

after they got up in the harvest fields, and he did not see Chock again for two or three years. One day Chock came home driving a good car, and carrying lots of money. He told Ben he won the money shooting craps. Not long after that Chock made the headlines as Pretty Boy Floyd. Ben says Chock was a good boy when they were growing up in the Atkins-Hanson country, and came from a good family, and would have been alright if he had stayed home. Chock's brother has been Sheriff of Sequoyah County for some twenty years. When Chock was killed, he was brought home and buried in the Atkins Cemetery. Ben says that was the biggest funeral he ever attended.

Times, places, and people change. He has seen much in his time. Ben seems somewhat sorry to have lived to see the time when people do not have time to visit each other or be concerned with one another's needs. He tells of an old man that lived up the road from his house, that never took time to visit or make friends, but was always working hard to make another dollar. Ben stopped one day and talked to him while he was plowing next to the road. Ben asked him why he did not get around and visit and make friends, and the old man told him he just did not have time as he has too much work to do. Ben told him, "I'll be your friend, and you can just keep right on working."

The first school that Ben attended was down close to Hanson, in an old building that was first built as a churchhouse. Later a school was built around statehood time up on the side of the hill. He recalls that John Rogers, an Indian, was a teacher there at one time, and the kids paid five cents a day to go to school.

Around 1890 was when the churchhouse was built. It was a two story building. The top floor was used as a meeting place for womens clubs, the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World Lodges.

In the early days around Hanson some of the families had big colonial type homes built. Some of those homes belonged to the Faulkners, Campbells, and Garvins. During the 1880s and 1890s a man by name of Cameron built many homes of all sizes in that country. Home fires were a plague in the early days and many homes have been destroyed thru the years, in his home country. Many of the families would rebuild and start over again.

Dave Faulkner was a prominent man in Indian Territory days. His home was at Hanson. At one time Mr. Faulkner was Assistant Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. He is buried in the Little Faulkner family cemetery near Hanson.

Figuring much in the history of Indian Territory is Ft. Smith. This old town was the trading center for a large area of the Indian country. Connecting early day activities of Indian Territory to Ft. Smith was the Federal court where Judge Parker held forth, and many a good Indian went there on a one-way trip.