

November 6, 1968

T-335

Index side No. 1, recording time: 30 minutes.

Informant: Mary Lord, 67-year-old Delaware Indian, of New Alluwe,  
Nowata County, Oklahoma.

Subject: Mrs. Lord was born and raised in Old Alluwe, and has spent  
all of her life in the community.

The first indication of any settlement in the Alluwe community as we know it to-day was in the late 1870s. At this period Delawares and Shawnees were being moved into Indian Territory. An area some ten miles wide and 25 miles long in what is now the western part of Nowata County was an area in which many of the removed Delawares came. Beginning their life anew in a strange land, they did survive the rigors of frontier life and prosper. Decedents testify to their hard work and will. Their new homeland lay along the upper Verdegris River. Then the clear stream provided fish, and the adjoining woodlands abounded in fur animals and game of all kinds. The grass prairies had herds of antelope, flocks of wild turkey, and quail and prairie chicken without number.

The name Alluwe is of Delaware origin, and bespeaks a hope. The word translated means "something better", perhaps the Indians' way of saying that this was better than the outlook we faced in Kansas and our other lands from which we were forced to leave, and in the uncertain future for our race there just may be something better. The Delawares long before knew he would have to live with the whiteman, and be in competition for an existence, yet he faced this prospect ready to accept and give his friendship.

Many of the Delawares prospered and became leaders. Only a few names can be brought to mind at this time, but a list would begin with Campbell, Journeycake, Lawson, Keosho, and Neal, all with Delaware blood.

In the year 1878 John Campbell and his wife, Emma Journeycake Campbell, Mrs. Campbell was the daughter of Chief Journeycake, the last elected chief of the Delawares. The Campbells settled on Lightning Creek near its convergence with the Verdegris River. There they built a home and established a little trading-post. Five years later a post office was authorized and established in Campbell's post, the post office being then known as Lightning Creek, Indian Territory. About 1884 the Campbells moved their store and home two miles south, a location to become known as Alluwe, I. T. This river valley settlement was surrounded with rich bottom land, prime timber, and adjoining grassland. It was not long before Alluwe was a town. Mrs. Campbell was a full-blood Delaware and was friend and mentor to her fellow tribesmen. The Delawares up and down the river all tended little farms and small herds of livestock, and