

would prefer to move on down along the Canadian River where everything is handy, than to live out there at Woodward where it's bare and the land's not fertile." So then the president made a proclamation August 9, 1869, declaring that this country shall be Cheyenne-Arapaho country. It takes in two rivers--this North Canadian River and South Canadian River, and it takes in the Washita and part of the Cimarron. So we got a lot of water on here. That's what the other tribes like. Pawnees, Otoes, Poncas and others, they say they wish they had big rivers like the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Big, broad country. Flat. But naturally I guess our Plains Indians--or some call us the Southern Plains Indians--but I just call us Plains Indians because the Montana Gros Ventres, the Assiniboines, and especially the Blackfeet and the Sioux, are northern Plains Indians. And the northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes, they're still up there. So that was the way of our life--to camp away from trees. So that's how things turned out.

(You were telling me the other day something about the Battle of the Washita that happened along in there--)

Yeah, that was up toward Cheyenne, on the Washita. That's in Roger Mills County. That's where Black Kettle was killed by Custer. (Pause)

LEFT HAND'S SPRING (RAVEN SPRING)

This used to be a freight road since--I don't know how far back. It used to come through Darlington and Fort Reno, and there used to be a road right here--about a 100 yards north--the Cantonment Trail, that went clear through Watonga and Canton and on to Fort Supply. There was a freight trail. And the people would camp