

INDEX CARDS

Trading posts--Osage
Indian rights--Osage
Dances--Osage
Buffalo hunting--Osage
Agencies--Osage
Pawnee
Rations--Osage
Openings--Cherokee strip
Lighting

Field Worker: Leone Bryan
May 31, 1937.

Interview with W. C. Jacobs
Wynona, Okla.
P.O. Box 82

Born September 21, 1864
Lynn County, Kan.

Parents Cyrus Jacobs, father,
Lieutenant in Army during
Civil War.
Lucy Jane Simmons, mother,
Missouri.

I first moved to Oklahoma in 1884. I settled in the north part of Osage County near what was called Old Hickory Station, an old Indian trading post. The old post is a farm now. I was twenty years old at that time. I came down here from Kansas and settled on a small farm. Along the Caney river was about the only settlement there was in those days. I lived across the Kansas line for eighteen years before moving into what is now Oklahoma. The whites and Indians came across the line and stole some horses from the whites. The white men followed the Indians and, in recovering the horses, one of the Indians was shot. The Indians went to their lodges and brought their guns and a white man was killed before they reached the line.

The Government built houses for the Indians but the Indians preferred to live in their wigwams so they put their horses in the houses and continued to live in their wigwams.

In those days the Indians had war dances. They would dress in their costumes, feathers and warpaint, and hanging some of the scalps they had on a pole, they would dance around it. You had to become accustomed to these dances before you could get over the horror of them. The Indians would go to western Kansas and over in the edge of Colorado on buffalo hunts and lots of times on these hunts would get in battles with other Indian tribes.

Fifty-two years ago was the first time that I was in the present Pawhuska. It was called the Osage Agency at that time. There were only two or three trading posts there. These traders were all licensed traders. Their stores were in box houses. There was a commissary where the Indians were rationed flour, meat, and other commodities. The Government also issued the Indians horses, cattle and harness and tried to get them to work. They drew very little money then, about

\$15.00 per head per month. They did not receive their big payments until after oil was discovered on the reservation.

You could get on a horse at the Kansas line and ride clear through the reservation and not open a gate and chances were that you would see no one.

I made the run in September in 1893, south of Jennings in the Creek Nation. We had to register at Stillwater and go down to the Creek Nation for the race. I made the race and located on a farm near Blackburn. I made the run on a bucking mule. I went to Stillwater in a wagon and came back to camp on a creek and stayed there until the gun was fired to start the race. There were probably from 300 to 400 wagons in camp. I made the race alone.

My first home in the present Oklahoma was near Old Hickory station about twenty-six miles northeast of Pawhuska. I lived in a box house. The furniture consisted of a small cook stove, two bedsteads and some hickory bark bottom chairs. We burned wood for fuel for we knew nothing about anything else. We had kerosene lamps and when we were out of kerosene we made grease

Lights or used candles we made from beef tallow. When
in
I lived/Kansas, we raised a little cotton and grand-
mother would have me pick the seeds from the cotton,
then she would card it and spin it into thread. From
this cotton she knitted socks which we wore and some-
times she made them to sell.

My first employment was a farm and the
improvements were a house, a log barn, some barb
wire fence and some rail fence. The only implements
that I had were a stirring plow, cultivator and a hoe.
The principal crop raised in the early day was corn,
which was used to feed the hogs. A few calves and
some hogs were about all the livestock that was
raised at that time. There were not many cattle in
here at that time.

For food we would take corn to Kansas to a
mill and have it ground into meal. We raised a few
chickens, had hog meat, greens and corn bread. Fish
and wild game were plentiful. We raised gardens,
potatoes, beans, onions and cabbage. We bought what

other supplies we needed at Peru, Kansas. These were few--sugar, salt, coffee and soda were about all we needed to buy. We used to have biscuit every Sunday morning, they were quite a treat.

My grandfather was a stone mason and he built fireplaces in the houses that the Government was building for the Indians along the Caney River. I used to come down there with him in 1875, but we were afraid to come down this far in the reservation for fear the Indians would harm us.

