

(Did you go on to school then someplace else, or went to work?)

No, no. I just went to work. That was the biggest mistake that I have made in my life. But you know the old saying, is you can't drink up spilt milk on the ground. You went through it, and I was at the age that soured me, one old maid soured me. Teacher. And she would always circle around if the child is - you know, lay his head on the desk - something like that. See what's the matter. Then if they're asleep; she hit them on the head with a ruler. She knocked me in the head and I had a gash right there and that's why that's one thing that made me quit school. I was going to be in her room again and Battenberg was superintendent then, and I went to Battenberg and told him, I'll have to go back in old grade, and I can't go in her room. I was promoted to another grade but I said, "She's going to teach that grade." I said, "I can't go in her room." "Oh," he said, "Go on. You can get along with her." I said, "No." I said, "I ain't going to stay there." And there was two other boys that had the same notion I was. They both left, so - we got up early next morning 'fore daylight. We was crossing the river before the sun come up. We wade the river and it was just about that deep. Every buggy or every wagon that we'd hear coming behind, well, we go in the woods or go in hollow somewhere and hide till they passed. Then we'd go on. We walked all the way from Salina to Vinita, on the old Jefferson highway. You know where the old Jefferson highway was? That's the road we took. ((laughter))

(What kind of work did you do then up in Vinita?)

Well, I went to work for livery barn, J.D. Taylor, and I worked for him about five years, I guess.

WAS CARRYING THE MAIL THE DAY GILSTRAP WAS KILLED

And last year I worked for him I was carrying mail from Vinita to Spavinaw, and I was carrying the mail when Wycliff boys killed Gilstrap. When I got the mail that morning to go over to Spavinaw they told me they says, "Learn what you can about the killing. We got a message this morning they were killed. Everyone of