

When Vann first came to Row community there was lots of timber to the west. Sawmill had already started working nearly night and day as if they could not stand the sight of good virgin timber growing. In a few years all trees of sawlog size were cut and sawed up. Even small trees big enough to make a fence post was cut and shipped out with the lumber. This was another example where man has shown that he will never learn to properly take care of the resources given him. Now, only scrub oak and underbrush grow where the big timber once stood.

In competition with Row for business and trade was Cherokee City, Siloam, and Gentry all close to the state line and from six to ten miles from Row. Indians and whites alike would take corn and wheat over to Abernathy Hill in the edge of Arkansas and trade for whisky. Vann recalls when an Indian payment was made. Many of the Indians headed for Cherokee City to spend their money for farm and home needs. Needless to say, Cherokee men took advantage of the chance to lend elbows with the best of them. This usually resulted in the men riding home asleep in the wagon, with mama doing the driving.

When Row was at its peak in growth and population, picnics were held on the school grounds on holidays, political meets, or other occasions. There seemed to be no better time to settle feuds, disagreements, and arguments, and settle they did. Vann says there seemed to be at least one fight in progress all the time. He remembers when he was about 13 or 14, he and another boy were walking from the picnic grounds to the town well. They stopped to watch a fight going on between two buildings. Here was Charley Glass, a full blood Indian opposing two white guys. Each was using fists, rocks, and clubs. The two white guys finally gave up and left as they could not whip Brother Glass. But Vann says that that Indian was the most beat up person he had ever seen, and bloody all over where they had used rocks on him.

To-day the Indian population has moved farther west and south. They have moved with no choice as the removal of timber, fencing lands, and white people crowding in let it be desired. It would seem ironical, that now even the white man wish to get away from Row.