Mr. Wright recalls his early days in Baron community when the family would kill 10 to 15 fat hogs to prepare for the winter. They had cattle and would butcher when meat was needed. They did not have much surplus but canned, preserved, dried, and kept nearly everything they needed thru the winter months. They always raised a patch of cane, and kept a sorghum mill. In the fall of the year they would make up a large barrel of molasses. Seldom did they have to go to the store for goods or groceries, as most people of that early day were almost self-sufficient. He recalls that he has seen his mother take a ham to the store and trade for salt, tobacco, coffee, or a piece of yard goods - things they did not produce. For their corn meal and whole wheat flour they took their grail to a mill at Hoy, Arkansas.

He recalls that when he was a young boy, the country was not too thickly settled, but neighbors always kept in touch with one another. He says that nearly all homes were built of logs, all had big fire places, and large families. From his home on the hill at Baron he pointed out where some of these early day homes stood. Now very few of the old log houses remain.

Mr. Wright comments on the progress he has observed in his time. He mentions seeing the lights we are so accustomed to to-day begin as a piece of rag in a bowl of grease. And from getting a bucket of water from a spring to the simple matter of turning a faucet. He doubts that any other generation of people has seen so much.

Woods fires in early days were bad and a serious threat to homes and crops. This being a wooded country, about all they could do was just keep the fires away from their rail fences, and let the rest of the woods go.

He recalls with fond memory, the rail maulings, house raisings, and clearing days. These events were called Ga-tu-si (Cherokee for "work day"). At each there was the provision of a big dinner, and neighbors came from miles to help. A man would cut and have all the logs needed on hand, and when the day arrived the men would cut, fit and put up his new log house with fireplace in one day. (No charge.) On clearing day, the men would clear and grub as much as four or five acres.

In commenting on traveling in those early days. They thought nothing of taking out through the woods with only the stars and moon to go by and travel for miles. Fear of being attacked by man was never thought of; a panther or bear needing food, maybe, but another man, no. He compares times with to-day when people are discouraged from walking a block after night.

Mr. Wrights likes to remember when Barren Fork River was a wonderful stream, with plenty of water, deep holes filled with fish, soft-shell turtle, big eels, and big crawdads. Gone, they are. The river bed now has a little trickle of a stream, brush grows in the river bed, and whiteman's dams and flood control structures killed what was once an Indian paradise. He says floods are caused by whiteman with too much grazing, timber cutting, bulldozing huge areas for pasture, etc.

He believes that at sometime long ago there was an earthquake in the Baron area. In traveling thru the backwoods he sees huge rocks and caverans he thinks came from some great earth disturbance. Of natures other acts, he remembers only one tornado in the area and that back in 1890.