

them. They get us these deer or something like that. And boy, they're friendly, in their way. Give 'em money and they wash our clothes for us, and this and that. And we get it ourselves. One time we got six sacks. But from April to about now, clear up through this month is a good time to gather it, cause it don't freeze. But once in a while--once its frozen it's--it's a spineless cactus, you know, and could freeze easy. It turns black. But during those months they would dry it and it always be clean. Some of it stays green a long while.

(You were talking about getting six sacks--how large were they?)

Oh, regular size. Regular gunny sacks. We had six sacks one time.

(How long would that last you?)

Oh, we just separate them. We don't know how long. Sometimes those Wyoming people come--might have two or three families. We'd give 'em four or five hundred you know. They average about 300 a sack. Between 300 and 400 a sack. When they dry they shrivel down, you know. Then of course, they use 'em locally.

(I have been down there and I have gathered it. I have met some of those Mexicans. I went down with Apaches one time.)

How long ago was that?)

(Oh, it's been in the summer of '65--two years ago. But the thing that worries me about it was most of it, they just dug the roots and everything, and I've been thinking since then of how many Indians go down and get it. If they all gather it root and all I was wondering how long it was going to continue. I noticed that some of the people cut it off at the ground and leave the root in. Then it comes back.)

Well, I've seen that happen. But still, you find patches, now. Last time I took a party down there it was in '52--from Canton--and one from here. And that was their first trip down there. I been there four or five different times since 1917. So I took 'em to a place where hardly anybody goes. But I told 'em that was one place they got to watch out for rattlesnakes. That's what they call Rattlesnake Valley. It's north--almost due north from Oilton. There's a valley there. That's where they found that tenfoot 2-inch rattlesnake. He's about as big around as a stove pipe. I said to watch out for rattlesnakes. Just got to watch out! We