

December 9, 1968

T-354

Index side B, first part, 22 minutes.

Informant: Randle Carpenter, 80-year-old Shawnee, of Shawnee Hill area, northern Rogers County, Oklahoma.

Subject: The Shawnee Hills was Mr. Carpenter's birthplace, and this was his home all of his life. He has raised cattle and had some of his small cleared acreages.

He began this interview by telling of his early years at his first school, at Chillicothe Indian School. This was from about 1907 until 1917. He was orphaned and was partly raised by his aunt, Mobe Daugherty. Miss Daugherty was a full-blood Shawnee, and was a boys' matron at Chillicothe when he was attending school there. She retired sometime after 1930 from the government service and lived to be 97 years old.

Staying with Mr. Carpenter at that time is his nephew, James Thomas, also a full-blood Shawnee. He was always known at Chillicothe during the late 1920s as "Cat" Thomas. Cat contributes to this interview also.

They reminisce about one day over 60 and 80 years ago at that Indian school. They say they were always hungry, and that questionable hash and hardtack was just not filling for poor hungry Indians. Randle says he would have been too bad for a bull to have taken across the campus in his days, as it would have been taken up before it got half way across. In spite of this, he says the sweetest smell he remembers is walking into the dining hall during his days there. Cat remembers the boys' advisor, Sam Wilson, a full-blood Ojibwa, was in charge of the case at one time. He was a lecturer on corn but started corn and cared for it. He told them "You all boys eat up more corn than dogs. Now boys hungry." But corn was not at night up and down the hall. Breakfast continued on. Each boy had his own corn paring equipment, ranging from a tin can, to a piece of roofing metal, to an old shovel. Chillicothe Indian School was always blessed with good corn crops. He tells of learning to use a gun at the Indian School, and a way to parade a parade route on Sunday, so the white folks from Arkansas City could see them. The large boys carried and drilled with the old 1890 drag rifles. The rank boys then some boys broke rules within their company, they had to run the "belt line" for punishment. Randle says back in his day there were few boys under the age of 14. Many of the boys were orphans, roughnecks, and "outlaws" as he termed them. Boys from many different tribes thrown together created some problems. After Mr. Carpenter had been at Chillicothe for a while he worked in the power house. At that time they made their own electricity on D. C. current. When all water, electric, and steam lines went