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BULLET, MILLIE

INTERVIEW

#12082

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

BULLET, MILLIE

INTERVIEW

12082

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) November 10, 1937

1. Name Millie Bullet

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Oklahoma, R. 1

3. Residence address (or location) North of Henryetta, close to Joe Grayson.

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

5. Place of birth Hanna

6. Name of Father Shelby Simpson Place of birth I.T.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Lucy Field Place of birth I.T.

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 _____

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Grace Kelley,
Investigator,
November 10, 1937.

An Interview with Millie Bullet,
R. I, Henryetta, Oklahoma.

My dad was too young to be a soldier and my mother was only two years old when the Civil War began. Both their families ran close to Muskogee- to Fort Gibson- and stayed there during the war. Their fathers were on the side of the North. After the war was over they made wagons out of wood so that they could go down to Hanna with ox teams. The Government gave the Indians cows and each person chose the cow he wanted. They were about starving to death so the Government had to help them- about all they had to eat was sour bread. When they got home they had no home as everything had been burned and they had to build again. They first traded at Eufaula until the town of Hanna was built.

Light Horseman

Grandfather Simpson was a Light Horseman from Eufaula Town. When he went to Okmulgee to Council

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Meetings he would be gone a week or more. Some of the Council members drove wagons and took their whole families and camped there. Others rode horseback and left their families at home.

Green Corn Dances

When I was a child I went to the dances but I was baptised when I was at school so I do not go now. I went to Hanna Town or Ponèa (Pukon) Tallahassee Town twelve miles southeast of Dustin. That name means: "The way peaches are ground".

Early Friday afternoon we would have everything loaded in the wagon and would start to the dance; we would take the cookstove, dishes, groceries, fruit, tent, everything we would need. We would get there late in the evening and fix camp, build the fire and cook and eat supper. Then the people would dance from seven till nine and then go to bed.

The next morning we would have the ribbon dance. Only women danced the ribbon dance and they had all colored ribbons fastened to the tops of their heads

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and hanging down their backs like streamers. Sunday, before breakfast we took medicine and did not eat roasting ears until after the stomp dance. That afternoon they had the Fetta dance. The stomp dance lasted all Sunday night until next morning. After the dance Monday morning they played ball but it would all be over and every one would be gone by noon.

All the fire would be out and none of the wood was let unburned that was in the fire they danced around as that would be bad luck.

Every one would be tired, sleepy and dirty so that when we got home we just cleaned up and rested. These dances were for health, so nobody would have fevers and be sick but if anybody ate roasting ears without taking medicine he or she would be sick with a high fever.

Handwork

I make beadwork but not all Indians do for it is just born in you or you can not do it. I just watched

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others and found that I could do it myself.

Grandmother Simpson could spin and weave cotton to make thread and clothes. Some of the old folk made chairs and things for the house.

Creek Food

Soc quo nip kee: meat and corn. Boil flint corn grits for about three hours or until done. Add grease and salt. Put duck or squirrel in and cook together until the meat is real tender.

Chug da hag da: Blue Dumplings. Tocalagēe:
Comoshēē: Sour Bread. A bus'kee; Cold Flour. Sof key:
Corn grits cooked with lye in lots of water until done- drink the water and eat the corn.