

FORETELLING OF EVENTS BY UNCLE

You see, the Indians used to of a morning, they'd get up and pray to the Great Spirit, see through the day. Then of an evening they'd give thanks to the Great Spirit for having seen 'em through the day. White man called 'em savages. Did the white man ever do that?

(Not that I know of.)

Well, I was here in this house when the tornado hit it. It just took this house and just dropped it right back on the foundation. If you'll notice, these floors are all out of plumb. Never could get 'em back. Straightened back. You see when the floor went down. (Yeah.)

Mark Random, he was head of the department. He did the work.

(Was this old house built by your daddy, too?)

Not this house.

(The one before this.)

Yeah. The one that burned down. He built that out of the Cherokee payment money.

(Yeah. Well, this house has been here a few years itself, hasn't it?)

Well, let's see. The old ranch house was burned down, I guess about '22. I wasn't here at the time. I was in California and it burned.

My dad was interested in a bank over there. He went over there.

Mortgaged the horse and saddle for, I think about thirty-five dollars. Went down to Texas to a ranch down there. This banker called my dad up told him what had happened. My dad sent me over there to get the horse and saddle and bring it home. I was back home. Matt got broke down there. And wired up here for money to come home on. So my dad, he wouldn't wire any money. He knew he'd gamble it away. Wired him a ticket. On the way out here he says, wouldn't it be awful if Mama didn't have something to eat.