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The early medium of exchange was money, mostly greenback, but no pennies would be accepted by the Indians, if the amount was three pennies you paid a nickel, but if less than three it was dropped.

We had no roads but trails, which became better traveled, and there were more of them as the population increased. Our tribal business was conducted at the Wyandotte Agency, which at that time was a very small affair setting in the midst of the brush and timber with a fence around it.

The Agent was judge, jury and court in matters pertaining to the various tribes of Indians north of the Neosho and also where a white man and an Indian were concerned. I recall one day while I was at the Agency that an Indian and white man came in and the white man complained that the Indian's horse was eating up his corn. The Agent asked the Indian why he did not keep his horse up and he replied "My squaw no clean stable". He was instructed to clean it himself and to keep his horse up, no punishment was necessary as they were always guided and did what the Agent told them to do.

As Clerk, I was present when the payment for the sale of the surplus lands of the Miami to C. M. Shartel of Neosho was made at the agency. The payment was small and as I remember less than \$20.00 each. This was in 1893 or 94.

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The money was piled (all silver dollars, half-dollars, quarters, etc ) on a long table and each was paid as he came for it. There was a fence around the Agency and none but those who were entitled to a payment was allowed inside of the fence. Outside were collectors, and others waiting for the Indian to receive his money.

Soon after coming here a small child was born to Charles and Esther Dagenette and it was found that she had prepared no clothing for the child. This seemed strange to me and upon inquiring I found that it was not customary to prepare clothing as the child might not live, but if it did it was wrapped in blankets and continued thus for some time. This particular child lived only four months and never had any clothes. One day talking to Grandma Valley, who at that time was living with Buck Rabbit, a Peoria, I said, "Grandma, how many times have you been married?" She replied, "Maybe twenty times Indian way, one time white man's way". As I understand it before then, there had been no permanent marriage law and upon agreement the two began living together and when dissatisfied, the man took his gun and left, leaving the woman all the children, property, horses, etc that they had. The Indian termed marrying "Going under the Blanket".

## FERRIES.

At this time, we had three ferries in general use near Miami. One across the Neosho at the foot of south Main Street just west of the concrete bridge, the banks still to be seen.

One across Spring River, east and south of Ottawa and below the ford known as the Jim-Charley Ford. Another known as the Pooler Ferry south and mostly east of Miami, across the Neosho.

#### AGENCIES AND MISSIONS.

The Quapaw Mission School was then located five miles west and North of Quapaw but when the Frisco Railroad was extended south from Baxter to Miami, These buildings were sold and moved to Quapaw to the Railroad but some of the old shade trees are still standing at the old site. There is another Quapaw Mission School that stands one-half mile south-east of Lincolnville, now closed but it was operated by the Sisters for many years. During my service as Clerk the Quapaw Agency was at Wyandotte but later moved to Miami.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF EARLY MIAMI.

The first newspaper was started in the fall of 1891 by Charles and Esther(Miller) Dagenette (Miamis). Mrs. Dagenette being a graduate of Carlisle. It was only a small sheet at first, operated by a small hand press, a weekly and called the "Miami Chief".

In the late summer of '91 a small frame building was built

on East Central about where the City Ice Plant now stands and Miss Claudia Orr taught the first school, a subscription one.

Here she was joined the next year by a Mrs. McGuire and they taught here the second and third year. Later, other schools were opened, one being taught by Mrs. Jennie Talbot in the lower part of her home at 3rd and C st. NE. Another early pioneer in teaching here was Mrs. W. C. (Anna) Lykins, wife of W. C. Lykins, and I also taught in the old Methodist Church now called the Park Hotel at A st and 1 st SE. The last two named and myself both taught in the new 2-story frame building between A & B sts NE and 1 st 2nd & 3rd Ave. NE which is credited with being the first public school in Indian Territory . It was built by popular subscription.

The little frame building was also the first church, not denominational but just church. At an early meeting, I remember the following incident. John Dragoo who had asthma had been shouting, afterwards wheezing, but said he felt better anyway. Another party, Henry Doty, said, "I have always wanted to shout". Mr. Dragoo between wheezes told him to try it once. Mr Doty and his wife were Baptists and his wife is the only living charter member of the Baptist church here now living.

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## SALOONS.

In 1891 we had one saloon and four the next year. This being deeded land, the tribal governments had no jurisdiction over them and these days saw many of the lawless characters of that time frequent visitors here. W. C. Lykins went to Washington, D. C. and secured Government legislation that closed the saloons and gave Miami authority to make and enforce laws for local law and order. There is now living one person, Jas. Gonner, who worked in the saloons. He still lives in Miami.

## TWO EARLY DANCES.

Being new to this country, two of the dances held here that winter ('91) still stand out in memory for me. The Nichols Building (now the Zilar Grocery at 30 S. Main) a brick building, was up one story, when a dance was given in the two story frame hotel building just across the street east, which was not yet plastered. That night there was a storm and heavy rain, the storm blew out the supporting timbers of the Nichols Building and the water went through the hotel building. The women tinned up their long skirts and the dance went on till morning as it was raining too hard to leave. It was very dark and, all at once, the clouds parted in the east and the sun shown through and it changed from darkness to daylight all at once.

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Later when the Nichols Building was completed there was a hall about 25 X 60 feet in the second story in which a dance was held which I should say lasted till midnight. By that time many, both men and women, had had plenty to drink. I slept in the back of my store at that time and next morning on looking out, I saw many sleeping in the prairie grass. They began waking up and getting their parties together, in wagons, on horseback, etc and starting homeward and by eleven o'clock all were gone.

There are now only two persons, besides myself, who were living in Miami in the winter of 1891 and they are; James Conner and Mrs. Laura McWilliams, the wife of W. L. McWilliams, deceased.

## LATER LIFE.

Since 1910, I have gradually retired from the business and active life and at the present time, I live alone comfortably at my home at the extreme northwest part of Miami, spending my time with my garden, flowers, chickens and reading, with always plenty of time for the visits of my old friends and former pupils.