

INDEX CARDS

Openings--Sac and Fox

Clothes--Sac and Fox

Sac and Fox Indians

Character traits--Sac and Fox

5670

Field Worker: Lenne M. Rushing
May 11, 1937

Interview with Jay Langley (White)
Route 2 (8 mi. N., 2 E. of Stroud)
Avery, Oklahoma.

Born 1877

BIOGRAPHY.

I came with my folks into Oklahoma at the time of the Sac and Fox Territory run. We made the run from the Creek County line, and settled our claim at our present home, eight miles north, and two miles east of Stroud.

My father established a store there at our home which was known as the "Melon Store." The original store, however, was across the road on the corner from our house now. We got quite a bit of the Indian trade, since it was on one of the regular trails used by the Indians.

In those days the Indians dressed very crudely, with a queer mixture of Indian and white clothing. The men wore big black hats, moccasins, pants, shirt and vest, a handkerchief around their necks, which usually had a silver ornament of some kind on it, ear rings, and a shawl of bright colors. The women all wore big gathered shirts with seven

-2-

5670

to ten petticoats underneath, loose, gathered waists, long strings of beads which often were quite heavy, huge ear rings, and moccasins. The shawl, also, was worn continually. Their dresses were quite frequently expensive. They were made of silk, velvet, and Indian broadcloth. For every day use they had cotton dresses.

I knew old man Me-she-he-qua, whose white name was Ulyssis Grant, very well. I used to pass his place when I went for Mail in Avery. He lived just a mile and a quarter from our place towards Avery. I would always find him sitting out on the scaffold in his yard, stripped to the waist with only his breech cloth on waving a fan of feathers. He used to tell me many stories, most of which were war stories. He was a great warrior, and was appointed a United States deputy. He did a lot of trading with our store, and through that source I learned that he was thoroughly honest. His name was as good as gold to me, for he always paid when he said he would. He had a big family, but I don't believe that any are living now except two sons, Charley and Fred.

-3-

5670

Our family came to the Sac and Fox Agency frequently. Conklin had the trading post there, and he was a very shrewd man. He made thousands of dollars from shady dealings with the Indians. However, he later went broke.

The cattle and wagon trails varied slightly from time to time, especially along the river and creek crossings. The places where the best fords were took the most traffic. Sometimes after a flood the ford would become boggy, and a new place had to be found.

There were many cattle here, even after the opening of the country. Doves after doves ran loose on the prairie.
