

INDIANS FARMING IN EARLY 1900'S

(Well, did any of the Indians farm their own land back then?)

Yes, but they didn't know much and they tried to farm. They had a farm--little over about five or six acres. Just a little small tract. Another thing, they haven't got the tools. Only tools they have is a walking plow--a 14-inch walking plow. And the horses don't know how to--they're not trained like these work horses now. But after the country opened where we could buy from these white people, the horses were all right. And then some of the Indians farmed larger tracts. And they made a little. They farm cotton and wheat--corn. Corn don't do well around the Wichita Mountains.

(Oh, it doesn't?)

No, it's tight land and gravel-like, with rocks. Most of the corn land is around this Washita Valley--in through around here in sandy land. Well, we raised pretty good wheat over there in the mountains. I raised lots of wheat. I'll show you my wheat stacks. I think I got some wheat stacks in here. (showing me pictures in his album) I had to hire a colored man to help me stack my wheat. Well, there's a threshing--they're threshing my wheat there (showing me a picture). That's my father there with the white jacket.

(Well, did all this equipment belong to you?)

No, the machinery don't belong to me. I just hired the thresher. And I'm pitching bundles, and the wagon here is where the grain was running in. All that threshing was just on about--close to fifty acres or sixty acres--something like that.

(How much money did you make on your wheat?)