

ROSE, EBEN

WICHITA LEGEND.

9911

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LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Don Moon Jr.

This report made on (date) February 1 1938

This legend was secured from (name) Eben Rose--told to Ruth E. Moon in 1918.

Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) ~~white~~, ~~Native~~, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Wichita

Origin and history of legend or story We asked him to tell us some of the wichita legends and he chose this as the most interesting to him.

Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

The legend herein was told to my mother, Mrs. Ruth E. Moon, in 1918, by Eben Rose, a Wichita Indian.

Eben Rose and mother had planned to collaborate in publishing a book of Wichita Legends but only had time to get a few when the influenza epidemic broke out and they both became busy making care of the children in the River Side Indian School where Mr. Rose was disciplinarian at that time. They discontinued the work because of these duties at the school and soon after that, mother left Anadarko and lost knowledge of Mr. Rose.

She understood that he was a full-blood but she is not sure of that information. He appeared to be about forty years of age at that time. He was educated in Indiana, being one of about a dozen Indian children who were sent back there to live in the home of a Quaker Minister and study under him.

This legend was one which they expected to include in their publication.

Don Moon Jr. Investigator.

Don Moon  
Investigator  
February 1, 1938.

Why Wichitas tell their children  
not to say "I wish so and so."

One night two young Wichita girls, sisters, were lying on their bed of boughs made on four high poles set in the ground. In hot weather the Wichitas made these high beds in order to sleep comfortably, and out of danger of wolves.

The sisters were watching the stars, and talking of them. One of them pointed to the biggest and brightest and said jokingly, "I wish that one was my husband."

Then they went to sleep. In the night that star, who was an old man, came and carried her away up in the sky where she had to live. She was very homesick, and would eat nothing. All day she wandered about looking down over the edge of the star at the earth, and planning how she could get back home.

She kept saying to herself, "Oh, I shouldn't have said that I wished that."

There was a plant that grew on that star, and she found that she could make rope out of it. So she made all the rope she could. All this time she grew thinner and lighter because she ate nothing.

At last she thought that her rope was long enough to reach the earth, and that she was light enough that it would hold her, so she tied one end firmly to something very solid, and began to slide down the rope. She slid and slid down the rope for a long time, but at last she came to the end of the rope and she was still a long way from the earth. There she hung in mid-air, and as she was weak from her long fasting, she knew that she could not hang on very long.

Then she saw a big bird coming up from the earth. It flew in circles, each time it flew around it was a little nearer her, so she knew it was a buzzard. She hung on with her last strength, until the big bird made a last circle just under her, then she fell off onto its back, and in lowering circles it carried her

back to the earth, and so she got home again to her people.

They did not know her at first for she was so thin that she did not look like herself. But she told them of the experiences she had gone through on the star, and she gradually got back her good looks.

Since that the Wichitas have been careful to teach their children that they should not say jokingly that they wished something would happen, for "it might happen."