

And he re-lease, and re-lease, till the lease would expire and then he would lease it for five years at a time. That's what made it get a long time.

(Could you just lease it to anybody you wanted to or did the Office have anything to do with it?)

No, they don't have anything to do with it. Those days you can't lease it to anybody you want to. See, the white man that had the place had the privilege. See, they had the privilege to keep the lease. Re-lease it. You can't let anybody--I don't care if he bids higher than this man that got the place, he has the privilege. He has that right to keep it as long as he wants to. And lease it and lease it. Providing this Indian wants to keep him.

(How long would the lease be for back in those days?)

Oh, two or three years or five years.

(Did you ever have any people leasing your land that you didn't like?

That you were glad to get rid of when the lease expired?)

No. I had pretty good lease men. But I had one that he's kinda close.

He was a pretty good fellow in a way. When I wanted help--needed help--he'd helped me.

(What kind of help?)

Oh, he'd give me money.

(Would this be in addition to his lease or would he take it off the lease?)

Take it off the lease. Short my lease rent.

(Well these people that leased your places, were they supposed to do anything like fix houses or fences or anything like that?)

Oh yeah, if they get it on contract, they do. Put it on the contract when they make lease--new posts, new fence. If it's on the contract, they have