

1896 there at Bridgeport--just southwest of here about six or four miles. A man by the name of Sanford came out and established a church out there--on the Indian Agency grounds out there, and he conducted Church services there Sunday and Christmas and Thanksgiving, and Easter. Lot of folks would camp around there. They'd all come there and attended services.

JESS'S SUMMER WORK WITH THRESHING CREWS AND AS A COWBOY

(You were mentioning that at the beginning of that year you were a cowboy. Tell me about that. How you happened to become one, and where you went and so forth.) I was always interested in horseback riding and herded cattle at the Arapaho School there. So summer came. Usually I went out with threshing crews from the time I was about fourteen years old. All summer. Dollar and a quarter a day. Eighteen hours a day--a dollar and a quarter. Of course, they fed us. We slept in straw stacks. During the summers work. And I wouldn't hardly spend--oh, I'd buy gloves, or something like that. To handle pitchforks and bundles and all that.

(Who were you working for then?)

I was working at that time--the first time I went out with a threshing crew was Green and Pierce, I think. They had a threshing crew. Start from Greenfield clear out west toward south of Canton and back--that summer thrashing.

Oats and wheat and all that, bundle it. That first year I made, I think, ninety-six dollars. I owed about three dollars and a half all that time. But they fed us, you know. All we had to do was ride our own pony. And we had a piece of canvas in case at night we always slept in a haystack or straw-stack, under these wagons. We got along all right. We washed our own clothes every Sunday. Played around down in the river on our day off. Monday we'd start working. Unless it rained--then we'd have to put it off until the wheat stalks were dry, and then get back to threshing.

(This work with the threshing crews you did before you became a cowboy?)