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

Field Worker's name R. B. Thomas

This report made on (date) October 30 1937

1. Name Herman Asanap

2. Post Office Address Indiahoma, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) General Delivery

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1877

5. Place of birth Western part of Oklahoma

6. Name of Father Asanap Place of birth Texas

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 5.

R. B. Thomas
Interviewer
October 30, 1937

Interview with Herman Asanap
Indiahoma, Oklahoma

I am a full blood Comanche Indian and live at Indiahoma. I am sixty years old, am married and have three children. My wife, Bessie, is a daughter of Quanah Parker. I am the interpreter for the Government at Indiahoma, where the Comanche Indian Agency is located and where the Government issues out checks and pays the Comanches their annuity money. The Agency formerly was at Red Store, then was moved to Cache, and in 1933 it was moved to Indiahoma; it is a branch of the Kiowa Indian Agency at Anadarko. The Comanches live all over Comanche County but a great many settled in around Cache and Indiahoma on Post Oak Creek, Cache Creek, Beaver Creek and Pecan Creek because it was close to the Agency and trading store of G. M. Harris, established in 1889 by Harris and James and operated until 1908. I was the police and Government interpreter, am a graduate of Carlisle.

My father, Asanap, lived to be ninety years old and was a great warrior and scout; he died in 1906. He could not speak a word of English and he wanted me to be educated and speak fluently so he sent me to school.

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The Comanches and Kiowas were allies and Father was a friend and warring partner of Chief Quannah Parker; he was in the battle of Adobe Walls with him and he was in several battles in the early '70's. He was a fine marksman with a bow and arrow, he was also a fine horseman and killed several hundred buffaloes. The Indians dried the meat, made clothing and shelter out of the hides, used the bones to make tools out of and the horns to make decorations. Father killed lots of deer, the Comanche Indians were great hunters and knew the art of tanning hides. They made robes out of buckskin and decorated them with elk's teeth. The one who had the most decorations was the best and recognized as the wealthiest. While Father was a great warrior and fine marksman he was not savage; he was very kind and considerate, was a devout christian and did a lot of good among the old Indians to get them to see the Jesus Road as they called it.

Herman Lehmann was captured by the Comanches when he was nine years old and was raised by them; he lived with Father a long time and thought a great deal of him, he treated him as a father. The Comanches would tie Herman on a pony and turn the pony loose and watch it buck with the white captive tied to its

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back. They would also tie Herman with a ten foot rope to a tall sapling, bend it over as far as they could and let it flip back, thereby throwing Lehmann up in the air while attached to the rope. Father would laugh and joke Herman after he became more civilized.

The Comanches were a very wild tribe and were hard to subdue. They hated the white man because they killed all the buffalo, thereby depriving the Indians of their principal source of food supply. They made a vow to fight the whites and kill as many as possible, this being one cause of the Adobe Walls battle.

The hunters had a store-house and Major Bent had a trading store and furnished hunters ammunition. The Plains Indians decided to wipe them out so they organized a war party and rode to the camp about eight hundred strong, Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, Arapahoes and a few other of scattering tribes. There were not many hunters and they expected to catch them asleep and murder them but the tent pole broke before the Indians arrived and the hunters were not asleep, perhaps this saved their lives. The Indians surrounded the fort and Billy Dixon and others poured

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the shot into them and killed several horses and wounded and killed several Indians. The battle kept up several days and only two white men were killed but over one hundred Indians were killed or wounded, Quanah Parker was wounded in the back of the head.

Father attended the Medicine Lodge Treaty, was a friend of Ten Bears, Comanche Chief, and Apeatone, Kiowa Chief, who was sent to Nevada in 1890 to investigate the Ghost Dance and came back and reported it a fraud. He went on raids into Texas with the Comanches and captured several white captives among them the Smith boys, Herman Lehmann and others.

In 1904 a payment of \$100.00 was to be made at Fort Sill to all Comanches. Mr. Harris, owner of the Red Store on Cache Creek, and his clerk, A. A. Mitchell, and nearly all the Comanches went to Fort Sill and Father was old and did not go, he was the only Indian on the reservation and R. B. Thomas was the only white man on the reservation at Cache Creek. It was in February and snow was on the ground, Thomas was clerking in the store and boarding with Mrs. Harris near the store; she was the only woman there. Father could not talk English and at that time Thomas could not talk the Comanche language. Thomas tried

to teach Father the English language but he was too old to catch it. The Comanche language is a manufactured language and had never been in print yet. These are a few Comanche words:

Nam I Yi	Baking powder	Napp	Shoes
Pe- Nah	Sugar	Wananap "	Calico
Ohopit	Oranges	Not Te No	Saddle
Aamagwa	Apples	Ter Yer	Horse
Perusuka	Peaches	Pemero	Cow
Aa Kaa	Bananas	To Eves Ta	Young man or Boy.

When Father died there was a big gathering at his funeral at Post Oak Mission because he was beloved by all who knew him.