

some children did not speak English. At that time the school term lasted only three months during the winter. The children had to help with the planting, care of crops, harvesting and farm work the rest of the year. It seemed that in those days the teachers took the jobs without much promise from the school board of getting paid. After the school term George would have to go around the territory served by the school and try to collect his salary. Sometimes, if he was fortunate, he would collect as much as \$4. or \$5. as his salary for the school term.

Goback Christie was a full blood who was uneducated and lived just east of Bitting Springs. Goback was the patriarch of his people and a good man. He was a master at the use of Indian medicine, even setting compound fractures of limbs. The products of his forge and anvil were unmatched in his day. Steel gigs, arrow points, spears, and edged implements were his specialties, although he could repair a fine watch or a wagon. Such was one man who lived when it was called the Cherokee Nation, and whiteman was a foreigner.

Jim remembers his grandmother, Jennie Snaketail, who came to Indian Territory when she was eleven years old on the Trail of Tears. She survived to live until 1892. The mother of Jennie was Betsie Snaketail, who suffered all the hardships and sorrow of the march from Georgia in 1839. Betsie also brought Tsi-Na-wi and George Book Snaketail her two sons with her. This humble and hardy Cherokee woman was 68 when she arrived in the new Cherokee Nation to start a new life. Tsi-na-wi and George Book died shortly after they came here. Betsie Snaketail lived to be 110 years old, never forgetting the loss of her Georgia home, the treatment received on that cold winter march in 1838-39 for hundreds of miles, of the dead relatives left along the trail, building a new home in the West, seeing the many treaties and promises made and broken by the white man and his government in Washington, and again living to see the whiteman taking over the Cherokee Nation in the Indian Territory. In June 1881 Betsie Snaketail said she was ready to go to her Creator and quietly passed away. It was related to Jim Tyner that Jennie Snaketail was one of the first students to attend the Cherokee Female Seminary at Parkhill when it opened around 1851.

Jim and his brothers attended the Cherokee Male Seminary at Tahlequah in the early 1900s. He remembers that Dr. Charles Ross, a Cherokee, had studied medicine and surgery in the eastern states and was one of the early day physicians in the Cherokee Nation, and attended many of the students at the Seminaries.

He remembers that all the water for the Seminaries was hauled by wagon from nearby springs. While he was going to school there, a part Cherokee, Sam Tollett and his father had the contract to haul and deliver water to the institutions.

(All of following interview with Frank Tyner.)

In talking about prairie fires in the early days, he relates this one account, About statehood time he and his cousin Lee were getting some potatoes out of a winter ground storage. They smelled smoke and looked up to see smoke of a prairie fire back over the hill to the south. A neighbor lived just across