

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 ~~kasutaka~~, 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.