T-354

December 9, 1968

Index side A, second part, recording time 30 minutes.

Informant: Bennie Whiteday, 82-year-old Shawnee, of Carsolowry Prairie, Craig County, Oklahoma.

Subject: Mr. Whiteday begins this interview by telling of some Indian medicinal remedies and uses.

1. Crush equal amounts of redbud leaf and sycamore leaf into a pulpy mass. Use as ointment for most any kind of sores.
2. For spells of vomiting, he scrapes bark from small beech tree limb into very fine shreddings. The scrapings are put in a glass of cold water and left for ten or fifteen minutes, then strained and sweetened.
3. For rheumatism, he recommends several remedies: a tea made from blackberry root; a tea made from pokeberry root; and wine made from pokeberries, and also from elderberries.
4. For colds, he says his mother always gave them skunk oil mixed with turpentine.
5. Sassafras was used for kidney trouble.

He has been an avid hunter and fisherman all his life, but his age now does not permit getting out much. In talking of deer he says that they did not have ticks like they have now. He does not remember killing deer in early days that had ticks on them. Ticks have come into the country in recent years and are taking a toll of deer. When ticks were first noticed in Carsolowry, one cattleman built a dipping vat and charged 10¢ a head to dip. He says all people who had cattle in the area dipped their herds and for a while got rid of the ticks, but the bugs are coming back now as they don't dip or spray like they should. He says last year he went hunting down at the game reserve and ticks got all over him. He rubbed coal oil on his body to get rid of them.

He tells that before commercial fertilizer came into use, he would gather leaves and old sawdust to spread on his small patches of cultivation land. He says it made good fertilizer. It would grow very good potatoes, squash, and melons.

At one time on Carsolowry prairie there were many jackrabbits. Now he says they are all gone, and he has not seen one for years. He believes the poison the farmers use on crop dusting and spray is what killed them off. With only limited farming ducks and geese no longer come to the prairie wetlands. He remembers when there were lots of waterfowl in the fall and winters around his home.

He remembers when it was hog killing time in the old days. Everybody had a smoke house then, and would butcher and put up enough hog meat to last until way up in the spring. He says it was fine eating, when they smoked the meat with hickory wood.