

INTRODUCTION

(May the 11th, 1970, I'm visiting with Lucinda Wilhite, a 90-year-old Cherokee of the Wauhilla Community, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Wilhite reflects on the old days and reveals--reveals some of the things that she has seen and known.)

TALKS OF EARLY DAY LIFE

(Well Yo-sta, she came on the Trail of Tears then from--)

I don't know where she came from.

(Yeah. She belonged to the Eagle family?)

Yes, she belonged to the Eagle family and part of the time she belonged to somebody else. I don't know who they are.

(She was an old Negro slave then?)

(Do you remember her?)

Yes, I remember her.

(Well.)

She was a big old fat lady.

(Yeah. And she was an old woman then.)

Yeah, she was an old woman then.

(She just lived with different--I mean--)

Oh, yeah, different people. Round in the neighborhood. They just hired her out.

(Well. She was like one of the family then, wasn't she?)

Yeah. Uh-huh. She was just like one of the family.

(Well, I guess that's the way people lived in those days--I mean--the color of people's skin didn't make a difference then.)

No.