

SIDE A

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INFORMANT: LEONARD MAKER, OSAGE

HOMINY, OKLAHOMA

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PROOFREAD BY: MONETTE COOMBES

TRANSCRIBED BY: DARLENE FIELDS

I am Leonard Maker, Osage Indian from Hominy, Oklahoma. I was born at my father's farm about three and a half miles north of Hominy in the year of 1918.

I remember in my very early years on my father's farm that we--my father was engaged in cattle raising and he had horses as all Osages had in those days. They raised horses and they also did farming, and raised wheat, and oats and they raised hogs. In those days, they also planted their large orchards which was right north of our house. And I remember we used to go out and pick the fruit off the trees, which my mother and father had some people working for us and they would go out and gather the fruit and can the fruit. And it was oh like sometimes they would dry these fruits. But most, mostly they would can their fruit and seems like we always had plenty of meat. They didn't have to go to town to get any meat. In those days, we had what they call a smoke house. I don't recall, I imagine all Osages had these. They had all kind of beef. More or less what they call a modern freezer. In those days, I remember this little smoke house was just west of our house, oh about a hundred yards. I really don't know how they cured these hams and kept the beef and what-not. Whatever they had in there, they wanted to keep for the winter. And so, it seemed they had fairly good success in raising their crops. I don't recall they have any soil conservation at that time. But I imagine the soil was fairly fertile at the time. And it seems as they--I don't remember them doing any of the commercial fertilizing of the ground. I imagine they just planted the crops that would more or less, such as, you know, alfalfa that would enrich the soil. And that was the only kind of fertilization that they had at the time. And course we had a large garden which was situated just north of the house. And I remember we had all sorts of vegetables. And during these times--it seemed to me that in later years that