

was constructed from lumber sawed from big pine trees that were once plentiful to that area. Most unusual about the mill is the 500-foot long flume cut thru solid rock to bring water from up creek to power the mill. For many years a portion of the mill also sawed lumber. Across the creek from the old mill there used to be the village of Flint that had a store, blacksmith shop, post office (called Beckwith), and a schoolhouse. The older Thompsons traded at this center in the early days.

Now far to the north up on the prairie the town of Row had its beginning. Tom Wilson probably had much to do with the starting of this little town. He was a peddler of a variety of merchandise and drove around the countryside in a wagon, later he built a store there. This seemed an ideal location for a town since the flatlands were in a farming district, and timber cutting boomed in the hills to the north and west. The town of Row grew to eventually have several stores, including a barber shop, drug store, harness shop, post office. There was also the Row State Bank owned by Roy Barnham. A big hardware store did a good business also, as did a sawmill just out of town. A big livery stable and barn was well patronized by travelers, drummers, and natives. Typical of the old towns there was the public well in the middle of main street. Row had its troubles too, as two fires at different times burned out parts of the town. But here for many years people from the Upper Spavinaw, Cloudcreek valley, and Beck Prairie came to trade. At the height of Row's existence a large membership held forth on the upper floor of a two-story brick building of the I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall. Dr. Lyman also had an office in town and drove his horse and buggy all over the country tending the sick and ailing. But then came advancing progress and a new highway was built into Arkansas and missed Row by one mile. Row died a quick death, for the businesses all moved down on the highway to what is now Colcord. The history of Colcord would be another story of a little Oklahoma town.

In the days before Row, Flint, and Kansas, the trading center of the area was just across the Arkansas line at Bloomfield, but Bloomfield has been gone a long time now. The other trading centers were Cherokee City, Gentry, and Maysville, but Siloam Springs was probably the most popular of all. It was to these towns that the Indians went in the very early days of the Cherokee Nation to buy and trade for their necessities.

Probably one of the most important of early Indian families in that country were the Becks. In Indian Territory days there were nine brothers of the Beck family, whose mother, Sadie Beck, was their mentor and guiding light. A visit to Beck Cemetery up on Beck Prairie tells its own story as to the number of this family that lived and died there. Others of the Beck family have been buried in nearby Allen and Johnson Cemeteries. Ironic as it may seem, the Proctors and the Becks fought each other bitterly for years, yet some of these same Proctors and Becks are buried very near each other in the Johnson Cemetery, laying aside their differences at the end.

When Andy was a young man he taught school over in the Spring Creek country. One night he and a couple other fellows went to a box supper at Old Eucha.