### GROS VENTRE

**FORT BEKNAP INDIAN AGENCY, HARLEM, MONTANA (Mr. John T. Marshall, Supt.).**

The following names were submitted by George Cochran in his letter of February 15, 1926, and letter and questionnaire sent them March 3, 1926:

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<td>The Boy</td>
<td>Hays</td>
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In his letter of March 20, 1926, Mr. Flea suggested the following names, to whom letter and questionnaire was sent Mar. 25, 1926:

- White Woman,
  c/o Belknap Fox
  Hays, Montana
- Mrs. Horse Capture
  Hays, Montana

In his letter of March 27, 1926, Mr. Dan Sleeping Bear suggested the following name, to whom letter and questionnaire was sent April 7, 1926:

- Mrs. Lame Bull
  Lodge Pole, Montana

In his statement of March 24, 1926, Mr. Head Dress suggested the following name to whom no letter or questionnaire was sent:

- A. J. Schumz
  Dodson, Montana
Your letter of March 3rd was received and will now answer your questions as requested. I am 85 years old and I was fourteen years old when the treaty of 1855 was concluded and there I heard about the common hunting ground being set aside for our hunting purposes, but unfortunately I never hunted in that country as there was enough game in our Territory for our living.

Ragged Robe.

About the common hunting ground, I don't know anything in person but I do by ear. White men were there and killed all game. I hunts game in the limits of this hunting ground. I am 75 years old. I am glad to hear from you.

Bull Head.

I am 72 years old and I am sorry to state that I cannot answer your questions, as requested, as they have a direct bearing on the common hunting grounds, as I never hunted in that country, only of course being told that the common hunting ground being set aside for our benefit. Of course, as they have killed off the game in our territory necessary for our living so to they must have killed off the game in the common hunting ground.

White Weasel.
State of Lone Fly, Hays, Montana, March 23, 1926

Received your letter and will now write you a few lines regarding your questions. I am unable to answer your questions as I have never went into the common hunting ground and I was ignorant of the existing of the common hunting ground but as there was game a plentiful in our reserve so there must have been plentiful in the common hunting ground.

Lone Fly.
I am 66 years old. I received your letter. I don't know anything about the common hunting ground, but my father camp one time at the head of Musselshell river and during the night some one stole all of my father's horses. White men killed all the game that was in that hunting ground. This is all I know, so I shake hands with you.

Curley Head.
I have received your letter requesting answers to your questions. I am 66 years old. And will also state regarding as to your questions that I heard from my people after I grew up that the Common Hunting Ground was set aside for our use and also will write that I never hunted in that country nor ever used my rights of hunting there, but it rather seems odd that the white man went into that country before we availed ourselves of our rights there and they even invaded our reserve and killed over our buffalo, contrary to our wish. If the white man didn't kill off the buffalo I am sure we would be living on the buffalo yet. I will close with regards to you, I am

Little Shield.

I received your letter requesting answers to your questions pertaining to the common hunting ground. I am 54 years old and must state that I never hunted in the hunting ground, only supposing that game was plentiful as it was plentiful in our territory.

Yellow Belly.
Copy of statement of Dan Sleeping Bear, Hays, Mont. Mar. 27, 1926

My name is Dan Sleeping Bear. I am a member of the Gros Ventre Tribe. Age 67. Referring to your letter of March 3, I answer your questions as follows:

