

CHIEF DENNIS BUSHYHEAD APPOINTS FATHER THE DOCTOR FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION

(That was before there was ever a town here?)

Oh, yes...there wasn't--this town didn't start until '82. The Frisco railroad was built through here in 1882. And Dr. Bushyhead's father, Dennis Bushyhead, was chief of the Cherokees at that time. And papa had met him, and he had appointed my father the doctor of the, it was the Indian Territory, and these Indians up here, if any of them got sick, why, Papa took care of them, and he'd send the bill into Tahlequah, you know.

SMALL POX EPIDEMIC

So it seems when they were building this railroad through here, the Frisco, why, they had a lot of Mexicans, Mama said, they took small pox. And it was there at (not clear), you know where that is, just across the river. Well, so they--my father got--and they all took sick, and they lived around, most of them lived in the woods, you know, in log houses. So, Papa got Mr. Nels Foreman, I heard him say his name, but he was one of the men. And they'd bring these sick people to big tents. They put the women in one and the men in the other, and then have one big one where they fed them. And so, he was down there Mama said, before Christmas. And he thought he'd be home for Christmas, but he was there at Christmas time. And, so after they all got well, when they went back to their homes. And lot of them, Papa said were nearly fallin' down anyway. And they'd be all the family had small pox, so he just burned up a lot of them. But he said when the women, if they