

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: BATTLEFORD AGENCY #4
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: BATTLEFORD,
SASK.
INTERVIEW LOCATION: BATTLEFORD AGENCY,
SASK.
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JULY 31, 1934
INTERVIEWER: DR. D.G. MANDELBAUM
INTERPRETER: SMITH ATIMOYOO
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: DR. D.G. MANDELBAUM
DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY
TAPE NUMBER: IH-DM.34
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 136
PAGES: 3
RESTRICTIONS: 1. THEY WILL BE MADE
AVAILABLE ONLY TO GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO HAVE SECURED PERMISSION
TO DO SO FROM THEIR FACULTY ADVISORS. OFFICERS OF THE LIBRARY
OR OF THE CENTER WILL JUDGE AS TO A POTENTIAL USER'S
QUALIFICATIONS. 2. THOSE WHO CONSULT THE NOTES SHOULD AGREE
TO MAKE PROPER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE USE OF THESE SOURCES IN
ANY PUBLICATION. IT WOULD ALSO BE A COURTESY TO INFORM ME OF
SUCH USE.

Informant: Johnnie Kiskikotagin

Following Muskwa's lead about Johnnie's having a Sacred Pipe Stem I went over to his camp. The bundle was hanging on the wall outside his shack but I could not get very much about it from Johnnie. One reason for this may have been that his wife and her daughter were around and were giggling away. This wife of his had lived with several white men and with several more Indians. The next day (Aug. 1) Johnnie said that his wife had left him. She wanted to take his team and go to the Battleford Fair, where most of the Indians have gone. He objected and she left with her daughter and son-in-law and the grandchildren.

When I drove up to Johnnie's tipi, the two women were sitting around the fire. The older one was smoking a stone pipe, was dressed in a black skirt and blouse. The younger one had a colored blouse which was partly open down the front, and her breasts showed through. As I was talking to Johnnie, her child, about a three-year-old, came up to her, reached for her breast and suckled at it while standing. She was smoking a cigarette during this.

Johnnie wore shell earrings. Had the downy feathers from the under wing of an eagle attached to his hat. He put on a beaded belt when I took his picture.

He said that the stem had been given to him by his father, akimaukihiu, "Eagle Chief," who had had it from his father and also his grandfather. If it were unwrapped and laid down in a battle the enemy could not advance beyond it.

I went to look at a fish trap that is built across the Battle River about a mile west of the Taylor's house. It is built across the river in V-shape where the stream is about forty feet wide. One wing to dam the river is built of stones and rocks, the other wing is built of short logs laid across supporting beams at a 45 degree angle. They extend clear to other shore. At the centre four stout legs are lashed together at the top with wire and string. At their base there is a cradle made of ten foot poles about one inch in diameter. At the end of these poles there is a basketwork of boughs into which the fish drop.

The fishing is done at night. The trap is usually placed where the current is swift. As soon as a fish enters the box, a man sitting beside it shoves it on with a sweep made of twigs. It drops into the bough basket which is a foot below the box and is immediately taken out from there.

Areh, Taylor said that this particular trap, though quite elaborately made, was not much good since the current proved to be too slow at that point.