

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(November 10, 1969, today I am visiting with Joe Ray, a 66 year old Cherokee of Chouteau, Mayes County, Oklahoma. Mr. Ray talks about his early life in the country where he was raised, Fisher Bend.)

EARLY DAYS OF FISHER BEND

Were you living in the community down in there or were you folks living on the outskirts of the cemetery?)

Yeah, and that was the Fisher, they called it the Fisher Bend.

(Fisher Bend?)

Yeah.

(There must have been a lot of people living in there at one time?)

Well, there was quite a few, Yeah, there was quite a few all around up the river there.

(Yeah, and now was that opposite the Yonkers or mostly Yonkers?)

Yeah, right on this side of the river from Yonkers, yeah.

(Um-hum.)

Yeah, you know we used to do quite a bit of trading over in Yonkers.

(Un-hum.)

They built it right up on the bank.

(How big a town is Yonkers?)

Oh, they were at one time there, it was a pretty good size little town.

Yeah. A post office, two or three stores, there was a school, and let's see, what else? And I don't have any idea what the population was.

(Un-hum.)

But it was a pretty good size town. There was a depot.

(Yeah, of course, there's nothing left there now though, is there?)

Have you been there?