

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Mr. Long was born in the Wauhilla area of Adair County and has spent all of his life in this part of the old Cherokee Nation. He is the son of Frank Long and Martha Christie Long. His father was once the high sheriff of the Goingsnake District. One of his uncles was Ned Christie, at one time a member of the Executive Council of the Cherokee Nation, and in his later years turned outlaw in his hatred for the whiteman. Mr. Long talks at random on many things.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

One of early day churches was built by old man Worley in the original site of Wauhilla. Close by the church site was the Hefner Cemetery. The cemetery has been abandoned for fifty or more years. The old church building was moved up by the Titanic store and school, and in later years it was torn down, and a new church called Freewater was built. Mr. Long says that the first school that he remembers was held in the old church house which was then located near Bill Christie Springs, and very probably on Dan Chuculate's place. He remembers when he went to the old log church when it was used as a school house about statehood time. The next school to be built in that area was the Willis School, built with donated labor and materials. Among those who helped build this school were Frank Long, Dow Willis, Lon Wilhite, Luke Tyner, Logan Whittington, John Sanders, and Luke Whitfield. As the country became more settled the need for additional schools was met by building at Caney, Eldon, Rabbit Trap, Whitmire, Scraper Hollow, etc. Many of those little country schools survived for many years after statehood. Today, those still standing are no longer in use as progress and modern ideas have changed most everything.