

be able to keep and hold their land as long as there were Indians wanting to live there. This promise was made in the 1870s and 1880 when they were moved from another distance place. white man spoke with forked tongue, so say the Delawares.

Charley Neal, an old full blood Delaware, was one of these people, and foresaw many winters ago that government would break his promise. When the government first wanted to talk to him about getting his land for the Oologah Reservoir project, he would refuse to talk to the engineers. He publicly told that he hoped he would not be living when the government forcibly took his land. He died before this rape came to his heirs, to add another paragraph of tragedy to Indian history.

While the discovery of oil along the Verdigris River brought wealth to some, it doomed the clear waters of the river to the muddy stream we see today. This course of events removed fishing from the Indian way of life and necessity. Many Delawares moved to other places.

Near old Alluwe is Fools Creek, so called by the Indians. When the river is on the rise, the creek ran east, and when the river was low the creek ran west.

In earlier days the river bottoms were home to moonshiners, bootleggers, and dealers in illegal spirits to both Indian and white.

Alluwe was never incorporated, as the people feared heavy taxes. The town was governed by a justice of the peace and a town marshal, with the help of an unofficial town council.

Old timers mention another town nearby that has long been gone, but was even a larger town than Alluwe. Ruby, Indian Territory was located in the foothills due north of New Alluwe to Highway 30, then two miles east, a mile north, and a mile west. This frontier town had the usual stores, wagon and blacksmith shop, grist mill, and many houses. Much coal was strip mined there, using slip scrapers pulled by horses.

Nothing remains today of old Alluwe, the school, a store, two churches, and several houses were moved four miles east to form today's New Alluwe. The generation who lived in the old town will soon be gone, and the present generation again hope for "something better".