

TINGLEY, CHARLIE

INTERVIEW .

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INTERVIEW  
BIOGRAPHY FORM

TINGLEY, CHARLIE.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Lillian Gassaway

Worker's name

This report made on (date) August 17 1937

1. Name Charlie Tingley

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 314 East Main Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Day Year

5. Place of birth

6. Name of Father Place of birth

Other information about father

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.

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Lillian Cassaway,  
Interviewer,  
August 17, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Charlie Tingley,  
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Mr. Tingley has lived and traded among the Indians ever since 1893. He now lives at 314 East Main Street, Anadarko.

I came to Oklahoma in 1893 and traded with the Indians when they used Elks teeth for money. I have also seen them in their payote feasts.

I remember the Indians used to play ball with sticks. It was played like shinney. Each side fighting for the possession of the ball. Lots of times they would fight so hard for the ball that they would break each others arms or legs and sometimes would even kill a player.

They used to have lots of horse races. They were always big gamblers and horse racing was just one of their many ways of gambling. Sometimes there would be as many as fifty horses entered in a race and the first nose out won the race. There were lots of times

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fights over these races and some even resulted in death.

I used to wonder how the Indians were never caught in a flood. I have heard them talk about the time when the Washita River bottom was flooded from the hills north of town to the hills south, a valley of several miles in width, of which Anadarko is now about the center. I knew that the Indians always camped in low lands near streams so wondered why they were never caught in a flood. Once, while talking to some Indians, through an interpreter, I asked them why it was, and they told me that they watched the snakes and creeping things and when they began to crawl to higher ground, they knew that they must move too. They have always been observers of nature. Their worship in olden times was nature worship.

The beadwork of the Pony Indians contains Masonic emblems. I have never learned where these emblems originated with them. The Kiowa Indians use a lot

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of beads. Their work is almost always solid. The Comanches also use lots of beads, though possibly not as many as the Kiowas. The Kiowa-Apaches do very little beadwork, almost none at all. The Geronimo-Apaches use a lot.

When there is to be an heir in a home, at the earliest indications, the women begin to make a beaded baby cradle. By the time the baby arrives the cradle is ready for use. In the olden times the baby was always carried on its mother's back in one of these cradles.

The Tonkawas once captured a Mexican who was such a liar that they couldn't believe anything he said. They called him John Liar. He was known all over the country by that name. Because he was such a liar they traded him to the Caddos for five gallons of whisky that the Caddos had gotten at Lawton.

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