

Centralia, Ruby, and Allauwe, back to Chelsea, then Pryor, Adair. Be gone maybe two days, three sometimes. That depend on how much time he put in at a place. (What were the roads like in those days?)

ROADS WERE TERRIBLE DURING THE EARLY DAYS

Well, they were pretty rugged. In wet weather they was bad. Ruts cut, you know. I've seen mud holes, you know, where the Jess Thomas place is up there? Right west of there, right there just west of his house, about probably 150 yards. There use to be a place there that was a 100 feet long, that a horse would drown if he got down in that mud hole. You couldn't go around it. Just loblolly there. And I seen one horse drowned in there. And at that time there was no taxes, road taxes or nothing like that. Just a neighborhood, coal haulers and everybody that had a wagon would cross that place. Load it up with shale, rock, whatever they could get and take a wagon load of stuff and take it down there and throw it in the mud hole. And we dug a ditch on the north side of the road. 'Course that was the section line at that time. And we opened that up and let the water out, then we went to work and filled that all with rock, shale, and coal bank, you know, and we got that pretty solid. Now there's several places like that, south of Tom Donnelly's there was one, right in there in that pocket. And those things I saw and I've helped two or three days at a time, me and my team.

HORSES FOR VINITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The old fire department team, the first fire department team that Vinita had, they bought it from the Texas state.

(What was the fire department like in those days?)

It was horse drawn and this was a big old dapple grey horse. They was half-brothers. Same studs. Two different mares, two sorrel mares just about pretty near alike was the mother and daddy fo them two horses. They was both same -