

Sakimay Squaw at 108 Is Matriarch Six Generations

GRENFELL, Sask. (CP)— Mrs. Bunnie, an ancient squaw of the Sakimay Indian Reserve near this town 75 miles east of Regina, has spent 108 years on the Prairie.

Now a gnarled old woman, she speaks with a booming voice and recalls with clarity the days of her youth. She was 25 years old before peace was made with the white man.

When she was a girl, her tribesmen hunted with bow and arrow. Occasionally they were killed in buffalo or grizzly bear hunts. When a tribesman was killed, it was customary to murder a brave from another tribe to make company for the dead man, she says.

RECALLS TRIBE WARS

Tribe rivalry ran high and fights were numerous, Mrs. Bunnie recalls. Horses were the major prize.

LIVELY HISTORIAN

She tells how her father, Big Sky, in a skirmish with the Sioux, pulled an arrow from his leg and killed an enemy with it. Returning with the scalp, he was the object of a big celebration.

In the old days the tribe spent the winter in a valley here and roved west in search of meat during the summer.

In one of her humorous stories, she tells how Indian women used to extract \$5 from the government in the early days of treaty payments. They would put bundles under the clothing to simulate pregnancy and claim the money for an extra family member. The ruse worked until a bundle fell out one day.

Until seven years ago, Mrs. Bunnie lived alone. Then, with her eyesight and hearing weak and her energy declining, she moved in with her youngest son, 66-year-old Jim. Another son died recently at 86.

Mrs. Bunnie has 174 known descendants and is the matriarch of six generations in her family. She doesn't consider modern living any faster than that on the Prairies a century ago.