

**JITAN**

**Lag**  
code en-  
must come

0 homes to  
D expects  
s a year.  
t program  
nt drive to  
ive in safe

ry limita-  
ided to re-  
ry Winkel-  
rator, for  
ndation at  
ng.  
pproved a  
salaries of  
nt project

vntown  
antioch  
village

Johnson County

## Chief Black Bob Lacked Land Sense

By Margaret Olwine  
(A Member of The Star's Staff)

If Black Bob were alive today, he probably would be wiser.

And if he were wiser, he probably would be sadder.

Black Bob and his band of nomadic Shawnee Indians carelessly lost about 200,000 acres of lush Kansas prairie land to speculators and squatters between 1854 and 1868.

Their reservation covered the southeast corner of what is now Johnson County, from the long-extinct town of Oxford (site of the Leawood Drive-In theatre at 120th street and State Line) to the southern boundary of the county and was west to a line south of Olathe.

**The Price Varied**

Some of Black Bob's band sold their 200-acre head rights for \$1.25 an acre. One thirsty brave signed his over for a jug of whisky. Some got nothing at all.

By 1866, land speculators were reselling Black Bob lands for prices ranging from \$8 to \$12 an acre . . . and it would have been more if the federal land office hadn't put a ceiling on their selling price.

"Today, Black Bob wouldn't believe it," remarked Francis C. Miller, a realtor in the Stanley community. "Land is selling north of 151st street for \$2,500 an acre; south of 151st, for \$1,500 an acre."

Around the Johnson County airport, "For Sale" signs dot the roadsides. The going rate for 80- and 160-acre tracts in that area, also, averages \$1,500 an acre.

A 120-acre homestead a mile north of Morse has sold twice in the past year.

"And the other day," said Mrs. Virginia Lukehart, a tenant in the 2-story white frame house with a 125-year-old rock cabin attached to its rear ver-

when they arrived," the 77-year-old farmer recalled. "He was brought up on sorghum, cornbread and hard times, and lived to be 91.

"He said that quite a few Indians roamed the country in those days and a bunch of them had their main camp a mile and a half south of us on Coffee creek."

McCaughey and his wife still occupy the original McCaughey homestead. They farm the north half of the 160 acres settled by the grandfather, John McCaughey, just south of the tiny community of Morse.

**Trees Are Evidence**

Three cedars that shade their front porch make the antiquity of the premises evident. And within the clapboard walls of the white farmhouse is an enclosed 4-room log cabin—the original McCaughey homestead. Black Bob's tribesmen used to ride by on their ponies and peer in the windows.

"My grandfather, who was a tailor from Zanesville, O., was one of the first white settlers in our area," McCaughey recalled. "He came because he caught the land fever like so many back East. He needed more land to support his family.

Like so many who came west on a shoestring and a prayer, McCaughey assumed that all Indian lands could be acquired by redemption, with title to be acquired later from the government for \$1.25 an acre.

"Instead," said his grandson "a speculator bought up a large tract unbeknownst to him. Finally, he got title from the speculator. I think he paid \$8 or \$10 an acre."

Black Bob's band never accosted the settlers who usurped their land. When fishing and hunting became poor and there were fewer places for Indians to pitch their tents along the streams, they migrated to Oklahoma.

DESCENDANT OF A PIONEER settler on the Black Bob Indian reservation, Lloyd G. McCaughey, turns the wheel of an iron sewing machine that his grandfather brought to Johnson County in 1866. On it, the former Ohio tailor made gloves and trousers for the Indians. In the foreground is a candle lantern that lighted the McCaughys' covered wagon on the trip West.

anda, "somebody came and removed the iron fence around the old Williams cemetery."

Like most of the many new residents of the area, Mrs. Lukehart had never heard of chief Black Bob who went to Washington in 1854, along with seven other Shawnee chiefs, and inexplicably signed away 1.6 million acres in return for 200,000 acres—then let that go, too.

One versed in the history of those days is Lloyd G. McCaughey whose grandfather came to Oxford township in 1866, bringing his wife, seven children and all his household goods in a covered wagon.

"My father, Thomas McCaughey, was 7 years old

**JUCO LEVY CONSIDERED**  
Kansas City, Kansas Board

and renovation of the college's downtown facilities.

**GRANT TO ART INSTITUTE**  
Six Schools in Union to Share

**Model U. N. Set at**  
Park College

PF  
TV  
Da  
s  
AB  
Vic  
A  
ten  
pri  
fen  
ber  
sas  
I  
rec  
ty,  
son  
Jud  
hac  
ty  
Ka  
T  
a  
yea  
and  
the  
wh  
rap  
J  
end  
on  
Hu  
ed  
the  
J  
cot  
the  
we  
Jol  
tifi  
tha  
he.  
F  
29  
nei  
tar  
sas  
290  
Cit  
So  
Ka  
me  
de  
ple  
lan  
me  
st  
thi

1969-04-10-KansasCityTimes-p4-ChiefBlackBobLackedLandSe

Clipped By:



ianmunro

Mon, Jan 26, 2015