

Town of Vinita it was surveyed in 1897.

(Uh--Vinita and the surrounding area.)

That is right. Uh--well--surveyed--and that was in 1897. And this is just a little legend I put up here just the other day. They--I got this together. Township at a time. And pasted it on a board. And put it up here. Now here's where we were when it was first built.

(The witness tree.)

Witness tree. Yeah

(Yeah)

That were not healed over. And especially this. I was every familiar with this section corner right here. Because I know exactly what the stone looked like. There's an old "witness tree" there. And one over here. And one there. With the--they each had different rings. Spelled out on it. Carved into the wood.

(Uh-huh)

They could take an ax and peel it flat. One side of a big tree.

(Uh-huh)

A oak tree preferably. Or something that would live a long time. And there they would take a little gouge. And cut very deeply. I don't know whether you ever saw one or not. Well, I can remember quite plain. Course after a few years. They healed over. But then you could chop them out and still read them. Called "witness trees". And it's supposed against the law to cut one down. But they nearly all got destroyed. Course they all are dead--most of them are dead by now. I doubt if there are more than a dozen of them in this whole area, that's still standing. And you couldn't read them at that.

(Uh-huh)

Anyhow that map. That's the first survey in detail of the state of this area. 1897.