

English and Cherokee and bought cattle from the Indians living along Grand River and the Arkansas River. There were many cattle running in the river bottoms cane breaks. He would buy up a herd of forty cattle and take them to Muskogee as that was the nearest rail road. One time some cattle buyers from Kansas came to see Mr. Rider and wanted to get 400 head of cattle. He recalls the men were Jim and George Whitt and John Hogan. The men went with Mr. Rider and thru the Indian country they got their 400 head. Cattle then brought \$10 a head and Mr. Rider got \$2 for each head he bought for the men. Two full blood Cherokees operated little stores in the hills and from each of them, Tip Tank and Slick Littlejohn, they were able to pick up 100 head of steers. As the cattle were bought the cattlemen would put what they called a "road brand" on them, which was just an "X" on the side of the cow. As they got the cattle from different places, they were brought up to Zeb where Mr. Rider had a fenced pasture. A couple of the cowboys would tend them, herding them around getting them broke to drive on the trail north. When the cattlemen had obtained their 400 head of cattle the herd was started on the trail, leaving Zeb, going thru what is now Hulbert, and crossing Grand River at Melvin, then north toward Pryor Creek on to Kansas. He recalls that at that time there was only a store, blacksmith shop, and a grist mill at Hulbert. There was a ferry boat at Melvin, but the River was low enough that the cattle were driven across. Several Cherokees were hired to help drive the herd of cattle to Kansas.

A main road of Indian Territory days went thru Hulbert to the River and on west. Tom remembers hearing his father talk about the wagon trains going thru headed for California in the Gold Rush days. He told that there would be as many as twenty wagons in a train. He tells that in the old days there were two main roads across the country, one referred to as the California Trail going west, and the other called the Military Road coming from the northeast and going southwest into Texas.

Mr. Rider speaks at length about the things that has happened to Indians throughout this continent. He says the whiteman came here uninvited, and in his distorted belief claimed he discovered American. The Indian was here from the beginning, the same as the whiteman had his beginning in the foreign country. The whiteman is still due to pay for the crime of the ages in coming to America and taking the Indians' lands away from him. Now, he says the Indian does not have anything, not even a pit or pot.

Tom is also well acquainted with the Cookson Hills country and the families of Old man Joe Cookson, Levi and Andy Cookson. This was also the country of the Carliles. In the early days the Cookson Hills was a refuge and haven for outlaws, train and bank robbers, and others who preferred not to associate with the lawmen. Mr. Rider knew many of these men, both white and Indian. The proceeds from the outlaws activities added much to the wealth of that part of the Cherokee Nation, as the money taken from the whiteman in adjoining states was good spending money. He tells that Charley Lockhart, Troy and Ky Carlile were captured one time for bank robbing and sent to jail at Little Rock, Arkansas. One day Troy and Ky were with a bunch of prisoners hoeing cotton on the prison farm. They decided to try an escape when they got to the