

HARPER, SEANNE. SECOND INTERVIEW

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INTERVIEW WITH SHAWNEE HARPER

BY

Henry Day, Field Worker

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This story is about Indian marriages and their laws: Indian boy, if he is not thirty years old he was a boy, and a girl has to be twenty-five years old before she could talk to the boys, and the parents of the boy and girls parents they get together and talked about their boy and girl for them to get married, and if they agree on it the boy's parents bring him to where the girl lives, they may never have seen one another before. And whether he or she wants her or him, or not they get married without license. Their parents be witness. This is what they called common law wife and husbands.

This man starts to build a log house. They wont help him, but they all go, and sat around and watched him work. When he finished the house, he take his gun and go hunting, sometimes he stay in a woods two or three days, till he killed a deer, that was the law.

This was not all. Man takes the chopping axe and go to his wife's parents and cut wood for a week or ten days.

This is all about the law, the other man will tell.

ED. NOTE: Shawnee Harper's construction of sentences has

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been reported verbatim and is being retained for its value to this project. Mr. Harper is a full-blood Creek Indian. He lives at Dustin, Oklahoma.