

T-620-5

Emelece Reynolds, Cherokee

(We are in the home of Mrs. Emelece Reynolds, a member of the Cherokee tribe. And she is going to tell us something about her early days with the Quapaw Indians.)

This is Emelece Reynolds--Neidifer Reynolds, and I was born at Afton on Horse Creek--grew up and went to school there. In 1922, I came to Miami and I worked mostly for the Indians--the Quapaw Indians. They took me in as one of their own, always treated me so. I worked eight years for Pa Greenback. And those eight years I worked for him I learned a lot about their ways and what they did. In the evening Pa Greenback--his name was Antoine Greenback--we would sit out on the porch and he would tell me about early days about when he used to cut ties for nine cents a day. And he would feed his family. And one time we were out there and the moon was shining bright and he was telling me about the story of long long ago when they--little children in the Quapaw tribe didn't have a father, why the married men--the old folks he called them--would sit on a log and they would give each man a peach seed and then they would line these little babies up and who--which ever one the baby went to and took the peach seed from his hand, why they would claim him as their own, and raise him and give him a home. He told me that is the way he got Joe Greenback. And-- Uh-huh, and then he told me about-- (He was a peach seed baby?)

--moving to the promenade, when they moved there, and--

(Where did they move from?)

From down in Arkansas. They moved up this way. Which he said that they had come from Osage County, to. I think--as near as I can remember, some time he had told me that he was related to the Osages, but I can't remember for sure whether it was him or maybe someone he was talking about. Because he would tell me about so many things that I couldn't hardly remember what all he did tell me. He learned me how to say all different things in Quapaw.