

HITCHING RIDES ON FREIGHT TRAINS

You'd be riding one of them, the brakeman come along, they'd stop, come along and put you off. . . and I could catch one just about as fast as the brakeman could. They, I caught one here one night, or one evening. And got just the other side of Claremore, why, they stopped and the brakeman come down on each side, there's three of us on there. The other two was on there when I got on. And so, we got together and so when this train stopped I told that boy, I said, "Get over there in the brakes and lay down. You can catch it just as fast as they can." And I said, "When they start back toward the caboose, just walk the other way." And I said, "If they start back toward the engine, just walk the other way, and when you catch them not a watching, just climb on and we'll be there when they get there." So they stopped and they walked up and down that train. They killed enough time to went plum into Coffeville, tried to get fifty cents of each one of us boys. Just before we'd get into Coffeville, them cops is pretty bad there in the yards. We'd hitched hiked and went to Delaware. When they slowed up as they crossed state line, we'd get off and walk on up through the yards and find out which track we wanted to go out on. We'd stand there and wait for the next train.

BEGINNING OF MUSKOGEE AS A TOWN

(What do you remember about early day Muskogee and that country around there?)

Uh, well, there's a, well, when I first went there they was there just like it was here, just very few buildings there. And so the business didn't reach out. They'd about--well take about one-third of Okmulgee out each way and there was just about one-third the buildings there that there is now.

(On Okmulgee street?)

Yeah. And take on Main street, why, when you cross the Frisco railroad, why