

T-444-3 (Third of Three Interviews)
ADDIE LEONARD, MIAMI
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GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS AND RELATED SUBJECTS.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
EARLY MARRIED LIFE
EXPERIENCES WITH SMOKING A PIPE
TOWN OF BIG HORSE
REMINISCES ABOUT CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Addie Leonard was born in 1885, in Ottawa County. She lived in a log cabin and grew up in Chou-ta-pah. She attended school at Chilocco. She believes herself to be the oldest living member of the Miami tribe. She is a very alert woman and is very interesting to listen to.

NOTE: The other interviews on this tape are: Rosa Beck, Miami
Charles Demo, Miami

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Alright, would you like to tell your name?)

My name is Addie Leonard.

(And what tribe are you?)

Miami, Oklahoma. I'm Miami.

(And how old are you? When were you born?)

Eighty, I was born in 1885.

(Where?)

But I don't know where. (Laughter)

Man's voice: Ottawa County, Mother.

It must have been in Indian territory.

(Alright.)

Lived in a log house.

(Where was your house?)

You know where that place was.

Man's voice: Pumpkin Setter Corner.

Yeah. Pasado's house. That's where. They had a log house there and I was born in there in a log house. In a log house.

(Is that where you grew up?)

No. We grew up in Chou-ta-pah. My folks moved to Chou-ta-pah. And then I went to Chilocco. Went to Chou-ta-pah to school there and from there I went on up to Chilocco. Went up there two years at Chilocco. And I cleaned lamps. For a year, and then people, from over there, you know them Indians from over there and well, there's lot of people. There's lot of these buzzards. (Laughter.)

(Where did you clean the lamp?)

In Chilocco. That's all the kind of lamps they had, coal oil. I'd take

my coal oil can you know and a couple of rags and go along and clean the employees lights, not ours. And that's what I detailed to.

(How often did you do that?)

Every night, every night. Lights were on at night. Me and my brothers went to school over there and we were both kids, just little ole tots, you know. And my sister was a sergeant. I was in Company F. Now you know I was a little tot. And we'd get lonesome, Howard and I would. And he'd come over to the school house and I'd set there you know. And he'd come over there, if we had a pen or shoe string we'd brought from home why he'd pick that up and he'd give it to me and I'd take care of it so I wouldn't lose it. (Laughter) We'd get lonesome, get awful homesick. But we stayed up there for, well, the whole time of school. I don't know.

I don't know, ten months I believe they had schooling there. I worked in the laundry. Boys picked up sticks. Boy, I tell you it was awful, awful, lonesome. And I'm the oldest Miami in the tribe. One of the oldest. I am the oldest!

(Do you remember any of the old --)

Uncle Tom Richardville. Do you remember him?

Man's voice: No.

I used to go to school over at the Mission over at the Quapaw Mission with Prizer's. You knew them, didn't you?

Man's voice: I did. (Sentence not clear.)

You didn't. Did you know Abram?

Man's voice: Yes.

Well I went to school with that girl. Home every six weeks, we'd get to go home.

Was it you got a sliver in your foot? In your hand? (Man's voice.)

No, Rosie swallowed two pins.

Oh. (Laughter) (Man's voice.)

We had to take her home. We had to take her home. (Laughter)

Used to tell me, why that's been long ago, you know it.

(Well, what happened?)

Well, my sister was over to the Mission, I was going to school, Quapaw Mission. And she swallowed a couple of pins.

(Straight pins?)

Yes. And we had to take her then to Miami. My folks run a hotel there. We took her to Miami.

(What happened to her then?)

Well, they doctored her I guess. Swallowed a safety pin, they didn't do nothing. Took her home. (Laughter) Well she swallowed a straight pin though. They sent her home anyway. I was at the Quapaw Mission a long time. My mother was a matron at Wyandotte.

(When you went to school there?)

I didn't go to school in Wyandotte. I went to -- . She went to school in Chilocco. And she was a matron down here at Seneca. Addie said, "I guess she wanted to set up all the things she couldn't set up here." Yeah, she worked at Wyandotte when they send us off. You know Dagnett, Charles Dagnett.

Man's voice: Yes

They called him Dash.

EARLY MARRIED LIFE

Unidentified woman's voice: You were just fifteen, wasn't you when you married Mr. Leonard wasn't you?

I lacked two weeks being 16 years old, then I got married.

(Woman's voice: You lived in this house, in a log cabin, old log cabin!)

(What was your first house like when you were married?)

Oh, it was, we just build a kitchen on to the one room. We just had one room. And then we had a kitchen and we had no floor in it. And we cooked in there and ate. We had our bedroom and living room in the other part. Oh, we didn't have much to go on. "Now I tell you," she said. She told Adeline, "I don't think your dogs going to make the winter. They're so poor." But they did. She made the winter.

(Who said that?)

* Oh, my, see we all called her Aunt Sapoa. Ain't that what they called her? I don't, might have been Mary Wilhite was her real name. (Man's voice.) Yeah, she the one raised Madeline.

