

LIVED IN AREA ALL OF HIS LIFE AND HAS SEEN MANY CHANGES

(You've been here all your life?)

Yeah, that's what I say. I've never been away and when the country improved and grew up, well I grew up with it. He was gone a long time and he come back it had changed. He come back and he ask me about all this prairie. He said he couldn't find the timber that was here when he left, it had grew up.

(Yeah, that blue stem grass.)

Yeah, wonderful. This was a paradise. I used to--Locust Grove used to be way up yonder three years ago. And I used to go and get our mail up there. And I'd get on a little old pony down there about twice a week and go get the mail. And I'd just take off. There wasn't a fence, road or nothing. I just take out through the prairie. Go get the mail and come back.

(They had just a store and post office there. That's before they ever thought about the present Locust Grove isn't it?)

Oh yeah. There was no Locust Grove there. It didn't come in till the railroad come in in 1912. But that post office up yonder, what I mean you didn't have no section line in the road, you just went through the prairie. The grass was so high you couldn't hardly ride through it.

(What District of the Indian Nation was this area here?)

Cooweescoee I think.

(Where was their court house?)

Well, wasn't it up here at Grove?

(At the Saline Court House?)

Yeah. Must have been. I guess that was it.

(That was Wash Mayes?)

Wash Mayes. He was High Sheriff down there.

(For the Cherokee Nation?)

Yeah. We was living down there. And he hadn't been there long. And he had