

cousin of mine - he said that first plot after he got married - he was much older than I was - After he got married, he went and made his application to have a garden. Well, he was livin' then over southeast here. So the government came out with some wire, staples. And showed him where the best garden would be, you know - sandy loam - along blackjack country. And showed where garden should be - about 4 acres, somethin' like that. And showed him how to make cornerposts, you know, and bracing, and how to tack on that wire. They said, the government - that's when I learned. The government showed us, "If you don't want no stock to get in your garden, put your wire outside. So that the cattle pushin' against the wire wouldn't break it.

(Outside the posts?)

Yeah, so they wouldn't break those staples and go in. But if you're going to have stock inside, your wire should be inside so they can push it. I learned that at that time - the way he was taught. And I know they would plow the ground for him or after awhile he got to learn the way. They issued them plows and walking cultivators - everything was a walking. Team - team cultivator - walking cultivator - didn't have no seat to it. And a walking plow. Sod plow was the first thing they used when they first broke the ground out. And then after the ground was once broke, then they use what they call mow board. And they took care of them, good gardens, they took care of them. Lot of onions, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash. All those things.

(Did you ever hear your folks or any of the older people talking about their experiences in learning how to garden and plow?)

Oh, yes. Well, my father he knew gardening before we came from El Reno. See, he stayed with his mixed-blood parents - aunts - one of them married to a Frenchman. The other one married to a white man. And they all gardened down there, and he.