

said if you boys will wait I'll send some of this meat over. Well it was after dark when we got ready go. So he got it prepared and wrapped it up so we went out south and up the hill. And just got right on top of the hill there and we heard that animal coming from the northeast, it just a thump thump the ground like that. Well, it just a star light night and we had two old hound pups with us, just pups, and they was right at their heels. And Jim said now, whenever I think that's it's crossing that trail, he said I'm going to shoot at it. Well, he did. But he never increased his speed, he just went on toward where the old mill use to be. I've often wondered many, many times what they could have been making that noise. That much noise.

(You think it might have been a panther?)

It could have been. But it was hitting the ground pretty hard, we heard it acoming and it stopped. It just never increased it's speed, just come right on, and never increased it's speed after Jim shot. Just kept agoing right on towards where the mill use to be. It was about a quarter west of where it is now. Right on the creek bank. Yeah, I've just often wondered what they could have been. Well, if it had a been a wild animal and he shot it, it would have eat me, Jim, the dogs, we didn't run but we sure walked awful fast. Good fast walk on home. You doggone right.

SEVERAL STORIES ABOUT SNAKES IN EARLY DAYS

(How did you fellows keep from getting snake bit in those days?)

I don't know, it's a puzzle to me. Them over there in what we called the bottom field across the creek, we had that in wheat every year you know, right in the foot of that big hill and we killed as high as three and four velvet tails in there everytime--we'd have to shock that wheat. They didn't have any metal carrier on it, just like that.