

T-48

BILLY SPENCER, SEMINOLE
INTERVIEWED BY: ROBERT L. MILLER
INTERVIEW DATE: MAY 1, 1967
TRANSCRIBED BY: , PAM CRIBBITTY

GENERAL SUBJECT: STORIES OF OLD SEMINOLE DAYS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

SEMINOLE "FIDDLE" DANCE 1898
HUNTING WITH BOW AND ARROW
"JAILING" PRISONERS - TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT
LIGHTHORSEMEN IDENTIFIED
WEWOKA TRADING COMPANY - USE OF SCRIPT
HEADRIGHTS AND CREDIT
MEKUSUKEY SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF
INTRODUCTION TO "THE WORD OF GOD"
SPORTS AT MEKUSUKEY
INDIAN-NEGRO STUDENT KNIFE FIGHTS LEADS TO DROPOUT
RIDING THE RANGE ON SEMINOLE NATION RANCHES
FIVE DOLLARS FOR BREAKING EXTRA BAD HORSES
TOM MIX AND WORK ON THE 101 RANCH
SEMINOLE BILL AND THE KIT CARSON WILD WEST SHOW

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Billy Spencer was born December 23, 1894 near Wewoka, Oklahoma (Indian Territory). His father "Echoelle" (Deer Foot) was a lighthorseman (Seminole law enforcement officer). Billy attended school less than one year, starting at the age of 12 years, then began working around ranches in the Seminole Nation and soon began bronc-busting--taming wild horses. He worked on the 101 Ranch, Ponca City, while Tom Mix was ranch foreman, traveled with Kit Carson's Wild West Show, then returned to bronc riding on a ranch in Seminole County. Mr. Spencer is now retired due to ill health.

Note: This interview took place in the home of Billy Spencer, with interviewer Robert L. Miller and Reverend Terry Walker. Mr. Walker interpreted the Seminole language in this tape.