

ALBERT BILLIE

- #1 Date - October 30, 1984
- #2 Interviewers - Mary Gene Koeness/Jeanette Cypress
- #3 Informant - Albert Billie
- #4 Place - Albert's home in Big Cypress
- #5 Language - Miccosukee
- #6 Topic -
- #7 Residence -

Q - Residence in 1920's?

R - When young lived out along here (pointing to west), not sure. I got married around 1925 during corndance time. Lived out forest of Cypress trees, farmed out there (probably Everglades). Most of the people during that time have died. My sister died and I'm not sure how long I'll live, my mother said when I go you must live and join with other people. Not too long after she got very ill and died, not sure of year.

Q - Did you live in Dania (Hollywood) during those years?

R - I visited, but didn't live there.

Q - Did you work at any jobs in Hollywood?

R - Yes, cleaning up, clearing land. Making roads.

Q - Who paid you for jobs?

R - White people.

Q - Did you know Spencer an agent?

R - I don't know.

Q - How about Rev. Glenn?

R - No not really.

Q - Scott?

R - No

Q - Did you ever live in Musa Isle?

R - Where is that?

Q - Did you live near Miami area?

R - Yes, I was the only one that went there. My brother and I went there because Indians were living at a place called Indian Village. 3 villages, one was called Muba Island. These 3 villages would visit each other.

Q - What did the people do at these villages?

R - People would come in buses to view and they charged them. They had alligators and wrestle them and they paid to watch.

Q - How about Silver Springs?

R - Yes, others stayed in Miami and we lived at Silver Springs.

Q - How long did you stay at Silver Springs?

R - A long time. During winters they would come, get us to stay there, then leave when winter was about over.

Q - How many of your kids were born there?

R - There was no kids. I didn't have any at that time. Oh yes, your mother would go there when she was little. So she was our only child at time. But she was born past deep lake a place called the big carved tree on other side was a cypress forest, we moved there, people there were camping during tomato picking time and that's where your mother was born.

Q - Did you kids attend school during that time?

R - No, your mother didn't attend but David and Junior attended school. They went on the bus.

Q - When jobs were not available how did you make out?

R - Hunting in winter, killed otters, raccoons, alligators and sold hides to make money to buy food to eat. Raccoons were sold year round so it would get scarce. Now there is an abundance of them. Same with otter and alligator.

Q - What did you do with the deer you killed? Hides, etc.?

R - We hung up and dried the hide, the women scrape the hide and softened it and saved them, used smoke to tan the hides, made moccasins and sold them. So back then we didn't throw away the hide, now days people throw the hide away.

Conclusion - With the questions that should have been at beginning #1 thru 6.