

ENABLING ACT

Well, anyway, finally, in 1906, the Federal Government will pass a law called the Enabling Act. The Enabling Act simply stated in very simple terms that we, Federal Government instructed, "We instructing this law. We are instructing the Indian Territory. We are instructing the Oklahoma Territory. By this time, a well over a hundred thousand people, we are telling you the old Indian Territory, you send fifty-five delegates. We'll divide this region, Cherokee Nation, and so forth, into fifty-five districts, and from each district, you will elect one delegate. The same thing applies to this region. You'll divide it into fifty-five districts. We'll elect one delegate from each district, and, plus, we'll cut the Osage Nation in half until it gets from each fifty-five fifty-five and two, a hundred and twelve men. We'll meet in Guthrie, Oklahoma in the fall to be exact in November, all of December, except Christmas--a short Christmas vacation--January of 1907, February, and fifteen days in March; and we'll complete our state constitution. And, then, it will be sent to Washington D.C. where a reviewing committee will look it over, make recommendations. Some of you might remember the critic back in 1907--an individual that enjoyed, in other words, an occasional criticism and I'm referring to the man, Teddy Roosevelt. So, Mr. Roosevelt was critical of our state constitution. He said it was entirely too long. So, he with a help of a committee will make some recommendations, changed his--they recommended will be enacted or adopted or at least rewritten in our state constitution. And, finally, September 16, a referendum vote or at least a vote to prove our constitution was presented to the people of Oklahoma and overwhelmingly approved on the same date electing a governor, lieutenant governor and all state and county