

ROBERTS, MACIE.

INTERVIEW

10338

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

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ROBERTS, MACIE.

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10352.

Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman.

This report made on (date) March 22, 1938. 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Macie Roberts.

Address Route #2, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe Relates Uncle's experience with

2. Origin and history of legend or story Comanche Indians.

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

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Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
March 22, 1938.

Interview with Macie Roberts,
Route #2, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

My uncle, Gus McGuire, was born in Texas, on September 17, 1872, and remained in that state till at the age of twenty-five, he came to the Indian Country.

His purpose in coming was to seek adventure in the new country of which so much had been told. He first settled in the Comanche country near Lawton, where he began work for Quannah Parker, a Comanche Chief. Quannah Parker was a very intelligent man and was well educated.

The Comanche tribe of Indians did not work at all but they had many cattle and horses. They were different from any of the other tribes of Indians. Sometimes a band of them would raid other tribes and steal cattle and horses, running them into the Comanche Country. Many times the Comanches would be run down by the members of the tribe from which they had stolen the cattle, at

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which time a battle raged and sometimes the cattle were recaptured and taken back but in some instances a part of the Comanches would fight and hold back their pursuers and the others of the band would rush the herd along and in this way gain possession of many head of cattle and horses. After the stock was safely crossed into the Comanche country they were turned over to the care of ranger riders, who were men hired for this purpose.

As his first employment, my uncle rode range and herded and branded cattle. His wages were \$15.00 per month and his home was a camp which he established at an old spring located in the Wichita Mountains. There a small shack was erected and his horse was his sole companion. His food consisted chiefly of wild meat and corn bread. Squirrels, turkeys and deer were plentiful in the country.

The Comanche Indians generally lived in small huts or villages; this was considered necessary by them in order that they could quickly band themselves together in case of an attack by some other tribe.

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My uncle never had any trouble with the Comanches and worked for Quanah Parker for quite a long time. He spent his life on the range till the establishment of the Wichita Game Preserve since which time he has been employed by the Government and stationed at the same place that he first settled in 1897. Many things have happened since first my uncle came here to the old spring. This spring was discovered by my uncle's father in 1859 when he was traveling with a scouting expedition.

Later a C. C. C. Camp was built here but it has since been abandoned and removed but still the spring flows on and my uncle still remains at his post of duty where he has been for the past forty-one years. He has one visitor each week who delivers his groceries and mail.