

Informant: Edmond Chouteau, Delaware
Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner, Feb. 2, 1968
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Side B - Part II

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(We are visiting with Edmond Chouteau, 86 year old Delaware, at Nowata, Oklahoma. Mr. Chouteau retired several years ago as City Manager of Nowata. He recalls early days at the Cherokee National Seminary, Tahlequah, Indian Territory. While visiting at this time with his friend and fellow schoolmate, J. A. Tyner. His recollections begin with telling of how water and wood was obtained for the seminary.)

TWO FRIENDS TALK ABOUT EARLY DAYS AT SEMINARY AT TAHLEQUAH

(You mean the seminary didn't have their own water supply there?)

No.

(Just hauled it--)

Just hauled it in tank wagons and carried it up in buckets.

(Carried it up in buckets to your room. Well, I never heard that before.)

J.A. Tyner: We chopped our own wood.

(They dragged the wood up--whole trees didn't they?)

J. A. Tyner: Yeah. Cut the tree down and drag the logs up and then we'd cut logs up into firewood, we had fireplaces.

(Each room had a fireplace?)

J. A. Tyner: Yeah, in the old part of the building, but the new part of the building had stoves, but the old part of the building all had fireplaces. We had stone up in our room. Well, the first room I was in where a stove was. Then I went into the old building where fireplace was. Build a fire in there and bank it at night and next morning there would be a lot of coals to start a new fire. Never forget old Tom Cookson ring that bell and wake us up in the morning, going up and down all the halls in the building ringing that old bell you know. School bell.