

January 2, 1969.

Index side #1, recording time 30 minutes.

Informant: Jim and Frank Tyner, Cherokees, 84 and 80 years old respectively, of Miles Community, Craig County, Oklahoma.

Subject: Jim relates of old schools along Caney Creek in the Flint District of Cherokee Nation, Cherokee personalities, Cherokee Male Seminary, etc.  
Frank recalls many stories concerning Indian people, events, and experiences of early day Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

About a mile south of Bitting-Springs, or about two miles west of July Springs, stood Stony Point School from about 1879 until it burned in the early 1900s, a victim of a woods fire. When they were young boys Jim and Frank attended this school. This one room log building had a big fireplace at the north end and stood up about two feet from the ground supported by stone pillars. Its furnishings were simple, having split logs for seats, a rough board table served as the teacher's desk, and a slate blackboard. Paint and other furnishings were things yet to come. Yet, in these surroundings many Indian children had their first contact on their way to getting some education. On a little piece of flat land of little more than an acre Stony Point School overlooked the clear cold waters of Caney Creek. One of the teachers they remember was Charley Young, a full blood Indian who had very little schooling himself, but managed to teach the children for a while. His three children, Roach, Silas, and Callie Young, along with children from the families of Bill Christie, John Wolf, George Fourkiller, and others attended this little school. Jim remembers Christie's boys spent lots of time riding goats when at home, and when they came to school their clothes would get warm by the fireplace. The smell was awful sometimes. When the weather was cold dogs would come out of the woods and get up under the building to warm at the base of the fireplace. The dogs would get into rights there under the school and the teacher would have to send the boys out to run them off. He remembers also that books, pencils, tablets and other school supplies common to today's usage were at times almost non-existent. Books and other school needs possessed by the children were usually governed by the families finances, and money was not in plentiful supply in those early days.

To-day the site of old Stony Point School bears no evidence that over sixty years ago Indian children walked miles to learn to read and write a little. Just west of where the schoolhouse stood, are some remains of the little Stony Point Cemetery. Long unused and neglected, graves sunken, headstones toppled, the little burial plot speaks softly of the love and respect when the Vanns, Wolfs, Christies, and others laid their people to rest in a day long ago.

Northwest of Bitting Springs a couple of miles was another of the early day schools called 'Possum Hollow. Around 1900 Jim's older brother George, taught at this little log school. George has told that when he first began teaching there books had not been obtained, so the children brought almanacs, hymnals, newspapers, and most anything that had printing, either in English or Cherokee. From that beginning the children were taught their first lessons in reading and writing. George had to teach in both languages, as