolled in the mud and that tree grew on his sore back. That's what he thought when he saw him that that horse was under the tree but really it grew on his back. He went over there. Oh, he was glad to see that horse but he's got that tree on there. And he told that horse, "My goodness, it's been how many years ago that I left you here, and now you have that tree growing on there." And he thought, "What am I going to do with that tree? I'm going to take my horse," he said. And he had something to use, cut that, you know, and he took like a saw, and he thought, "I wanted a saddle all of my life and now I've got one." And he thought, "Boy, that's going to be a good one."

So he took his horse after he got everything ready and had three horses and he took it. And then he told that story and he said, "I always wanted a saddle and finally I found my horse the one I left it and the one with that sore back and the tree grew on it so now I can ride my horse and is already got a saddle on him."