

Before statehood, you know. It was that large. That place, it's not there anymore. That's where the history of all this started.

(Yeah.)

Right there by that Frozen Rock Prairie.

OLD EARLY DAY SETTLEMENTS

(You know I would be thinking that that area up and down that Arkansas River was probably the oldest settled part of the country.)

It would be on account of Fort Gibson.

(On account of Fort Gibson and also boat travel. In those days, people, you know, kinda leaned towards settlement where there were people.)

Yeah, that's right.

(As opposed to being way out in the woods. I figured there'd be a great lot of people up and down that river in the early days, more so than any place else.)

Well, you see, that is just immediately below Three Fork Creek, you know

(Yeah.)

You know kinda like a freeway.

Mrs. Human: Bill was reading (static-words not clear) you know from the east.

(Yeah.)

And Fort Smith outfitted themselves to go west on those wagon trains.

I guess--

Bill: Through to California.

Mrs. Well, there's an old area in there.

(Yes, it is the oldest settled area, I guess, in Oklahoma. You know it would have been interesting if a person had thought about it. That when we were young people to get ahold of some old timer had seen actually