

in their own property, because the early days they been getting rations from the government to subsist. But they didn't get money then. The government was trying to establish leasing so the cattlemen could lease it and the farmers could lease the Indian land so the Indians could get money. And so now these men --the country was already opened up and Lawton had a lot of men there that take contracts from Ft. Sill to furnish hay for the cavalry horses. Well, the government looked to these contracts for the hay. And these farmers made contracts, sub-contracts with these buyers to deliver so much, and these contracts, early contractors buy the hay and deliver at Ft. Sill. And it's No. 1 hay. And it was No. 1 hay--good hay. I used some of those contractors because we got into a lot of trouble with lots of men and especially those contractors too. One of those hay contractors I remember was Morris Simpson. He had a big mercantile store. And two brothers, Louis and Isaac Troop. Louis and Isaac Troop and John Lebberman. Louis and Isaac Troop were horse dealers. They buy a lot of hay themselves in the early days. Morris, he's just a contractor and John Lebberman was a contractor and he runs a post market, meat market.

(Oh, he did?)

And he knows the officers and therefore, he gets by. Well, I was riding around one day and a Comanche told me a lot of men was putting up hay on the east side, over there close to Cache Creek on some Comanche land. He reported it to me. So I rode up there one day and they had hay cut and all over and stacked up and was hauling it to Ft. Sill. And they were homesteaders. They had homesteaded land in there but they didn't have all good