

OKLAHOMA  
TERRITORY

## TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of  
History  
Before  
Statehood

INDIAN  
TERRITORY

AUG 10 1982

# Indians Applied Humor Even to Serious Matters

Although they seldom enjoyed the same jokes as white men, Indians have long been known to have a sense of humor, even on serious matters.

One day some Indians came riding into Fort Arbuckle as the post flag was being lowered because of an approaching storm. In a few minutes there was a sharp flash of lightning, a deafening clap of thunder and the flagpole crashed to the ground in splinters.

The Indians said, "When the Good Medicine (flag) was taken down the Great Spirit showed his anger!"

Still told occasionally is the old story of a white man who asked an Indian why he rode a pony and his squaw walked behind, bearing a papoose in a cradle on her back.

The Indian looked at his squaw and then told the paleface: "Him squaw. Him got no horse."

When the first telephone line was completed from Ponca City to Red Rock, one Otoe Indian called another and they conversed in tribal language.

As soon as he finished the conversation, the Indian on the receiving end turned to a friend and remarked: "Telephone pretty smart — talk Otoe already."