

Sam tells that when this country was the Cherokee Nation there was lots of wild game and good fishing. The Indian then did not have to have a license to hunt and fish. He does not understand what happened to change everything. Back then the Indian could hunt and fish wherever he wanted. But in the short span of about 65 years the whiteman's government again took all that the Indian had. It seems to disturb the whiteman to-day when he learns that he has overlooked taking what little is left that might belong to the Indian. There is very little for the Indian to look forward to in the future. Sam recalls the old days when the Indians would gather on the streams and rivers for a fish killing day. The Indians would use buckeye root and smartweed to tranquilize the fish and then they could be easily gigged. The whiteman called it fish poisoning, but the fish were not poisoned, he says.

A popular sport of the old days among the Indians were the cornstalk shoots. These events brought large crowds to witness the skill displayed by the Cherokees with bow and arrow. Attractive prizes brought the expert bowmen from miles away. Another of the early day events was target shooting with the blowgun, an instrument of powerful and deadly accuracy. But this weapon seemed to have been abandoned when muzzle loading rifles came into general use. Sam says that bows were usually made from black locust or Osage orange wood, and the best arrows were made of black locust or hickory. Wa-toon, or deer sinew, was used to tie the feathers on the arrows. The best feathers for arrow use were those of the red tail hawk, and sometimes eagle feathers were used.

The eel and the white soft-shell turtle are now gone from the once wonderful fishing streams the Indians knew. Sam remembers when these prized food items could be had most any time. He blames the whiteman for their disappearance.

Sam tells of the days when men sentenced to be hung at Tahlequah was a public affair. People would come for the event, even camping overnight. That was the law in the old Cherokee Nation days, he tells. George Roach and Zeke Paris were two of the hangmen appointed by the Cherokee Nation to perform that duty. The fee for the hangmen of that day was \$25. per job. Stealing was a crime that brought the guilty to the whipping tree.

Of the lawyers of the Cherokee Nation, Sam mentions E. C. Poudinot, W. W. Hastings, Simon Walkingstick, and Houston L. Teehee. Mr. Gourd seems disturbed over a rumor that the college at Tahlequah wants to buy the Indian Hospital, and wonders if the government would actually sell it.

Remembered by only the old timers now, was the Georgia stock. This was the plow that first tilled the land at the beginning of the Cherokee Nation in the west. This primitive farm implement held its place for a long time as the Nation grew. By some it was known as a "bull tongue". The cradle was another farm tool that belonged to the farm scene two or more generations ago. The cradle was used to cut wheat and oats, leaving it in neat piles for another to come along and take the grain into bundles.

Mr. Gourd relates that his father was respected as an Indian doctor, and could treat most any injury or affliction. He had learned some of the secrets of Indian medicine and treatments from his mother. He tells that his father had successfully treated rattlesnake bites merely by using tobacco. One time his father treated a white boy for snakebite, and was given half a bushel of onions