

(This is Bill Savage with Mrs. John Mitchell in Seminole, Oklahoma. The date is June 9, 1967. Mrs. Mitchell is going to relate her experiences as a teacher in the Indian schools in Oklahoma as well as some information on the Crazy Snake Rebellion.)

EXPERIENCES AS A TEACHER IN INDIAN SCHOOLS:

Well, let's see. I came to Indian Territory because back in Tennessee, Mr. T. C. McIntosh, had lived and had served as County Superintendent, when I was in the grades in school. I decided I wanted to come to a new land. So, I wrote to Mr. McIntosh and he told me to come and he would assure that I had a good position in the Creek-Seminole schools. At that time these Government schools were organized in this way. There was a man from out of state, a white man, we would call him, who was a government appointed and he was the supervisor of the schools. That was true in the Creek-Seminole school and I suppose in other of the Five Civilized Tribes. And, also, with this supervisor, was an Indian superintendent of schools. This supervisor of the Creek-Seminole at the time that I was here was Mr. Walter Farwell. He was from Kansas, and his home was in Muskogee. The Indian superintendent was Mr. Shesie McIntosh of Checotah and when I came to Eufaula, the school that was called the Creek-Seminole high school was in Eufaula. This was called a high school; but it had grades as low as the fourth grade. When I came there, Mr. McIntosh assured me I would have a position there in Creek-Seminole high school. He was so grateful for the kindnesses that my family had shown him when he was living in Tennessee that he was giving the best he had. The school there was set up with a superintendent and he and his wife lived in a little cottage on the grounds. His wife was also an employee of the school. Then there was a principal, a man principal. He taught the higher grades of the school. Then that was about the eighth--then there were two teachers. I had the sixth and seventh grades and another teacher, Mrs. Florence Keever, had the fourth and fifth grades. Now, Mr. Farwell was supervisor and Mr. McIntosh, the Indian superintendent, was entirely responsible for the management, the running of all the schools of the Creek-Seminole