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Freed Geronimo Sorry for Killings

The famous Apache chief, Geronimo, was held as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill from 1886 until statehood of Oklahoma. In October 1907, with statehood assured, Geronimo was allowed to go to Collinsville in the Indian Territory to visit Chief Spybuck of the Shawnees. He was in Oklahoma City for three hours between trains. He visited the offices of The Daily Oklahoman, where he was interviewed with the aid of an interpreter.

"Geronimo has religion now," Geronimo said. "The blood of men whom me, big chief, kill is before me. Geronimo is sorry. But the Big God, Him who is friend of white man and Indian, He forgive. Geronimo want to be prisoner no more. Want to be free.

"Me want to go to Arizona. Plenty deer and plenty things to hunt there. Plenty good water. No big houses. Indian want to live like Indian used to live, but Indian kill no more.

"Geronimo getting old and he want peace. My people and me not bother Big White Father, if he only let us go out where the Indian gets lots of air and good hunting.

"White man know many things. He change Indians' country and now Indian want to go away — out where he have plenty of timber and drink water out of stream, just like God wanted him to do."

The Oklahoman later reported that, at Collinsville, Geronimo rode in a big red automobile to the pow-wow grounds, where 1,500 people heard their translators relay his advise to adopt the ways of the white man and study Christianity.