

One of the many changes Mr. Fields has seen come to his part of the country is the clearing and removal of the trees. Large areas of woodlands are being cleared by big land owners coming into the county to make cattle ranches. He is not the only Indian who foresees the time when most of the trees will be gone from what was once the Cherokee Nation. The spoken feeling of many Indians is that they do not like to see the woodlands destroyed. They watch much good timber bulldozed into windrows and burned.

The city of Jay is the county seat of Delaware County and a thriving town. Mr. Fields remembers when the place where the town is now was just a patch of trees. There was a little store there and a small one-room jail. He recalls when the Indians would hold court out under the trees, and if any needed detaining they were locked up in the little frame jail.

Jeff knew most of the surrounding country in the early days and often traveled to Piney and to Sycamore. Piney, the same as now, was an Indian community, up on Beatty Creek. At one time there was a store there, but now the area only has an Indian Church, community house and several Indian families living close by. Sycamore was a meeting place of Indians in the early times as there was a large church building there, and several families lived in the immediate area.