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INFORMANT: WILL POLECAT, CHEROKEE

INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER

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The little village of Nicut, located far back in the hills of the Cherokee Nation, is another that has it's own history, it's peoples, and it's events of the past. According to Will, the name "Nicut" probably comes from a shortened expression of distance or direction; "It's nigh a shortcut to Sallisaw." In days of travel of long ago this fact is understandable when viewing the rough hills and valleys of that area, and any short cut out of there or across those hills would be welcome. The name Nicut was used when the first post office was established there. The little village had previously been known as Vernoi, but this name was not acceptable to the postal authorities since some other town somewhere used this name.

Will Polecat was born in the Nicut area and has spent all his life here. He is perhaps the oldest person who has lived continuously in the area, and during this visit he talks of the people, places, and happenings of his homeland. Hidden in those hills of northeast Sequoyah County is a little settlement known as Short, the origin of whose name seems to be lost. However, Will tells that in days before Short showed on maps the name of the place was Shakespeare, and he does not know how that name came. Along Lee Creek and Little Lee Creek other places exist or have existed such as Copic, Rainsville, Bellefone, and Salt Springs.

A visit to the old burial places of this area tell that many people have lived here beginning perhaps from the formation of the Cherokee Nation in 1839.

Because of so many unmarked graves probably more are unknown than known.

But a few of the families who helped clear places out of a wilderness that became communities include the Seabolt, Polecat, Teehee, Qualls, Flanagan, Cyrus, Downing, Duncan, Curry, Roastingear, Searat, Fears, Sevenstar, Horn, Taylor, Baldridge, Welch, Christie, et al.