

fenced off. Course, there was a gate, from Fort Reno to Fort Supply where the Indians could go through. And all those counties that was leased by the cattle companies, they had cattle. Nothing but longhorn cattle at that time. I remember when they had prairie fires in the fall. They had to watch those-- especially from the north. They used to go and camp near the river where there's short grass and the fires wouldn't get to them. But they'd go out and help fight prairie fires. And I remember days after the prairie fires-- you know, some cattle would die either from that or snake bite or some other cause--of course the horns would be out there--and when the grass jumped those carcasses and the horns burned, you could smell them horns for four or five days. Maybe a week, I remember that.

PRAIRIE FIRES

(Were those fires set on purpose?)

Not on purpose. Sometimes maybe a cowboy's on the range land and throws a match down or a cigarette or something. They had nothing but Durham cigarettes and I still smoke them. And it would cause a wide, long fire to just blaze, and it was just three or four miles in some places. It would maybe make the grass short for the cattle in the fall.

(Did you ever see one of those prairie fires?)

Yes, several times. When you get down in the bottom where there's a slough, there's tall thick grass--we used to go out there and watch them long, tall, blaze, you know. Hear the crackle. That's that slough grass. Rabbits, coons, and skunks and possums, birds, you see them.

(Did those prairie fires ever cause any danger or do any harm to Indian camps?)

Well, my home burned up when we was away. Right north of Geary--a two-room fine lumber house. Prairie afire up in the north, and nobody was there and it burned our home down. Yeah. Sometimes it done that.

(Was there any way that people could fight those prairie fires?)