

In earlier days the Wing School was used for a church before other churches in the community were established. Wing School was also a meeting place for community activities, including box suppers, voting place, and other activities. However, when the weather permitted many of the Indians conducted their church meetings out in the woods.

The Bunch Cemetery on the hill west of town was started by the Cherokee family Choates, as one of the earlier markers shows a burial there in 1875. There are many unmarked graves there, and it is believed the cemetery was started many years before 1875. Many Cherokee families have used this burial place, but now it seems to have been taken over by white people. The Indians now use the South Bunch Cemetery some three miles south of the town.

Some fifty-five years ago when Mr. Ray came to Bunch, he used to buy track ties for the railroad. This was rough country and hard to travel in years ago. There used to be a collection point for ties near the old Grey School and it would take all day to go there and back to get a load of ties and it was not over five or six miles away. In that time the best of roads were just wagon tracks running thru the woods and around the hill sides.

Mr. Ray remembers when the country around Bunch was all heavy brush and timber. In this valley where Sallisaw Creek flows southward, he says the only 'hole' was that made by the railroad, and in the summer it would get miserably hot, as no breeze could get in. Since that time the valley has been cleared for homes and fields and there is a good summer breeze all the time. In that earlier time people used to get chills, and he recalls selling as much as ten cases of chill tonic a week. After the Indians had cleared a lot of the valley land and drained the sloughs the chill affliction went away, and it is seldom heard of now.

Not always has it been peace and serenity in this valley. In 1945, as well as in 1945, a flood came down Sallisaw Creek. The damage and destruction wiped out homes and crops, livestock and anything in its path. He says his store up at the foot of the hill had eight inches of water standing in the floor. This meant that the normal twenty-foot creek had spread out over a quarter of a mile wide. The flood washed away the grist mill, which was never replaced. Many places, the railroad fill was washed out and the tracks were left up in the air.

Mr. Ray recalls days of 60 years ago when he used to meet the midnight train to pickup up or deliver express. Many was the time when outlaws would get off or on the train. The outlaws lived and hid in the adjoining Cookson Hills. Some of them Mr. Ray knew and many were strangers, but they never bothered him, even though the midnight opportunities were ripe.

This part of Adair county has always been a wild game country. The rough hills and valleys are ideally suited to deer, turkey, elk, panther, wolves, and bobcats. The cleared spots in the valleys are a natural habitat for small game and birds. Some large and beautiful rattlesnakes have been taken within a half mile of Bunch. On the walls of the old country store are hides of rattlesnakes six or more feet long, and over twelve inches wide.