

Maybe Mr. Seger, the first superintendent--they called him "Agent"--told them how it was done. Talked to them. And they just did what they were told. And after he broke up the ground he planted watermelons. They soaked them (the seeds) overnight in sugar. Someone told them that if you soaked these seeds in sugar, there would be real sweet watermelons. And then they planted them. That's the first thing they planted in that new plowed ground. And my grandfather had two wives. After these watermelons got ripe one of his wives gave some to her relatives. And this other wife heard about it. She went over there and busted every watermelon she come to (laughs). So I guess those were the first farmers here in Custer County--High Backed Wolf and Yellow Bull.

(Were they plowing the same field?)

Yes. Just that little patch there.

Ed: I was old enough to remember--to see these old ones have two wives. They'd go down the line on the run--go down the road with the man driving and one squaw behind him and another one sitting back there in the wagon. They got along good--I told them that's the worst thing that Uncle Sam ever stopped!

HOW LAND WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN INHERITED BY BIRDIE'S FAMILY PASSED TO STRANGERS

(Could you tell me again about the way your mother got cheated out of her land?)

Birdie: Well, see she had these two mothers. Her father (High Backed Wolf) had two wives. And her mother died when she was eight years old. And at that time if a man lost his wife, he could marry his sister-in-law (his wife's sister). But he didn't have a sister-in-law so he married his wife's cousin. And then later he got