

STORY OF HOW RED CLOUD BECAME HIGH SHERIFF

(He handled some pretty mean characters there in his prison didn't he?)

Yeah. He did. They tell me that they--I've read in history that somebody wrote that they hung only one man while he was there but he told me that they hung three while he was there. And he made the remark that there was one that he hated to see hung. They were all desperadoes and murderers, all three of them. But this particular one--he made a talk as he told in Cherokee--the talk he made said, "I didn't do this." Said, "Whiskey did it." "You young fellers out there look at me and see what whiskey will do for you." Said, "I didn't do this on my own." Said, "I was drunk." Said, "Whiskey is what did it." Said, "Don't drink." My Dad said he hated to see him hung, but there was no way to keep from it at that time. It was kinda peculiar how he became warden or High Sheriff as they called 'em in those days. We call 'em warden now but they were called High Sheriff then under Cherokee law. He lived in Delaware District. And at that time, you know, we--the Cherokees had the same principal as the state did have about this apportionment or changing of the line that--not county but was district in those days. And Vinita got to be I guess, about the best town in the territory at that time. Even bigger than Muskogee. And they had the Fair Grounds and everything there and when the Katy Railroad came through, why then they re-apportioned. Then they made the east side of the track Delaware county and the west side, Kuis Kui county but district. Delaware District and Kuis Kui District. My Dad lived across the track. He was in Delaware District. And then served as clerk of the courts for Delaware District there when he was a young fellow for quite a while. He lived over on Duck Creek. And when Chief Sam Mayes ran for Chief and was elected, he and Mushrat--I believe it was Jeff Mushrat, they--my Dad was always a friend to all the natives--he grew up among them around Salina there across the river from Salina when he was a boy. And he and Mushrat spent their own