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BillieaByrd,
Research Field Worker S-149,
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"Hunting"
From Interviews with
Reuben Cook, James Scott,
Daniel Barnett, Saber Jackson,
and Wm. Stoddard, all of Okemah, Okla.

Hunting was well prepared for in advance. Plenty of bows and arrows were necessary and even the guns were cleaned, if a man preferred to use the gun. A reed for calling and attracting the deer was made. This reed was short and hollow and when placed between the palms of the hands and blowed upon it produced a sound similar to that of a deer. This same article was used to call or attract the wild turkey. Some of the hunters were gifted enough to imitate by mouth the call or sound of either a deer or the wild turkey.

One man or any number of men went hunting. Some joined others and camped for several days.

The favorite hunting places were along the thickly wooded Canadian or Deep Fork Rivers, less inhabited places, and the wooded and higher hills.

The turkey or deer possessed a rare cunning and could almost detect the man made sound from the animal sound. These animals and fowls feared the man. Many times the man made call produced the desired results and game was plentiful. If the turkey or deer distinguished the call, these animals

or fowls knew it was time to speed away. The calls were made after a long distance had been covered and no sign of the wild turkey or deer was seen. One man would call while probably another man would be ready to shoot if the call was answered and brought either the turkey or deer in sight.

Often a party of hunters on horseback would come upon a flock of turkeys. In this case, the men would chase the turkeys until tired and then when within reach, the men would hit the turkey in the head instantly killing it.

There were plenty of prairie chickens and grouse, too, yet their flight was so great and sudden that they were killed only when within shooting range. The squirrel was plentiful as was the rabbit.

Hunting was the Indian's best sport and the only life that had ever been known. When game was brought home, the women and children were happy and crowded around the kill, but the best of all was the game prepared for eating. Everybody took part then.

The evenings and mornings were the ideal time to wait and kill turkeys. The flapping of their wings indicated where.

The wild game gradually disappeared as the Indian Territory became a state and as it became more populated. Many new laws were made and free hunting was no more.

Reuben Cook saw a buck and shot at it, but missed it. He also saw a turkey fly across the Canadian River. These are instances when the last glimpse of wild game was seen by the above named, the date is unknown.

Daniel Barnett, also, saw a great herd of deer pass him within shooting range, but he did not think of killing them - this was also his last glimpse of deer in the wild state.

Wm. Stoddard, fifteen miles north of Okemah, Oklahoma, saw his last deer when he was out gathering wood. He saw it lying down beside the little stream, but it got up and vanished into the thickets.

STOCK BRANDING OF THLOPTHLOCCO TOWN (TULWA)

An Interview with Reuben Cook, Thlopthlocco town.
(tulwa) 7 miles south of Okmah, Okla.

FIELD WORKER----- Billie Byrd,
April 22, 1937

It was along the Canadian River that the Thlopthlocco tribe (tulwa) settled, the exact location or date is not known.

The members of this tribe were a watchful and a strong united group. The tribe owned a vast number of live stock. The tribe not only owned live stock as a whole, but the individual members were owners of live stock, and each member thought it his duty to look after his fellow townsman's property.

Whenever any stock strayed off or was missed, the man would organize a searching party to find the missing stock, all property was carefully watched, not only the stock.

It was not difficult for the members of the Thlopthlocco town (tulwa) to identify their property, because this tribe used only one certain brand to mark their stock. This brand was used only on stock that belonged to the tribe (tulwa), and the individuals, if they so desired, branded their personal property with other brands to distinguish it from the tribal property.

This brand was a Bar and Circle,

Thus;



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The original branding instrument used then is now in the possession of Reuben Cook, seven miles south of Okemah, Oklahoma.

The tom-tom now used by and in the possession of the Thlopthlocco town(tulwa) is the one originally brought from Alabama.