

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(February 4, 1970. I am visiting with Ernest Walker, an 81 year old Cherokee of Spavinaw, Oklahoma. Mr. Walker has lived in this area all of his life. He talks about many things and places of his homeland.)

CEMETERIES

(Right up here, is that where the earlier Spavinaw cemetery used to be?)

No, the cemetery used to be where those boathouses are now.

(Oh, I see.)

There's three or four graves there, but they wouldn't let them move 'em. They are still there yet. They moved the cemetery,-- I helped them move it. I mean I was the inspector when they moved 'em.

(When did they move that, do you remember?)

What time?

(Yeah, what year?)

Well, not exactly what year--they moved it the year they built the dam here. It was 43 years ago when they moved it. We moved it up north. Do you know where it is at up there?

(But it was called the Spavinaw cemetery, huh?)

No, I think it was called the West Cemetery.

(The West?)

And there is another West Cemetery between here and Springs. A brother to this West--that's buried here.

OLD SPAVINAW

(Now, this Spavinaw country is one of the oldest places around in Northeast Oklahoma, anyway.)

Oh, yes, over a hundred years old. That's the old Spavinaw. It's out in the middle of the lake now.