

Before statehood the Whitecay family had to travel to Afton or to Vinita to do their trading; either an all day trip by wagon. The Crowe Mercantile Co. at Afton was the source of their farm equipment and farming needs. He likes to recall the shopping trips to Vinita when he was a small boy. A great joy was getting to see the trains; and a mile before their wagon got to town they could hear the blacksmith at work at his anvil. Another joy was buying a 5-cent can of sardines (with free crackers) and sitting by the public well having lunch. It was also an old custom in those days to give the children a sack of candy after the family had made their monthly purchases. Once a year the family would outfit the boys with "bullhide" shoes and new overalls. The girls would get new size button shoes and yarn goods for dresses.

As a young man he recalls riding many miles by horse back for four-day meetings of Indians (Shannons and Brookes) in the Shawnee Hills community. There the Indians would observe a thanksgiving according to the season of year, have a stomp dance ceremony (a religious rite), have Indian ball games (a form of football, as well as base ball), Indian singing, speeches by leaders on Indian matters, and provide feasts of Indian cooking. He remembers some of the families who attended: the Carpenters, Browns, Blackwaters, Duck, Cornstassel, Dicks, Greenleathers, etc.

He and his family were lots of hunting in the early days, and recalls using a muzzle loading shotgun for many years. He remembers the first shot on his father bought using the then new self-contained black powder shot shell. His father reloaded the empty fired shot shell hulls. He remembers that about 1900 his father bought him a new Winchester shot-gun at Salina for \$16. which he still owns today.

Around the year 1900 there was an abundance of wild game in the woods, on the prairie; and along the streams. He recalls seeing lots of wild turkey and prairie chicken and quail were plentiful. Wild ducks were everywhere in the fall and winter; with a good mix of mallard, blue-winged teal, canvas-back, and redhead. He recalls seeing a lot of deer. He also recalls seeing a lot of wild geese, and a lot of wild ducks. He also recalls seeing a lot of wild turkeys and prairie chickens. He also recalls seeing a lot of wild geese and wild ducks. He also recalls seeing a lot of wild turkeys and prairie chickens. He also recalls seeing a lot of wild geese and wild ducks.

He attended school in school, but all attended country school. At Lone Prairie and at Carlsberry. These were the only prominent educational institutions in central Craig County, at that time long since. Well before modern educational ideas and progress.