

From his old store in Spavinaw Mr. Walker used to look out over the lake to the west and see the old Ben Hunter place up on the bluff. This was for a long time a landmark of the valley. Development by resort firms, lands abandoned to trees and brush, new lands cleared for retirement homes, a formation of a game refuge, and other other changed by foreigners to the Indian Country was all seen by Mr. Walker over the years. A large park below Spavinaw Dam stretches for a half mile or more downstream. Before the dam it was a beautiful stream where Indians fished with good luck. Now from the first warm days of spring until the first frost of autumn the park is filled with fat foreigners and their families from all intent enjoying themselves amid crowds greater than where they came from. Many others of all sizes and shapes woller and splash in the creek amid bottles, discarded tires, beer cans, dead fish, and loads of trash brought and discarded on what was once Indian land. Each year the scene gets worse, and the Indian moves a little further away - some day there will be no further place to go and the Indian will be no more. He will be the fortunate one.

Across Grand River from Spavinaw was once the large home and farms of Ned Cochran, and prominent and successful farmer. Government lake reservation has taken the old homestead and Ned has gone to be with his Maker. The old Cochran family cemetery still exists somewhere way back in the brush, long forgotten and abandoned. Cattlemen lease the lands boarder ng on the river and all gates are locked. So today our society has reached a point where even the resting places of the dead are not permitted to be visited.

Mr. Walker remember about 1902 when Lynch Prairie was a great area of farming and grassland country. Schoolhouses were usually the centers of social and academic activity. Some of the schools of that Spavinaw country in early days were Requa, New Hope, Lynch, Franklin, Military, Parris, Wickliff, Greenbrier, and Center Hill. Then came Grand River Dam, and the many other developments and the old ways and life gave way to the new - many still believe we all lost out on many things.