

walking on in town there, I forgot about having to cross the river and going back to where I come from that morning. The preacher had done left me. That was the first time I was on that road. I jumped out there. You can't walk there like you could in Indian Territory. When you step, you slip back. I was wandering around by myself. I had an old fashioned telescope made like that. I was carrying that. I went on down to the river. I told the fellow that I wanted to get across. He said, "How was that?" I told him that I was on foot. He come over and in old hat to me. I told him, "I ain't got no money. I come down with--like a mountain goat. He'll take care of you." I wouldn't know. We never did see him any more. It was getting dark then. I had to go through the bottom land, trees, and the Arkansas River.

(You was going to ward Fort Gibson?)

Jenks: Yes, I was on the other side of Fort Gibson.

Alice: But you come in from that way.

Jenks: No, I was going from Muskogee--back cross the Arkansas River.

After I crossed the river, I got into the bottom. They always told me about Black Panthers and things. It was awful dark. That was the first time I ever got hungry going away from home. I've been away from home several times since. I think I must have been about 13 years old.

(That must have been wild country in those places.)

#### EATING WITH OUTLAWS

It was. This white fellow carried me up to his place--nothing, old bachelors right off the Arkansas River. They gazed and talked and had a big time and had a dinner. There were whole bunch of them, old bachelors.