

Oh, in the early day from 1907 when we arrived in this community, it was not uncommon for merchants on the streets of the town to be able to speak some of the Indian language and use some sign language. Now--so it was not necessary--as the years past, fewer white people could speak Kiowa until--and they Kiowas begun to learn English until now--2nd and 3rd and 4th generation Kiowas are not learning their own language. It was not uncommon in the early days of the community to see Indians talk all afternoon in the sign language using sign language and very little of the vocal language of the spoken word. The sign language is gradually going out of use as is the spoken language. The tribe is not particularly concerned with preserving their spoken language. We find families where the fathers and mothers speak Kiowa to each other and although the children may understand most of the conversation, the children who are attending the public schools of this community do not speak their native language.

OPENING OF KIOWA, APACHE, AND COMANCHE RESERVATION

The Kiowa, Apache, and Comanche Indian Reservation had been divided among the tribesmen and each Indian with a degree of Indian blood was given 160 acres of land. The remaining acreage in the reservation was open for settlement to the white people with a drawing and drawing took place August 6th, 1901, at Lawton and Hobart. This land that was assigned, then, the fortunate white persons who drew land, have since developed that, and our three counties have been fully developed in the years since 1901. The Indian leases, as the term is used, have remained in the hands of the tribesmen and under control of the Department of Interior. Most of the land has been leased by white farmers and the Indian owner is paid the rental as agreed upon either by the Indian or by the Department of Interior or the Indian Department, at the annual sometimes farms are leased for 3 or 5 years at a time. Some Indians have a right to handle their own land and buy and sell as they wish, but most of the Indian land is still