

Sept. 6, 1968

T-309

Index side A.

Recording time: 15 minutes.

Informant:

Jennie Whiteley, 82-year-old full blood Eastern Shawnee, of Carslowry Prairie, Craig County, Okla.

Subject:

Mr. Whiteley was born and raised on Carslowry Prairie, and has always lived here. He still resides on a part of his land allotment. He is an enrollee of the Cherokee Nation. In his productive years he was a farmer, and now spends his time hunting, fishing, and tending his small home and garden.

He recalls when there was much cultivation farming in this area. Now nearly all of the country is in pasture, or has grown up in brush and woods.

Before statehood law and order was kept by the Cherokee Nation and under their strict laws. He relates that when some horse thieves were caught near his boyhood home they were hung on the nearest tree and left. The next day some men in the community cut them down and buried them - their names unknown. Also, for some offences against Cherokee laws, punishment was administered at the whipping tree at the Court House of that District.

Except for a small area known as Shawnee Hills in eastern Nowata County, members of the Eastern band of Shawnees were scattered among the Cherokees in the northern part of the Cherokee Nation. It has been estimated that there were less than a thousand Eastern Shawnees at any time in northeast Oklahoma. They were another of small tribes of Indians who suffered removal from their native land by the Government. The Shawnees' original homeland was in Kansas and western Missouri.

Mr. Whiteley likes to recall of the old days when the Indians would have their cattle roundups. All area Indians had cattle brands, some of which remain in use to-day. Open ranges existed at that time. Cattle brands were highly respected, and branding at roundup time was a cooperative affair. Except for strays, cattle herds were tended and cared for. Winter feed was provided for by cutting prairie grass and stacking it in convenient, local places. This was before the introduction of hay balers.