

And we didn't feed unless it was bad weather and then we turned 'em into the hay stack. But see people--no taxes, no nothing. People don't realize that now.

(They just can't picture the place being like that.)

And they voted for statehood. And there's not too many of us Indians that had any land out there.

CEMETERIES

(Very few of them. Very few. No, the Indians' land is gone for the most part. Did the Ross family have its own cemetery?)

Yeah, they had. It was down a mile. I think we lived there a long before we came to Ft. Gibson. They lived there. I didn't. Had a big cemetery.

It was a Ross cemetery. Lots of tombs. And in that '43 flood, that was 150 yards from the river.

(Well)

When it flooded it went in the river. All of it. Yeah, that was a big cemetery.

(Is it still down there?)

No.

(All covered up.)

Yeah.

(Well)

The tombs and everything went. I never did get to look and see. The water was 15 feet deep there.

(My goodness.)

That was when they turned that water loose up at (not clear)

(Yes.)

That's what did it. So, I'm about--I expect I'm about oldest Indian around here.

(I guess so.)