When we raised anything that the Indians wanted, such as sweet potatoes or watermelons, we would trade with them for calico and coffee. We had no money and neither did they, but they were issued rations and would trade with us for what they wanted. I once traded two opossums for two pounds of coffee. The opossums were cooked with sweet potatoes and were delicious.

The Indians cooked on camp fires in iron or brass kettles. I never saw a cook stove until I was almost twenty years old, fireplaces were used instead.

Among the fullblood Indians who were my friends were: Paul Albert Pah-se-to-pah, Sofia Little Bear, and Mary Prior. I used to run with Pah-se-to-pah, who is a deaf mute and is still living.

There was lots of game, turkey, deer, prairie chicken. There were coyotes, a few panthers, wild cats, coon, opossum, skunk, badgers, a few otter and mink and muskrats. The Indians were very fond of skunk. There were lots of fish in all of the streams.

My mother is buried at Cleveland, Oklahoma. We have some dishes that we have had about forty years.

There were no bridges, all streams were forded. There were almost no roads, we just cut across the prairie and if anything was in the way, just went around it.

There were a few buffalo trails and sign of where buffalo had been but they had been pushed farther west. Mostly in western Kansas and Colorado.

There were no cattle ranches. The first ranch was started by G. M. Carpenter of Elgin, Kansas. He paid the Indians 10¢ an acre for a plot of ground ten miles square. This ranch was started around 1890. The next ranch was started by Osage Brown at South Caneyville on the Caney River.

There were no schools except at Pawhuska. They had a Government boarding school for both boys and girls but these were Indian schools. There were no Catholic schools at that time.

When we were traveling in those days and night came, we spread our blankets wherever we might be and slept unmolested. If we were horse back we spread ^{our saddle} blankets on the ground and used our saddle for a pillow. The horses were turned out to graze.

The first cattle shipped in here were shipped to Red Rock. There were no railroads in the county at that time and that was the nearest shipping point. They had to swim the cattle across the river. The cattle were mostly long horns and I have seen the river full of them and all you were able to see were their horns.

There were a few Deputy U. S. Marshals in here in the early day. They were all the law that we had. Among them were, Chas. Douglas, Lee Taylor, an early law who was killed near Skiatook, and Harry Callahan.

For court we had to go to Fort Smith, Arkansas, or to Wichita, Kansas.

Dye was made from oak bark or walnut bark and alum, and clothing was dyed.

Chills and fever were about the only illness that we had.

All the farming was on a small scale. All of the farms were along the big streams like Caney River.

There was very little trade in furs and there were not enough people here to trap very much.

There was some horse racing. They would go out on the prairie and make a track and race ponies-- there were no good race horses. The Indians had races to themselves.

There were some Indian police. They went around and collected the permit money. All whites living on the reservation were charged \$1.00 (one dollar) per month to live here. Some of the early Indian police were, Charlie Prudom, Bill Matthews and Ed Matthews. All of the land belonged to the tribe as a whole. All that an Indian needed to do if he saw a piece of land he wanted was to fence it and it was his. This was of course before allotment.

We used all of the live stock that we raised and most of the crops. However, if we had any surplus feed we usually sold it to Joe Hurd, a cattle man.

What medicine we needed had to be bought in Kansas. We didn't use much except calomel, quinine and chill tonic.

There were no known minerals here at that time.

There were no news papers then. The first newspaper in the county was edited by Charlie Peters, now of Tulsa, Okla.

The first railroad in the county was the M.K.&T., built in 1902.

For recreation we had hunting, fishing, neighborhood dances, a few camp meetings, and a few picnics. We used to have fourth of July picnics at Bartlesville.

There were no taxes. No roads to speak of. No spinning and weaving in this country.

There was a stage route from Elgin, Kansas, to Pawhuska, Oklahoma. There was lots of timber, much more than there is now. We traveled horse back and in wagons. The guns we used were muzzle loading shot guns, muzzle loading rifles and the old fashioned cap and ball colts pistols.