

father come here in this country after the Civil War, right after the Civil War. He used to haul provisions from Ft. Smith for Ft. Gibson soldiers down here when he come to this country. But he had good teams. They needed somebody with good teams to haul this stuff. Go the Ft. Smith after groceries and everything needed. He used to work for the government.

(Did the yave river boats back in those days?)

Yeah. They did in his time. Yeah.

(They'd come up to Ft. Gibson and I guess on up the river as far as Salina?)

#### STORIES ABOUT BELLE STARR

Yeah. Uh-huh. (static interference) Heard tell of Belle Starr, haven't you?

(Yeah.)

My father knew her well. In fact, she was a little distant kin to my mother.

In a round about way she was distant kin.

(There is lots of history written about Belle Starr.)

Belle Starr was - well, he always said she was a good woman. He said she didn't

- She'd go and rob trains and banks and stages and she'd helped old man Robinson many times take care of them Indian children, bring money in there to 'em.

She always wanted to help schools that way, places like that.

(Where was her home?)

Down here at Porum, Oklahoma. She's buried down there. My father was at her funeral. Yeah. He'd set down at the table and eat with her. Saddled her horse many a time for her. He always like Belle (static)...tried to keep the laws off of her, go here and yonder.

(Yeah. She traveled all over this country, I guess.)

Kansas and Texas and everywhere. She had black eyes. My father said she was a pretty woman and said she was a smart woman.

(She was an Indian?)