

(How old were you then?)

Well, mama said I'm three years old. I remember just like if I woke up. Now there's a water, floatin'. They sticks--tied up sticks for boat, you know, and they set us kids on top of that. Some stop and push that thing across that water. And we thought that was lots of fun! That's all I remember. And I guess, I don't know, I guess I enjoy that--going across the water with those boats they made.

(Why did he go down there?)

I don't know. They just wanted to live like a real Indian. They didn't want kids to go to school or nothin'. So they just take their kids off over there so they won't have to go to school. They didn't know it was better for them to go to school.

(Tell me why they didn't want the schools?)

Oh, they wanted to be--they didn't want to lose their Indian way. They want to keep their own rules. See, they have their own rules, so they didn't want us to learn no white man way. Nothin' like that.

(Why did your father come back then?)

He wanted to be with us.

(You said your brother came down and got you. Why did he do this?)

He just want us down here in Oklahoma. He told mama she was going to --she was going to lose her place if she didn't come down here.

LAND SWINDLES

(What did he mean by that?)

There's some crooks around, just make 'em sell their places. See, they made mama sell her place, what they gave her. She was just going to lose it, so she went ahead and sold it. Cheap. Lots of Indians did that. They tell 'em they're gonna make 'em sell 'em or take 'em away from 'em. (She is referring to Kickapoo land swindles of early 1900's.)

(Did the government ever do anything about it?)