mother's name was Ten-ta-see-nah (In morning light). She was the daughter of May-Koota (one deer), born in Nebraska in about 1850, and died in Crookston, Minnesota, in 1928 at the age of 78 years. Grandmother gave much of her time and talents to the church, where she was well known for her preparation of church suppers. She was very active in "Old St. Mary's" church and later in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception. She and Mrs. Mary Schraeder worked long and hard to help raise money when the new church was built in 1912.

There are many items from the old hotel still in existence, such as dishes, some kitchen ware, and several pieces of bedroom furnishings, wash-basins and pitchers. My brother, Francis Boh of Crookston, has these as keepsakes.

THE POLK COUNTY LIBRARY HISTORY, CROOKSTON

This history has been written with the help of articles published in the "Crookston Times," and histories written by Elizabeth Lommen and Mrs. Luverne Larsen. The wording of the original sources has been used as much as possible in order to preserve the flavor of the times.

"Although there were plays, debates, and social functions, the pioneers of Crookston desired books to read. As early as 1872, public spirited citizens offered to loan their own books, provided a building could be secured. After the Baptist church was built on South Ash street, it was found that the old church could be used. Mr. Ayers, who had arrived in Crookston in 1879, was selected as the first librarian. As in the case of every progressive library, there was always call for more books. In 1883, the call was answered. Albert Muller, who had recently attended Yale University, placed his books in the library.

"Later this first location was sold and the books moved to a structure on the site of the Hotel Crookston (now the site of Ben Franklin). Mrs. Sadie Walker Hussey, then a young girl, was assistant librarian.

"In the year of 1902 a few of the influential people of Crookston got the notion that Crookston needed a more formal library. To get started they had a book shower which brought in 600 books of all descriptions. These books were then sorted and 500 of them were books that could be used for a beginning in this enterprise.

"The second location on the site of the Hotel Crookston was soon sold and two rooms in the Odd Fellows Hall at the corner of Ash and Robert were rented. Under the supervision of Miss Clara F. Baldwin of the State Library Commission, the Crookston Public Library was organized. The books were then classified by the Dewey Decimal system and Mrs. Van Arum was appointed librarian. She served a short time and resigned owing to her leaving the city. Nine applications were submitted and after taking the vote Elizabeth Lommen was duly elected librarian in May 1902. She then went down to the University of Minnesota and took a short course in library work and started to work at a salary of $20 a month for the first year. The library was then run in connection with a gymnasium.

"Next the Board wrote to Andrew Carnegie for a contribution for a new building, but they never got an answer, Miss Lommen took it upon herself to write and he at once sent a blank to fill out. The present building was secured at the time that Andrew Carnegie was making his general contributions to cities throughout the United States. Carnegie required the city to provide the site and provide for maintenance of the building. Mrs. Just, Judge Watts, and J. W. Wheeler, library board members, headed the list of subscribers and personally collected funds to purchase the present site. Andrew Carnegie gave $12,500 for the building which was later raised to $17,500."

A November 1908 "Crookston Times" article described the new library:

"If present arrangements are carried out, the new public library will be formally opened to the public on the evening of November 27th, the 71st birthday of Andrew Carnegie. It is believed that this date will commend itself to every citizen as being especially appropriate.