

(What was his name?)

Wilbur. Wilbur Peawo.

TENT VILLAGE SET UP NEAR PRESENT MEERS DURING GOLD RUSH IN  
WICHITA MOUNTAINS

(Well, did the Indian Police --did they ever have any trouble with the white trespassers? Or white men they had to arrest?)

Well, in early days the biggest trespassers were handled by the soldiers. The soldiers were the ones to take them. Once in a while, the Indian Police with the soldiers, set out. Like in 1899. They had a gold rush here in the Wichita Mountains. And they had thousands of trespassers, prospectors. The mountain creeks were just swarming with them, with picks and guns. And they started a village over on the south side of Mt. Sheridan. Maybe a village with about five hundred tents. I seen them. I seen them. I seen the tents. And that village--most of those prospectors all on the mountain--but they started a grocery store and confectionary, and even had a drugstore in a tent. That's before we had any towns here.

(Did it have a name?)

No, I guess that was the original of Meers, Oklahoma.

(Well, was it near Meers?)

Yeah, just a mile. A mile from Meers. But there wasn't no Meers then.

(Yeah, which direction,--south?)

South. South of the now Meers. And it was right joining Mt. Sheridan--that little Tipi Mountain, on the south side is a valley. A lot of brush and timber has growed now and it looked like it was nothing but timber in --but the early days it was scattered