

And--and Charlie knew for certain that he was then about 80 at that time. He knew that it was gonna have to be done. And he said I hope I'm not even here when it happens. And he wasn't.

(Umhm.)

But that is what hurt the old people. They just died--they--it--it just--the end of everything. And I know what it was. There was a few little oil companies that couldn't-- They never did do anything but change hands, change hands, change hands. And they was always in debt. They borrow money and buy it and go in debt and work in the while change hands. Well, now, they was tickled to death just to come down because they had something to sell that they wanted to get rid of. There was a few stores and a few homes where people had just come in and--and just stayed a little while well they wanted to get out from under it and they run the corps engineers to death.

(Uhuh.)

That's what hurt us all. We could have been living down there yet as far as the dam is concerned.

(Sure.)

There was no reason for us having to move out this way. And I'll tell you another thing I don't believe it well ever hold. I think when they come to the rainy season and--and the water floods that dam can't hold it. And it'll spread out. But it'll go right back down because right down at that dam, it's 610 feet.

(Mmmmm.)

And up there in the middle of old Alluwe was 630 feet. So it'll just cover it up like a big frog pond and I'll--it'll go on out and--and that's the reason we couldn't live in there. But, land, we had learned how to deal with the--the elements of-- Now that was another thing few people had to come out of the river bottom and didn't have a place to stay, well they was taken care of. They was fed. They had clothes.