Woman's voice: Don't you remember anything about how your mother lived, how the Indians lived?

Well they lived in a log cabin. My mother did, my father.

(Where was it?)

Over, it was Pumpkin Setter, wasn't it?

Man's voice: Yes.

Pumpkin Setter. That's what we called it. And I tell you when I got big enough I'd be eating the daubing out of the walls, me and Howard, my brother, he was next to me. And we'd eat that.

Man's voice: Mud Dubbers?

Mud, just dig it out of there of them logs and eat it.

(Why?)

Well, we just liked it.

(Laughter)

(What?)

We just liked it.

(They built the log cabin themselves?)

Uh-huh. Yeah, it was real nice. Had a big fireplace. And my mother's father was a full blood Miami Indian.

(What was his name?)

Now, what'd I say his name was?

Man's voice: John Brewry.

Brewry. You heard that over Rosie's. Brewry.

(Huh-uh. She didn't tell us about that.)

We missed that. Well he was John Brewry and my mother, he was a full-blood Indian-- Well you know how Indians used to live, they lived on whiskey and a pipe.

(A clay pipe or a corn cob pipe?)

No, he had these big long ones.

Man's voice: Tell about you used to smoke a pipe..

Yes, I smoked a clay pipe.

(Your father taught you to smoke?)

Why no, I taught myself. (Laughter) I had a tooth ache and mama give me a pipe. Had me smoke well, then I got in the habit of it till I smoked all time. They called it an old, it wasn't an old piece pipe they smoked back in those days. Yes. They called the pipe, peace.

(Conversation.)

Well I can't understand. My mother was a , my grandmother was a full blood Indian and my mother, my grandmother was 3/4's Indian. Make me one-half, wouldn't it? It makes me one half. And then here I am. I ain't hardly any.

Man's voice: You stuck your finger some time and let it all run out.

Yeah it run out. That's something my getting old, getting old.

(Coughing.)

I don't know. (words not clear) Quapaw.

(Conversation.)

Why, they'd sell it for ten cents a jug.

'Back in the late seventeen hundreds and late eighteen when the Miami's would sign a lot of treaties for the United States government. They'd sign a treaty and the United States government would agree to pay so many thousand dollars a year, annuity, for ever. Oh, I don't know how many of those old treaties. I've got them there at home. When, after a bit the government decided they probably made a mistake having the treaty read that they paid annuity forever. But the last one still reads that way. By golly, they tend to get the Indian dissatisfied if they'd make all firewater (available to get the Indian drunk men, women and children.

EXPERIENCES WITH SMOKING A PIPE

Now my boys don't like it and I went to holler at them. I said, "Eugene come here, I've set my bed afire." He said, "I told you to let that damn pipe alone." (Laughter) I put it down and I never did smoke no more in bed. (Laughter) Daughter-in-law, I think it was, what was her name? Sister-in-law, his sister-in-law, Leech.

Leech.

(She smokes one?)

No, she's too religious.

(Background conversation.)

She didn't come home because mama was sick.

(Why did she come home?)

She come home because she was sick. She weighted a hundred and thirty pound not that's rough. They had to bring her home.

Man's voice: You had to take care of your mother, she didn't

Why yes I was older than her.

(What was wrong with your sister?)

Well, I don't know, she was over weight, for one thing. They sent her home.

Man's voice: She was badly over weight, huh.

I was over-weight too.

Woman's voice: You're not as much Indian blood as she is.

Why she said we wasn't sisters. (Laughter) Why, you know I had to go get them -- birth certificate.

Yeah, from my father down there to Miami. Rosie said we wasn't sisters.

Man's voice: I got it for her.

Well, we was. That's the only sister I've got, her. I had a half sister.

She died and half brother.

She was the one they called Silver Dollar. Oh, only one I had in the whole world. Irene wrote some of it down.

Man's voice: Yeah, but I've already said what I've wrote down. About you living in the covered wagon, living in the covered wagon.

(You lived in a covered wagon.)

For a year.

Man's voice: 18.

(Why?)

TOWN OF BIG HORSE

Well, we went to Big Horse, wasn't it? What they called it. And we stayed there and they worked. He worked.

Man's voice: I tell you why we lived in a covered wagon cause there wasn't no houses.

Why, I know it.

Man's voice: There wasn't nothing but tents.

Osage oil fields. We went down there in a covered wagon.

Man's voice: You've been to Bartlesville?

(Where?)

Bartlesville

(Uh-huh)

Well it was Big Horse Town when it first started. And on the south side west side of town there was a big hill over there. On the east side of the river and dad and then Uncle Ted and oh, there was about fifteen-twenty families that was parked along that big hill, cliff there. And that's what they used for shelter. And dad had this old covered wagon. He had a tarp stretched out over it. And that's what she cooked under. The rest of them did too. We lived in that a year before they ever got any lumber out there, shipped in. (Man's voice.)

