

T-509

July 9, 1969

Index side A, recording time 23 minutes; interview time one hour.

Informant: George Hummingbird, 81-year-old Cherokee,  
Peavine Community, Adair County, Oklahoma.

Subject: Mr. Hummingbird begins this visit by telling that he attended the Cherokee Male Seminary from 1903 to 1907. Like most of the Indian boys ball games were more important than the book learning. He recalls little of the academic part of his stay at the Seminary, but to-day names the good ball players. For one of the years he recalls the baseball team consisted of Andrew Learskov (pitcher), Joe Adair (catcher), Robert Ironside (first base), Clarence Markham (second base), Bob Fields (short stop), Elijah Scrapper (third base), Paddy Mayes (left field), Billy Adair (center field), and Soggy Mayes (right field). One of the good football teams he recalls had as members Andrew Learskov, Richard Holland, Buford Hampton, Elijah Scrapper, Felix Roach, Bob Fields, Paddy Mayes, Soggy Mayes, Joe Patterson, Houston Ballard, and Wilson Smith. The times have come a long way from his school days there when the boys sometimes caught baseball barehanded, and some of the football players did not use helmets or padded protective equipment as we know to-day. But they took their ball playing seriously and played hard. Football was a rough game in those days and many an opponent got run over by those rough playing Indians. George remembers seeing Jim Thorpe play ball in those days. He tells that L. M. Logan was Supt. when he went to the Seminary, and while strict in enforcing the rules, always had the interest and concern for the boys. Near the school was the big Pritchett Springs, although water for the school was hauled from the big springs in Tanlequah. He tells about Stick Ross, who lived up on the mountain west of the Seminary. Stick was at one time a negro slave that belonged to the John Ross family, who was well known and liked and lived to be nearly a hundred years old. George says he does not remember anything about Parkhill in the days he was there, other than that there was stores and houses there along the railroad. Relating to the old landmarks and historic places, he says he did not pay any attention to them, but "just walk on by". Now he is unable to recall anything about the place as he says "we were just young and a little bit wild Indians".

George talks about the old Indians he has known. Jim Sixkiller was a preacher who traveled the Cherokee Nation ministering to the spiritual needs of his people. He remembers him having conducted a big Indian meeting at Standing Rock back in 1907 or 1908. Another of the colorful Indians of long ago was Ned Hoskins, preacher, farmer, and trader who came from the Mulberry Hollow country of Adair County.