

SIPES, J. R. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

10545

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INTERVIEW

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Zaidee B. Bland

This report made on (date) April 28, 1938 1938

1. Name Mrs. J. R. Sipes

2. Post Office Address Olustee, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3 sheets.

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Journalist.

Zaidee B. Bland.

April 28, 1938.

An Interview with Mrs. J.R. Sipes.
Olustee, Oklahoma.

In regard to any Indian History around Olustee, I haven't been able to find out anything. In fact all the "old timers" say that the Indians when they came here were over around Cache just where they are today and the only time they ever saw any was at fairs and picnics at Navajo or down at Doans, the trading post for cowboys and Indians, and later at Quanah, Vernon and Langum.

One woman told me she saw the list of names Harve Reagan sent in for the Post Office and she didn't remember if Olustee was one but they notified him from Washington that Olustee had been selected. There weren't any Indians near here then.

My father often spoke of the Indian bucks lying around the cow camp and after the cowboys ate they gave these Indians what was left and one day one of the older cowmen, when he had finished eating went over to the water bucket and took out his false teeth and began pouring water over them. The Indians' eyes almost popped out and they got up

and tip-toed off and didn't stay to eat.

Father also spoke of them coming thru hunting and they carried a letter from Government officials giving them permission to hunt in Greer County. They would send a man to pilot them across the pasture and to the brakes where there were antelope and wild game.

When Papa came here in 1880, the prairies were covered with buffalo bones and we still have some of the old horns my mother saved to make a hat rack and there are still signs of the buffalo wallows in our pasture so that after a rain little pools can be seen.

There was a spring on Boggy when I was a child that Papa called an Indian Spring and said the Indians claimed it had magic powers and when they left the reservation they made for the spring. It isn't there now.

Olustee was just a bald prairie covered with dog holes. There was never any tribe over here, only on the creeks and I don't think Indians ever were here only to hunt or gather terrapins for weddings, etc.

My father said there were four buffalo that roamed around Olustee after he came here. They killed one and the others

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disappeared. It is reasonable to suppose that the Indians had been in the habit of hunting in here as long as buffalo lasted, then they came in for antelope and after they were gone they begged cattle from the cowmen who usually gave them a crippled or stray cow to get rid of them ; if they didn't give them one the Indians usually cut one out and killed it anyway when the cowmen were out of sight.