

October 3, 1968.

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Recording time: 30 minutes

Informant: Samuel Cummins, 68-year-old full blood Cherokee,
Rocky Ford Community, northern Cherokee County, Okla.

Subject: Mr. Cummins, now the pastor of New Mission Indian Church,
at Rocky Ford, was born and has spent most of his life
in this area. He is the son of Joseph Cummins, an early
day preacher at Rocky Ford.

This interview begins with Mr. Cummins reading from the
New Mission Indian Church minute book which is all written
in the Cherokee language. The first entry deals with the
organization of the church and is dated Sept. 10, 1905.
Recorded is the procedures of business and the names of
some 24 Indians present. Mr. Cummins was unable to
translate some of the names. His father was elected to
be the first pastor of this new church. Prior to this
time the Indians had a church building made of logs and
located about a quarter mile up the creek from the present
location. This old church building burned about 1903 or
1904.

He recalls that he first attended school in a log building
then located just back of his present home. He attended
Sequoyah training school for three months, but got lonesome
and run off and came home. He then attended the Indian
School at Oaks and Little Kansas. Afterward he spent three
years at Concho Indian School.

At one time all of the land around Rocky Ford was owned by
Indians. Now he says that the white man has got most of the
land, and the Indians are living on small one- to 20-acre
tracts.

Mr. Cummins works with his people not only attending their
spiritual and religious needs, but helps with their Community
Center work.

He is acquainted with the Wighthawk Clan which is quite active
in the Chewey District. They worship according to the fire
ritual. They are against whiteman invasion and buying Indian
land. Some of them have refused to take any Government money,
whether due, as they do not want to be obligated to the
Government. They believe the Government is bent on getting
what little land they have left.