

just gave them exercise where it wasn't so easy for them to decay or anything like that.

SWEETS WERE SCARCE IN EARLY DAYS - MAKING POPCORN BALLS

(Well, soda pop hadn't come on the market yet, either, had it?)

No. Huh-uh. No, it hadn't. And we wasn't, well, we wasn't able to afford candy or any sweet stuff like that at that time, too, I guess, that was one of the thing that--

(Well, little treats for the kids, what did the family do? I mean, what did they make?)

Well, they made popcorn, and popcorn balls. You know, they had weekend parties for, where different families would gather together and they would, well, that came mostly along toward in the fall, you know, where that corn husking was coming on and all that, you know. And they gave parties for that, and they'd have several of the women popping popcorn and then the children have a hand in making the balls. Out of molasses, you know, and it had been boiled down where it was sticking and everything.

(And they used to grow their own sugar cane, too, didn't they?)

Uh-huh. Yes. Yeah, they grew their own sugar cane. Made their own syrup. Molasses.

(Well, when they make those popcorn balls, they pop the corn and you've got the black strap molasses sitting over here, now, how on earth do you get that rolled up in a ball where the syrup is not on the outside and it's sticky?)

Well-- (Laughter)

(I've never been able to figure that out.)

Well, it's according to how much molasses you put into the popcorn.

See, you just pour little at a time and then mix the popcorn up, you know.

(Uh-huh.)