

I think it was August 15, 1894. At that time - up to that time, as far as I remember, there were mostly cattle. White people come in with cattle. There was two or three cattle ranches around here. There's one south here after you cross this little bridge. Go down here and go east. There's a rancher from El Reno that had that cattle ranch. Then there's one west of here; That was known - well, later on, there was a ranch out there - 'bout 12 or 14 quarters - I was agent, and I know they used to lease land from me every four or five years. I think Thep Smith was one of 'em. He had a Caddo wife. And his partner was Phillips. I don't know his first name. I don't remember it. He had a ranch, and then he had a ranch northwest over there - Davis Ranch, they call it. Man from Geary had ranch out there about seven or eight miles northwest. And then over here there was a river. There was another ranch. Gauld, G-a-u-l-d. Gauld had a ranch there.

(Was this after the allotment?)

Oh, yes, years after the allotment, yeah.

(Well, before the allotments were made. How did the Arapahoes start leasing their tribal lands?)

Well, that's what 1889-1890 Act of Congress. After allotment. That's after allotment. See, when we were allotted in 1892. Final allotment was finished in May 2, 1882-1892. And of course Indians farmed some of their own land. But this leasing system brought about through an act of Congress, so the Indian started leasin' their land. But up to that time, as I said, most of the people that come in here thought it was good grazing land, so they had cattle and sheep. And that sheep business was getting along fine. But this Leasing Act came along, and so a lot of these sheepmen had to get out. That's where it started to ruin