

for travelers between Ft. Gibson and Tahlequah to stop for meals. The outlaws had come for their share of the Cherokee Strip money payment to be distributed in Tahlequah. Said to be \$265.70 each. However, some of the men had already been in deep trouble in this area. So, they holed up at Halfway House while maneuvering for a go-between to get their money. Late on the evening of July 18, 1894, the sheriff and his posse appeared at the Halfway House and a hot gunfight ensued. Sequoyah Houston was killed and Jim Cook wounded. The men who made up the posse are all gone now, Houston said. I was a pallbearer for the last one, Bill McKee. Reportedly that posse included Ellis Rattlingourd, Dick and Zeke Crittendon, Bill Nichol, Isaac Greese, Hicks and Brackett. And Sequoyah Houston was buried in the original Blue Springs Cemetery sometimes referred to as the old Houston Graveyard. Not many people know that I remember much about the Cherokee Strip Payment. It was a big event in Tahlequah. The Strip money was hauled in trunks from Ft. Gibson and a lot of guards were used. And money was given out at the district courthouse, a two-story frame building, on the site of the present Carnegie Library. Guards were stationed all around every ten steps about the courthouse. When Mack Houston was 14 years old, the family moved to Blackbird Creek near Shiloh. There he continued his school work started at Blue Springs under Sam Parks, his first teacher. When a young man he met his future bride in Gideon, they were married at Shiloh on December 7, 1910 at the home of the Baptist minister, the Rev. J. A. Knox. Mrs. Houston is a native of Missouri. Mack Houston was a farmer, but World War I, he began barbering on Saturdays. After the war he sold out and moved to Hulbert for a year. His next move was to Osage County for a job in the oil fields. Dissatisfied, he stayed only a few months before coming to Tahlequah. The reason for moving to