

Some of the old country school that existed before statehood of the Wellin-  
Baron Fork area were Hungry Mountain, Willis, John Sanders, Ellis, To-neh,  
Caney, and Tailholt. Except for Hungry Mountain, all of the other old  
schools are gone now.

Henry's part of the Indian Nation was not without its bad element. Too  
frequently there would be fights, killings, and even murder. In the days  
when that country was known as the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokee Law was  
most effective. If a man was charged with a crime, the High Sheriff Office  
went out and brought the accused before the court. Sometimes the sentence  
for a crime was by hanging. He tells that just back of the old jail at  
Tahlequah there used to be the gallows where hangings were carried out.  
He recalls one time he was in town with his folks and one of his uncles  
told him that they was going to hang two white men and a 'nigger' that  
afternoon, and wanted him to go down and watch. Henry was just a small  
boy then and decided he did not want to see the activity, and his uncle  
went on alone to watch.

Henry Clay's little cabin is some four miles from Wellin, well back in  
the woods and away from most of the rush and confusion of to-day's  
activity. Here he is content to live and enjoy his remaining years.  
He has seen and heard much of an era that has passed into the beyond.  
He tells of a couple more stories:

The Eagle family lived close to Wauhatchie, having settled there when they  
were forced from their home in Georgia. Old lady Sallie Eagle was one of  
the matriarchs and when she came to Indian Territory she brought with her  
Yo-sta, a negro slave. Yo-sta was really never considered a slave by  
Mrs. Eagle and they lived almost as sisters. Yo-sta could only speak  
Cherokee, and Henry tells that the Eagles always went to church at  
Caney. Yo-sta always sat, by choice, in a chair to one side of the  
congregation.

Some of The Clay people were Arkansas Cherokees, and handed down was the  
story about a little negro boy that belonged to one of the Indian families.  
One day a group were out in a peach orchard gathering the fruit. A traveling  
entertainer was passing thru the country on his way west. He stopped to  
accept a gift of fruit from the people and visit a while. Among his belongings  
was a little mule and a monkey, used in his entertainment acts. He let the  
mule and monkey perform for the folks. The little colored boy had never  
seen anything so funny, and got to laughing so much that he went into hysterics  
and died. Fact or fallacy? Who knows of some of the things that have  
happened in the long ago.