

Beatrice Poor Eagle

Beatrice Poor Eagle (A-gah-pe-na-mayaki) was a respected elder from the Siksika Nation. She was a very humble woman, and was raised in the traditional ways of the Siksika.

Beatrice was born on February 25, 1912, she was married to Joseph Poor Eagle her parents were Sakapainihkaksimaki (mom), her dad was Jack Wolf Leg. She had one sister Dorothy Many Bears, and two brothers - Dan Wolf Leg and Richard Wolf leg. Beatrice and Joe were parents to nine children. Walter, Ross, Amos, Margaret, Julius, Betty, Clement, Joan, and Douglas. She had several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Beatrice Poor Eagle went to Crowfoot Residential school when she was six. In school she was taught to read and write, she also did a variety of chores at the school from feeding horse and chickens and on occasion got to ride the horses. She enjoyed her time in school one of the few that were made to attend residential school, she loved to read.

At the age of sixteen she was matched with Joe Poor Eagle through a family member. When she left school she and Joe began to raise their family on the farm near the Bow River in the Poor Eagle flats. They had cattle, horses, chickens, pigs and other farm animals. They grew hay and raised crops that fed their farm animals and Joe was the

first to own a combine on Siksika. They helped others with food that they hunted. It was here that Beatrice taught her children how to bead, sew, tan hides, smoke and dry meat plus other traditional ways. They also picked berries and learned about the different types of plants that were used for medicine and ceremonies.

She was a vowed woman thanks to her traditional upbringing. Beatrice Poor Eagle was a very humble and wise woman, she was also smart, sweet, and caring.

Beatrice was a very humble woman, she was very kind to everyone that knew her, she was a loyal wife, a dedicated mother and grandmother to all the children she raised.

Beatrice was a Siksika elder she told stories about the old in days, she taught others the traditional ways. She knew how to speak her language and knew her culture. She was known to be very resourceful with the Siksika culture and history.

Beatrice Poor Eagle was so sweet to people that she would make everyone feel welcome. She loved her children and was everyone's grandma, she was such a sweet beautiful woman. She would help people who are sick and she would cook for others and was very supportive and caring.

Beatrice lived a wonderful life, she loved her community, her home and her family, who to this day mainly reside in Poor Eagle flats.

I chose Beatrice Poor Eagle because of her wisdom, her loving and caring ways, her sweetness, and her humbleness. Her legacy was an inspiration to me to learn more about my culture, and to become a better person so that I to may leave my own legacy.

By Denika Poor Eagle