

He remembers when there were no roads through the country, just wagon trails and cow paths. In unfamiliar country people did get lost. Peter himself says he has been lost, but he would just turn his horse loose and it would take him home.

Again, telling about his first school, he says that there was an old blacksmith nearby who had a bunch of hounds, and the school was thereby named Dogtown. The building was a rough frame structure. The first teacher there was Houston Justice. After that Jannie Ross was their teacher.

Coal digging has been going on in the Chelsea area as long as he can remember. Coal mining on a large scale started about 1910. Some places he recalls the coal veins were only three feet under the ground, in the white Hill area. Major strip mining was done south of Chelsea toward Claremore.

He remembered that Chelsea was originally called Neck Davis. He tells that Chelsea got gravel streets down town about 1916, and later had a few coal oil street lights. He recalls seeing the first electric lights in Claremore.

He has seen little towns in his time become prosperous and then die out and disappear. Among them are Catale, Alluwe, Foyil, Bushyhead, Ruby, Hayden, Coody's Bluff, and Centralia.

He tells of seeing Indian trail markers made of piles of rocks on mounds through the country in early days. Traveling Indians had a system of communication by using rocks, which was understood by others.

He recalls that winters in the old days were much more severe than they are now days. Sometimes a snow storm would last for ten days. When traveling in the winter, he would have to get off and walk beside the wagon to keep warm. They only lived about ten miles from Chelsea and could make it in one day without having to camp out overnight. One time he and his brother-in-law had hauled wheat into Chelsea. Next day they started home and got caught in a blizzard. They had a new heating stove in the wagon, so they built a fire in it to get warm. The stove got red hot and nearly burned the wagon down.

Remembers seeing first cars about 1910., and would go down to road to see them go by. They could hear them coming for miles.

About the only entertainment in the old days was Saturday night square dance, and parties. The country people looked forward to those events. Any other entertainment was homemade, and enjoyed. Singing meetings were another popular way of entertainment in the early days.

Chelsea area did not have the timber that other communities had in the early days. That little sawmill work done was with oak and elm, and sometimes ash and sycamore. When someone in community had a burnout in early days, neighbors would haul in lumber and put up another house of rough lumber.