In Indian Territory days the Delaware District Courthouse was located about five miles south and west of Grove, or on Courthouse Hollow Creek in Section 25, R24, T25. Mr. Fields remembers this old meeting place, but says nothing remains of it now. Many court cases were heard there in its day, and justice meted when necessary. Prominent Indian lawyers such as Bill Thompson and Jim Davenport of Vinita came to this courthouse many times on court matters and trials. The courthouse also served as a meeting place for Indians of the area. A big spring was located near the courthouse and was the headwaters of Courthouse Hollow Creek. Mr. Fields that in pre-statehood days and in the absence of a Territorial constitution, they went under Arkansas constitutional law.

He tells of the days when the City of Jay was just a little place in the woods. One day he went thru there when there was only a little store. On that day some kind of court was being held in a little wooden one-room shack. A few houses were scattered around in the woods. There was no place to stay, but he and some other boys slept out under some trees that night. Another time he tells of when he and some other Indians went way down south from his home to a dance at Nance Wagon's place. When they arrived at the dance, the program had started. Indian couples were dancing to fiddle music with guitar accompanment and little Indian drum for time. John Watermelon was calling for the dance in Cherokee. Being strangers they just walked in the door and the girls got scared and ran out the back door and hid.

In his early days he tells that Grove, Okla. only had a store and post office and a few houses. Most trading then was done at Southwest City, Mo. or at Vinita, as these were the nearest towns of any size. Originally Grove was called Grove Springs.

The northern bounday of the Cherokee Nation ran east-west on the north side of Cowskin Prairie. North of the line then was the beginning of the Seneca and Cayuga country. In early days at a place called Cayuga, an Indian by name of Splitlog ran a big store there. An Indian church was later built there, as well as a school. Nearby was Bassett Springs, the council house and meeting place of the Senecas. This was on Elk River. Mr. Fields remembers going to a meeting there in 1902.

Mr. Fields attended the Cherokee Male Seminary in 1908-09. He tells of the football teams and baseball teams they had in that day. Cecil Alberty, Gunter Duckworth, Fred Chouteau, Andy Martin, Thurman Willey, Russell Smith, and Frank Brown were some of the ball players he played with at the Seminary. While at C.M.S. he attended a graduation program at the Cherokee Female Seminary, and tells that two ladies were honored guests having been two of the first students graduating from C.F.S. back in the late 1850s. He remembers that they were very old and proud ladies, and showed their diplomas.

Remembering some of the prominent men of his early days the list includes Bert Hampton, Oce Harland, Bill Mayes, George Cox, Dick Ward, Richard Fields, Bud Fields, and many others who were equally capable men, all of whom helped build that part of the Indian Nation.

Speaking of old ways of life, Mr. Fields says that in old days boys would go to an Indians house and stay as long as he wanted, and some would stay until they were grown. Even white boys have been known to do this. Indian or white orphans would be raised by Indian families, treating them as their own.