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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
912-914 Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas

W.P.A. FEDERAL PROJECT NO. 1

"THE AMERICAN GUIDE"

WEEKLY FIELD REPORT

WICHITA

Date for week **March 7, '36**  
ending .....

Local Office: .....

District assigned **WICHITA** in **SEDGWICK** County **KANSAS** State

If you are attaching editorial copy to this report, fill out (A).

If you are merely reporting progress, fill out (B).

**A** (Editorial copy attached)

Number of words . . . . . **600** . . . . . Special topic assigned **Growth and Development**

Part of assigned district or county covered in this report **American Indian Institute**  
(Township, village, town, quarter, or city, etc.)

Questionnaire categories incomplete or missing; list below with reasons for  
omission, i.e. whether material is still to be covered or  
whether the questions are not applicable to your territory.

**B** (Report of progress, no copy attached)

Part of assigned territory you are now investigating .....

Special categories of Questionnaire you are working on (list below)

Are you reducing your field notes to a Field Continuity? .....

Date of last editorial copy transmitted to State Office .....

When do you expect to forward your next editorial copy? .....

Time needed to finish present topic .....

Verified by Aherne, Dec. 1937

THE AMERICAN GUIDE - Growth and Development  
Wichita, Kansas

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Educational Ventures:  
American Indian Institute.

By: Maude E. Taylor

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The American Indian Institute, 3500 East Twenty-first street, Wichita, is a dormitory and work project for Indian boys, under management of the board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and is a vehicle through which federal government aid toward education is supplied to Indian youth capable of developing leadership. The institutional aim is to provide Christian home surroundings and influences for Indian youth in academic and religious educational training. Admission to the institute is gained on recommendation by Indian agent, school social worker, pastor or missionary. Requirements include good character, health and leadership possibilities. The Institute receives cash for its housing; its home and religious influences and training, where cash is available. Otherwise work projects are provided for students.

The student body is enrolled in Wichita colleges and high schools, under a general policy decided during the school year 1933-34. The federal government provides payment for tuition and transportation, governmental interest being in securing public school training for Indian youth in preference to segregation in Indian schools.

The college cost of Indian youth is about \$75 per semester; high school student cost, approximately \$15 per student per year. These amounts cover cost not provided by the government as tuition and transportation. Living costs at the Institute home are recommended as being lower than living accommodations ~~xxxxxx~~ could be obtained elsewhere.

In the Institute for the school year 1935-36 there are nineteen Indian tribes represented -- Cherokee, Chippewa, Choctaw, Comanche, Creek, Euchee, Delaware, Kickapoo, Kiowa, Navajo, Omaha, Oneida, Wyandotte, Ponca, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, Sioux, Winnebago, Yakima -- and the student blood-degree ranges from fullblood to the three-thirty-second percent Indian blood. In this student body are forty-three Indian boys. Their homes are in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Washington. The age range is from fifteen to twenty-six years. Church affiliations represented in this student body are Adventist, Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and the Reformed Church.

The present policy of maintaining the Institute to provide housing and work project opportunity for youth grew from a practice of admitting Indian boys who desired to attend other schools, yet craved the Institute influence and required the opportunities it afforded for cheap living.

The American Indian Institute -- popularly classified as 3500 East Twenty-first Street, yet located on a county extension of road, and in the immediate vicinity of Wichita Municipal University -- was originally christened as Roe Indian Institute, taking its present name in 1920. It was the idea of Dr. Walter C. Roe who, for twenty-five years, worked, with his wife, Mary C. Roe, amongst Indians of the Southwest United States. He visioned need of a place where the Indian male youth, of every tribe, might be trained to be self-supporting, useful, Christian, and develop background for leadership amongst his own people after completing undertaken education. After the passing of Dr. Roe, the work of his Institute was carried on by Mary Rose, and their foster son, Henry Roe Cloud, and the latter's wife, Elizabeth B. Cloud. With these leaders was associated a board of thirty friends of the American Indian.

In process of growth the Institute became an accredited high school, its graduates entering college or university on an equal basis with those from other secondary schools. In 1927 the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church took over the Institute, and installed present policy in 1934.

The Institute property includes 100 acres of land, with fifteen acres for the Institute campus. The remainder is farm land. Campus buildings are Voorhees Hall, a dormitory with rooms on the first floor for study and student activities; Roe Hall, a dormitory, with dining room and kitchen and one class room on the first floor; Bungalow Dormitory, with music practice and study room, and residence; Mohegan Cottage, and office and residence; dairy barn, shops, sheds and minor buildings.

The staff is: Henry P. Douglas, Superintendent; John Hunter, student work supervisor Mrs. Sophia Chouteau, kitchen supervisor; Mrs. Etta Hunter, assistant matron.

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Source: Interview with Henry P. Douglas, Superintendent American Indian Institute, 3500 East Twenty-first Street, Wichita, Kansas.

THE AMERICAN GUIDE - Growth and Development  
Wichita, Kansas.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Educational Ventures:  
American Indian Institute.  
by: Maude E. Taylor.

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600 wards

**INDIAN**  
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**NINETEEN**  
In the Institute for the school year 1935-36 there are ~~eighteen~~ Indian tribes represented -- Cherokee, Chippewa, Choctaw, Commanché, Creek, Eucheé, Delaware, Kickapoo, Kiowa, Navajo, Omaha, Oneida, Wyandotte, Ponca, ~~Pawatomia~~

Pottawatomie, Shawnee, Sioux, Winnebago, Yakima -- and the student blood-degree ranges from fullblood to the three-thirty-second percent Indian blood. In this ~~group~~ <sup>STUDENT body</sup> are forty-three ~~students~~ <sup>INDIAN boys</sup>. Their homes are in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Washington. The age range is from fifteen to twenty-six years. Church affiliations represented in this student body are Adventist, Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and the Reformed Church.

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Source:

Interview with Henry P. Douglas, Superintendent American Indian Institute, 3500 East Twenty-first street, Wichita, Kansas.