

PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 2016

Passage.

(During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. ²⁶⁴ What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. ¹⁴³ I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. ⁹² I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately. We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. ¹⁹³ With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18th century and the outdoor historical pageant Unto These Hills playing six times weekly in the summer nights. ¹⁴³ Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists. ²⁴¹ Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colorful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, coneshaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. ¹⁹³ "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop. ²⁴¹ "Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ...")

(Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. ²⁹¹ We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. ³²⁴ One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment fetch them great returns. ³⁷⁷ Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed. ³⁷⁷ Back at home, I really missed the place and I would of course look forward to the next trip to another exotic place.)

Title: A Trip to Cherokee

According to author, it was difficult for him to choose his vacation destination as Japan, Hong Kong, and Australia are very common. He wanted to be away from tourist crowds.

His friend suggested Cherokee, Oklahoma.

They visited the beautiful town of Qualla

Banday in Cherokee. Oconulfee Indian

Village make 18th Century ^{old} as Qualla Banday represents ancient Cherokee. They went to

Souvenir shops where they met George

who extended his help to them and

invited them on a lunch. George told

them that he used to be a woodcutter,

which earned him little, but now the souvenir

shop earns him more. However during off

season, Cherokees earn from other ways.

Amongst them is Bingo weekend on

Fridays which ~~is~~ makes them good money.

Lastly, they went to a museum ~~in~~ in Qualla

Banday. The author missed his trip ~~to~~

~~Cherokee~~ and would look for next trip to another ethnic place.

Passage words: 435 Required: 145 (± 5)

Precis words: 176