call Free Port country.)

Yeah, that's right over here on Ft. Gibson.

(What have you heard about that?)

Well, the only thing I know about is where the Verdegris and the Grand River and the Arkansas there was a conference there, those rivers you know. And the things that I know, of course, is Sam Houston was supposed to be located there, having kind of a trading post there back in about 1820, I guess, '22, probably, maybe a little later. Maybe 1833 maybe. Along about that time.

(That was before Ft. Gibson was established wasn't it?)

Yes. No, Ft. Gibson was there--1817 was established Ft. Gibson. And I think one reason Sam Houston was here was on account of that fort there. I imagine those soldiers would come up there, up the river and trade with him.

(Do you recall or have you ever heard of riverboat traffic on Grand River?)

No, I never have heard of it. I have seen it as a boy on the Arkansas, though. I've seen ships come up there, but I never heard of it on the Arkansas, and I kind of--I don't believe there's ever been any traffic there on the Grand River, because I don't believe the government would ever let the state go in there and build that dam. There would never been any commerce on that river. They'd done it themselves. I understand, I'm told and I've read that the government, where there's ever been any traffic on the river, then the government controls the operations on that river as far as the dam is concerned.

(Well, Hogan, around 1900 what was the distribution of the Indians up and down the three or four counties? Were they pretty widely scattered or were they--)

Yeah, I think they were. We use to see some Indians that would go up to Welding or go out to Stilwell in that outlyings out there. You'd see so many more full-bloods out there than you do now. And if you want to see full-bloods, why you ought to come to town. They're all down town. You see more of them on the streets then we use to. (Laughter) Than we see out in the country.

(Yeah, more of them seem like they're moving to town.)

Yeah, that's right.