

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(May 19, 1969. Today, I'm visiting with Zo Ballard Bunch, an 82 year old Cherokee of Bernice, Delaware County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Bunch is a life-long resident of this community. And she tells many things about its early history, its people, and its places and the changing times and its effect on the community.)

FAMILY RELATIONS

(Ballard Cemetery was down by the lake, wasn't it?)

Yes. On the other side there, just west of Grand River. It's about, oh-h, just a little ways from, half a mile maybe, from Grand River.

(I see. That was your original home over there, wasn't it?)

Yes.

(Uh-huh. What was your father's name?)

William Ballard.

(William Ballard.)

Uh-hum. Everybody called him Bill.

(Uh-hum. And what family was your mother from?)

Mayes. Mayes County was named after her family.

(Well, from probably Joel B. or Samuel?)

Yes. Joel B. and Samuel were her half-brothers.

(Well. But up in here through, this is where your folks had their allotments?)

Yes.

(How did Bernice get its name? Does anyone know?)

Yes. I do. There was a family over on, what we call, island now.

Their name was Mode.

(Mode,)

Ross Mode. And he was a Cherokee Indian descent. Oh, I don't think he was too much Indian, but he was Indian. And they had a little