here and there. So they thought it would be better for them to call it their own. The way it was, they call it their own but it's not theirs.

(Not theirs, belonged to the tribe regardless of what they thought.)

So in order to do that, the government had to take over and they called it state hood, 1906. When it became a law in 1906, that eliminated our form of government.

(You had to come under the state?)

State, uh-huh.

CHANGING TIMES AND INDIAN WAYS

(You've seen, I guess--have the Choctaws changed much since 1906 in the people in this country? What have been some of the changes since they last had their own government?)

There's quite a bit since 1906. Quite a bit changes, as the younger generation come up. And more of white people's ways been the Indian ways. There's quite a bit of change. And I insist on making all of the changes, accept. Because our Indian tradition, our Indian language be gone. It won't be too long because all of their--like my children, they don't know how to talk Choctaw. They still understand it. But their children will not understand as much Indian because they don't know too much, or I don't think too much, my kids didn't care about this because I didn't think they need it. They don't need it.

(If they want it they would be interested and need it that's--)

We don't need what's back of us. We need what's in the future by our Indian children. It's not what we had in the past because that's gone.

(That door is closed.)

That door is closed.

(You feel like then that about the only thing left to identify Choctaw people is what language is left? I mean identify them different than non-Indians.)

Their features, their looks, you know, their color, that's the only thing will be left.