

WAY OF LIFE OF WHITE FARMERS A GENERATION AGO.

(How about the farmers out here in the Cheyenne and Arapaho country--did they cure hams and smoke meat the same way they did over in the eastern part of the state?)

Bob: Yeah. Everyone, until I'd say--this trend--getting away from the farm--started about twenty-five years ago. When a farmer quit milking his own cows and buying oleo. You see, for a long time, you couldn't sell this oleo colored--you had to have a coloring from a little bag. And if you sold it, you'd have to take an order and then deliver it later. So butter was pretty well protected for a long time. Every farmer made provisions for his winter's needs. During the summer time when they had work to do, they would buy clothing. Used their money from hoeing cotton and working in the harvest and other jobs around at the neighbors--that money would buy their clothing for the winter. Then when cotton picking came, the farmer and his wife and all the family would pull bolls and they would buy--if they needed a hundred pounds of sugar to take them through the winter, they bought a hundred pounds of sugar. If they needed two hundred pounds of sugar, they bought two hundred pound of sugar. It wasn't anything unusual for a farmer with a big family to buy five one hundred pound bags of split beans--pinto beans. They would buy several fifty-pound cans of lard. They bought their needs--necessities. That was the first thing they thought about, their clothing and their food.

(Now this would be in the fall with their money from the harvest?)

Bob: Yeah. They had enough money for their overalls and work shoes and things for the summer's work, and then in the fall they'd pull bolls. Everyone had cotton. That was their cash crop.

(That's out here in Blaine County--?)

Bob: Everywhere. All over. The farmer took care of his needs. And another thing, too. On those rainy days, instead of hanging out in the beer joint or the pool hall, the farmer was out cutting up his winter supply of wood. It wasn't anything unusual for a farmer to have as much as two or three years supply of wood. They'd have a mountain of wood out here at the back.