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Towns-Cloud Chief, Taloga, Araphaho
Stage Route-Arapaho to El Reno
Homes-Dugouts
Food
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Buffalo Bones

Mr. L. J. Bradley
Hydro, Oklahoma

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Rattlesnakes were every place in the territorial days. When the settlers came upon these snakes they would kill them if they could. There were very few that ever got away.

There is a settlement six miles south of Weatherford known as the Missouri settlement, the people having come from Missouri on prospecting parties. In 1854, they settled there. They came after the run.

Chief, Malosa and Arapago, each went to be the County seat. Four miles west of Hydro and in Washita and Caddo counties and all down around Lawton, was known as the Washita Battle Company territory in 1861.

The stage route was from Arapago to El Reno, and was known as the Dry Field Stage route. In those times they had to dig their wells deep before they could get water. They would have a pulley to run the rope through, then on one end of the rope they would tie a zinc bucket about eight inches around and five feet long, this is to go into the well. Then tie the other end of the rope around the horn of the saddle of the horse. The driver would get on the horse and go straight out from the well about a hundred yards drawing the pail of water up. She would keep this up until she had sufficient water.

The people in 1894 lived in dugouts, or built them a house back in a bank, and for a roof, they used sod. They did not have very much furniture. What they did have was made out of goods boxes. For a mattress they used straw and shocks and grass. They used fire places in those times. With a post hole digger they would dig a hole, and they would build a fire in it. They used cow chips for fuel. Matches were uncommon in those times so they would get a fire by hitting two flint rocks together, and catching the paper afire by the sparks from these rocks.

The first house that was built is four miles south of Weatherford. It is made out of rocks for the sides and had a sod roof. When it rained the roof would leak, everything in the house would get wet. Mr. Bradley told a little story about his pet dog. It was raining one day, the roof was leaking and everything was getting wet. Someone mentioned about the dog and he was under the table, the only dry place in the house.

Snakes, centipedes and scorpions were in their house. It was a common thing to see one of these crawling around.

Black-eyed peas, beans, salt pork, and apples were the main source of food during those times. The supplies

were bought at El Reno, and would be brought out to Colony to the Seger Store. The salt pork was put up in Kansas City, shipped to El Reno and then sent to the country stores. Salt pork was 4¢ a pound; flour was 50¢ a sack. The bread they had was made out of sour dough. Generally called sour dough biscuits. The way they would make these, they would save a little dough out of the first batch of bread for the next batch, etc. They used this sour dough first just as we use sour milk today.

The Methodist Church at Corn, fifteen miles south west of Weatherford, was the largest building that was built of sod. There is a beautiful two story building there now. Mr. Pete Bergman gave them the land for the church.

The most dreaded disease was slow fever.

The government when they allotted the land, gave land along the river to the Indians. The Indians were given first choice of the land.

The last of the buffalo:

This country used to be covered with buffaloes until it began to be settled and the buffaloes were killed. When Mr. Bradley came to this country, it was covered with buffalo bones. The settlers would pick these bones up and sell them; then they were sent to Kansas City and made into fertilizer. Everybody got to picking these bones up and it was not long until they were all gone.