

YETCHIE, MARCHY

INTERVIEW

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Faye Williams

Interviewer

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Interview with Marchie Yetchie
Wewoka, Oklahoma.

Marchie Yetchie was born in what is now Creek County. He does not know his age because the Indians in those days never kept any records. He said that he must be between the age of 70 and 80 years.

His mother and dad came to this country from Florida, both being full blood Seminole Indians. His mother died when he was very young and he does not remember much about her.

His father fought in the Civil War, and was killed in action during the war. He remembers during the war when he would have to run and hide from the bushwhackers. The bushwhackers would destroy everything they had.

When his father and mother came to this country from Florida, they traveled in wagons driven by oxen and some of the Indians traveled on foot. They were given land and they built log houses to live in. Fishing and hunting and raising corn was their way of making a living. He states money was hard to get and the

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Indians traded corn and other things to get their supplies.

▲ Marchey Yetchie states that there were plenty of wild animals in this country. When they went on these hunting trips they would have to keep watch constantly for wild animals. It was very dangerous. He killed one deer.

The Indians used bow and arrows to hunt with. He said he still had the first bow and arrow that he did all his hunting with in the earlier days.

Dances.

Groups of the Seminole Indian tribe would meet and have dances that would usually last about two or three days. They traveled in wagons to these meetings.

Churches.

They had brush arbors for churches and they would usually have to walk about a mile from these places to get their water from springs and creeks. They would camp about a week and the following Sunday they would have feast day.

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Mr. Marchey Yetchie said there were a few white people in this country when he came here but his tribe never had any trouble with them. He said there were a few negroes and Indians that were dangerous at that time.

John F. Brown was first Chief of the Seminole Nation after statehood and he died in 1919. His sister, Mrs. Alice Davis, took his place. The present Chief of the Seminole tribe is Chille Fish of Wewoka. The old full blood Seminole Indians are rapidly dying out, few of them are left. Those that are still here are talking of moving to Old Mexico where they will get free grants. Although they will lose their United States citizenship they are not civilized enough to think it will make any difference to them.

Mr. Yetchie wears a large black hat with a beaded band and a feather in the band, of which he is quite proud.

He states that the Seminole tribe did not do very much bead work. They bought their bead work and blankets from other tribes.