

Well, the Indians then didn't have the free range they had with their ponies. They used to water their ponies to the river twice a day. Well, when the white farmers started farming, they fenced it off, so that kept us from having open range. No more. So they start drilling wells for the Indians. The white people, of course drilled the wells. They had these little bucket wells, you know, and a trough. They used to make those troughs at Darlington--carpenter shop and blacksmith shop. All the work was done by the government blacksmith. And carpenters. They'd make big tanks for them, you know. That's how they watered their stock. Of course they started having less--less herds, you know.

(About that time, then, when the white farmers were fencing their lands off, was the government doing anything at that time to try to encourage Indians to farm their own land?)

Yes, they just kept that up, yeah.

LEASING OF INDIANS SURPLUS LAND

(Did they have any success at it, or could you remember any of the reactions of the Indians, as far as wanting to learn to farm or plant wheat or something?)

They all got surplus lands. They still had all their allotments, you know, including the whole family. That was a considerable share, but they leased that out. The white farmers make bids on what they pay for land, farming and grazing purposes. And the government leases took care of them. So that restricted Indians to what land they want to use for their own purposes--their own pastures. So that way we got open range and pony herds and all that.

(By surplus lands, do you mean by that there'd be a family and their children and each one of them would have land?)

Yeah, each one had land, yeah. They couldn't farm all of it. And some of