

(What kind of cattle were they?)

Mixed. All kinds. But however there were very few longhorns at that time. The longhorn cattle, you know, just gradually disappeared.

(Did you ever have any work with branding the calves or anything?)

Oh, yeah. We brand cattle. Usually in corrals. Sometimes cattle would be killed in stampedes--struck by lightning or fall off a cliff. Yeah, sometimes they'd butcher an animal that died like that. They didn't save the skin like Indians. They just take the meat, you know, and they couldn't take care of it like Indians. Indians jerk their meat, you know. They dry it up. It's healthy. But these chuck wagons, they didn't know how--they just cut it in chunks and salt it if they had enough salt. And it was good meat, too. But us cowboys--we Indian boys taught those cowboys--like in our riding around--we'd pick up these terrapins (box turtles). We all can tell which is female--yellow legs and yellow--and the males were red--red legged. We'd always pick up one of these large terrapins--yellow--take it back to the camp, cut their head off and bleed them around the fire.

We'd open the shell when it's cooked and get the eggs in there. We used to like them eggs. And the meat's good, too. Pretty soon the white cowboys started doing that. Yeah.

(Did you just get the females for that?)

Yeah. Because they had eggs, you know.

(Did you ever eat the male ones, too?)

Yeah, once in a while we did. They're just as good, but they didn't have the eggs.

(How did you get along with the other cowboys--the white cowboys?)

Got along with them. We were friendly. They was always trading around spurs and