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Grace Kelley  
Investigator  
January 20, 1938

Interview with Bun Ryal  
Henryetta, Oklahoma

## FERRY BOATS IN 1875

Right at the mouth of the Grand River on the Arkansas River there was what I would call a double ferry. One landing was at Fort Gibson and the other was between the Arkansas and the Grand River. An old darkey ran it and he could swim the river at any time - but one time he didn't make it. I can't remember what he was called. Five or six miles up the Arkansas River there was a ferry called Leach's for the full-blood Indian who ran it. Two or three miles above Leach's Ferry was one called Brown for the negro who ran it. Twenty miles up the Arkansas River was the Childers Ferry. D. G. Childers who operated it was better known as Goog. Later there was one at Tulsa on the mail route; there is a bridge at this place now. Dick Greenwood, Creek Indian, was the first to run a boat at the Greenwood Ferry on the North Canadian River. I could name every creek on the North Canadian starting

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at Possum Creek and on to Salt Creek, which starts at Salt Spring north of Wetumka.

#### TRAILS

Old D. W. Childers told me that he plowed a furrow to start or make his road - it was mostly on the prairie. It came past old Wetumka, Weleetka, Okmulgee, Supulpa and on to Coffeyville, Kansas. It crossed the Arkansas River at the Childers Crossing. Lots of cattle were driven over this trail. This trail is sometimes called the Chisholm Trail but it is the Childers Trail - both were cattle trails. The Chisholm Trail ran parallel with the Rock Island Railroad.

#### MISSIONS

There was a mission south of Wewoka but it has fallen in. Emma Harka or Hawkie was head of it. Another was west of Wewoka. Micco Sooka was head of it. This one is going to be made into a hospital.

#### INDIAN VERMIFUGE

There is a green weed that grows about three feet high called Jerusalem Oak. A tea can be made and given

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to the children or the seeds can be given to them for worms. It is an old reliable treatment.

#### BUFFALO IN THE COMANCHE COUNTRY

When I came to the Indian Territory in 1866 there were buffalo in the Comanche country but not in the Cherokee nor Creek countries.

#### GREEN PEACH WAR Tribal Elections.

The Isparhechar and Porter war was called the Green Peach War because it was in that time of the year. Checote was the chief but they were having an election and both Isparhechar and Porter wanted to be chief. That was one of the causes of that war. The voting was held at the Bisk grounds and the persons stood up to vote. The ones standing were counted - that way the votes were counted. The women didn't take any part in the politics of the Indians. Different persons were nominated the same as in our state and other elections now.

#### NO FIRST COUSINS

There is one thing that puzzles white people when they get to talking to Indians about their relatives. There are no first cousins. My two boys are married to

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women of different families, the women are no relation other than sisters-in-law. My boys' children are brothers and sisters instead of cousins. Of course I consider them cousins but the Indians don't.

#### SILVER SPRINGS CHURCH

The Silver Springs Church was built by Buck Minute of Hitchita, a white man. It is built of the native stone gathered off of Tiger Mountain but the stones are not all the same shade. They are put together in a beautiful modernistic design.

There are about eight camp houses there that are good box houses, some larger than others. My son, Buster, and his family have lived there continually for about a year. Buster's wife has a home across the North Canadian River but as they like to live at the church better than at home they rent it out and have that much more money to spend. Lots of the other members live at their homes and just go to the church at meeting times. There will be a meeting at the Silver Springs Church on the thirtieth of this month. They will go there on the twenty-eighth, or Friday, and stay there over Sunday. I'll go Sunday, for

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it seems too hard on me to stay from Friday on through the whole meeting.

#### AN OLD CREEK CUSTOM

The Creek Indians used to have what we called Soup Drinking. The soup was made from chicken, squirrel, hog meat, corn grits and rice. The men ate together and the women ate together. After eating bread and soup until they were through, they took the remainder of bread and broke it into bits and scattered it all around on the ground, then spoonful of the soup were thrown about on the ground. That was to keep the food from making you sick. I have gone to these meetings and know it was done in that way by watching them doing it.

#### INDIAN BURLIALS

When they bury a corpse they put his money and trinkets into the coffin with him. I've seen it so full that they had have to put some of the things on top of the coffin with the dirt on top of them, that is they are on top of the coffin but under the ground. When Ed Burgess died they put his silver spurs, bridle and everything into his grave; it was later robbed by vandals.