

T-426-3
JOHN CHRISTIE, CHEROKEE

John Christie was born 81 years ago near Stilwell in Adair County. He came to Craig County to live on his land in 1897. John is the son of George Christie. His mother, Annie, was from the William Adair family. John was one of the few from the Christie family that left Adair County, and many of his relatives still live there. His father was born and spent all of his life in the Stilwell area and missed living 100 years by two months, 17 days. George Christie was buried at Double Springs, southwest of Stilwell where he made his home. John does not claim relation with Ned and Watt Christie, whose attitudes and socialbility were not always conducive to peaceful existence. There were many of the Christies and Adairs who did much to improve the lot of the Cherokees. Goback Christie and Lacie Christie were two of the prominent Indians of long ago. Joseph Adair was Judge in the Cherokee Nation at one time.

John has known the Vinita country for a long time, and remembers when the town was known as Downingville. When he first came here, he says there was very little here. He has watched the town grow from the beginning almost, and has seen many of its changes and events. In the days around the turn of the century the Dalton Gang and the James Boys robbed trains and banks at Big Cabin and Vinita. He recalls the first show he saw. From the porch of his present home facing the Frisco Railroad, he points to the block of buildings to the south and tells that he remembers when there was nothing there except a livery stables. It was here that a road show in which Gene Autry was featured came to Vinita. This event he says he will never forget. At the main intersection of Highway 66-69 and St. 2 in the middle of town, he says there used to be the town well, which was artesian water. And on the northeast corner where the city hall