

THE ONLY MAN JUDGE PARKER EVER RELEASED FROM EXECUTION

They lived right across the street from us. And Bob. Every year on the day that he was supposed to be hanged he had a big turkey dinner, and invited us over there. He told my daddy, Jim, the way he did. He was a big man.

(Yeah.)

Had a black mustache. (words not clear) He said, he'd been eating lye soap. It irritated his lungs.

(Yeah)

And when they brought him out, they sentenced him the day before, you know, to be hanged the next day. They'd already sentenced him, but that was a formality. And when the old judge brought him in there, he weighed 98 pounds on all that frame.

(Well.)

The old judge looked at him. And said, "Smith, I never did hang a dead man and I'm not going to start now." Turned him loose and he got as fat as a bear. But he was a drunkard as long as he lived, and his boys made outlaws. Boys was all killed. All three of 'em was killed. And they was my closest neighbors out there too. But that's the way these men brings their children up, that's what happened to 'em.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED

(Yeah. Well, this Simms school up here, was that one of your first schools?)

Huh?

(Was Simms school up here. Was that one of your first schools up here?)

No, it wasn't. Jim, there was a little old school back over here about two miles. They called it Prairie Knob.

(Yeah.)

And I went to school there on horseback when I was a little fella behind my sister.

(Well.)