

T-351

FRED BIGMAN, KIOWA-APACHE
INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 12-12-68

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS WITH EMPHASIS ON HOW INDIANS FARM,
IMPLEMENTS USED AND CROPS RAISED, LIFE STYLE IN RURAL
OKLAHOMA.

PARTICULAR TOPIC DISCUSSED:

FRED'S PARENTS
FRED'S FAMILY'S ALLOTMENTS
HOW FRED'S FATHER FARMED: CROPS, EQUIPMENT, ETC.
HARVESTING AND MARKETING CORN
HOW FRED'S MOTHER RAISED SQUAW CORN AND GARDENED
CROP FAILURES
WEED CONTROL: CHOPPING AND USE OF "GO-DEVIL"
VEGETABLES RAISED IN GARDEN
DRYING PUMPKINS AND CORN
LEASING EIGHTY ACRES OF RIVER BOTTOM
BOKE'S STORE IN ANADARKO
LIVING IN A TENT
FRED'S SCHOOLING IN BOARDING AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FRED'S FARMING AND HELPING HIS FATHER FARM
LIVESTOCK KEPT BY FRED'S FAMILY
OTHER INDIANS WHO FARMED
LEASES AND LEASE MEN
CEDARDALE SCHOOL
FRED'S WORK DOING FRAM LABOR
INCOME FROM LAND LEASES
BUTCHERING HOGS AND BEEF
PARTICIPATION IN STOCK RAISING PROGRAM AND LIFE ON FARM IN THIRTIES
FARM LABOR
MOVE TO BROXTON

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Fred Bigman was born in 1900 and has lived most of his life in the vicinity of Carnegie and Fort Cobb. He attended Cache Creek Mission, St. Patrick's Mission, Cedar Dale school (a rural public school east of Carnegie) and Rainy Mountain school for a total of about six grades. His parents were traditional Kiowa-Apaches who never learned to speak English, and Fred remained close to them until they died. He married Annie Saumpty, a Kiowa, in 1920 and remained married to her until she died in October, 1969. They had one child, a son, Roy Bigman, who died about 1961 and who left a number of children. Fred and Annie have helped raise some of their grandchildren and some great-grandchildren. Fred is well informed on the traditional Kiowa-Apache ways of life but is sometimes reluctant to talk about them. He is one of the few persons now living who can speak the Kiowa-Apache language fluently. He has worked as a farm laborer on a number of occasions, especially in the broom corn harvests. He is an ardent peyotist and is a peyote leader. He now lives in Anadarko, on Florida Street.