

Tells of Goback Christie, a master Indian blacksmith in the early days. How he could duplicate a pocket knife blades to perfection in looks and metal temper. Also could make anything, including watch springs to wagon rims.

When travelers came through the country, it was common practice to stop when darkness came and put up with the first home owner. A practice now gone.

In early days there was much big timber in the country, especially in the valleys. On top of the hills there were many places where one could cut good grass for hay.

He recalls his father, Wiley Keys, telling of going to mill in Pritchard Hollow back in the 1870s. This old mill probably was moved sometime in the 1880s, as no top shows it from 1900. A part of the mill race is still there near the big spring.

He has seen Barren Fork river and Illinois rivers go from large clear streams, to the present trashy, brush filled waters.

Back in Territorial days, a man could commit a crime in another state and come into Indian Territory and be safe from the law. Whiskey runners traveled between Arkansas and Indian Territory at night to keep from getting caught. Most whiskey was bottled in quarts in those days and most families kept some for medicinal purposes. Many Indian remedies include a bit of whiskey, the same as alcohol is used today. Licensed medical doctors were scarce in early days, and most people had to do their own treatment and care of the sick and injured. He remembers the first doctor to come into Welling. The doctor and his family of four lived in a two room shack with dirt floor, until he could make enough to build a better place. George says that if a family owned a buggy in those days they became the elite of the community. A man's word was his bond in the old days. Relates his father telling of his grandfather, who was a judge in the Cherokee Nation Court. His grandfather related times when a man who was to be hung would be released until the day set for his hanging, and the man would show up on the day and proceed with the delicate matter.

Relates that Welling was a nice little town in its day. Much handling of railroad ties and lumber, and saw logs were shipped from Welling. A cotton gin was put in that served a large area of the hill country around there, and cotton was shipped out of here. At one time there were four passenger trains serving Welling.

Comments on how the government has treated the Indians. The Indian has been moved around, promised everything under the sun, land taken again and again, and the government still is not satisfied. Indian would have been much better off if left alone.

Relates stories handed down to him from his folks about Civil War times in the Indian Nation. Union soldiers would take anything they wanted. Drive off cattle, take horses, take all meat in smokehouse. And then people wonder why there is such a dislike for the northerners.

Tells of how children were raised in old days. Hickory whip was applied for infractions of family rules. George says he got his share of whippings.