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Creek Nation
Lighthorseman
Creek Justice

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
July 21, 1937

Interview with Simon Jackson
Age 52, Muskogee Tribe, Wewokufkee Town
One mile west of Welty
Okfuskee County, Oklahoma.

Hillis Jackson arrested for thievery was tried by the lighthorsemen (no district mentioned) and a sentence of whipping was passed.

He was punished twice by whipping for thievery but the third time he was sentenced to be shot.

On the day he was to be shot, Hillis Jackson told the judge, "You always blindfold a man when you are going to shoot him but you are killing men just as you would an animal, still, you never blindfold the animal that you shoot down. I don't want to be blindfolded but to look at the man who is to shoot me." This request was granted and Jackson was to be shot without being blindfolded.

When the timekeeper who was watching his timepiece gave the signal to the executor to shoot, Hillis Jackson looking at the man who was to shoot and the man being ready to shoot, Jackson made a face at him causing him to get excited from the funny appearance. The first shot went wild and failed to kill Hillis Jackson. The second one just passed

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his side without hitting the spot marked by a white cloth over the heart of Hillis Jackson. Only two shots were ever allowed in an execution and Hillis Jackson was given his freedom.

Later on in life, Hillis Jackson even became a member of the lighthorsemen in spite of his career.

It has been told that there are many instances when a condemned man was often turned loose even when they were before a gun and ready to be shot. Sometimes and often, this was a result of the belief in and in the using of the medicine as a charm.