

INDEX CARDS

Sabalpa

Finance--Creek Nation

Depressions--1907

Colchby, Crawford

Schools--Creek Nation

Interview with Mrs. Matilda Eagan,
pioneer woman, age 74, living at Sapulpa,
Oklahoma, as given to Dawes Fife, Indian
Research worker, April 13, 1937

Mrs. Eagan was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 1863. She came to Sapulpa in 1893. She has two daughters and one son.

When she first came to Sapulpa, there were only two stores here, one being the H. C. Hall and Carothers store and the other Jim Menifee's dry goods store.

The only house in town was a large log cabin called the "Peter Antone Stockade." There was also a very small hotel in town called the "Smith Beanery."

The first drug store in Sapulpa was owned and operated by Mrs. Keene. Mrs. Keene was a doctor, also; and the first one in Sapulpa. The second doctor was Dr. McAllister. A

A man by the name of Happy Jack ran the first blacksmith shop. The third store in Sapulpa was owned by Mrs. Eagan and the late Mr. Eagan. They had a mercantile store. They bought supplies for their store in Muskogee and brought them to Sapulpa in wagons. After the day in the store was over, Mrs. Eagan herself would take the money to Tulsa, to a bank, going horseback and swimming her horse across the Arkansas River. There were no banks in Sapulpa then.

Indians traded at the Eagan store and John Sapulpa (Creek Indian) interpreted for the Indians when they came to trade.

2

Mr. & Mrs. Eagan built their store in Sapulpa in 1893.

Later they built a second store in Tulsa and a third one in Kelleyville . The depression in 1907 caused them to lose their stores.

Mrs. Eagan said she knew Cherokee Bill, Isaael Carr, and George Sanger. She said different outlaws came to their store for purchases but never bothered them and always paid for their purchases.

Mrs. Eagan said before Cherokee Bill was hung at Ft. Smith, he wrote a letter to her husband, the late Mr. John F. Eagan, asking him to come to his execution. Mr. Eagan did not go. They also had possession of Cherokee Bill's seven notched gun but gave it to a friend of theirs, a Betty McKnight of Kansas City, Mo.

The first white school in Sapulpa was taught by Cyner Bessett, white woman from Kelleyville. School was held in a livery stable owned by A Bill Smith. There were only six students in school.

3

6