

T-309

INFORMANT: BENNIE WHITEDAY, EASTERN
SHAWNEE

SIDE A

INTERVIEWED BY: J.W. TYNER

INTERVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER & OTHERS

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(Today, I am visiting with Bennie Whiteday, an 82 year old Eastern Shawnee of Catchem Community, Craig County, Oklahoma. He is an enrollee of the Cherokee Nation and has lived in this community all his life. He still resides on a part of his land allotment. He has been a farmer, and now spends his time hunting and fishing and tending a small home and garden. The recording of an interview with him, today, follows.)

EARLY DAY CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS

(You used to live around here didn't you? All this has changed in here hasn't it, what used to be farming in here and pasture land?)

Yeah. There used to be a lot of farming in here.

(Back in the early days what was the law in this country?)

Well there wasn't much law.

(Uh-huh. Where was the court house?)

Ft. Gibson.

(Ft. Gibson.)

They just take them down there and hang them.

(What was the main crimes that they would commit?)

Horse stealing, stealing horses, saddles, sometimes they hang 'em where they catch 'em.

(That was the Indian law then. They were pretty rough on them, wasn't they?)