

tracks in there. That's how good the country was in them days. Ponies would go down to the river by themselves, and go back to the pasture. Of course the corn--the gardens--were fenced off. Nowadays it's different and they rob you alive, nowadays. Later on, after the 1900's--when they still get their rations--El Reno was already a city there, we'd go from Darlington southeast to El Reno. Of course young men drank--Indian scouts at Ft. Reno, and soldiers, and lot of cowboys around. And El Reno used to be a typical western town--cowboys, soldiers and Indians. But whenever there's any trouble, the cowboys always stayed with the Indians. Yeah.

SOME TROUBLES BETWEEN INDIANS AND WHITES

(What kind of trouble--could you tell any stories about the kind of troubles they'd have in those days?)

Well, yes. They had lot of troubles. There was several killings in El Reno among the cowboys and the civilians. But ordinarily there was no Indian trouble there. Oh, there was one south of Clinton where a Cheyenne by the name of Powder Face shot it out with some of the western people from way out toward Custer County. And they sent Ft. Reno troops out there to quiet that trouble out there. But what happened was, these cowboys was taking a bridle off a horse--a fine silver-mounted bridle, made by Indians--and the Indians found out and when the cowboys shot--they shot back at the Indians--they hit one Indian in the leg. So these Indians got together and took off. And the next day a whole bunch of cowboys and farmers--ranchers--got together. And the Indians were ready for them. But some way the word came--there was no Clinton then--it got to Ft. Reno and pretty soon the cavalry got up there. Probably going to defeat the Indians--or whites--I don't know what it was. Anyhow, they had a court over it in El Reno. One squaw man--a scout--Ben Clark--was interpreter for the Cheyennes. Well, some of the Cheyennes objected to his interpreting. He didn't have the proper vocabulary of the Cheyenne language to make things settled, so the Indians requested that there be an Indian educated interpreter. So they got a man by the name of John Otterby (or Otterboy).