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Interview with John Picaman of
Claremore, Oklahoma given to Mary
J. Stockton, Indian research Worker.

John Picaman who lives on the family Cherokee allotment eight miles east of Claremore, has seen the country develop from a wild and woolly frontier region into a prosperous farming community. Has seen the passing of the long-horn cow, the wild outlaw and the covered wagon.

He is a native of the good old state of Kentucky but has lived in what is now Eastern Oklahoma for about half a century. Being a widower and in the market for a wife, he declines to give his correct age--saying that he has not had a birthday since the close of the World War--being the occasion of his son, Clarence's return from the land of strife, but admits that he can remember the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox, which event closed the Great Civil War, (between the States) commonly referred as the Southern Rebellion.

Leaving his native state (Kentucky), when arrived at manhood's estate, he spent a few months in the great northwest, "Took up land" in Kansas, was driven out by grasshoppers and "moseyed down" into the land of the Cherokees in search for adventures, but found instead a lady who captured his heart.

She was Miss Susanna M. Payne, daughter of a white man who had intermarried into the Cherokees and lived for many years near the present town of Vinita. Here Mr. Picaman and Miss Payne were married in the year of 1885. They lived for a while on a farm near Adair in what is now Mayes County, but they later moved to Cooweescoowee District of the Cherokee Nation, out of which Rogers County was formed.

Mrs. Picaman died about twenty years ago but Mr. Picaman has lived on the old homestead ever since. Although practically retired at this time, he has long been an enthusiast over fruit and berry culture and once had a fine orchard and vineyard on his farm. Many of his trees and vines were killed by growth but he contemplates planting more and hopes, in due time, to build a modern canning plant on his home acres.

The Picaman home is unique, being semi-modern, and all the equipment was built by Mr. Picaman's own hands. The house stands upon a plateau, table-land or mesa--gentle slopes in every direction leading to the adjoining fields and meadows. In a room also contains a bath tub while pipe carry waste water to the lower lands and finally into Panther Creek, which flows placidly by on its course to the Verdigris River and finally into the Gulf of Mexico. On the walls of

the living room hangs a large diploma which was awarded to Mr. Picaman for the excellent fruit he had on exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis, Mo., in 1892.

The home is presided over by his daughter, Dewey, (named in honor of the hero of Manila), the wife of Hampton E. Wooldrige, a rural school teacher for the past fifteen years. Mr. & Mrs. Wooldrige have three children: Juanita, now the wife of Arthur Freeze, of Inola, Okla.; Cicil and Robert, high school boys, grandsons of whom Mr. Picaman is very proud.

His son Clarence, who served in the World War died at Claremore in 1934. Another son, Bill, lives at Pawhuska, Okla. Two daughters live in the far West, while the baby of the family is the wife of John Luther Marlin of Salina, Oklahoma.