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A Tree Story

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Carl Keiser

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A TREE STORY

*As heard by Willis Huston from Carl Keiser,
who lived on the blacktop two miles south of Bushong.*

Old-timers tell the story about an old elm tree that was the only landmark on the first trail between Osage City and Americus, a distance of about twenty-six miles. It could be seen for miles in all directions. At Osage City travelers were told to go straight west until they got to the tree, and then to turn south toward the Neosho River, which could be seen as a winding band of bur oaks in the distance. The tree was located between 142 Mile Creek and Bluff Creek. Both creeks eventually flow into the Mississippi. The tree is located at the top of these watersheds.

Bushong came into existence just yards northeast of the tree. It was thought that a large rock protected the tree from prairie fires when it was a seedling.



LONE ELM TREE
Louis Copt