I imagine all the women of today think they are the first women in America who have had "baby sitters." Baby sitters came into being with our women when they left home to take jobs.

I have heard from the old folks of this community who were here when the Indians lived here that the Indian women would send all of children away form camp when they needed to do some special kind of work, especially basket making. The day they were to make baskets they would arrange the pieces they had cut from switch cane in piles near where she was going to sit on a deer skin rug. Usually several women would sit in a circle far enough apart so as to not be in each other's way.

You must remember back in those days all women had to nurse their babies. When the Indian women were ready to make baskets they sent all the little papooses away for a few hours. If they had a big girl and there were other girls, several took care of the babies and toddlers, while several others looked after the other boys and girls. The babies had to be brought back to camp long before the others so their mothers could let them nurse. After they had their fill they were put on a blanket or skin rug for their nap. Maybe they were taken away or if their naps were long they stayed in camp. Usually the women only worked on baskets if they had babies for about half a day.

Usually there were pots hanging made all kind of things for the children to play with. The bigger boys had bows and arrows, spears, the little girls had dolls and other things their mothers made for them. When the babies were not there to bother them the women could make a good many baskets in the half day they worked.

After they had several days or a week to make baskets, they would choose one man who did not drink to carry their baskets to sell or trade. If one would get drunk they would not trust him off with their baskets.

They tied as many baskets onto the saddle of one of their ponies, and the man would go to the nearest village or little town to trade for what the women asked for and to get some money for those that were sold. Sometimes they would do real well and others they did not fare so well.

It seems that the women worked harder than the men, and did more to bring in a little money or get things they needed in trade for their children or themselves.

The men were more interested in hunting and fishing. Of course, both were necessary to keep all in a supply of food.

The women still made some things from deer skins that they wore in Winter. If they could trade for calico cloth they wanted the brightest colors they could get. The women made their dresses from the cloth when they got the cloth in trade. The Indian men liked shirts from the bright colored cloth, too.

The squaws worst problem

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was a young brave in the camp who got wild and unruly when he got too much of the white man's whiskey, or as the Indians called it "fire water."

One day when the squaws were weaving baskets this young fellow came and started to meddle with them. He began to run through their pieces of cane they had so carefully laid out. They asked him to stop but he kept laughing and running through the piles of cane they were using. The next time he came too close to one of the women she grabbed him by a foot, he fell down and all the squaws held him down. Buckskin thongs were tied on each ankle, he was dragged to a tree nearby and his feet tied to a limb with just his shoulders touching the ground. He sobered up real fast after that and began to beg to be let down. No one paid any attention to his begging and promises to never bother them again. They left him hanging to the limb for several hours.

He was a very humble young man when he finally got untied from the tree limb.