

SCHAUFFEUNER, C. B.

INTERVIEW

12545

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ROAMING INDIAN BANDS

An interview of C. S. Schauffeuneur,
white, age 68, Okemah, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-pioneer history
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The early Indians seemed to always travel in bands and live in small bands. You could often see them roaming around, with no certain destination, in the Indian country. They would travel around for awhile and then select a good camping place where they would stay for any length of time while the men hunted for meat. They made their temporary camps for two or three days at a time and then they were ready to go on.

The cattle men in Texas who were anxious to make their drive over and into the Indian country were informed that they were to make the drive at their own risk for there were some hostile Indians making raids on some of the cattle men that made the drives through parts of the Indian territory.

Of course, there were some bands of Indians who never even tried to molest the cattle men if

they were granted the number of cattle they asked for which was never more than two or three heads. But along the drive, they were met up with several different bands so that quite a number of heads of cattle would be missing by the time the drive was completed.

I have seen some of these bands follow a cattle drive two or three days before asking for any of the cattle and although they would follow the drive nearly across the territory yet they never seemed to ever go beyond or north of the Arkansas river.

When the required number of heads of cattle was given to the Indians, they would always hunt them on the run so they could shoot them down with their bows and arrows just like they did their buffaloes when they were plentiful.

It was a mystery to me just where the Indian men obtained their eagle feathers. When they wore in the hair. I had never seen any and I didn't know where they went to find them. Some men wore one or two feathers stuck in their hair in the back of their heads while some would let them hang down in the back.

The women wore nothing but a blanket wrapped

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around them from their waist down while the upper parts of their body was bare, the breast hanging down and the nursing children hanging on to them once in a while. It was the ~~women~~ who never seemed to mind just when the moves would be made for they seemed to take everything just as they happened.

They must ^{have} had a certain way to prepare their hides which they obtained from the cattle, buffalo or deer because when they folded the hides, after they were tanned, they were folded just as easy as we do a blanket. They were easy to handle as well as being soft with no hard places on any part of them. In some of the hides which were used to make up a teepee, there were holes made all along the edges. As the hides were placed up along the teepee poles, strong leather thongs were used to lace the two pieces of hides. This was kept up until the teepee was finished with the thin places being covered up by another skin.

During the hot summer months they sought the cool climate found in places in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It seems that I don't recollect the name of the tribe as I have run across many of them.

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So many of the different tribes were found roaming around just any place that I didn't associate just any one tribe with another, but it seems to me like they were of some western ones.

These Indians were considerate of their sick ones during the time that a move was to be made. A sort of carrying vehicle was made--two poles were placed along the side of a pony with the ends of the poles to drag on the ground. A bed was made between the two poles about halfway, and in this way a comfortable bed was made for any patient of theirs and could be easily carried from place to place.