

Well, the cowboys had a way. I know one instance over here southeast--19 miles--east of where Agnes lived--they was all camped there at the old twelve-mile point--they was camped there. And the cowboys had sold--when they killed one of their own beeves for their own use for their chuck wagon--and the other one was sold to an outfit that came through there. A young beef. Well, they didn't care to take the hide. But the way the cowboys would do, they'd tie a rope to the hide to the saddle horn, and they'd run ahead of that fire, you know. Just lay the grass down. Sometimes they're right at the edge of the fire, and they extinguish that fire, long ways. That's the only way they fought fire.

(Did they have those kind of fires even in the days before the cowboys got here--way back?)

Once in a great while. You know the Indians always camped together when they stopped, they camp. They was always camping. And sometimes the boys would start a fire by trying to burn a tree down with animal in it--something like a squirrel or coon or something like that. And it would get out--it goes through the timber and then goes out on the open prairie. And it was on fire. The last damage I remember was about 1904--it was almost due north of Canton, about a mile. The Indians had been at the Agency. And for some reason they had to camp along the river two or three days. Tall slough grass. Sitting But and Heap-of-Crows--I remember those two older men were in that camp. Somehow a fire started north of them--about a quarter of a mile. And they couldn't control that fire. It was too heavy. It burned their tipis. Their wagons. They lost practically everything. That's the last one I know of. That's just right along the river, too.

FEAR OF INDIAN UPRISING

(Well, talking about this year being the year the cattlemen made new grass leases--had they been here before that time?)