

He had been to many box suppers before, and this one was being held in the Indian Church at Eucha. As always before at other places there was the usual laughing, loud talking and having a good time. But this time it was different, for shortly a big full-blood policeman came around and touched the boys on the shoulder and told them to quiet down, because they were at a church. He later reflected how different was the attitude of Indians and whites were at social gatherings at churches. The Indians reserved a feeling of reverence when at their church regardless of the activity, and even to-day this same attitude seems to exist.

Many years ago Ben Smith, was the Cherokee leader of the now country of the Indians, and at one time was also the sheriff of that district. Andy tells that in Ben's later years he had a letter from him inviting him to come on a certain day for a squirrel dinner. Andy and his wife went over and there was a big crowd of Indians gathered just to eat and visit. He says that they had squirrel fixed and cooked in more ways than he ever imagined along with many other kinds of Indian foods. It was a most enjoyable time as he knew many of the people. Not long after that Ben Smith died. Andy went to his funeral where the services were conducted in both languages and many people came to pay their respects there at Steeley Cemetery.

Andy remembers Old Eucha town when there were three general stores there, a blacksmith shop, school, and a church. There were also two cemeteries: the large Eucha Indian Cemetery and another known as Eucha White Cemetery. The white people's cemetery has about 60 graves and still remains near the lake. But the Indian cemetery which has over 500 graves was moved up on the flatlands some three miles east of Old Eucha.

Andy tells that one time Tom Grider had a store up north of Leach on Saline Creek. Tom had married an Indian woman who had a beautiful daughter. John Riley, a full-blood, courted the girl and finally married her. But not before he got the idea that Tom was 'messing around'. One day Grider was traveling thru the woods from Leach going home. He ran up on a log across the road and got out to move it so he could get his buggy by. As he did John stepped out from behind a tree and shot his brains out. Later, a car stopped in now and John was in there with two sheriffs deputies on his way to jail. A trial followed and they sent John up for 99 years. Later a new trial was called and they turned John loose.

Andy calls attention to the Indian of these times, and asks if there were Indian draft doggers, hippies, beatniks, and the like? He has yet to see one, and just does not believe it would be in the Indians nature to bring dishonor to himself and his race to become a partner to such modern day activities.

Andy reads much of Indian history and tells that every time he comes across accounts of the Trail of Tears he gets mad. His mothers oldest sister, Jane Witt Ghormley was born on the Trail of Tears in a covered wagon.