

ANNUITIES, STORES, AND RATIONS

(You mentioned annuities one time. Where did people go for those?)

Well, I don't know about this one, when mother used to...I don't know anything about that. I wasn't here in this world yet. But after they moved the agency over on the other side, well, I know then, because they used to be two stores there. It was known as A.B.C. store, because A.B.C. store was Abernathy, Boke and Cleveland...three men that own it. And so they call it A.B.C. Old stores, now. That's where...sometimes...once in a great while, I used to get to go to towns when they went after rations. Right there was the place...and then annuity payments...there was a big building, set out to south. And we all had to go there...oh, Indians sitting around outside. Till we're called. (How often did you get annuities?)

We used to get it twice a year...January and July. That's the way we used to get our lease money, but we don't get it that way. They always pay the whole year.

(What about rations...how often did they get those?)

Rations, well, I think we got our rations every week. Just think, now, we used to have to camp on this side of the river. Lot of us. Lot of them had to go and camp for this reason. Summertime...wintertime was different. Summertime we had to go there, cut up their meat, dry their meat before they carry it on home. Or it would spoil. Wintertime they could take it on home.

(What kind of rations did the Wichita get?)

Well, I remember, meat for one. And sugar and coffee and flour. You know, I don't remember about baking powder...I might lie if I say. And the coffee was green coffee. We had to roast it. I think that was about all that they get. I don't remember corn meal.

(Did you say they got lard?)

I don't remember. My people used to render their cow...beef lard, tallow. That's what my people always did. They didn't like that. They wouldn't even eat that lard, until they found out some where, vegetable oil. They thought all the lard was from hogs, and they wouldn't even use it. That's why I said