

before, and where the blacksmith work was good. But he'd do blacksmith work again like that. Of course he had looked - he'd do all kinds of work and he had worked sometimes for the railroad, see. And he'd do some for the neighbors. Well, they were pretty much like he was, you know. When they had a dry - - when we had a drought, they had a drought too. And so it was pretty hard. And then he did a little trappin', and everything - - but in that dug-out he built a long bunk, you know. And they'd fill that up with straw. And they had a mattress made out of straw. And Mamma would tuck a sheet or a quilt or something so we wouldn't have to lay on the straw. Most generally she'd make a kind of quilt out of cotton sacks, and you know, everybody put in cotton out there. They were gonna get rich out of cotton. And I guess, you know, it wasn't so terribly many years after the Civil War, see, - - 1900's. So I guess cotton was still selling pretty good. Anyway, they had a little ~~box~~ house down there, but I wasn't born in the log house. I was born in the little new house they built up on the hill. And he mined copper out of there. Of course he cut a little bit of granite, but you know, that work was terribly hard, 'cause he didn't have the right tools. You know, he didn't have the right kind of things to mine with. Just an old pick and shovel. And he didn't have the right things to cut the granite stones. And the people who bought that granite wanted them cut nice, you know. And Papa learned to cut 'em, but he didn't have the right equipment to work with. So he learned to do a lot of things. He built houses for people. You, and - - I'll show you a butcher knife - he didn't make it, but it's on the order of what he made. He used to make a lot of them and knives and things for people, and things for us. And this one, I got - I found the blade and it was all rusty, and Mr. Kelley put a handle on it. He got it a little bit crooked. This was similar to what I was telling you those guys would fight with, over there during the boom town days. That's somethin' like the one that was found stickin' in the man, only the handle was flat instead of round like that.