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INDIAN FARMING, INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND INDIAN EDUCATION

(Before the first World War, were very many Cheyennes farming their land?)

Yes, there were some, but not very many. They were farming with horses then. And they were doing all right. And as time went on they began to get smart, and they got too smart and that's the reason they're in this condition right now.

(Could you explain that a little more?)

Well, every time a new administration starts in Washington, they get some new people that's smart and have altogether different ideas. They don't really know the condition of Indian people out here. And they want to try out some of their ideas, and the Indians weren't smart enough to know all that stuff and so they get in a mess. Like the worst thing they ever done while I was working there, they allowed them to make five-year leases on their land. When they made a five-year lease, some of them would draw five years in advance. They spent it and they were broke the rest of the time. This was back about 10 years ago. And then this land sale business. And someone in office at that time said, "Let the Indians learn to handle their own business." Well, that made matters worse. And it still got worse when somebody--probably a white man or somebody told the Indians, "We can't have discrimination against Indians. You have every right in the world to go in these beer joints and buy beer and drink beer." Well, some Indians tested that, and they opened the beer to them--just in El Reno. It didn't get into this area--they had to go to Oklahoma City. Then when they opened these beer joints, that's when the Indians went to pot. That brought on