

some of our mail ~~was~~ postmarked Talequah or Standing Rock. If he got it going down going south, then it's be postmarked Vian, Oklahoma. You know the (--) if it went back to Talequah, or Rark Hill, it went by truck to Muskogee. And it was nothing for the Star Route Carriers to bring back all kinds of special items for people up and down the hills, course they had 'em but they had items at the stores. Wehn I first went there, well the (--) store was at the top of Standing Rock and top of it was Silas Fountain, and Silas Fountain also had the salt. Then later on the two grocery stores got right there at Standing Rock bridge. Now the Standing Rock Bridge now or the Standking Rock is submerged in Tenkiller Lake.

(Did the stores do credit business?)

Yessir, that was the funny part about it. They would pull all the books, and people would stop there to fill up with Phillips gasoline to go up town to buy cash at Safeway stores. So averyone in awhile Silas Fountain would pull a fast one on them. And I didn't find this out from him, I found it out from Fiddles Steve or Mr. Hargas, who came out from Talequah. That the every once in while he'd say he just wouldn't fill up with gas. Guys would stop for gas, and he'd say well, I'm out of gas. Well, why I just didn't have enough money to buy any. So the word would get around that Silas was going broke, see or couldn't pay his bills. Well, then he'd do that as a trick, to get them pay their, you know, he'd keep salt meat on hand and all kinds of can goods. The same things that they wanted and couldn't raise in their own garden. Cause gardnes grew real good there and he'd use this frick you see and for about a week or so he'd go without gas. They couldn't fill up with gas and would not get around then. Silas