

Back about 1903 he tells of a flood that hit their farm at the mouth of Fourteen Mile Creek. The creek began coming up one night and by four o'clock the next day their house went down the river. When the water went down he says where their crop was it was wiped clean as a floor. The family then moved up near Melvin and put in crops the next year. They hauled their cotton to the gin at Melvin and got \$1.50 a hundred for the first load, and then the price dropped to .75¢. Prices on everything dropped that fall, and he says good river bottom corn sold for 10¢ a bushel, and hay sold for a nickel a bale.

The Town of Melvin was a bigger town than Hulbert when it was in existence. He says there were two dozen stores there, along with the Frisco depot, a cotton gin, grist mill, and saw mill. Melvin has long since been gone. The last evidence of this pioneer town disappeared in the backwaters of Ft. Gibson Lake. Mr. Warren says that at that time Hulbert was on the west side of Double Springs Creek, but now it is all located on the hill on the east side. Bob King and a man by name of Parker together put in the first store in what is now Hulbert. He remembers Mr. King as being the biggest man he ever saw, weighing about 500 pounds. It is not known just when Melvin started or how old a town it was, but it existed long before Hulbert was started. He recalls that there were several negroes living in Melvin at one time. He says that while they lived on a farm near Melvin at one time, nearly every Saturday night two or three negroes would get killed fighting among themselves.

Another of the old villages of early-day Oklahoma is Gideon in mid-Cherokee County. Gideon was originally up on top of the hill from where it is now. The old location where the two stores, school, and church stood does not show any evidence of settlement to-day, except possibly the old Gideon Graveyard. The post office there in territorial days was also a meeting place for those who came for miles to pick up mail and catalogs. One of the stores in old Gideon was run by Lige Wilson, who was prominent in early day politics.

When the railroad was being built by Frisco from Arkansas thru the Cherokee Nation to Muskogee, Mr. Warren remembers seeing convicts from the Federal Jails working on the railroad construction. The convicts had big iron spurs around their ankles so they could not run away, and some had a heavy iron ball at the end of a 15-foot chain shackled to their leg. When the convict had worked out his stretch, he would go pick up the iron ball and move it a little farther along. Armed guards stood watch over the convicts, and none ever got away. Most of the Frisco tracks from Hulbert to Muskogee was built with convict labor. These convicts came from the Federal jail at Ft. Smith. Mr. Warren recalls the first train that crossed the railroad bridge east of Muskogee, and says it was quite an event as several hundred people were on hand to see the crossing.

Mrs. Warren recalls her first ride on a train. She went with her mother by buggy to Chouteau where they boarded a train to Vinita, changing trains traveling somehow after another change to reach Bartlesville. Her mother had some allotted land in Washington County near Ocheleta at that time and had to go there to sign some oil lease papers. She says that was one of the best experiences of her life, and the first time she had ever been out of her home community.