

big trees--when there's an overflow there's always water digging out the dirt. There was kind of a hole around that big cottonwood tree right alongside the road, and his wagon skidded into that rut. He couldn't get out because the hub had caught against that tree. Course, he had a good team but they just couldn't pull him out on account of the mud and the load. So when they got to the river, that bridge there, they waited for him and he couldn't catch up, so one of them came back. Find out what predicament he's in. So he went back to his brother-in-law. So they unhooked both teams and doubletrees. They brought it back and hooked on--in neck yoke, ahead of my father's team. And at first they hooked one team behind the lumber load--behind the wagon, and pulled that wagon back up quite a ways out of that rut. Then these two teams turned out quite a ways from that tree and got that wagon out from that rut. Anyhow, they got out. But in the meantime when he was trying to get out himself, well, that hub was against the tree and his fingers got caught in that wheel and, you know, the bark of the tree and mashed all these four fingers here. Well, that set in blood poisoning. So that's why I came home. I had to take care of the wood and horses. Home duties. And I was out about four years. Then, of course, I grew up. I went back to school. In vacationtime I went out, and became a cowboy out in Texas. Come home in the fall. Next year I go back and work on a ranch. Two or three years.

(What ranch did you work at?)

Way out there by Sand Rock, towards Abilene. I don't know the name of those ranches now but they're big, wide, open ranches. And when we round up, well; we just had to sleep out in the open ground.

JESS'S EDUCATION AND WORK WITH ANTHROPOLOGISTS

But anyway I went off to school in Kansas. Graduated from Kansas. Went on and graduated from another school. And all the time my father was teaching me about the early history of the Cheyenne-Arapaho, Kiowas, Comanches, Plains Indians. I got interested. So I start studying history of Plains tribes and start studying anthropology. And I studied under a man by the name of Henry Elkins from