

out and cut hay. They send out mowing machines and oxen teams. Put up prairie hay for the Indians, for their ponies and cattle. They had gardens. Lot of 'em had big gardens. In winter time, I know my folks used to do that. They'd go down along the river and they'd cut cottonwood. So the biggest would be about the size of a stovepipe. They cut 'em down. Just fell 'em, and they'd take the cattle down. And drive 'em down in there, and the cattle would eat up all the bark of every limb, till there'd be nothin' but a white, barkless tree laying there. Course, they use that for wood the next year. Yes, they kept our cattle alive.

(What kind of cattle were they?)

Oh, just mixed cattle, just mixed. No dairy, no dairy. Oh, there might have been Guernseys or somethin' like that - black and brown, very few of them. The rest of them was just beef type cattle.

(What did the Indians do with their cattle?)

Well, they raise them, kill them. Maybe sometimes they'd sell them to one another. But they had pretty good herds. Lot of 'em had good herds. They had no stock market for them yet, you know. They used them for their own use.

(They didn't market their cattle anywhere else?)

No, no. They hadn't gotten to that stage yet, that I know of.

(How did the Indians start getting cattle in the first place?)

Well, see these schools, it was through these schools. See, we came in 1880's under executive order of Chester A. Arthur, proclaimed August the 9th, 1869. We were given this land, but our people didn't want to live up around Woodward and those areas. It was kind of semi-half-dry country. No wood, no....So our chiefs asked to be down here on this Canadian, between these two rivers - South and North Canadian and east of the Washita. Down as far as to El Reno. And I'm thankful