

EARLY DAY FARMING - SAW MILLS - RAIL FENCES

(Yeah, I know about where it is. Was that good farming country in there?)

Oh it was then, but--oh it's not now. But you take them people way back yonder, they didn't farm no loo acres. They had 40 acres, or five or six acres. They raised all the stuff they wanted.

(They raised everything they eat didn't they--garden, everything?)

Yeah. Garden--beans, potatoes, squash. They never worried nothing about it.

(Did they have saw mills in those early days?)

Well, they did in places, there wasn't but a very few of them. 'Course when you see one I thought it was sure worth it.

(Well, it was.)

Them old steam engines.

(Yeah, steam engine saw mills. What kind of timber did they cut that ran through there?)

Oh, red oak, black jack. They didn't make no staves or anything like that. They came in later.

(What did they use for those rail fences that I've heard about?)

Rail fences?

(Yeah, what kind of wood did they use?)

Red oak. Post Oak.

(They had to split that stuff didn't they?)

Yeah, split it up. Made them about 8 foot, 10 foot length. About that. About 50¢ a hundred, maybe 55.

(Fifty cents a hundred. That's hard work isn't it?)

Oh yeah. We used to cut enough wood for fifty cents a rick.

(Fifty cents a rick? Yeah, that would be kind of hard to get a hold of a old tough piece of log and try to split it.)

Yeah, at that time, that was good timber. You could get 7 foot, 8 foot logs and put the wedge in then and hit three or four times and it would split pretty good--this White Oak.

(They say there's one kind that you couldn't split, and that was elm.)