

(Yeah. I know they was a hangin' them down there, but no, I never was around the court up there.

RAILROAD AND STAGECOACH LINE

They built that railroad, they called it "Split Log Wood", come through by Westville, and on across Stilwell, and then right on down followed the creeks, right on down to Salisaw. They called it the Split Log Road.

(The Split Log Road. Now it's called the Kansas City Southern..)

Yeah, but--

(Before they had the railroads, you had stagecoaches, didn't you?)

Yeah. My half-brother, Newton Collins of Tahlequah used to run a stage-coach, from there to Ft. Gibson and back.

(interruption)

They ain't no better people. He comes to see me once in awhile. Way back when I was just a young lad, Blue Dykes' dad, he got a hold of a drunk there at the courthouse. And, as well as I remember, they took him off and tied him down. (laughter) But old Blue was a good citizen. And John, he was a good man too, and quite a singer.

(Yeah.)

He (not clear) another place. I doubt they ever had one out there.

ROVING COMMISSIONERS - BOOTLEGGERS

Bout statehood. There's a bunch of them camped there at the courthouse, several days. I didn't know what they was up to. There had been surveyors camp ng there, and I just thought this was another bunch. Come to find out, they called it the "Roving Commissioners", and they was scoutin' around. Well, by God, first thing I knowed they was catchin' them bootleggers. (laughter) Some people would let it leak, you know, out. So they captured several of them.