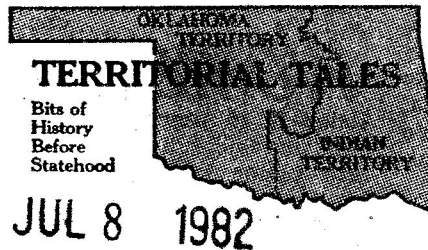


Seminoles Reluctantly Move to Indian Territory

The Seminoles of Florida were related to the Creek Indians, although they were separated from them. In a treaty signed at Payne's landing in 1832, it was agreed that the Seminoles would move West to Indian Territory to make room for white settlers.

Most of the Seminoles did not like the treaty. Under leadership of Chief Osceola, they hid women, children and older men in the swamplands of Florida and waged war against the United States.

Unable to stop the conflict, govern-



ment authorities acting under a flag of truce seized the Seminole leader. Osceola's spirit was broken by this betrayal. Historian Muriel Wright wrote, "His

pleasing countenance saddened, his tall figure drooped when he was taken prisoner to Fort Moultrie, where he died."

The Seminoles then were overcome and in 1842 were moved to Indian Territory where they settled among their kinsmen, the Creeks, in what is now East Central Oklahoma.

Their territory was smaller than that of most tribes but a large part of it proved to have vast oil and gas resources. These were developed in the 1920s and '30s, making many members of the tribe wealthy.