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INFORMANT: GEORGE KEYS, CHEROKEE

INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER

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BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(November 10, 1968. Today I'm visiting with George Keys. A seventy-three old Cherokee of Welling, Oklahoma. Mr. Keys tells us of his life in this country, where he was born and raised. And has been here all this time.)

TELLS OF CHANGES HE HAS SEEN SINCE HE WAS A BOY

I seen it change. I tell you seventy-three years. I've seen a big change.

(In early day there was no section lines. Just roads across the country. Just wherever they could made a road then.)

That's right. Wherever they wanted to make a road. Now the old road right down here, used to go down close to the Illinois River. And the way we went to town, we go along and showing them men along the road. I say why that's all fenced up. Says I used to go through here horseback.

(Uh-huh)

Why I didn't know that was used for a road. I forgot my directions then, and pulled out.

(Uh-huh)

TELLS ABOUT LOCATING A STRAY HORSE AND TWO MULES AND DELIVERING THEM TO THE OWNER IN SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

One time there's a man lost his mules. The mules and a mare in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. And I seen his ad in the Tulsa paper. And uh--I went off--I wrote him a letter and told him the mules was in our field. I told him where the mare was. And I said I don't know how long she'll be there. But I know where she's at. Because some fellows using her. And he was a chief of police and he come down there. So we went over there to see about. Oh now they had never seen that mare. I said well you did have her. You had her in the field. They said, "Ain't