

T-509

July 7, 1969

Index side A, recording time 22 min.; interview time 1½ hours.

Informant: Ross Rector, 75-year-old Cherokee,
Christie Community, Adair County, Oklahoma

Subject: Southeast of the little village of Christie is Scraper Hollow. Named for Archibald Scraper who lived from 1816 to 1904 settled in this Hollow after arrival from the east, coming with the Cherokees on the Trail of Tears. Many Cherokees have lived in this valley, and it is here that Ross Rector has lived nearly all of his life.

Mr. Rector is bothered with rheumatism, and like many Indians treats his ailments with home remedies. At the beginning of this visit he is telling of treating the pain in his knees with aspirin dissolved in alcohol. He recalls when Indians of long ago treated this ailment, or related aches and pains of the joints. Then, a common treatment was the use of crushed dog fernil rubbed on the joints. Also, many Indians obtained relief of pain by using poke root tea, bitters of rattle weed root or Prickly ash root. The use of home remedies is fast disappearing from the Indian way of life, as health clinics, Indian hospitals, and doctors in the whiteman's world are sought.

When the Cherokees arrived in the new land of the Indian Territory in 1839 and scattered in the many directions to find home sites and begin a new life, it would seem that each of these settlements would be named for one of the leaders of the area. Such was also the case in Mr. Rector's area. Just to the east of his home is England Hollow, named for Lincoln England. Then to the west a few miles is Redbird Hollow. Both of these places were named for their respective Cherokee leaders.

The village of Christie was named for John Christie, an early day Cherokee settler. Situated on the bank of Barren Fork River in a fertile valley, this early village did not want for opportunities to make a living. In the many years before any store was put in there, the Indians were almost self-sufficient. The wonderful pine and hardwood timber provided material for homes, crops were cultivated in the valley, and the river was of pure clear water. Hunting and fishing was good in the early days. Salt was one of the few items they did not have locally, and had to go several miles down the Illinois River for this necessity.

Sometime, not too much before the turn of the century, whitemen came into the area. Along with them came the railroad. Christie grew to become a little town with three stores, sawmill, depot, post office, blacksmith shop, and timber yards. At the height