- Brief mention of Chief Sweet Grass.
Informant: Muskwa (Bear)

This informant, one of the oldest men on the Little Pine Reserve, said that he was eighteen at the time of the treaty. His chief then was wihiaskokics-iu, "Sweet Grass Old Man." He was a great chief before the treaty making, but was not a pure Cree. His mother was of the Pauwistikowyiuiwuk "Island people" (?) and was captured when a child. He took only one treaty payment and then was shot by accident. I do not know who was ukimau before Sweet Grass.

His people were called cipi-wiyiuisuk, "River people" also Pas-kwawiyiuiwuk, "Prairie people." They hunted buffalo only and when the buffalo were dying out they would hunt as far as the States. Ordinarily we hunted as far as where Hobbema now is, called in Cree Muskwati-s, "Bear Hills." Eastward as far as where the Pai-pwat Reserve now is. We fought with the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan, Gros Ventre, Sioux, Flat Head, Sarcee. We got most horses from the Sioux. We never crossed...
the North Saskatchewan either in warfare or in hunting.

There were two main chiefs of the River people before the treaty. They were mistahim-askwah, "Big Bear," and Sweet Grass. After the treaty there were many others. They were:

Opuskiagewin - "Winning Man"
Saga-skots
Ki-hiwin - Eagle Man
Mahke-u - Big Flesh
Toastcukakwi-s - Holding Up His Head
Pemuhte-acu - Walking With the Wind Behind
Minehgosis - Pine Tree
Pihtigwaupiwin - Poundmaker

Ogihtcitau were known only in dances -- did not know names of any who were oghihtcitau.

Then he swung into a monologue which ran thusly: I was about so big when I first began to know things. Then the men used to wear leggings only -- no shirt, even in winter. When we went out hunting we had only buffalo skins for blankets. Everywhere there were buffalo. We never had a gun, the manito gave us the bow and arrow only. We made pounds and when the buffalo were in it, we used to shoot them with bows and arrows. The old men used to sing at night and you could see the buffalo coming to them. When we went out to hunt in the winter, we had to dig a hole in a snowdrift to sleep in.

We ate roots and never got sick as we are today. Our meat was never cooked, only sliced and roasted over the fire. When we would kill an animal we would drink its blood. In that way we were strong and never were frozen in the winter.

This informant is a tall fellow whose braids are only just graying. (The Cree here seem to be taller than those I have seen heretofore.) At the time I spoke with him, he was wearing a shirt, plain moccasins, pants, a vest. The moccasins here are more often undecorated than not, whilst on other reserves practically all the moccasins had some kind of ornamentation. His trousers were of the same cloth worn by most of the old men, the semi-corduroy stuff supplied on the ration list. His braids were tied with rawhide about two inches from the ends.

He lived in a tent which was right beside another one. There are several tipis on the two adjoining reserves here but they all are unpainted. There were several canvas sheets spread out on which saskatoon berries were being dried in the sun. There was also a drying rack made of a tripod of poplar trunks 15" high with a board shelf hung from the poles. On this shelf the berries were drying also. Fred explained the rack as being made to put the berries out of the reach of the children. The berries are pounded soft before they are dried. To make them more malleable some are heated in a kettle. The dried berries are stored away and fried in grease when prepared as food. Raspberries and chokecherries also are gathered. These last
are an especial delicacy being eaten by the old men when a sweat bath is prepared.

On a bush there were several rabbit skin blankets spread out to air. They were made by lacing the strips of rabbit fur in and out of a piece of burlap. They said that there were others made without the burlap but none were available at that encampment.

Muskwa had an unusual pipe of the usual elbow shape, in black stone with a lead inlay, thus (see original for diagram). The metal had been melted off the butts of cartridges. He keeps his tobacco in a small pouch beaded with a floral and horseshoe design which he tucks under his belt. This last article is the ordinary store variety.

As we were talking more and more men gathered around until there were eleven in all. One of them carried an eagle wing, presumably he used it to fan himself as the day was very hot. Several wore white or pink shell earrings. One blind man (so afflicted because he drank Florida Water -- a perfume) had his braids tied with bits of ribbon and cowrie shells attached.

There are several ways of tying braids among the men. Rawhide, string, and ribbon on each braid are most common. Some tied the two braids together in front. Sometimes little brass or copper beads are strung on. These last are also used as earrings, a loop of wire with three of these balls strung on.

A few very old men let their hair hang loose over their shoulder (such as old Four Clouds at Crooked Lake).

I shook hands with some of the men with the typical motion, a quick single downward clasp and quick release.

After I talked with Muskwa I went over to the encampment where most of the men had come from. There were six tents in a clump of trees. The blind man asked me again what my purpose was although he had heard me explain the same thing twice to Muskwa. Then I took some photos, one of a medicine bundle that was hanging just outside one of the tents, another of the group of men, another of the three of the girls who had dressed up for the picture (even had combed their hair), another of the fireplace with the usual bannock which forms the chief item of diet, meat drying in strips, some blown up animal intestines like short fat bolognas (used for what purpose?).

I was shown several beaded belts, two in straight geometric pattern, one in floral design, very pretty. All the belts I have seen have been done on canvas duck. There also was a beaded cape for a woman, done in the long glass beads.

INDEX

INDEX TERM          IH NUMBER        DOC NAME        DISC #        PAGE #

BUFFALO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPER NAME</th>
<th>IH NUMBER</th>
<th>DOC NAME</th>
<th>DISC #</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EET GRASS</td>
<td>IH-DM.31</td>
<td>BATTLEFORD#1</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEET GRASS</td>
<td>IH-DM.31</td>
<td>BATTLEFORD#1</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>