

to the end of it. But it just had thirteen rattles on it but it had lost some of them.

(Uh-hum.)

And there was the biggest snake.

(Did you shoot it with a twenty-two?)

Yeah, shot it nine times.

(How come did you find it? Were you just out in the woods or what?)

Well no, there was a girl come to our house to get some onions. We had a garden planted down there. We went down there to make a crop with Ben and Anna that year. We still lived here but we went down there to make a crop. And so we had a lot of onions we had to thin out and we told this girl, her name was Burl Hooper to come over there and get some onions. Well she come, and she come up the house and she was as white as a sheet. She says, "Mattie I saw the biggest snake down there that I ever saw in my life." She says, it was laying clear across the road. And me and Anna just thought she, she was about half nuts anyhow. And we thought she was just talking you know, I said, "Let's go down there and kill it Anna." She said, "Alright." So we took the dogs and the kids. And it was right where the kids had been going to get water all the time to the spring. And I went down there and I took that twenty-two and I --

(Scare you when you saw it?)

When I first seen it, I didn't see it till the dogs barked. The dogs was with us, her dogs, that girl's dog. And she said, "Oh don't kill them dogs." I didn't care what I shot. I was going to kill that snake. And one of the bullets, it was big enough, one of the bullets lodged in it's head.

(Good night!)

And it's sides when they skinned reached over a foot plank. It was the biggest