

got killed over here somewhere across the south Canadian River. He had just stopped to clean up. I think I told you about it once. He had a mirror leaning against the suitcase. You know, those old-time satchels--? Little, round, kind of oblong bag? He had that. And his round mirror, it was against that one. I guess he had parted his hair and combed his hair. Maybe painted up before he went to the camp. Somebody shot him from somewhere. See, that was another happening. See, maybe it was five years from the time they count something that happens. See, they start from ever since they came over here. Something that happens after they come. Just like that--every five years. They remember it that way.

(Do you still have your grandmother's tanning tool?)

Yes.

(Is it hard to get to?)

No. I'll try to get it out tonight.

(How long did she keep it up--making those marks?)

I never did ask her.

(I'm very interested in how they kept track of these events and what kind of things they would keep records of.)

Well, they just remember them like that. They say, "Well, he was born at that time when that thing happened. See? Then they start counting the years by fives and so on like that.

STORY OF BIRDIE'S FATHER REMEMBERING WHERE BOUNDARY STONES PLACED

(Well, like you were talking about this man who was shot while he was combing his hair and they remember that--that five-year period --well, when she made that mark on her tanning tool, did she make some kind of a picture or something?)