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BENT, STANDING OUT (MRS.) INTERVIEW 10397.

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

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) March 29 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mrs. Standing Out Bent

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma

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

If Indian, give tribe Cheyenne

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

Pioneer Indian

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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Louise S. Barnes  
Investigator  
March 29, 1938

Interview with Mrs. Standing Out Bent,  
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

I came from Montana with my parents, brother, sister and aunt; we came on horses with about thirty other Cheyenne families. My father had eight ponies and we used four to ride and the other four for pack horses. There were no wagons so we were all on horses. There were large baskets made from willow tree roots to put on the horses to carry the children. The tepees were then our homes, so they were always taken with us when we traveled and the poles were drawn behind the horses. To make a tepee for a large family it took around twenty-five buffalo hides and these hides were tanned and sewed with our own hands to make our homes.

The buffalo were so thick in places on our way from Montana that some of the young men had to ride ahead to clear the way for the women and children, so meat and hides were not hard to secure. In crossing the rivers and streams one would go in and find a suitable place to cross and then the rest would follow in one continuous line, swimming their horses to the other bank. Only bows and arrows were used

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for protection and hunting and when meat got low we would stop for three days, killing and drying meat for the rest of the trip.

It took only thirty days to make the trip from Montana and when we got to the Territory, to which we came of our own free will, we camped close to Fort Supply which at that time consisted of only a few houses and a Government trading post. The trading post was in a large tepee and was supervised by George Bent, who later became my husband and who was half Spanish and half Indian. We had six children and they all still live in Oklahoma.

Wild cherries and currants were dried and used to make puddings with in the winter time. Buffalo hides were spread on the ground in the tepees for beds and those with the fur still on were used for covers. I have never used white man's medicines; I always chew herbs of all kinds. Our fires were made with bark and grass, and by hitting two pieces of flint together to get the spark to start the fire as there were no matches. We spent our time making tepees, dresses and shoes or anything else we had to have which were made from hides we tanned ourselves.

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The grass that grew on the prairie then was very tall and soft. We had very little trouble with the weather for there were no dust storms. Once in a while there was a cyclone and there was lots of snow but there was no wind so it did not seem cold.

The Indians have secured a lot of their English names from employees of the different Indian institutes.

After we arrived in the Territory our group only stayed together a short while, then some moved one way and another group would move the other. We would camp on creeks so we would have water and would move to another place when water would get low. We called our camps villages and they were formed by placing the tepees in a circle.

A long time afterwards we were moved to Darlington where we were to be tamed into white man's ways and they gave us rice, coffee, flour, etc. I did not like the food and never will, because it was great sport to go out and kill your meat as you wanted it and have it cooked over an open fire.

We did not know what money or silver dollars were

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when it was shipped in to us at Darlington and we even played with it because it was bright and shiny, but now I believe I would know what to do with it if I had the same opportunity again.