T-312

Sept. 23, 1968

Index side B, second part Recording time: 16 minutes.

Informant: Henry Vann, 77-year-old full blood Cherokee of Moodys Community, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

Subject: Moodys is a very old settlement in the Cherokee Nation. He recalls that one of his uncles told him that an old Indian by the name of Samuel Mudeh lived with his wife at the big spring which bears his name sometime before the Civil War. Moodys has seen prosperity in its time as at one period it had a big cotton gin, stores and other establishments but located across the creek a half-mile south of the present town. To-day it has a combined general store and post office, a church, a school house (closed by the state this year), and a few dwellings. In its earlier days this community was a large cotton growing center. At one time a railroad was started to serve this community coming from Tahlequah, but was never completed. To-day the Moodys community is a quite and peaceful settlement of people retired from farming or public work, city workers who commute, and a few farmers and cattle ranchers.

Mr. Vann was born at Gideon, a community some four or five miles west of Moodys. He was brought to his present home when he was one years old. This was his mother's Indian land allotment. He has spent all of his life as a farmer, but is now semi-retired due to his health.

When Mr. Vann was going to school at Moodys, two miles away, he and his brother always walked. He finished the grades at Moodys and ended his formal eduction. At that time schools were few and scattered. He recalls some of the others schools then were at Gideon, Peggs, Lowrey, and Scraper.

The Old Cherokee Convention Grounds were located just below Moodys on Fourteen Mile Creek. This was the annual gathering place for hundreds of Indians at one time. Matters of Cherokee business were conducted, complaints aired, speeches made, feasts held, along with preaching and singing.