

the creek, and they knew that only a girl and a small child were at home. He and Lee went in a run for the neighbor's home, picking up some gunny sacks at the barn on the way. They were in such a hurry that they barely wet the sacks as they ran thru the creek. They reached the house just in time to get the two children out and send them to stay in the creek. One fought the fire away from the house while the other got two buckets and brought water from the creek. They saved the house, but lost the chicken house and another outbuilding or two. The fire stopped at the creek. When they had controlled what they could, Lee was so hot and thirsty and nearly exhausted he grabbed a bucket with some water still in it, drinking long of the muddy water along with burned grass, trash and whatever else was in it, saying that if he did not get water he would have died. Prairie fires were dreaded in those early days when the family moved to what is now Craig County in 1904.

Even while the family lived in the Flint District along Caney Creek, woods fires were feared. With a strong wind houses, barns, rail fences, and even livestock were in danger. They recall having to fight woods fires all night to save their rail fences and other property.

Going to a trading center in the early 1900s was quite an event for many. Frank and his family lived sixteen miles from Vinita, their nearest source of supplies. That was in days before section lines were laid out and the roads were just trails that went across the country. It took all day to travel from their home to Vinita and back, leaving before daylight and getting back home long after dark. When the moon was not shining, the horses would find their way home. That old road wound past Pheasant Hill School, one of the oldest in northern Craig County, and so named as during Indian Territory time there were pheasants in that area. On one such trip Frank had just ferded West Cabin Creek and stopped to rest. An old man came along by name of Enoch Setherland. This old man had been in the country a long time, and told Frank that he and his Indian family had hoed and plowed corn in the field just north of where they were visiting in 1850. This old Indian said there were Cherokees widely scattered all thru the country there in his early times, but they were miles apart and he could not remember any of them now. He said there was one settlement of Cherokees southwest of him along Pawpaw Creek and some more over on Lightening Creek.

Indian parents of 70 and more years ago did not believe in punishing children by spanking or whipping. They seemed to have other means that got better results. Frank remembers one such time himself. He was about 16 years old and he wanted to go to a party some five or six miles north west of the old Union School. His father tried to talk him out of it as they were busy at that time building some fence around their corn and wheat fields. But Frank did go to the party that Friday night, much to his father's dislike, and got back home about three in the morning. His dad got him up at five o'clock and they worked all day building fence. He said that was the worst punishment he ever got.

Long before automobiles came into the country, Frank remembers there were two livery barns in Vinita where people coming from the country or people traveling thru would stop first. Here they could park their wagons or hacks, and their horses would be fed and cared for while they went about their business. John Gunter, a Cherokee, had a livery barn on Vinita's main street just south of the old First National Bank Building. John LeForce also had a big livery barn on north main street about a block from the Frisco railroad tracks. These places were popular meeting places of friends to visit, and if a man could not afford a room at the hotel, he could bed down for the night in the hay loft of the livery barn.