

McELROY, NATHAN J.

INTERVIEW

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Ethel B. Tackitt,
Field Worker.

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

Field worker's name Miss Ethel B. Tackitt

This report made on (date) May 10 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mr. Nathan J. McElroy. Route 2

Address Blair, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2 pages.

Herb used for medicine-"Balmona".
Treatment of the sick by the Indians, Comanche, Cheyenne,
Caddo, Kiowa, tribes.

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Herbs used for medicine - "Balmona."
Treatment of the sick by the Indians,
Comanche, Cheyenne, Caddo, and Kiowa Tribes.

The Indians of my acquaintance used little medicine. Balmona, the little plant with the bell-shaped flower, which you see growing all over this part of the country in the Spring, was the main medicine used by them.

It was gathered by the squaws when it was in bloom and laid out to dry. When it was thoroughly dry, it was crumbled up and usually placed in a leather or buck-skin bag ready for use when needed. The dried leaves were made into a tea and given as a purgative.

The most usual way of treating the sick was by sweating. This was done by hollowing out a hole in the ground, according to the size desired and digging a small trench leading into it from one side. Then a number of small stones something like the size of a man's two fists would be gathered and heated very hot in a fire close by. The hole would then be filled with water and the sick laid beside the hole and all covered with a buffalo robe which would be staked down over all except the person's head which would be left out. The hot stones would be rolled down the little trench, into the water under the cover and

this of course would cause a great steam, which would sweat the sick as much as the Medicine Man desired.

When the sweating was finished, the patient would be taken out and dipped in water; usually the creek. Then he would be rolled up in blankets and made in lie down several hours. This was done until the fever was broken and the patient generally got well.