

USED OXEN IN EARLY DAYS

(Must have been a wild country in those days?)

Well, he said that grass was - my mother used to tell about it - that grass was so high that they'd have to watch the fire in the spring of the year to keep them from burning up their fences. She used to tell about that. How they broke the ground, they sod with oxen. They just went along with old dull axe and chopped on the sod and dropped in the corn. And they didn't have to cultivate any, 'cause they just went on making corn. It just grew.

LOTS OF WILD GAME IN EARLY DAYS - ESPECIALLY TURKEYS

(Did they ever tell anything about the game or wild life up in those days?)

Oh yes. There was plenty of game. Plenty of wild turkeys. My mother used to tell about how they would go out there in the morning and they'd hear the turkeys gobbling off down there and in the woods south of their house and some of them would slip off down there and get one and kill it. They just kill only one. That's one they use till they get ready for another one then they kill it.

(Well, they certainly had to be relied on whatever what was available.)

Oh yeah. The nearest place - nearest trading point in those days was Southwest City - was a small town at that time. Small place, I guess, but Southwest City was the only trading point outside of Vinita. Of course, Vinita was already established but they went to Neosho. When they haul their grain, flour and things, they took to Neosho for their flour. What they did in later years, they built a mill at Southwest City.

BOUNDARY LINE OF COWSKIN PRAIRIE

(What would be, the approximate boundaries of Cowskin Prairie or the general location of it?)

Well, beginning right at the junction of Arkansas and Missouri and where Oklahoma joins up just right south of Southwest City, about two miles. And from there it went on up to Seneca. And it was the line that went around through to Seneca and on over to Baxter Springs. It goes right up to the town, but that