

MILLER, SEBRON

INTERVIEW

6892

**253**

3

Jefferson Berryhill  
Field Worker  
July 21, 1937

254

Law of Youth and Punishment.

This law of youth and punishment existed way back in Alabama and Georgia, before the removal of the Creek Indians from there to here. These stories or facts were told to Mr. Miller when he was a boy by his grandfather. In order for a boy or a girl to be strong and healthy it was a law to scratch the boy or girl's forearm. The forearm was scratched with a gar fish tooth. Four or five times was required to each person. It was scratched hard enough to make it bleed, as by making it bleed and letting the blood flow freely it was supposed to make him or her healthy and not subject to any kind of sickness or disease. A medicine man performed these rites and when all the required laws were done the medicine man wished him or her a long healthy and useful life. The scratch was six or seven inches long up and down the arm. The punishment was a very severe thing. If a man or woman was caught with a married man or woman the whole tribe

-2-

would get together and take council as to decide the man or woman's fate. If they were found guilty they were brought before the tribe, stripped of their clothing, then they were placed in the middle of the surrounding members of the tribe to see for themselves of their plight. While there they were told of their sentence and punishment. The penalty was to cut their ears or their nose off with a dull knife. The ear or nose was not sliced off in a swift motion, it was done in a slow way, the knife being very dull. It was just sawed off as they believed in going to the extreme. A woman with ears or nose cut off was hardly ever seen among the crowd, earless men wore turbans.

Editor's Note:

This interview has been left almost exactly as sent in in order to preserve the Indian's method of expressing ideas. Sebron Miller is a fullblood Creek, living four miles north of Okmulgee, Oklahoma.