

up there. Well he won't be twenty-one till next February. So they come down last weekend and Marvin was, oh he was talkin about gettin married, you know. And Gib told him about, said, "Well Marvin I'll just tell you what happened to me." He said, "I just didn't think I'd ever live to be twenty-one. I was gonna get married, but I jest decided I was jest gonna wait and wouldn't have to ask anybody." Well Marvin, he knew why Gib was tellin him that. Because we want that boy to get through school. (laughter)

Gibb: But you know some of 'em was jest common law wives you know. But some of 'em would go marry them. And I'll tell you some of 'em would have 'em call the law on the husband y'know and the first thing you know, they was separated and he's gone, married somebody else.

Third man: That's the way it was over around Stillwell.

Gibb: That's the way it was over here. One time Nancy (words not clear), a funny thing happened. Right after that little school up there closed the first year or so. Nancy married and she moved in to it. And you know didn't get no permission, jest moved in to it. But wasn't long till they was separated and he's gone, so she moved back home. And that's when Jake Iverster, he got out and bought the thing y'know. He got a cheap buildin' cause people expected it would burn up because them days, them woods, be leaves, they'd blow and then a fire would get out and come through the woods, if it wasn't cleaned out round the buildins, it'd get em.

PRAIRIE FIRES WERE DREADED

(Well did you have some bad woods and prairie fires in the early days?)

Oh yeah, we did. And then we've had up till they went to cleanin' this timber out down here. This PawPaw place down here all them years down there where her folks lived, you know that fire'd come through there. But people learnt, y'know, to pull them weeds and leaves back and burn 'em and not let 'em drift. That's what saved a lot of buildings later. But early days