1 - No
2 - None
3 - Nine
4 - My grandfather use to tell me that all game animals with split hoofs were there and bear, Mountain Lions, Wolf, Coyote, Fox, Beaver, Otter, Mink, Muskrat.
5 - He told me game was plentiful
6 - All animals and fur from animals listed in answer 4.
7 - These never was any in my time. I believe that the game in this hunting ground was driven out by white settlers.
8 - My people used all the meat, but trated some of the robes and furs to white people. We hunted along the eastern boundary of the hunting ground, between Judith Gap and the headwaters of the Musselshell river.
9 - Game was always plentiful in the country described in answer No.8 until 40 years ago.
10 - My mother traded 10 buffalo robes (tanned) for one sack of brown sugar two different times and they got one box of cartridges for one wolf skin, one butcher knife for one coyote, and etc.
11- One fur for one article.
12 - One robe for one article
13 - Otter and Mountain lion.
14 - Bear skins.
15 - For one Bear they got one blue or red or white blanket.
16 - No
17 - About ten buffalo
18 - From ten to sixteen.
19 - One to two years.
20 - About 20
21 - From one to two years.
22 - Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Antelope for moccasins. Fox, Beaver, Otter, Mink, Coyote, Wolf, Lions, and skins for other clothes.
23 - One of each kind $2.00 per year.
24 - Bear Nose, Hays, Montana

Mrs. Lame Bull, Lodge Pole, Montana.

We would be very glad to have one of you come out this spring, we can then talk things over in a general way in regards to our claim.

Dan Sleeping Bear.
Copy of statement of The Fork, Hays, Montana, March 20, 1925.

I answer your questions as follows: My name is Fork; member of the Gros Ventre Tribe; age 67.

1. We did not hunt in the country referred to in your questions; we hunted between the eastern boundary and Judith river.
2. From time to time we roamed in that country.
3. We hunted in the country described in answer No.1 up to about 46 years ago.
4. Buffalo, elk, antelope, white and black tail deer, sheep, bear, mountain lion, beaver, otter, wolf and coyote.
5. Plentiful.
6. All the game listed in answer No.4.
7. To one family all two poneys can pack.
8. They did not sell the meat, but traded the furs to white man.
9. There was plenty of game until about 46 years ago. This game had been driven out of the hunting ground by white people.
10. About 45 years ago I traded 10 tanned buffalo robes to a white man for one riding horse for my uncle. They got 1 to 3 boxes of cartridges and other small articles for 1 beaver or wolf skin.
11. We traded hides and furs to white people for goods.
12. For one tanned buffalo robe we got three boxes of cartridges.
13. Fox, otter and beaver.
15. We traded these furs for goods.
16. I have heard of one instance where a white man killed a Gros Ventre Indian.
17. About 10 buffalo.
18. From 12 to 18 skins.
19. About 1 year.
21. From 2 to 6 years.
22. Wolf, fox, otter and beaver.
23. About 4 otter skins, 2 wolves, 2 beaver, 1 fox.

We will be glad to have you come out to our country this spring and then we can tell you more.

The Fork.
Statement of Peter Stiffarm, Hays, Montana, March 23, 1926

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I am 67 years old. About the common hunting grounds, I do not know personally but I do by ear. I never hunted in the above hunting grounds, therefore I never got no hides from them hunting grounds. There was plenty game of all kinds in the other claim, so it never compel me to go to our regular hunting ground, so this reason I never was in those hunting grounds to hunt.

Peter Stiffarm.
Copy of statement made by Spear, Hays, Montana, March 23, 1926.

My name is Spear. I am a Gros Ventre Indian. Age 65 years.

1 - About 45 years ago I went to live with the Crow Indians and at one time during my stay with them I went with a party to the common hunting grounds.

2 - That is the only time.
3 - About 45 years ago.
4 - We killed some deer.
5 - Not so plentiful
6 - Deer, elk and antelope
7 - We did not get many
8 - We used all the meat.
9 - Sometime during the summer game was scarce but plentiful during the winter in the country we roamed in.
10 - We traded robes and furs for goods; we did not know anything about money.
11 - One article for one robe or one fur.
12 - I traded a buffalo robe for one striped blanket one time at the mouth of Judith River.
13 - Otter and beaver.
14 - Robes or skins beaded with quills.
15 - We got two articles for these instead of one from the store.
16 - No.
17 - From 5 to 10 buffalos.
18 - From 12 to 18 skins.
19 - From one to two years.
20 - About 15 to 20 skins. We used them for bedding, for lining the tepee and for clothing and for ropes and saddles.
21 - From 1 to 8 years.
22 - Small game animals for clothing of all kinds.
23 - About one of each kind for one person.
24 - Ragged Robe, Hays, Montana.

