

# Preachers Traveled State

Effective work of missionaries among the Indians led many of the younger men into Christianity and some were called to preach.

William H. McKinney was one of them. He traveled from one community to another over a wide area, usually holding services under brush arbors or trees. The meeting period was supposed to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and last until Sunday evening.

"For several months I reached an appointment on a stated Friday evening but found no one at the campground," McKinney said in J.B. Thoburn's "History of Oklahoma."

"I staked my horse one time and lay on the



grass all night without supper. I went without breakfast or dinner on Saturday. Saturday evening the Indians slowly gathered.

"When I told them of my long and lonesome fast and my prayers they were sorry and promised thereafter to come to services on Friday evening. I never had to repeat this at any other appointment."

Rev. William Philip Pipkin was another pioneer itinerant preacher who traveled for more

than a quarter of a century among the Choctaws and Chickasaws. During his services interpreters were frequently required.

Among the interpreters he called upon was Willis Folsom, who was himself a Methodist preacher. In the middle of a sermon one day Folsom sat down in apparent disgust.

"Go ahead," he said to the white preacher, who looked at him in amazement. "You talk too fast. I can't interpret."