

SOLDIERS AT FORT RENO DURING SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

(The last time I was here we talked about the year 1896 and you were saying that was the year Murphy came out. We had the names of Otto Hunt and Cheif Moore and I think you finished talking about that. Can we just go on to the next year--what events were outstanding the following year?)

You know, about that time the Spanish-American war was underway for an aggression by Spain in Cuba. I was just a young chap then, but I remember quite a bit around the Agency. At that time the President of the United States and all those high up officials were conscripting young soldiers. They would congregate over here at Fort Reno all that year. I know we kids at the Arapaho School at Darlington used to go up there and play baseball with those boys--young boys--from all over the United States. They had pup tents all over that--you know where you come out by that Reformatory (west of El Reno)--all north there and all along that highway west--and all east of the Fort--was nothing but these pup tents where these boys were living at that time. They were being conscripted you know, for the Spanish-American War. And a lot of those boys would go to talking about their home problems. They come from rich families, too, I suppose--Baltimore, New York--I know a lot of those boys weren't more than seventeen or eighteen. Of course some of them lied about their ages, you know, just to get in the army. But when they got out there, they find out it was different. I know a lot of those boys would break down when they think about their folks--young fellow, you know. I know at that time--three or four of boys--I was about fourteen or fifteen then--somewhere along in there--I was big and husky. We volunteered to join the army. Which we did--three or four of us. But in taking our records there at Darlington--it was just a mile and half from Fort Reno--they.