

told them that they could select the best land there is. Farm land. But the Indians, they wouldn't listen. They wanted grass and timber. Nearly every allotment got a creek on it. They always pick out good water. They thought they-- they didn't know anything about digging wells them days. They didn't want no prairie without water in it. Be around close to the creek and timber so they can have wood.

(The Indians wanted to be close to a creek and timber?)

Yeah. So we was about three months allotting Indians. We had to test the water to see if there was any water in them townsites we pick out. They had a little augur about that big and pipe and pipe wrench and we go around and around and around until we hit water. Then we get a fishing cord with snuff box and drop it down there and get it and see what kind of water we're getting. If good water there we'd establish the town(site). But we took oaths not to tell anybody that we selected the townsites so other people wouldn't know when to get allotments or homesteads close to the townsites. Some of them did, but they done it by accident. They swore us workers not to tell anybody where the townsites are.

(Did the government do anything to try to encourage the Indians to pick out certain type of land or did they pretty much let them have their own choice?)

No, every man has his own choice. That's the reason they make some awful selections--some of them just made nothing but rockpiles. In the Wichita Mountains.

(What about your dad's land?)

My daddy picked up some good land. He was friendly to a Mexican captive who had lived down close to Chickasha and advised him to get good level land.

My allotment was over here by all these oil wells, over here east of Alden-- north--that new oil field. That was my land over there. There's sixteen wells on it. But in the early days I sold it. They had a wildcat in there. Went about ten--I forgot how many thousand feet. Digger (unintelligible word) oil well