

T-192-1 (First of Three Interviews)
JOHN ARMSTRONG, CHEROKEE
INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER
INTERVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1968
TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

GENERAL SUBJECT: EARLY LIFE IN CRAIG COUNTY

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

WEIRD STORY ABOUT POLLY DUCK AS WITNESSED BY GRANNY
BUZZARD
SCHOOL LIFE IN EARLY DAYS AT SALINA ORPHANAGE
RAN AWAY FROM ORPHANAGE AND GOT A JOB AT VINITA
WAS CARRYING THE MAIL THE DAY GILSTRAP WAS KILLED
STORY OF HOW THE WICKLIFF BOYS BECAME OUTLAWS
SEVERAL INCIDENTS WHILE DRIVING FOR DRUMMERS
ROADS WERE TERRIBLE DURING THOSE EARLY DAYS
HORSES FOR VINITA FIRE DEPARTMENT
EXPERIENCES WHILE SERVING AS INTERPRETER FOR INDIAN
COMMISSION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

John Armstrong was born in 1885. He lived in the Timpson Chapel Community in Craig County, Oklahoma and was reared by Granny Buzzard and later sent to Cherokee Orphans Home in Salina. His education was received at the orphanage and completed work equivalent to the fifth grade. Mr. Armstrong is an expert wood craftsman and also a student of the Bible. He is attempting to trace the origin of the American Indian. He was also an interpreter for many years for Indians at court trials as well as for Indian Agents. He now lives in Pryor, Oklahoma.

Note: The other informants on this tape are: Mr & Mrs. Ausley Welch, Cherokee
Andy & Martha Byrd, Cherokee