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BRUNER, JOSEPH

SECOND INTERVIEW
SNAKE INDIANS

#6985

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Dallas M. Eife

This report made on (date) July 13 & 23, 1937

1. Name Joseph Bruner
2. Post Office Address Sapulpa, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 7 miles Northwest of Sapulpa
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
5. Place of birth _____
6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____
Other information about father _____
7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____
Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2.

Dawes M. Fife,
Interviewer,
July 13 & 23, 1937.

SNAKE INDIANS

An Interview with Joseph Bruner, age 64,
full-blood Creek Indian, living seven
miles Northwest of Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

In 1901 a large group of full-blood Creek Indians were dissatisfied with the changes that had been made when the Curtis Act has been passed. As the result of this act the Creek Indians' laws and customs were abolished.

The Snake Indians did not want individual allotments but wanted their allotments arranged so the Creek Nation could all share equally in the gas, oil and pasture leases.

This group of Indians elected Chitto Harjo, Indian name of Crazy Snake, as their chief and the followers of Crazy Snake were called Snake Indians.

The Snake Indians were allotted land that was left after the other Creek Indians who were not followers of Crazy Snake had been allotted the land in the Creek Nation.

The Snake Indians' roll number and their towns were first checked and then they allotted the land as the Commission saw fit.

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Most of the poor land of the Snake Indians turned out to be the most productive oil field in the world. It is now called the Cushing oil field.

This land made most of the Snake Indians wealthy and among the wealthy Indians was the late Jackson Barnett, a Snake Indian, who was reputed to be the wealthiest Indian in the world.