

BRIEF HISTORY OF BILL MOOSE, ALSO CALLED INDIAN BILL, AS HE TOLD IT TO LEONARD INSLEY, EDITOR OF THE WORTHINGTON NEWS, WORTHINGTON, OHIO.

“I was born Sept. 9, 1837 eight miles north of Upper Sandusky, in Wyandot County, about 200 yards west of where Colonel Crawford was burned at the stake by the Delaware Indians and Simon Girty on June 11, 1782. I am a Wyandot Indian, and the sole surviving full-blooded member of that tribe

During my father's lifetime at Upper Sandusky, the Wyandot camp of Indians, which was located at that place, numbered about 400. Leatherlips, a friend of the white man and a powerful **and** influential chief of the tribe, met his death June 1, 1810 at a point about 12 miles north of Columbus on the Scioto River Road.

I attribute my long life to living close to nature, and observing the custom of my tribe in sleeping out of doors during the summer, and one night each month throughout the winter with only one **blanket** for cover. On my next birthday I will be 90 years old.”



Bill at his cabin in 1926  
Bill passed away July 12, 1937, near  
100 years of age.



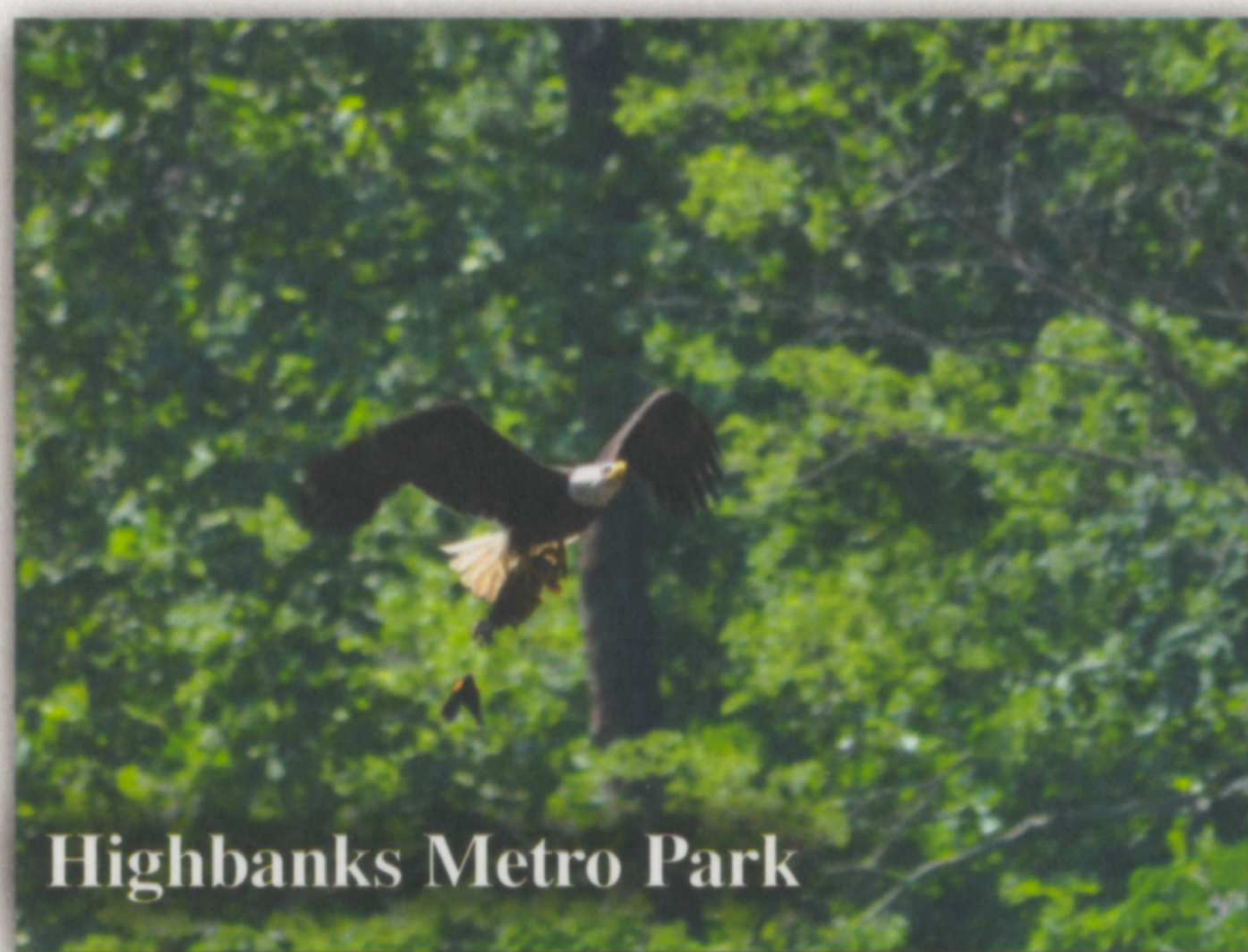


Indian Sugar Camp 1850c. Dublin, OH

Artist Dick Hoke

In early spring Bill Moose journeyed with his parents to the woods owned by Joseph Thompson, long time friend of the Wyandot Indians. Maple trees were tapped, sap collected and boiled down to sugar.

In July of 1843, the Wyandot Indians were relocated from Ohio to Kansas. The family of Bill Moose refused to leave and moved from Upper Sandusky to the abandoned Wyandot villages near the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers, north of Columbus. One was near the burial site of their beloved Chief Leatherlips. Years earlier, Joseph Thompson had covered the exposed grave with rocks and protected the sacred site for over thirty years.



Highbanks Metro Park

Photo Brett Thompson

After paying respect to the Chief, the family would journey back to the Olentangy, their camp site and home along the river at a location presently known as Highbanks Metro Park. Here, Bill, true to his Indian nature, expressed and shared his love for God's creation, the beauty in nature, field forest and stream, and sincere love for his fellow man. Thus began the Legend "Indian Bill Moose - Last of the Wyandots".