

the lease to go through the government?)

Yeah, they get double money. They don't lose what they're-- don't sell. They get that much more.

(Well, they're pretty sharp.)

INDIAN POLICE REPORT IMPROVEMENTS ON THE LAND

Yeah, that's what they did. And at the same time I was supposed to report whether there's any kind of improvements on the land or any houses or water--the condition of the land. If a creek runs through it and whether it's adapted to grazing purposes only or adapted to farming. So the government, if it's been adapted to farming, they put somebody to break it up and put in cultivation and more valuable. And if I make a report that it's rough and land like that, only it can't be farmed, it's good for grazing purposes only. I make that report. If you look over the old files, you'll see a lot of my reports in there. Yes, I stayed on there about 12 or 14 years.

(My! Well, was there a lot of grass for making hay back then?)

Early days? There's lots of it. Well, not over at Ft. Sill-- buy the grass. But everybody that runs a livery stable in the early days, you know, the town have a livery stables. Most people have to depend on horses and you got to have hay for winter, and these contractors put up hay in town and people go into town and buy the hay. Haying was one of the best businesses there was. But the rent was so cheap that you couldn't value the hay too high. You could buy a whole bale of hay for 25¢. That's prairie hay, wild hay--good hay.

(Did any of the Indians ever work at making hay?)

Yes. Later on, I went to the hay business in addition with my job