

In her 91 years Mrs. Bennett has seen many changes come of this country. She says it is like living in a new world. Nearly all of the older people have passed away that she knew in the older days. The few that remain are like herself in that they are unable to get out and visit much. She reflects on the happier days of long ago when there were no automobiles, television, and other things to occupy peoples times. She says she and her husband used to walk two miles to fish in Grand river and stay all day. They also enjoyed spending a day in the fields and woods hunting when the country was not settled and fenced up like it is to-day. In this present age the allmighty dollar and pursuit of pleasures seem to be the most important things.

She tells that when she first came to this community they had to go to Vinita to do their trading. Mail came to their place twice a week, delivered by a postman on horseback.

Of the early families of Strang community were Brandon, West, Craig, Carnes, Hicks, Adair, Benges, Cobb, Fox, and others. She says for the most part families were rather poor in material things, but they made up the difference in being good friends and neighbors.

Probably the oldest cemetery in this area is the one established in the 1870s by the Cherokee west family and is still in use. It is fenced, but not well maintained. The Indians of the area generally use the cemetery at Ribbon, Spavinaw, or at Gnormley. A few Cherokees are also buried in the Strang Cemetery and at the old Military Cemetery.

Seldom heard of to-day was an affliction known in the older days as "dew poison". It was believed that a scratch or cut could be seriously infected by morning dew, and was best treated by the juice of milkweed or with iodine. Many Indian made their own form of iodine by soaking powdered dry walnut hulls in water or alcohol.

She remembers when they used to go to the corn talk shooting and Indian meetings at Old Euchea. Large numbers of Indians used to gather at Old Euchea for stomp dances, church meetings, and fishing parties. Now she believes all these activities have ceased, as she dont hear of them anymore. She also remembers when they would have "kitchén sweats" otherwise known as country dances. Box suppers and pie suppers were always looked forward to by people of the community, Indians and whites alike. One says times have changed so much now and people dont dance anymore, but stand around waving their arms like one obsessed with evil spirits. Also now days any group screaming unintelligible mutterings, warring a drum, and beating a deatening guitar is called music, - an insult to the word. One is very outspoken against present styles of female dress. One says if she ever gets married she just wants a can opener to wear around her neck to be in keeping with the times.

Gone are the days when she used to watch her grandmother weave cloth to make pants and shirts. At one time Dr. Hollingsworth and Dr. Leonard had offices in Strang, but they have been gone a long time. Yet, she says Strang is a good place to live and die.