T-553

March 13, 1970

Index side B, second part, recording time 23 min.; interview time 1 hour.

Informant: Garland Boyd, 68-year-old Delaware, Winganon, Rogers County, Okla.

Subject: Winganon history.

A few miles south of old Alluwe on the edge of what was once the Delaware Nation, the cross-roads village of Winganon overlooks the new Oologah Reservoir. Upon its hill, Winganon itself did not suffer the many destructive changes that came to this part of the Verdigris valley. The greatest change was the removal of old land marks, families, homes, and the inundating of some of the finest of bottom farming land. This is the country that Mr. Boyd has known, all of his life, having been born here. But he says "I am too old now to worry about any of the changes."

From Winganon to the Kansas line, Mr. Boyd has traveled this country most of his life, and has known most of the people who have lived in the Verdigris River bottoms and in the Big Creek Country. Most of the Delawares are gone from their former reservation land now, and the government took the most of the Verdigris River valley for their Oologah Reservoir. Little is left of a former race of people.

Almost from the beginning the foreign elements have been after the Delawares. In their early records, the Delawares were one of the largest of Indian tribes, occupying a part of what is New York state, a part of Pennsylvania, the state of Delaware and New Jersey. The name 'Delaware' was given them by the English, from the name of a river in their country of old (now the state of Delaware); that name being Lord de la Warr River. However, the Delawares call themselves 'Le-NAH-pe', meaning "men of their (Indian) nation". A town in northern Nowata County goes by the English pronounciation of Len-a-pah, but was originally 'Le-NAH-pe'. In the many years that it took the white man to push and move the Delawares westward, it has been written that they were the wildest and fiercest in the frontier wars, and in their bitter opposition to the white invaders. After two hundred or so years what was left of the Delaware tribe were settled in Kansas before the Civil War, a few migrated to the northwest and affiliated with the Crow and Nez Perce Tribes, another band had gone into Texas in the early 18 Os and joined with the Caddo and Wichita Indians, while small bands are said to have in Wisconsin with the Chippewas and in the Ontario, Canada, area. The white man has almost suceeded in exterminating the Delawares, which at one time was one of the largest tribes. To-day in Oklahoma it is hard to find a person of Delaware ancestry.

Those Delawares of northeast Oklahoma, came to Indian Territory in 1867, after being forced out of Kansas. The decendents of those some 900 souls are now widely scattered, many have intermarried causing the Delaware tribe to face extinsion before many more generations come. On that tract of land embracing the Verdegris River ten miles wide and 30 miles south of the Kansas line, the Delawares lived in comparable peace and security until Oklahoma became a state. Payments of money due the Delawares were made on several occasions, usually at the Campbell Store on Lightening