

November 14, 1968

T-346

Index side #1, second part. Recording time 10 minutes.
Index side #2, all. 30 min.

Informant: Bert Spade, 64-year-old full blood Cherokee, of
Spade Hollow Community, Delaware County, Okla.

Subject: Mr. Spade begins this interview by telling about this year's
failure of the hickory nut crop. Hickory nuts are a favorite
of the Cherokees, especially in the making of ~~kanutaka~~, and
in other Indian dishes.

A short distance from Mr. Spade's home is an old log house
where he was raised, and still a little farther up the
valley is another old log house alien to the elements where
he was born.

The earliest Indian church house that he remembers was about
four miles over the hills west of his home, called Nu-was-si.
In his youth they usually walked to and from this church
thru the woods and over the hills following a little trail.
Some families were fortunate enough to have a wagon to travel in.

He tells of his grandmother who raised seven girls and one boy.
His father was John Spade. He recalls the Indian way of life
in his boyhood in that valley, and remembers the little farm
his folks tended. There they raised potatoes, beans, and
other foods. They had fine apple trees, and remembers when
the women folk would harvest and cut up the apples and dry
them on the roof of the house. They would harvest and dry
their beans and store for winter. He likes to remember
going into their winter food storage and smelling the
sweet aroma of the sweet potatoes, apples and other things.
Their food storage was a place under their log house. He
tells about his grandmother shearing their sheep, preparing
the wool for making yarn, using a spinning wheel, and knitting
sweaters, socks, and other items of clothing for the family.
Like other early families they too had a little tobacco patch.

His father was a hard working and industrious man. At the
big spring in Spade Hollow he built a grist mill and operated
it for many years. This old water power mill served many
families in the area. Bert tells how the mill and mill race
was built. His father was also an expert blacksmith and
carpenter, and Bert learned many things from him.

In his youth he says people raised nearly everything they
needed and trips to a trading center were few. Even wild
dogs were plentiful, and whenever they need ~~poor~~ to supplement
their other meat they would go out and kill one.