

ROSS, ELIZABETH

TAHLEQUAH NEWSPAPERS.

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63

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Manuscript Article
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Tahlequah Newspapers

Personal Recollections of
Elizabeth Ross and S. W. Ross.

Tahlequah is the first town in the 46th state in which a newspaper was printed. The Cherokee Advocate was the name of the first newspaper. The first issue appeared in September, 1844. More than forty years elapsed until a other printing office was established.

In 1886, the second newspaper in the history of Tahlequah made its appearance, being the Telephone, established by B. H. Stone, a photographer. This paper was published with an occasional intermission until April, 1896, when the office and materials were destroyed by fire. During the period of its existence there had been several editors.

The Indian Arrow, the third newspaper and publication, was begun in Tahlequah in 1889. Later it was

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

TAHLEQUAH NEWSPAPERS

7751.

2

called the Arrow, and yet later the Tahlequah Arrow. This newspaper, had it been published continuously under the names indicated, would be (1937) forty-eight years old. But it was merged with other publications some years ago and the original names were discarded. The Indian Arrow was the official organ of the National political party of the Cherokee Nation.

The Indian Sentinel, established at Webbers Falls in 1890, was some months later removed to Tahlequah, continued in existence several years, having during the time a number of editors. Eventually this paper suspended publication permanently. It was the official organ of the Downing political party of the Cherokee Nation.

Both the Indian Arrow and the Indian Sentinel were established by stock companies. The first named finally became individually owned.

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

TAHLEQUAH NEWSPAPERS.

7751

3

Soon after the beginning of the present century the Tahlequah Herald was established by Webster and Stanchfield. The latter soon retired and A. W. Webster continued publication until 1907. In course of time the Herald was merged with another publication and, like the Indian Arrow, lost its identity.

The Tahlequah Leader, daily and weekly, was established by George W. Stone of Leitchfield, Kentucky, in 1905, was published until after the beginning of the following year, when the plant was removed to Pittsburg, Kansas.

The Tahlequah Sun was being published in Tahlequah in 1913 by Gus H. Finch, and continued in existence several years, having during the time several editors. Eventually the presses and material were sold and removed to Pittsburg, Kansas.

The Republican Star, a Republican newspaper, was in operation several years after 1919 and was finally

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

TAHLEQUAH NEWSPAPERS.

7751

sold to a company which publishes the Cherokee County Democrat-Star.

The Tahlequah Citizen, latest newspaper established at Tahlequah, is edited and managed by P. F. Comfort. The Citizen, an independent newspaper, is owned by K. L. and P. F. Comfort and is now (1937) in its sixth year of publication. P. F. Comfort is editor.