

down there and have those sickles sharpened. Some of them took the trouble of sharpening their ~~own~~ sickles with a file. But of course, the prairie hay wasn't too - didn't dull the sickles too much. Just so they kept them oiled.

(Well did the mowing machines belong to the tribe or to the government?)

Belong to the government. Now, when we get through with our home place, they'd move on those mowing machines to another place.

(Where was your home place?)

Due north of here across the river. 'Bout 7 miles - 6 miles.

(Well, had your folks been living there very long?)

Well my folks moved out 1889 run, of the Unassigned Territory, east of El Reno.

That's Choctaw country. But we was in there. We moved out there. And from that time, even when they were makin' hay, young men would get out early in the morning and kill a deer or two. And us younger guys would go out and round up our ponies. We used to always have to drive them to the river, to water the herd. We'd take out our bows and arrows and we'd kill several prairie chickens. Well, of course they didn't bother the turkeys in the summer until fall when the leaves were down. Turkeys roost along river in the trees. They get pretty fat, from acorns, you know. Seeds and such as that.

(Gee, I bet they tasted pretty good.)

Oh my, they're good.

ARAPAHO GARDENS AND GOVERNMENT HELP

(Well before your folks moved and they were still living over here east of El Reno, did they ever do any haying or put in a garden over....?)

They had gardens. Always had gardens. Indian corn, pumpkins, watermelons.

(How did they learn how to make gardens?)

Well, I think the government taught them. I know one man was tellin' me - a