

MORE ABOUT PUNISHMENT BY LAW AND WHIPPING TREE

Anyway, his trial came up, and gave him so many licks, tied him up to that tree there and whipped him. When they got through whipping him, blood was oozing down his back. He stood it a while and said he was still a man.

(Still a man. You know those old fellows, they had a lot of pride, didn't they?)

Said he's still a man.

(Well, I guess he was, too. And you say they've cut down one of the old whipping trees.)

Yes they have. It has been cut down quite a while. I didn't know it was until a lawman came in there and had it cut down. The other one still stands there. It's right on the bank of the creek there and I wouldn't doubt that was the one, probably standing right there.

IN EARLY DAYS THERE WAS MORE PRAIRIE LAND THAN WOODS

(Was this country covered with timber when you first came here?)

Yes. Nearly all dead, just a few little patches cleared out, little old patch down here, a little one out there on the old home place was. Others all dead now. Yeah, you could ride through here, up the road that goes toward George Pollock, just 25 miles. You could ride down through there in a wagon, and just look way out in front of those hills, the blue-stemmed grass, about that high. No brush or nothing. It's a big country. It was beautiful.

(Was that what they called Johnson Prairie or did it?)

Yeah at one time. Yeah, you went down where Moody and Teresita and Blue Moon and those prairies. They share a road that ties in there with the highway, and that's where it turns back there.

(I was talking with an old Indian a while back that used to live back down there. He was old enough, he says he could remember they had prairies down here somewhere. Said they used to have big flocks of prairie chickens in there.)