

(Nobody thought anything about getting something to eat did they?)

Didn't think anything about it. No, in the early days, even in the Bill Halsell days when there was no Collinsville. It was a camp house over so about a day's drive or half a day's drive with a wagon and there was provisions there. Everybody come through there, stayed all night. Don't take nothing with you. If you did you liable to get hung to a tree.

(Uh-huh.)

Don't steal nothing. Stay there and camp over night. They wouldn't think about not camping over, no locks on the door.

(Hum. And provisions were there.)

Provisions were there and they dried the beef and give up said you could go longer on dried beef than anything else.

(When you stopped those places, was it the ranchers and farmers in that area, people?)

Bill Halsell has twenty thousand head of cattle I don't know where they come from or nothing about them. But they --

(He claimed them, didn't he?)

He claimed them, yeah. And so he had five hundred head of horses. And they helped each other most of the time. And then there was some small fellows come in the Indians territory day. And anybody could lay a claim, don't care if you had a drop of Indian blood about you, or not. If you laid your claim you could start, lay a claim on a farm. If you put your claim in to be, prove up the blood.

(Was that before statehood?)

Plum on up to statehood. Plum up to statehood. We was living there when we married. Right there we lived there seven years. And never paid no rent till statehood.