

EARLY DAY PENALTIES - CHICKEN STEALING, ETC.

(Well, long time ago, there was lots of chicken stealing going on.)

Yeah you can get money out of them.

(You bet. They'd sell that quick.)

Yeah. They'd fine them and they got that where it's a penitentiary offense you know. And finally kind of stop that chicken stealing.

(Well back in those old days they stole about anything they could sell, I guess. But I guess horse stealing was about the worse kind there was.)

Yeah that was. They finally got to where they just hang them on the spot. There wasn't no trial or nothing else. And that stopped that.

(Yeah, I guess many an outlaw has been hung right on the spot.)

Well that guy over here one time, he always said if he ever catch a man stealing his things why he'd shoot him, you know.

(Hum.)

A boy got in there one night and there he was point blank. But you know I didn't shoot him.

(Well.)

You know they say, I guess that takes a little more nerve.

(Yeah that would ride on a man's conscious, to shoot another human being just over a handful of chickens. Course it's bad to be stealing something.)

Come over here and carry your chickens off. But like you said, he always said if he ever caught anyone in there stealing his chickens, he'd just kill him but he caught him. He didn't kill him.

(He thought twice, didn't he?)

Said, "I don't know. I was. I was right on him. But couldn't pull that trigger."

(Well, times have changed, now people kill each other over a just a few dollars.)