

pup tents. Soldiers coming in. That was 1898.

SOLDIERS; COWBOYS AND INDIANS AT EL RENO

(Did the soldiers there at that time--did they have much effect on the Indian people that were around?)

No. They associate with us. Oh, once in a while some rowdy would come out, you know, like one Indian rode in there horseback and was watching a baseball game on Sunday. And one young boy ran up to him and started to talking unreasonable, and the Indian said, "You stay away. I don't know you." So game got started and this boy run up there again and grabbed the horse's tail. And this horse kicked him. And this Indian says, "That's all right--that's what you've been looking for!" So other boys came up there and they reprimanded this boy for doing that. That's one of the things I saw.

(Back in those days were Indians allowed to buy liquor or whiskey--?)

No. Oh, at Fort Reno they had a canteen for those that were scouts. And their relations stayed with them. They had tents--tent camp--it was always square, you know. Uncles, aunts, mother-in-laws, brother-in-laws, and all--they had a canteen at Fort Reno for those soldiers, and the Indian scouts could go up there and drink. They didn't use the American money--they had checks (chits) and the denominations were like a quarter and half-dollar and dollar size. They could use that money for buying beer and all that. But other wise the territory was strictly against Indians buying liquor.

(Could white people buy liquor at that time?).

Oh yes, but not at Fort Reno. When El Reno started in 1893 they could buy it--they had saloons there. And the Indians could sneak in there and get a friend to buy whisky for them. You've often read about cowboys and Indians. But there at Fort Reno, there were cowboys and Indians and soldiers. And