

INFORMANT: NED DOWNING, CHEROKEE
ROWE PRAIRIE, MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER
INTERVIEW DATE: MARCH 20, 1969
TRANSCRIBED BY: DARLENE FIELDS
PROOFREAD BY: NONA KERR

SIDE A
PART II

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(March 20, 1969. Today, I'm visiting with Ned Downing an eighty-three year old full blood Cherokee of Rowe Paririe, Mayes County, Oklahoma. Mr. Downing tells of some of his observations and experiences and his life long residence in this country.)

I'll be 83 next month.

(Next month.)

MUCH PRAIRIE LAND IN EARLY DAYS - GOOD RANGE FOR CATTLE

(Well what was Peggs Priaire like in those early days that you remember?)
Well just a lots of grass. No cultivated land. And open timber it ain't thickity like it was in our days. You see this country burned off every year. All over, you might say. And that kills all the young stuff that grows up, But since that time when they had lots of acrons, fall and sprout. Fall and sprout you can't see nowheres out in these hills. You could see a quarter of a mile then. It was nothing but big timber. That's the way it was up there. Flatwood down there. We had lots of cattle in there. Cane breaks on Spring Creek as soon as it was winter they'd go down there and stay. Then spring they'd come back out on the prairie. We never had to feed them much. 'Course they had to come up for salt that's about the only time we'd see them.

(Well there was quite a bit of cultivation up on the praire, wasn't there?)
Wasn't much at the time. Later it got to developing. The older I got the more land there was in cultivation. Ninety acres what what we used.

(You had a farm then.)