

in the lives of the early Cherokees. (The hunt holding second place in early day Indian activity). Every able bodied Cherokee was taught from childhood, trained in youth and was expected to bring honor to the tribe and himself on the ground of conflict, battle, or disagreement. Witness the Choctaw Indian stick ball games of old, where teams of one hundred or more braves faced each other, the dead and injured being removed from the ball field as they fell. When the Indians of old were not fighting other Indian tribes, they kept in condition by fighting among themselves. Perhaps the honor of wearing a whiteman's scalp from the belt was a most important mark of the 18th century Indians. (Some reflect to-day that perhaps not enough blond scalps were taken.)

Mr. Walker recalls the days of long ago when he had visited the Saline District Court House, on Rose Prairie. Now and then he returns to that place to reminisce. First, he always stops at the little abandoned cemetery that is mostly within the right-of-way of the county road. On one of the few monuments remaining is one of Myrtle Cowen (1881-1907). This was his aunt. Life and times around the Saline District Courthouse in early days was not always one of peace and loving neighbors. In this same little cemetery is a marker with the inscription for "A. J. Colvard (1858 - 1892). Mr. Walker tells that at a meeting at the courthouse, Colvard got into a fight with another man and was shot dead. Colvard's brother then took up the fight and when it was over three more men were dead. All are buried in this little abandoned cemetery, most of whom have no markers. (What a field day the Indians could have had then, had there been the hippies, beatniks, yippies, and demonstrators that plague the country in this supposedly civilized nation.)

Telling about the old places of The Spavinaw, another Indian by the name of Chopper used to live at Old Eucha. Not unlike the Black Plague, again came the whiteman to devastate and destroy this beautiful part of the country with the Eucha Dam and Lake. Chopper had to move out and went to spend his last days in Rattlesnake Hollow. He does not like to talk about his old home place, and only comments sadly "It aint no more."

A few miles west of Spavinaw is another old settlement, now known as Strang. Being embraced in the big bend of that part of Grand River was Lynch Prairie. In the history of the Strang area, it also had its own prominence in the early days. For example at the confluence of the River and Big Cabin Creek was the location of the second Hopefield Mission (sometime in the late 1830s). Not generally known is that the first name of present Strang was Lynch, where a store, post office and other activity made a community. Pierce Brandon operated the store there in Lynch.

In speaking of the many changes that have come to the Spavinaw country, Mr. Walker related that Ned Chicken told him that the graves of his mother and father were not moved when the lake was formed. Also, on what was known as Wickliff Point overlooking the lake, there were some Indian graves near there that were never moved and now they are under several feet of water. It would seem that the white man and his ventures to fill his pockets with gold and silver have just about become exhausted in the eyes of this day, but perhaps we have not seen anything yet.