

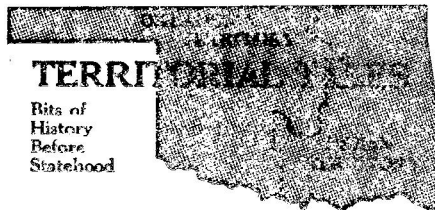
JUL 14 1982

Territorial Discussion Recanted

J.W. Beadle, a Cincinnati newspaper correspondent, visited Indian Territory in the spring of 1872 and was entertained near Vinita in the home of Jeff Parks, a prominent mixed-blood Cherokee. Several older citizens were invited for Sunday dinner and politics came up for discussion. In his book, "The Undeveloped West," Beadle reported the conversation:

"What will you do with us?" was the first question. "Will the government give half our lands to the railroads and let the whites come in on us to try for the other half?"

Beadle wrote that the principal talker was a "White Cherokee" who argued in good language and at



some length against the "Bill to Establish the Territory of Oklahoma." He produced a copy and read extracts.

"As he progressed, a growing sadness showed on every face," Beadle said. "He concluded and an oppressive silence settled upon the company, so profound that I could feel the reproach which seemed thus cast upon my nation."