

white employees. At least it was a poor place for much brotherly love. Maggie recalls some of her experiences at the Indian School. In those days there was no electricity (although present generations think electricity came with Noah). There was no natural gas, no central heating, no air conditioning, and apparently not much of anything. But the children got by. One of Maggie's chores was to help clean and fill the kerosene lamps, which they called coal oil lights then. The children also had to see about getting in their own coal for the dormatory heating stoves. Those big pot-bellied stoves would be an antique collector's item to-day. There was a ring around the upper part of the stove to hold and heat sad irons that were used for ironing and pressing clothes. She tells that one of the rules of the supervisors was that the Indian languages were not to be used at the school. Of course rules were made to be broken, and the girls found all manner of ways to get together to converse and visit in their native tongue. The children went to school half a day and worked half a day, which it is learned was the program in all Indian Schools of that day. So when a student finished the sixth, eighth, or twelfth grade they were supposed to be ready to go out and compete with others in the world - even with that 'half an' education'. Even so, most of those Indian children have successfully competed for jobs, standards of living, and the necessities of life in the whiteman's world.

There were other boarding school activities that Maggie recalls. In the winter the boys would go rabbit hunting, without guns, and bring in enough meat for all the children. The boys hunted with sticks, clubs, and rocks. In the spring the girls would go up and down Lost Creek gathering wild greens and wild onions for the dining tables. This task they enjoyed as it broke the monotony of the school routine, and let them get out in an environment they knew.

She tells that there was a sad thing happen at the Indian School. About 1921 or 1922 the Supt. and the Principal resigned. Their act came as a protest against the government for not providing quality food, sufficient clothing, and necessary supplies to properly take care of the children. The action came near the end of the school year. Parents had been notified and they came after their kids. Others whose parents could not come after them, simply walked away. Soon there were only about 20 children left at the school. Maggie had an older sister and a younger sister there. The older sister had walked away and headed for home. Maggie was getting ready to leave, and went to tell the Principal goodbye. He talked her into staying at the school, and now she is grateful because it was the only education she received. Shortly a Mr. Patterson was sent to the school as Principal. She tells that about 1923 electricity was installed at the school and they had a 'lectric light bulb! But there little improvement in other things, such as maintaining the floors. The floors in the buildings were scrubbed by hand, and the Indian girls did the work. Then the floors were oiled and waxed, using a crude mixture of kerosene, heavy motor oil, and some other awful compound. It left anything but a shine and nice odor. One of the marvels of the day was how the buildings kept from all burning down with those oil soaked floors. Maggie says she was fortunate as she was able to do ironing and baby sitting for the principal's wife, and earned some spending money.

Back when she was a little girl on Saline Creek she remembers when the folks would take corn to Pryor to have ground into meal. She tells that Uncle Andrew Bark raised wheat and he would have his grain ground into whole wheat flour as the bread baked from it was one of his favorites. She recalls one time when going to Pryor the wagon tongue broke crossing the river ford. In a short while another tongue was fashioned from a sappling and they were on their way, thanks to the ingenuity of Old Man Birdchopper. Shopping in Pryor (or Cooyiwah Town as it was called) was a very simple matter in her young days. She says about the only thing they bought was salt and coffee.