

council met. They said, "Hey, listen, that's enough." And so this man took his children and put his children into slavery; and, later on, he traded his own children off or sold them on an auction, black, but I can't recall his name. I thought it was an interesting tip to put in there about slavery. It was strictly forbidden in Council for you to marry a Negro slave, and the punishment was very harsh to the slaves. If a slave stole any property, he was usually lashed down here in Tahlequah--in public square. The minimum lashing I can remember is 50 lashes on the bare back, and usually they followed up with a big old jar of salt on the back to--to make it heal--make you remember a little bit longer. So slavery was looked upon as here's the Indians, here's the Whites--only a White Man could marry, or a White Woman could marry; but you had to have several people say, "Now, look, he's a good man. I will be responsible for him while he lives among us." So you had to get permission. You had to have so many people say, "I think you'll be good man--make him an inter-married member of the tribe. So he had all the privileges of a Cherokee as a White Man, and most of these White Men that inter-married with White Wo--the Indian Women were from Arkansas. And, so you had people sign that you were going to be a good character and they would vouch for you and that you wouldn't be a trouble maker and you weren't a prisoner or criminal of any affect--so you could inter-marry; but no Negro could. What the Cherokees--some of them looked rather distasteful at slavery. And the Creeks--they didn't care too much about slavery, and Seminoles didn't care about it either, so as a result, they started breaking away from their owners and Texas and Arkansas and they fled to the Cherokee Nation. They started forming pockets of slavery--of run-away slaves in the Cherokee Nation in Muskogee. Now, if you're not from Muskogee, you are not aware of this situation. Probably, one of the most peculiar things in the world. When we freed the slaves in 1867, the Indians did--freed their slaves. They came to Muskogee. They came to Muskogee in mass. And surrounding Muskogee, there are 14 to 16 all-Negro communities. Now, we were interviewing some Creeks a few years ago at Eufaula.