

out of Oklahoma here two days, and burnt the tassels, didn't have an ear of corn, wasn't a bit of corn raised that year. And we had a lot of them hot winds. We don't have 'em anymore, since Oklahoma settled up, lot of people farms you know. We had lots of hot winds then.

(Was Nowata a town when you folks first came here?)

Yeah, it started about when Centralia did. Had a road come down through there, start at Nowata. Them little towns like Lenepah and them places.

OZARK TRAIL LOCATED

(At one time, this highway through here, was that known as Jefferson Trail?)

No, Ozark Trail.

(Used to be a main highway through--)

Yeah, it was kinda a, started to be a highway, called Ozark Trail. But it never did do anything, you know.

(Yeah, it went, came from Bluejacket and across here to Nowata--)

Yeah, they had a big meeting over at Miami one time over the Ozark Trail,

I was over there, didn't amount to nothin'. But Ozark Trail didn't ever

prove to be anything. Vinita, you know, they built a road from Vinita out

about seven or eight miles from Vinita, start this way. Just back, I mean

just never built any culverts or anything. Didn't take much to do that.

You just might say they just back furrowed it. But it come out there,

there's old grade there yet, right there in Vinita where it started.

COAL STRIPPING

(When did they start this coal-stripping work in this country?)

Oh, we dug coal here, when we first come here--

(Oh, you did.)

Yeah, it's deeper, and the shovels started, oh, twenty years ago. But,

yeah, we dug coal, strips around here. Lots of coal deep, way back there,

way ahead of us. Used to be digging here, Kennison, back up this way. I