

gonna tell you about how my father when he homesteaded. Do you know what a dug-out is?

(Yes Ma'am)

Well, I had a sister that was born there in a dug-out. My father homesteaded that place. He did a foolish thing. See. He wanted this land so much, and he homesteaded without seeing the land he got. He took it without seein' it. A lot of people did. Now had he been a stone cutter, he would have been all right. Because he could of sold the granite, you know. Stones, and made a pretty fair living for a while, any way. And a - - but, do you know what a gold wash is? Or ravine, as they call it?

(Un-hunh- -)

Well, on this piece of property about on the second bank of water from the river, was this ravine. But he dug that out, and walled it up. And you know, everywhere in Oklahoma, you can find clay. So, he gathered this clay here, and they took water and put it on there, and it smoothed down the walls, and then he cut the cottonwood from the river. You know, down in the bottom. And made these big things of beams across the top. And then he rounded the dirt just like you would any other cellar. But the front end of it, see, was open. So, he had to build that up out of logs. And he put a window and a door. And a- well, mamma had a stove like that later. But right at first she didn't have a stove. He put a fireplace in the back. You know, dug it out in the dirt. And he made a chimney up through the ground, and had it stick up pretty good, 'bout four feet off the ground, see. And that's where mamma and them lived when they first went on the homestead. And he didn't build a house until a- I guess he got the house built, I don't know, it was quite a number of years later, you know, before he got the house built, I guess five or six years. But you know, when they have a drought, well he would come over to Binger, or some other place here in Oklahoma, where he worked.