

thing. Not a thing. Just go home and forget about it and when it comes time to vote, you go to Weleetka and vote." I said "Well, our people don't want to do that. We want to have our polls here." And he said "Well what why haven't they been voting then?" I said "Listen, they have not been voting because we don't care a thing about improving the hospital at Okemah, we don't go to that hospital. Very few people in our community go to Okemah hospital." I said "We are off on this-- this square block that surrounded by Okfuskee County on the west side, Hughes County on the south side, McIntosh County on the east side and Okmulgee County on the north side. And we are just in that square block. And we don't feel like Okfuskee County notices us enough to even know we are part of that county. We feel like we are just isolated like, like, you know, we don't claim you, just like a step-child or you know, someone that isn't--a poor relation that isn't really wanted. So, "If you want our votes, you had better give us our polls back or we're not going to vote." I said "We can organize down here and not even go to vote and then what would happen?" I said, "You do want us to vote." "Oh, yes. But you'll can go to Weleetka to vote." I said "Some of these people work as far away as Tulsa, and when they get home, they don't want to have to drive an extra 20 or 30 miles just to vote. There are some people who live way up there in the corner of the county and they would have to drive 20 miles--or almost 20 miles to Weleetka to vote and then 20 back." I said "They are not going to drive 20 miles just to vote for you." I said "They will drive down to Graham which would be you know around 12 miles or 9 miles, something like that, but that alone is far enough after you've worked all day and come home and then go to vote." But many of the people come home for dinner out of their fields. Well, they run down and vote and go back home and think nothing of it, but they wouldn't go all the way to Weleetka to vote. And so, I was in Okemah one day and I stopped by the election board office and I thought, "Well, I'll go in and talk to them." I don't know whether I can do any good or not, but I went in and I introduced myself, "I am Carmen Fife of the Graham Community, and I am chairman of the