

EARLY EXPERIENCES WITH INDIANS & SOME INDIAN STORIES:

My name is George Levite of Apache, Oklahoma. And I've been dealin' with the Kiowas, Comanches, Kiowa-Apaches, and Geronimo-Apaches for over 50 years. The old Indian is vastly different than the ones we have today. The old-timers use to be in their sit-downs or their homes as they called it, before dark. They knew where their children were and they attended to their own business. They traveled in a number of wagons or canvas covered spring wagons. Many dogs traveled under the vehicles, especially in the summertime. Sometime the towndogs and the country dogs got into a battle and the fur flew. Some came to town on horse-back and the town was lined with hitch-racks and had several watering troughs. Indians were prohibited to buy whiskey, but few had white man buy it for them. They called it fire-water. I have seen a few with wild ideas after using mescal which they claimed was used in religious rites. Some prayed that the sun would shine in the pathway of-- children. Some gave birth in wagons on local streets and drove away within a short time. One said, "Me sagage, when asked how they could undergo such an ordeal. Indian language has no curse words. "You heep lye," was about the most harsh words to be heard. There was envy and jealousy among the tribes, which according to history fought each other. The Kiowa-Apaches are said to have taken that name when the branch of Apaches became so small that they joined the larger Kiowa tribe for protection. No records of birth or death was kept, so most of the older Indians had no idea where they were born. Most obituaries read about a certain year and place was Indian or Oklahoma territory. Some dates were fixed by certain stars falling or other celestial events. Most of the natives figured time by so many moons and the days were turned