

November 5, 1968

T-334

Index side B, recording time 30 minutes.

Informant: George Keys, 73-year-old Cherokee of
Welling, Cherokee County, Oklahoma

Subject: Talks about the changes he has seen since he can remember, particularly about the country he knows in Cherokee and Adair county. Travel in the old days was by horseback or wagon. Roads were laid out wherever it was possible to get through the hills, and where they could ford the rivers and streams.

Tells about finding a horse and two mules that had wandered away from their owner in Siloam Springs, Ark. He saw the lost ad in paper and wrote the man. Mr. Keys took the mules back to Ark. for the man for \$10. On way to Ark. an Indian who knew him up in Pumpin Hollow had him in for dinner. Their meals consisted of blackeyed peas, cornbread, and coffee. He delivered the mules to Siloam, and stayed all night. Next day he made the trip back home in little over six hours going across country. In that day there were no highways or county roads, and the country was all open range.

Tells of Sawmill Hollow near Welling and people who have prospected for gold, traded and sold land, and how the price of Flint hill land has gone up.

Reflects on old days when neighbors and friends visited each other. And about brush arbor meetings. Remembers seeing people get happy and brush arbor revival and jump up and down and pull leaves out of roof. People took care of each other in sickness and in death. He recalls seeing his father take lumber out of his barn loft to make coffins for the neighbors. At one time he had used all of the lumber out of his loft. Tells of death of Carrie Montgomery who taught at Elm Springs Mission, and of manner of putting her to rest. Then relates women folks talk at the time they were laying her out, reflecting their way of life and outlook in those days.

(Mr. Keys has a picture of several of the U. S. Marshalls involved in the killing of Ned Christie, and a picture taken of Christie after he was killed, which he showed interviewer at this time.)