

MORE ABOUT T.A. THOMPSON - MUCH CREDIT TO THE PEOPLE

Unidentified voice: You've seen a lot of changes, haven't you? Come to this place.)

Cooper: Oh, yeah, I was born and raised--I was born five miles out there and I was raised around here.

(Hmmm.)

It changed before I could turn around and look! (Laughter) That man Thompson had everything you need. He sold all kinds of food, coal, shoes, and everything. All you had to do was to go down there and you get them on credit.

(Well.)

Even sold stock on credit.

(Hmmm.)

Now on Saturday evenings you couldn't hardly buy a nickels worth of nothin' up there. The people just crowded up there. Even until eight or nine o'clock at night--you would have a time trying to get groceries.

(In other words, there must have been a lot of people here at one time.)

There was.

Unidentified voice: He carry everybody on credit. And he carried the whole country.

Cooper: Yeah. He carried 'em from Wagoner and Okmulgee and all out in that way. He carried people with their farms. In our church, here I see thousands of Cherokees, you could hardly get a seat in there.

But now you can hardly find anyone to sit down with you. (Laughter)

SCHOOLS IN EARLY DAYS AROUND OKTAHA

(Well, that is another one of those changes that is happening today.)

Our schools--for awhile--we had a real nice school in our town for Indian children: