

"I am in Tallequah, visiting with James A. Tyner, who is going to tell us some of his experiences as a student at the Old Cherokee Male Seminary. [And I am going to ask him a few questions to start with here, so that we can get started from where we discussed earlier. Now, Mr. Tyner, I want you to tell me how you got into the school and what kind of permission you had to get when you went there?]

I entered the school in 1905 as a primary. I couldn't get into the school until I contacted Mr. A.S. Wiley, and he gave me permission to enter that school.

SUPERINTENDENT A.S. WILEY:

(Who is Wiley?)

He was superintendent of Five Civilized Tribes over here at the time.

(Cherokee. He was superintendent of Cherokees?)

Uh-huh.

(He wasn't superintendent of the school, but all business agencies?)

No, you had to get permission from him before you could go school there. So, I contacted him about going to school. He said, "Would you go to school--would you stay if I let you go to school out there?" I said I sure would. "O.K." he said. "I'll send you out there." And I went out there in the primary. And I did kitchen work for my board. Swept floors, dining rooms floors, and filled up molasses pitchers. And that's about all I did for my board. Just work in kitchen.

CLOTHES WORN:

(What kind of clothes did you have that you wore there?)

Well, I went without any clothes. I didn't have a coat when I entered the school there; so we all had to wear coats down at our meals and I had to borrow a coat from my brother to wear while we ate our meals. And so, then I did barber work; cutting hair for the boys; saved my fifteen cents--was all I charged for hair cuts. Saved enough to buy me a little suit.

(Had your own coat then?)

And I had my own coat then.

DISCIPLINE:

(What kind of discipline did they have at school in order to control the boys?)