

MADE RAILROAD TIES - SHINGLE MILL

(How did they make a living back when you were growing up? When you were a young boy over there.)

Oh, made ties. We had an ole' shingle mill--cut shingles you know but I don't suppose--

(You mean railroad ties?)

We've got an ole' picture of that shingle mill here somewhere.

(Oh that was on your place?)

Yeah. Cut pine blocks--cut them about sixteen-eighteen inches long, you know. Bust them in quarters--four pieces. Then had a tank with a big heavy tin bottom on it and come up side a piece to haul water. They'd strip them blocks and stack them in there and run the water in there. We had a trough that run from the spring down to the shingle mill. We run the water into that tank. And then we'd let them get steaming hot--take them out--that bark would slip right off, you know. Then had a knife there--kind of a sash it worked up and down. Worked the horse to the mill. It had a big cog wheel and there was a pulley went from the knife out to it. And the pole come up to the top, right back there--whenever it'd slide off one of them cogs on to another that pole go back up you know. And the horse would pull it on to another. It'd come down and the knife would drop down, cut the shingles. And Elmer cut all the shingles, my oldest brother he done the cutting. Then I'd take all four bales of them--twenty shingles high. They called it a thousand you know. And we'd take them--well we sold a good many there at the shingle mill--then take a load or two to Green Forest and (word not clear). Just swap most of them for little groceries and stuff like that.