

CLARK, WILSON

INTERVIEW

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Tribe-Creek
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Muschee Boarding School

EARLY SETTLERS

An interview with Wilson Clark, age 62,
Creek-Euchee tribe, Shawnee Oklahoma.

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
8-16-37

Must be the time of 1889 or 1890, I see white men coming into my country. Some men would be walking and carry a stick on shoulder with a little bundle tied to it. We don't know where the men are going or where they come from.

There's no road but white man goes on anyhow through the grass and tall weeds. Maybe we sometimes follow him and we often find white men resting under the trees. Sometimes we see him making fire and cooking, then again he stay all night but he goes on again next morning.

Sometimes there are three or four men and at other times there is a big bunch of them in wagons with women and children. They stop at a good place where there is plenty good drinking water, near the woods and near a good stream for fishing.

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They try to claim the land where they stop by sticking up a pole of short stick and tying a red cloth to the end of it. If they stayed, a lot of them stole our hogs and cattle.

We chase them out of our country for doing this. I use to help my Indians by watching the white men and see that they don't cut down the trees--at least not so much of them. We could chase out white men one day and they be right back the next day. Sometimes there are more white people back than we had chased out. People would be coming from every direction and from everywhere it seemed like.

There were plenty of hogs and we had all the meat we wanted. Sometimes as many as four or five would be killed, but it didn't seem to last no time.

Then after a while white men builds a school for Indians at Sapulpa and called it the Euchee Boarding school but I don't know what year that was.

Everything sure was different between school

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and the wild country which we left. A long and large black cloth was nailed to the wall and was used for a blackboard. The benches were fixed by a long piece of board nailed on to large blocks of wood.

There was nothing to do at the school and there was no kind of work to do. We ate and slept and that's about all. Sometimes we just forget about school. On those times we would probably go to the little town of Sapulpa and spend the day. Sapulpa was only a small place then.

Note ----

This manuscript has been left as submitted by the Field Worker, who, being Indian is able to interpret quite exactly the language expressed by the Indian interviewed, and has added that peculiar value to the manuscript.