

the Ponca Indian agency at a place now called White Eagle Agency. From there they chose different places to live in their teepees. This land of 100,000 acres was bought from the Cherokees. Mixed bloods lived along the Chikaskia River to the west side of the reservation. Full bloods settled along the Arkansas River and some lived along the Bois D'Arc Creek or anywhere there was some water and some good grass and trees. They immediately built houses that were needed, such as blacksmith shops for shoeing horses and repairing and making wagons, supplies, and a carpenter shop to make homemade caskets and corrals for cattle for rationing purposes and commissary warehouses for food rations.

Next was a school building for the children which was done mostly by Indian labor, overseen by a white carpenter. They made their own bricks for this school and they had a saw mill making lumber for the school and the homes for the Poncas. After the allotment of the land to the Indian of 80 acres suitable for farming, 40 acres was given for pasture or for grass. Forty acres as a poor land or a good 80 and a pasture of 40 acres. The lumber was used to build log houses, some of which were still standing when Ponca City came with their better grade of lumber. Some were stubborn or still lived in their teepees on their allotments. The agent was usually a cast-off or retired military man, majors and such who were very strict.

### PONCA SUN DANCE

This is the legend of the Plains Indians Sun Dance ceremony as told by Edward Packhorse Primeaux, translated by William Collins, Sr., also a member of the Ponca tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. This dance to the Sun was brought here by the Poncas from the land of the northern part of Nebraska from which the Poncas were removed in 1877. (The Sun dance was prohibited by the U.S. Government in 1897 as it was too cruel.) In the month of August when the sun was at its highest and the moon was in full, the chiefs got together in council and talked about going into encampment for the annual Sun Dance. The appointed leaders, butchers, buffalo police and invited various or surrounding tribes to take part in this four day affair. The Standing