earlier days this school served the many Indian families of the area

for their educational and social needs, but succumbed to the rash of

modern educational ideas. Adjoining are the grounds and the Johnson

Prairie Indian Church which play an important part in the community

life of Cherokees of a wide area.

At one time his family lived on Snake Creek just a little bit this

side of the old Saline District Courthouse. He remembers when the

Indians came to receive their payments from Indian claims being paid

at the Delaware District courthouse (commonly known as Saline Courthouse).

In those days of the 1890s and early 1900s Ned says all of the people

that he knew of in his area were Indians. They lived peacefully with

one another, except for a killing now and then or some infraction of

the Cherokee Nation laws. He tells that justice was good in those days.

When a man was convicted under the Indian law (at Saline court) the

offender was only punished one time and he never came back a second time.

His recount of the matter of punishment by whipping is that when so sentenced

for ten, fifty, or one hundred licks each lash was administered by a

different man and each hickory stick was used only one time. The hickory

sticks were then neatly piled to be burned afterwards, perhaps to

permanently erase the crime that had been committed. When the prisoner

was led out for whipping, he would stand alone and unaided, and Ned

says a man could stand about fourteen or fifteen lashes before he fell.

Then the man would be tied to the whipping tree to finish out the sentence.

Ned believes that the old Indian law and justice would do much to curb

present day crime. Ned recalls that Red Cloud Duncan was High Sheriff

at one time in this district. He remembers two of the sons of Red Cloud

he knew as "Black" Duncan and "Whiteman" Duncan.

When still a young boy his family moved from their home near the Saline

Courthouse a full day's drive southwest to resettle on Spring Creek.

He tells that they made camp after dark at their new homesite. Next