

Typical of the old days, he recalls one autumn when several relatives gathered at his home for hog killing time. They butchered 16 hogs. Working methodically, some were killing and scalding, some scraping, other cutting up and so on. He said it was a big time and enjoyed seeing the sausage being ground, smoke coming from the smokehouse, and no sound like frying meat was better to listen to.

On that wide flat prairie country a long time ago Mr. Barker attended Rogers School which was for Indian children. That school was about six miles west of Welch. A couple miles north of that school was Ellis School where white children went.

Referring again to the old town of Welch, he recalls when there was much corn, wheat and oats being raised. A man by name of Campbell had the grain elevator by the railroad, and he has seen wagons backed up for a quarter of a mile waiting to be unloaded.

In the olden days the Indians also had cattle brands which were registered. The cattle brand of his family was j bar (J-).

He tells of an incident of the old days. One of his aunts had died, and it was known she had hidden some gold money on her place. One of his uncles went to her place one night to look for the hidden money. His uncle claims that he saw a "ghost light" down below the barn and went there to investigate. It is told that he found a little mound which he dug into and found the money. His uncle left without disclosing what amount he had found, but it was learned he had bought a farm and became a well-to-do rancher.

When George was a young man he recalls playing on the Welch baseball teams. This was a favorite Sunday afternoon sport which drew people from miles around. He also played ball on the Tenneson team, which was from a community several miles west of Welch. They would play teams from Vinita, Bluejacket, Miami and others.

Crow hunting used to be a favorite winter sport in this northern part of Craig County long ago. Hunters would hide near a crow roost and shoot the birds as they came in. Other times they would slip up to a crow roost on a moonlight night and shoot into the trees at close range. One time he and some others rigged some blasting powder covered with chat under the trees and set it off killing a large number of crows. In all of his years of being in the outdoors he has only seen one white crow.

George also tells of early day wild turkey hunting, and once hunting down a panther. Chasing jackrabbits with greyhounds was another sport. One of their favorite hounds fell and broke its neck while chasing a rabbit. Long ago there were a few black wolves in the country, and George tells of killing one. Good hounds were prized highly by the early day settlers as they were the best means of controlling wolves and coyotes which preyed on livestock.

In George's younger days he says that people lived much healthier lives. He does not remember people having nervous breakdowns, heart attacks, ulcers, or cancer.