

Informant: David Quinton, Cherokee
Ballue Community, Mayes County, Oklahoma
Interviewed by: J.W. Tyner
April 4, 1968
Transcribed by: Pruda Shank

(Tonight we are visiting with Dave Quinton, 58 year old, full-blood Cherokee, at Ballue Community, Mayes County, Oklahoma. Mr. Quinton has been principal of the Ballue Indian Day School for 31 years. He relates many experiences dealing with Cherokees and tells some of the events in his own life. He begins this interview by recalling his early education at Chilocco Indian School, beginning in 1924, when he was 14 years old.)

BEGINS HIS FIRST YEAR IN CHILOCCO SCHOOL - 1924

1931. In order to get there we got up at 3 o'clock in the morning, got in the wagon with what few clothes I had, drove 30 miles to Sallisaw and caught the train that night about 2 o'clock and went to Ft. Gibson. Caught an inner-urban over at Muskogee, spent the rest of the night there. We got up the next morning and left on the Midland Valley Railroad. At about 10 o'clock, and it took us 'till about 4:10 to 4:15 to get to Arkansas City. And we were met there by a group of wagons with hay frames and they loaded us on there, helter-skelter, with what clothing and what suitcases we had. And it was raining, started back to Chilocco, which was about 8 miles. And about 3 or 4 miles from Chilocco our wagon wheel axle broke, and all of us that were on there had to walk. We were all new students. And the driver, Mr. Seholt, told us that the nearest way was across that wheat stubble, but you can go around the highway, it's much further. So we went the short way. We started across that wheat stubble, and we didn't know anything about black gumbo. We got to slipping and sliding and falling around in that gumbo, and shoes