

COLE, P. W.

RACE TRACK PRAIRIE

12071

Pete G. Cole, Investigator

November 4, 1937

Dear Sirs,

In Section 22, Township 5 South and Range 17 East is an allotment of Abel Collins, a full blood Cheatey Indian now deceased. There is a strip of alkali soil land, a small prairie across a little branch named Fox Creek. This site, a strip about one hundred yards wide about one mile long running north and south is as level as a floor and not cultivatable on account of its alkali land and because water remains on the surface the most part of the time.

Since not even grass grows on this land, it was not considered as worth anything until the community in that settlement set a date to have a picnic and a free barbecue there.

Steer, calf and goat roping, bronc riding, bulldogging, horse racing and other amusements were furnished and a great time was enjoyed by all. This piece was then named Race Track Prairie and since then has been known by this name since horse racing was the first entertainment given

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at this place. There were two trails made through the entire distance of the track at about twenty feet apart and when ready for the race, the two contestants would face in the opposite direction in which they are to run and when the command "Go" or the firing of a pistol each horse would wheel around and start for the goal. The race was on. At the other end of the goal were the judges to award the prize to the winner.

This was the beginning place where there had a place of amusement and other games of sports played and enjoyed by all and has been known as Race Track Prairie. This little spot is known by all of the people in the county and is still used for this kind of occasion although there are no houses or other improvement on this certain tract. This little place of amusement is located in Pushmataha County near the line of Atoka County.