

Well, these Indian scouts and white soldiers were unloading food. They unloaded big boxes of hardtack. I've seen those hardtack. My mother's grandmother used to get rations when I was maybe about her age (the age of Birdie's granddaughter--2½ or 3 yrs. old). She used to pack me on her back when she went after rations and they'd give her a big box of hardtack. And there's so many layers in each box. And she'd get salt meat, and navy beans, and soda, and I think cornmeal. I don't remember if she got flour, too. That's what she used to get. That's what these soldiers brought the Indians. And my father said that all these little boys that were playing, one of these young scouts hollered to them. He said, "Come on, children, come and get something to eat. We're going to give you something." So my father said they all ran over there. And he said at that time the boys used to be really good. They were thoughtful. They weren't like boys today--just for themselves. They wanted to feed all the little boys, thinking they were hungry. When one killed a buffalo, he'd divide something up for them, and give it to them. But he said there was one bad thing--if it's your first time going to a place where a young man has killed a buffalo, they initiate you right there! They get the blood and put it on your face, he said, and then they said, "Here, my friend, you can have this." It may be a piece of meat or something. And with this bloody face he would go home. That's the first time. And he said the boys were very thoughtful back there. So we lined up, he said, like they made those others line up. And he said, "They gave us hardtack and they gave us this salt meat." He said, "We didn't know it was raw. We just ate it with our crackers--this salt meat." And that's all he mentions. So he said when