

Cherokees who had remained in Georgia and in Tennessee--was, in fact, the most advanced of the Cherokee. And that the Cherokee that we had in Arkansas and later in Oklahoma tended to be the more backward or the more savage. But in my more recent reading, I've been discovering that the Cherokees that we had here weren't as stupid or as backward as we thought they were. In fact, they conceived the idea of a national newspaper before the publication of the Cherokee Phoenix. In 1824, the Western Cherokees wrote to the Mission Board and asked that a printing press be provided to them so they could--in 1825, began the publication of a Cherokee newspaper to be called the Star in the West. So we think of them as being backward, but they actually weren't all that backward after all. In fact, as I said there, existence just as (?) pretty much parallel. They both had a high developed trade system. They had operating stores. Those of you came here saw one of the major books from the W.S. Adair Company which operated a store in the Cherokee Nation in Georgia in the 1820's and 1830's. You see, the Cherokees are buying and it's the same thing that everyone else was buying at this particular time--bolts of material, shoes. They weren't buying tomahawks. They weren't buying bows and arrows. They just didn't have any of those. If you went down to Walker Webber's store, they just didn't have any up on the shelves.

RIVERBOAT TRADE DEVELOPED

Now, the one difference--one thing that makes our Indians here in the 1820's 1830's more exciting, I think, is the riverboat trade. You know, we're very interested now in the Arkansas River Navigation Project, but the Cherokees had a Arkansas River navigation program in the 1820's and 1830's. The river was navigable then. And most of the goods that were brought into the Cherokee Nation were brought up the river and delivered here to the store. They weren't brought over land. They came up the Arkansas River.