We build a little out hut, didn't we?

Man's voice: After they got in there. Ted hauled the first load of lumber in town.

You talk better than that tonight just sitting around here talking and all that funnier things than do than hear all that.

Man's voice: I was. I was just a little old kid but I remember that. That's when dad first left here and went to oil field. And I left with him. He traded his mules off for horses. And he had a damned old cow on behind. They left the horse on the creek somewhere.

Man's voice: Yeah. Somebody give pa or Elmer one of them, a horse. And it had a club foot and it couldn't make it, so dad turned it loose down there on the creek. We stayed there three or four days.

I washed you kids clothes. We lived in Big Horse I don't know how long.

Woman's voice: What was Big Horse then?

Bartlesville.

Woman's voice: Oh.

Man's voice: You know where Bartlesville is at.

Well, they called it Big Horse then.

Man's voice: Yeah, we lived there over a year.

Woman's voice: Tell about the time you got mad at Gene and two of your sons and Gene and Leroy and you chased them around the house with a gun.

(Laughter) She said they really run too. Said we really run.

I tell you I made them mind.

(What did they do.)

Well they torment you to death. And I'd smoke then you know and they'd get that pipe and that tobacco and they'd drag it up to me so I could smoke so I wouldn't yell at them. Do you remember when you come after me when that, Joe was born at night. You know Aunt Mary sent you after me up there, to Chou-ta-pah. And I come down there and stayed with you. You mother, your grandmother, a week, two weeks, whatever it was.

Man's voice: Yeah.

I was down there the night she died. I thoughts lots of Aunt Mary.

REMINISCES ABOUT CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES

Man's voice: Can't you think about some of those old shindigs you and dad used to go to. Yeah. That little horse ran off when you were sparking.

(Laughter) (Words not clear) got turned over in the buggy. See there's lot of things you had way back there.

(Who got turned over?)

Me and my feller.

(How did that happen?)

When I'd go out with my boy friend and mom she'd take after me. Then

she'd catch me and then she'd make him take me home. Home, I'd go.

Man's voice: How come the buggy to upset, Addie?

We was running a race.

Man's voice: The kids.

Woman's voice: Dragging..

Yeah we was dragging. (Laughter) And my mother hit me and I was sixteen years old. Just before I was married.

Man's voice: Maybe you needed it.

Boy, I was a fighter.

Woman's voice: I bet she told you was a bad girl too, didn't she?

Man's voice: Tell them about the time you and Uncle Howard used to steal horses out and go riding them down the streets.

Yes and we'd go across that river with banks full, that Chou-ta-pah-River. We'd get up there like monkeys, sit up there. Yeah, we'd swim them old mares across that railroad.

(Where were you going?)

We just riding around. I tell you we was a sight. I was a sight to the world. (Laughter)

I could ride a horse just as good without a bridle as I could with a bridle. Plumb Indian.

Man's voice: They're going to put that in some big museum you'd better get to talking, Addie, you wouldn't want people to go up there and say, "Well, I rode a horse."

Well I tell you what I rode a horse.

Man's voice: That would be very interesting sixty, seventy years from now. Now they'll say, "That old gal she must have been a corker."

Well I was. Don't faking me out. I was a corker. I tell you what we done

one time. Me and Howard, that's my brother. We got some cobs, a whole great big pile of cobs and we got the cobs down and the horses was tied in the barn. And we'd get them cobs under that horse's tail and then we'd hit the horse and pop the cobs. (Laughter)

Why I tell you we was a sight to the world. (Laughter) Now, I'd told that you see. (Laughter)

Man's voice: It's a wonder the horse hadn't kicked you right in the breadbasket.

Well, it didn't, it didn't. And I used to walk that, mama had wire up there you know for a clothes line. Why I could walk that wire just like a dog, a cat. (Laughter) Yeah. Tear her clothes line down.

Man's Voice: Yes I can imagine. Want some more coffee.

Well, you know my father run a --

Man's voice: Circus.

Circus up there. And well, Taylor went up there and she said, "Well, mama we found us a daddy." And they went and got, Taylor went and got papa and took him down there to Miami. And mama she took with him and anyway they got married. And he took the horses out there and one little horse was shetland pony. It went down and up the stairs. And the kids rode the horse to the school, the big horse. I've had a good time as well as a hard time.

Woman's voice: You was older than Rosie, did you ever boss her around any?

No, she'd always cry. (Laughter)

Woman's voice: I'd whip my brothers and sisters.

Why I'd flash her too, me and Howard got along pretty good.

Man's voice: I don't remember old Howard, do you?

Man's voice: No.

You don't remember him?

Man's voice: No, I don't either.

He had TB.

(Well, this tape's about finished so is there anything you want to put on there so people come to hear?)

I want to tell my children all, hello. When they come to hear that, my grandchildren. And if they can understand it.

(Sentence not clear.)

(All right.)

That filled up?

(Just about.)

(End of Tape.)