

T-259

WALTER BILLINGSLEY, NON-INDIAN
INTERVIEWED BY: ROBERT L. MILLER
INTERVIEW DATE: MAY 14, 1968
TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

GENERAL SUBJECT: EARLY LIFE IN SEMINOLE COUNTY; LIFE HISTORY
MATERIALS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

EARLY DAYS IN INDIAN TERRITORY
TAUGHT SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS 18 YEARS OLD
HE WAS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT IN 1917
STUDIED LAW UNDER JUDGE CRUMP IN WEWOKA, OKLAHOMA
HE PASSED THE BAR EXAMINATION IN 1921 AND STARTED IN THE
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
STORIES OF CASES HE HELPED TO PROSECUTE AND OTHERS WHICH
HE DEFENDED
STORY ABOUT AN INDIAN CLIENT WHICH INVOLVED TWO PLANOS
STORY ABOUT ANOTHER CLIENT, GEORGE POWELL
PLAY CHECKERS WITH HOUSTON MILLER IN THE OWENS HOTEL IN
WEWOKA
NAMES IMPORTANT ATTORNEYS IN THE EARLY DAYS AND THEIR
INFLUENCE ON HIS LIFE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Walter Billingsley was born in 1890 in Fullerton County, Arkansas. He has lived in Seminole County since 1912 and prior to that time he lived in Texas from 1901 to 1905 and southern Hughes County in Oklahoma from 1905 to 1912. Mr. Billingsley has been an attorney in Wewoka since 1921, after having taught school for several years in both Choctaw County and Seminole County. He has defended many Indians in court and has many friends among the Indians. Houston Miller, father of interviewer was a good friend of Mr. Billingsley.