

November 1, 1968

Index side A, recording time 30 minutes.

Informant: Peter Ketchum, 70-year-old Cherokee,  
Chelsea, Oklahoma

Subject: Mr. Ketchum was born and raised on a farm 9 miles north west of Chelsea, and has spent all of his life in this area. He was a farmer until he retired a few years ago. The family land allotments were near Chelsea where he has lived and watched the many changes take place during his time.

He tells of having known Alluwe in the early days, and recalls how the town looked before it disappeared. He remembers that in Alluwe general stores were operated by Campbell, another by Lee, a hardware by Dunn, and Grant Beaker ran a theater there. A mail route went from Hayden on the Frisco railroad to Alluwe, and mail was hauled in a hack by an old negro by name of Gus Rogers. John Terry also ran a mail route out of Nowata into Alluwe in the early days. The mail hacks of those days also hauled passengers along their routes, as there was no other means of public travel.

In recalling when Catale was a little town, he remembers going with his father there to buy a wagon from the Bearden Mercantile. A Shawnee by the name of Walter Dick also ran a general store in Catale. A depot, switch tracks, and stockyards along the Frisco railroad served the town and community. A school and church were also a part of the town.

Mr. Ketchum was never around the town of Ketchum over on Grand River, but says it was named for his father's aunt. He is unable to give much history on that old frontier town.

Their farm was out on the prairie west of Shawnee Hills, but he remembers when there were many Indians there. Some of the Shawnees he remembers were Dan Carpenter, Calvin Dick, Ben Brown, Jake Blackfeather, and Mose Little Tree.

He tells of early trading of families at the stores. Goods then were few and simple, and eggs, hams, fruits and vegetables were traded for commodities needed.

The first school he went to was Dogtown school, 3 miles southwest of old Alluwe. Later he went to White Hall and finally quit to do farm work.

He recalls that the Town of Chelsea originally started about a mile south of where it is now, and went by another name, which he does not recall. Although he never came to any of the towns much, he did see Chelsea grow to the present.