In regard to the common hunting ground, I want to say that we never did hunt any game there in my time, because the white people were there and as I have been told game was scarce on account of them. We roamed around the Judith basin and I answer your questions covering that country.

1 - No
2 - None
3 - None
4 - We hunted around the Musselshell river and back along the Missouri and Judith rivers.
5 - Game was plentiful in this country.
6 - All animals with split hoofs and all the fur bearing animals found in this State.
7 - Two to four.
8 - We used all the meat but sold the skins
9 - Some times game was scarce.
10 - Traded for goods.
11 - Some one article out of the store.
12 - For one buffalo hide 30 to 40 cartridges.
13 - Fox and otter
14 - Buffalo robes, beaded with quills.
15 - One article
16 - No.
17 - About 10 buffalo
18 - From 13 to 18 skins.
19 - One to two years.
20 - About 15 robes.
21 - Three to five years.
22 - We used buffalo for moccasins in the winter time and in the summer elk, deer, and antelope for footwear. Small game skins were used for clothing all the time.

23 - One of each kind.
24 - Ragged Robe, Hays, Montana.
    A.J. Schulz, Dodson, Montana.
Copy of letter from Mr. Flea
Harlem, Mont. Mar. 20, 1926

Enclosed you will find answers to questions sent me March 3, 1926, which I hope will give you some help in securing what information you need:

1 - I have never hunted in the basin formed by the three forks of the Missouri River. But have gone with hunting parties near the basin formed by the three forks of the Missouri.

2 - I have made five hunting trips to that country.

3 - Last trip about forty-five years ago.

4 - Elk, Antelope, Deer, Big Horn Sheep, Buffalo, Wolves, Coyotes, Bob Cats, Bears, Mountain Lion, Mink, Otter, Bear, Black Fox, Red Fox, Skunk, Musk Rats.

5 - Game was very plentiful.

6 - (Meats) Buffalo, Elk, Antelope and Deer. (Hides) Buffalo, Elk, Antelope, Deer, Bear; (Furs) Beaver, Mink, Musk Rats.

7 - A small hunting part of five lodges would load about fifteen ponies of meat ten ponies of hides. (Furs) In a week of trapping an average person secures not less than one hundred fur beavers.

8 - Meat never sold. Hides and furs were sold or traded to white people.

9 - Always plenty of game.

10 - Not less than one hundred dollars for furs and hides to one person.

11 - Beaver, four to eight dollars; Mink 1 to $2; Musk Rats, 5¢ to 25¢.

12 - Buffalo, 6 to 10 dollars, as to size.

13 - The Black Fox.

14 - Otter and Beaver

15 - Otter 9 to $15; Beaver 4 to $8.

16 - No.

17 - One lodge of five people would need 50 animals, deer, elk and buffalo as they ate mostly meat.

18 - About fifteen hides.

19 - About three years.

20 - A lodge of five people would need about 45 hides; bedding, saddles, bags for meat, ropes for packing.

21 - Five to seven years.

22 - Elk, deer, antelope, buffalo, beaver and otter.

23 - A family of five would need not less than eleven skins for clothes and moccasins.

24 - White Woman, c/o Belknap Fox, Hays, Montana.

Mrs. Horse Capture, Hays, Montana.

Bear Nose, Hays, Montana (We already had this last name and wrote him)

How old?

I received your letter regarding to information to the Common Hunting Grounds. I am 56 years old. I am going to tell you the information I received from older men. I don't know anything about this hunting grounds, but by ear, I do. An Indian is present at this writing that claims that they were plenty animals in the limits of this hunting ground. I never got no hides of any kind from this hunting ground, I am,

Yours truly,

Henry Dwarf.