

Ella Rogers Merritt

As a little girl Mrs. Merritt remembers the skyline of Talala with its white church spires reaching high into the sky, and the people of the community going to church in buggies, wagons, and surreys. After church, she recalls it was the custom for families to go to each others homes for dinner and visiting.

She remembers that her father would go to Claremore to attend court at the Indian Territory Coo-wee-scoo-wee District courthouse. Most trials of law involved murder, land matters, horse stealing, and robbery. Divorce was little known in those early days. She remembers going to Seegayah and to Dog Creek to attend Indian meetings where they would stay for two or three days traveling across country wherever roads and trails were passable. The River was only three miles away and fording the stream could be made in several places in those days.

Talala in 1968 would not be recognized by the old settlers if they were still living. One small grocery store, the post office and a Church are all that is left of the once busy town. Many of its townspeople commute to work in Nowata, Collinsville, and Bartlesville or Tulsa, evidently finding Talala still a nice place to live.