

Indians called Saline district. It wasn't no county." "Oh," she said, "You ain't even a citizen of the United States." I said, "Hell, I ain't a citizen of nothing. You white people took my country away from me. I ain't got nothing anymore." I said, "I'm just a man without a country." (laughter)

(Yeah.)

And that old woman, she laughed. She told me, "You just wait a minute." I told her, I said, "You ain't been here very damn long. You don't know nothing about what happened seventy-five or eighty years ago."

(That's right.)

So I told her, "Now, listen, you just wait a minute." Said, "Mister, you start in the first and tell us the whole story." Well, I did. I told them. I said, "I was born in what was Indian Territory and the Cherokee Nation; and I said, "The U.S. Government didn't own a foot of this land or no part of it. We wanted a free country with a free people and live the free life. We paid our own way and made our own laws and run our own business." I said, "The United States didn't have nothing to do with it. It was our own," I told her. I said, "My dad and mother was born in Blue Springs, Georgia. They was drove here like the rest of the Indians."

(Yeah.)

And I said, "Now, after statehood, the Government controls everything now." But I said, "That's where I was born, and that's where my grandparents was born in Georgia--drove here. That girl said, "Well, I didn't know that." I said, "I know it. There's a hell of a lot of things you don't know yet." I said, "You ain't been here as long as I have. You been here eighty or ninety years like I have, by god, you'd know something." I said, "I'm talking about what happened a long time ago." I said, "You ask me where I was born.