

EARLY DAY PERSONALITIES

(That bank, seems like it was the first one, I believe wasn't it?)

Could have been. Old Chief Buffington was interested in the bank--I believe it said Buffington.

(Yes, he was a prominent figure up there, I didn't know him. I missed making his acquaintance. He was a big man wasn't he?)

Yeah. Big. Yeah, he was a big man as near as I can remember about him, maybe six foot, something. 200 pounds or more. Did you ever know Sam Parks up there?

(Yeah, yeah I knew him.)

He was member of the legislature. I remember, one day, there it was in March I guess he made a big speech there and all of 'em 'bout to, caught some boys, just about ready, disappear and he made a speech in Cherokee. He wanted to adjourn and go home because he was afraid he was going to miss out on wild onions and polk salad. Said when he might near adjourn the meeting "sinedia" or whatever they call it but nobody know what he said.

(He adjourned in Cherokee?)

Yeah. That would have been something all right. Everybody still remembers him. He was on the--what did we use to call the--well the bunch is his teachers, on the county school board. No it was federal.

(Federal?)

Yeah, and he was that and D. Frank Reed, he was first president and vice-president at Northeastern. He was the one that appointed from Washington, but Sam Parks and a fellow by name of Brewer, they stayed in Muskogee and they'd come around every fall to see how the school was getting along and then Lawrence Wylie, well not Lawrence, I don't remember Wylie's name. He was in Tahlequah. Yeah, Bert Wylie was superintendent out there. And his brother on the board over there I think. Yeah, that was the kind deal that the federal government made.