

And it taken us a long time to come from Ponca to home you know. And we stopped and Dan says, "Here's a pond." "I believe I'll water the team." So he drove them up but he drove them up on the high side of the pond where it was deep. And the horses first time they went they went clear over their back, And he said to me said, "Jump out, you and the kids." And I jumped out and grabbed Bert and Nobbie out and we stood on that bank and them horses too that buggy clear across the creek and all we could see was the top of your dad's head sticking out.

(Hum.)

(Laughter) Now' talking about praying, I was praying then. But he got out on the other side and we like to froze in the evening, you know. And it was cool and he was wet and he just like to froze.

(How long did it take you to make the trip?)

I don't remember. I guess we left early in the morning and then--

(Took you all day anyway.)

Took us all day. It was dusky dark when we got a way out here on the prairie when we went in that pond, And we was late getting home from there. It was a way after night.

MATTIE KILLED A HUGE RATTLESNAKE WITH A GUN

(I remember that, I can barely remember that, the rattlesnake skin that you had one time.)

Oh, yeah. I killed that. It was seven feet and a half long, And we lived down at Yonkers.

(Seven and a-half feet long?)

Uh-hum. Well the boys skinned it and stretched it over--

(Yeah, I remember them hanging it on the door. I remember seeing it.)

And it was, the plank was seven feet and a half long and they, it went clear