

SCHLECHT, MARIE MONASKI.

INTERVIEW #4482

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

SCHLECHT, MARIE MONASKI.

INTERVIEW.

4482.

Field Worker's name Velma Hance.

This report made on (date) June 17, 1937.

1. Name Marie Monaski Schlecht.

2. Post Office Address Seyre, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Northeast of courthouse.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 6 Year 1878.

5. Place of birth Chicago, Illinois.

6. Name of Father Andrew Monaski. Place of birth Berlin,

Germany.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary Monaski. Place of birth Berlin,

Germany.

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2.

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Velma Hance,
Field Worker,
June 17, 1937.

An Interview With Marie Schlecht,
Northeast of Courthouse, Sayre, Okla.

Marie M. Schlecht was born in Chicago in 1878. She came to Oklahoma Territory about 1893 and was married to Valentine B. Schlecht in 1900. Mrs. Schlecht's father and mother came in a sailboat from Berlin, Germany. They settled at Darlington which is now El Reno.

Their first home was a dugout and they also lived in a log house built from hewed logs from the woods.

People made home-made furniture and used boxes for chairs and some had iron bedsteads and mattress made of straw or hay and used cow chips for their fuel. And used water from streams or creeks. A well was seldom seen.

They hauled their supplies from Berlin; there was one small store there which is here today. They used corn bread, beans and meats for eats. The wild meats were deer, turkey and prairie chickens. A lot of their cooking was done on camp fires.

The only means of transportation was a covered wagon drawn by horses.

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Mrs. Schlecht came to Oklahoma when there weren't any houses as they have today. There were no railroads either. Most of this country was just a cattle range when she came here. The nearest large town was Weatherford. They didn't have any public roads and had to use cow trails for the roads. There were no bridges; they had to ford the rivers and creeks.

Darlington, Oklahoma, that is now El Reno, had lots of Indians. Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes lived in tepees built of logs and daubed with clay. These Indians wore shawls, blankets and skins from deer for their clothing.

There were dances which would last for a week at a time. All gathered together in a large circle and just jump up and down. The Indians couldn't talk like the white folks, they just grunted and pointed their hand.

They used wild meats for their food. This was cooked on camp fires all together in large kettles and stirred the food with large paddles; they had no spoons. The women did all the work as the Indian men didn't like to work.

They used Snake Weeds from the woods for their medicine; made into a syrup. They also wore moccasins on their feet.