

EARLY DAY FREEDOM OF SPACE - HAD GARDENS

(Had a lot of freedom of space here, didn't you?)

Yes.

(Move around any place you wanted to.)

Yes. Well, like me now, if I didn't have no home I could settle down and build a house over here. That's my home.

(And you could plow up enough ground and have a garden or anything you wanted to.)

Yeah. In them days, we didn't have--just about say--the biggest garden that--biggest seen that anybody had, was a man by the name of James, Jefferson James, I believe it was. He had about acre and a half.

(Really?)

Yeah. And that's what they lived on. Corn, beans, potatoes and they had to work it. The men didn't work, the women worked it.

(Maybe that's why it wasn't any bigger? (Laughter) Yeah. Course you had lots of wild game.)

Yes, uh-huh. All (not clear) and (not clear) garden (not clear)--

CHOCTAWS HAD OWN GOVERNMENT AND LAWS IN EARLY DAYS

(Choctaws had their own type of government before they came?)

Yes, uh-huh. We had our police force, judges, everything. The white people came and they wanted to make this statehood. And lot of them did, just like now-days, you know, some of them agree with you, some of them don't. All right, some of the Indians didn't believe in it. They didn't want it to be chopped up--to be divided.

(They wanted to leave it just like it was.)

Uh-huh. Like it was. But more of them, the younger generation, the older, the old people didn't like it. But the younger ones thought it would be better because they would be allotted, oh, a hundred and fifty--two hundred acres,