

T-557

BEN PORTER, CREEK

INTERVIEWED BY: LUCINDA TIGER

INTERVIEW DATE: MARCH 17, 1970

TRANSLATION BY: LUCINDA TIGER

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: MARY WIKI

SUMMARY PROVIDED BY INTERVIEWER:

(I am going to interview Ben Porter, he lives 1924 E. Court, Muskogee, Oklahoma. As a young boy, he lived near Okemah, Oklahoma. About 15 miles out near Okfuskee Community. There were around 50 families living there and few whites.

(Tell about fishing or catching fishes and how did you all do it?)

We'd put something in water like squashed up roots and the fish would come up to the surface. That's when we speared them or grab them. Game warden started coming around and we had to quit. They said we were killing the small fishes but we really weren't. We use to camp by the river.

(I've told about the things he said in first part. He told about Thomas Scott, how he used to be good in doctoring. He used to tell us how he use to catch wild turkey. Ben says he is pretty old cause he's 69 years old. He lived with his parents. He went to Nuyaka Boarding School 1917 and he went home and went to public school and from there he went to Bacone. That was during depression. Dr. B.D. Weeks told him to come back to Bacone. That so he went back there. He got married and they were matron in dormitories. They were at Murrow Orphan Home for 22 years. When he was with his parents, they didn't have luxury but they made living and they lived good. At that time they/didn't have refrigerator or ice box but they had plenty food. They raised corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, we had chickens, cows and we had milk and we had plenty food. Lots of Creeks lived all around. We had