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Numbers--Creek Nation  
Leasing--Creek Nation  
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FIELD WORKER JIMMIE BIRDWELL  
Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149  
May 14, 1957.

INTERVIEW WITH JAMES E. BEAN  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
3908 S. Hudson St.  
Born June 23, 1888, Eastern, Okla.

Father's name Tom Bean  
Born Tennessee.  
Mother's name Annie Brownington  
Born Tennessee

Mr. Bean lived all of his life in Eastern Oklahoma., in the Creek Nation, mostly around Mellette, across the river from Indianola. Mr. Bean says his father's house was built in a fashion after the homes of the Creek Indians who built a two room house out of raw cotton-wood lumber; then when they needed more room they would build a little log hut out in the yard very close to the first building.

In the early days where Mr. Bean lived, a white man could get a 5 year lease on a piece of land for building a house, clearing the land and digging well. Most all of the houses were log houses; some times they would build out of cotton wood lumber, but it was very bad to shrink. When a man was going to build a log house, he would get all of his logs cut, and hauled to the place where he was going to build his house; then he would give what was called a log raising and a dance. All of the neighbors would be invited over and they would raise the logs on the sides and lay the floor. Then the dance would start and would last

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until daylight the next morning. Mr. Bean said he could remember when sweet potatoes, cornbread and some wild meat was a good dinner. The elder Mr. Bean never did do very well in trying to farm, just barely made a meager living for his family.

There are lots of Indian graves in this part of the state. There is hardly a farm that has not its own grave yard as most all of the Creeks bury their dead on their own land.

Around Mallette there are lots of mounds from 5 to 10 feet high and from 25 to 50 feet across. There are supposed to contain bodies of dead Indians. There has been a whole lot of grave robbing, also white men, thinking they would find gold money or gold trinkets, would band together and in one night time would dig up some dozen graves. Some of the graves would contain Indian beads, sometimes as much as 2 or 3 gallons, also pottery odds and ends of keepsakes belonging to the dead.

Mr. Bean said all of the farm work was done with one mule and a georgia stock. He said that his father hauled out from Eufaula all of his supplies which were

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not many as he never had any money to buy with. What he could not raise, he would do without. Selling coon, opossum, and skunk hides bought their clothes in the late fall and winter.