

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 "bulihide" shoes and new overalls. The girls would get new side button shoes and yard goods for dresses.

As a young man he recalls riding many miles by horseback for four-day meetings of Indians (Shawnees and Kickapoos) 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 softball, 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, Mackieathers, Duck, Garttassei, Dicks, Greenieathers, etc.

~~He and his family done lots of hunting in the early days, and recalls using a muzzle loading shotgun for many years. He remembers the first shotgun 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 1930 his father bought him a new Winchester shotgun at Salina for \$16. which he still owns to-day.~~

~~Argued~~ one year 1900 there was an abundance of wild game in  
the woods, on the prairie; and also in the streams. He recalls  
seeing lots of turkey in the prairie chicken and  
which were plentiful. Big woods are everywhere in the hills  
in winter; with a lot of black, red jack, and r jack,  
gravel creek rednecks because of lot of red clay. He remembers  
lots of black jacks on a hill top in winter, and black  
turkey hawks which he saw in winter, and black  
sharp-shooters which he saw in winter. Turkey is quite numerous,  
but deer is not so much in these woods as in the south, probably  
because of the lack of water. Deer does are quite numerous,  
and the deer are, and the deer are quite numerous. There  
are many deer in the hills, and  
they kill them for meat, and they are... plenty and often  
ate them all kinds, different.

We had schools in rural areas, but in fact in country schools at Lodi Prairie and at Parslowry. These were early prominent school districts in Section 3 Craig County, it have long since fallen before modern educational ideas and progress.