

(How long have they been mining here?)

Oh, the mines were going up there first I can remember.

(Did the Indians work in the mine?)

Yeah, there were some. I worked up there all during World War I. Took out lead mostly. They just shallow digging about eighty or ninety feet. Peoria used to be a pretty good little town. They had several stores, a blacksmith shop, a pretty good size hotel, post office.

(Where did they get the miners?)

Oh people would drop in.

Man: When did they start to develop this Tripoli?

Oh, that was, oh, I don't know, that's been sixty-five, seventy years ago.

I worked up there one winter, but there in the pit. So the boss, he came down and wanted me to feed the crusher. Back in them days they didn't have - it was in the winter time - and they didn't have no ventilation and that tripoli dust was flying through the air and you couldn't see four feet. He wanted me to feed the crusher and I wouldn't do it, I quit. And all the boys I was working with, well, they was mostly men, all died pretty early in life. They inhaled that tripoli you know, and they thought it was TB but I guess since they got a little smarter they call it silicosis. 'Cause that dust would settle on their lungs and coat, you know.

Fay: It was like the miners TB they used to have.

Well it was different from miners' TB.

EXPERIENCE WITH QUAPAW PONIES

Man: What did they do for recreation back in your day?

Well, in winter time we would go to dances, parties. In the summer we'd would play baseball, ride horse. Quapaws used to have a lot of ponies running around here in the woods. (Laughter) So, we had quite a bit of stock too, I'd like to get out on Saturday and see if I can find them. If I can find,