

GRIST MILLS - TOLL CHARGE

(In the early days in Tahlequah did they have a grist mill or a mill down there?)

Yes, they had a mill. McSpadden.

(Was that Jim McSpadden's folks?)

Uh-huh, Jim McSpadden's father. And we'd take corn, shell it, you know. Couldn't take it out there on the cob. We'd shell it at night. And take it to mill, and get meal.

(What was the toll that I've heard people talk about?)

Well, they take out so much, you see. But I wouldn't know how much.

SIGN OF THE WHIPPOORWILL AND DOVE

(What became of the Whippoorwills?)

Well, once in awhile, in the spring, long time ago, you'd hear a storm like. . . they're called Whippoorwill storms. And after the rains, the Whippoorwills would holler. And now you hardly ever hear that. But here some time ago I heard one. And made me think of long time ago. Doves and things like that. We used to follow signs. . . well, I kinda yet, in some ways. Hear a dove holler, spring's coming. But don't you know now they holler way before. Not as hard as before. But long years ago, that was the Indian sign. When the dove, you'd hear it mourn spring was broke. . . winter was broke. Now you don't hear nothin' like that.

WHAT IS A LOCUST LIKE?

(What does a locust look like?)

Well, it's kinda like jar fly. You know what a jar fly is? When the huckleberries get ripe, the jar fly fly start a sing', they used to tell me. And the locusts or something like that, they's a little different. And when they hatch there'd be just a little white thing hangin' out, if you get out before daylight. . . they're white bodies. They're hatching, on the limbs. The year that I was married they said was locust year. . . just as cool. . . Now, I never know when locust year comes. . . olden times they had locust year. But I remember a lot of things.