

STORY ABOUT GOOTOTAL GETTING HIS CATTLE BACK FROM A WHITE MAN

He stayed at our house lots of times and I just got lots of jokes on him. He tells me about the early days. Lots of times I'd sleep by him and he'd tell me his raid--war stories--till I go to sleep. After the country opened up he raised a large herd of horses and mules and cattle. He had some--what you call--longhorns. Big, tall steers. Big ones. They're nice cattle. And he had about close to a hundred head of cattle. And one day, them days, before the country opened, they didn't have no fences. Everybody just graze all over. They got brands on their cattle. We had a large herd and it's just about the year of 1900 or 1901--I think it was 1900--some of those Indians had what we call "sooners" that came in here before the country opened, so they'd be close to the opening I guess. They live with the Indians. And this happened just about 1901 at this occasion. I don't know why, but he brought his herd over close to our home and he said, "Grandpa, (grandson) you take care of my cattle till I get back." I didn't know where he was going. I forgot. It was 1901. And I had already started school and I could speak a little English, but not too well. I was just young, but I knew how to take care of cattle, because we had a big herd, and horses. And they range up in the hills north of our house. "You just keep track of these wild cattle. Everyday you go out and look over them and see that they're all right, and I'll be back in so many days and we'll round them up and bring them back home. So I go out every once in a while and go hunt his cattle and bring them back closer to the house and let them graze. One day I missed them. One day I missed them and I sent word to him that I missed his cattle. And I still continued to look for them. And he happened to come the next day. And stop at the house. I'd been out in the hills looking for them and I can across the north of Mount Scott about fives to Kicking Bird's home, and Kicking Bird had a large corral and there was a lot of