

T-518

September 4, 1969

Index side B, recording time 15 min; interview time one hour.

Informant: Adalaide Eye, 79-year-old Cherokee,
Sageeyan Community, Rogers County, Okla.

Subject: Sageeyan Community

Between the morning shadow of Claremore Mound and the big bend of the Verdigris River is Sageeyan Community. Zaccneus Sanders, a prominent Cherokee of the early days of settlement of the Cherokee Nation, lived in this area. The Indians named the community, or area, for him using his first name. The nearest formation of Zaccneus in the Cherokee language came out as Sageeyah, and so it was.

For most of her life this area has been home to Adalaide Eye, who lives alone in her modest and comfortable home in the community. She has seen many of the changes that have come and gone to affect the way of life of her neighborhood, as is the story in nearly all communities.

Mrs. Eye likes to tell about her Rogers County. The county was named for Clem Rogers, the father of Will Rogers. Each community seems to be closely related to the next, and she tells how some came by their names. Tiawan is just a name with no particular meaning, but it was the Cherokee name for Henry Chambers who at one time was the Assistant Principal Chief of the Cherokees. Owala the neighbor community just to the east came by its name thru the Lipe family who operated a trading post there in the early days. Mr. Lipe wanted a Cherokee name for the community and some Indian friends came up with "Oo-wa-la" which means light, the nearest they could come to "Lipe". Nearby also are the communities of Bushyhead and Sequoyan named for those well known Cherokees, although they never lived in the area.

In an early day Sageeyan was a little village with stores, blacksmith shop, post office, railroad depot, schools and churches. There was the Malloy General Store and the Summers Mercantile. Mr. Mayberry was the postmaster, and Mr. Bidwell was the railroad station agent. The Missouri Pacific Railroad operated two passenger trains daily each way, and State Highway No. 80 came thru the little village.

The first school^{there} in Territory days was held in a part of the big stone house of the Hines family. Later the Cherokee Nation built a little schoolhouse for the community. Some the early teachers there were Cora Brazell, a Mr. and Mrs. Denning, and Evelyn Green.

In the middle of Sageeyan village stands a large frame church building, no longer used, except for hay storage. A name across the front reads "Presbyterian Church Established 1887". After the Presbyterian Church closed, a Baptist church was built nearby which was closed later and the building sold to the Church of God faction. The new Sageeyah Baptist Church was built on the newly relocated Highway 80 some mile or so east. The Rev. Parris, who is of Cherokee ancestry, pastors the one remaining church in the old village.