

STORY HEARD FROM GRANDFATHER ABOUT THE TREATY OF 1851

(Do you remember some of the things your father or grandfather told you or talked about?)

Well, I remember some of the things very vividly that the time of the 1851 treaty for which we recently got our adjudicated award of twenty three and one half millions, my father said that when the claims commission came out to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, which is near Laramie Hills, west of Cheyenne, a troop was sent out there and stationed. And they went to sawing blocks--timber along the creek there--blocks, oh, big as fourteen inches in diameter and--

(Troops doing that?)

Yeah. They would saw blocks after blocks and lay it on three or four wagons, probably came out with lumber, this bridge lumber you know. And people thought they's going to build a fort there or something like that. But the time came which was probably pre-desig--you know--designated to the chiefs of the Cheyenne-Arapaho and five other five or six tribes, Sioux, Assiniboin, Mandans, Gros Ventre, and Crows, and then they haul out all these blocks and put them in circle. And put these planks on top of them for seats and tribes moved in and according to my father. So, they set the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho and Blackfeet on one section, and other tribes, of course, and then the commission came out--they set there. And then pretty soon the Infantry came--marched in with fixed bayonets, stood all around. And later on, the Cavalry with their yellow plumes and all their fine decorations came out on white horses, grey horses and formed a line behind the Infantry. There was five guns dragged in. All point to the center--mule teams--

(The Chiefs--were they big guns?)

Yeah. Big guns--cannons--So, this Bird Chief Arapaho got up and says "You Cheyenne, you Sioux, Arapaho, you Blackfeet, you look at me." Says, "I want to know why they got all these knife guns 'round us." That means bayonets.

"I want to know why these Cavalry is out here with full regalia." "And I want to know why these guns are placed in center to us. We don't know, they might