

the man done to her over there. He told her to go ahead and take her five acres. "You don't have to pay me back my money or anything." But I think all they're allowed back.... If she didn't want to give us back this two and a half acres, we were going to offer her three dollars an acre...that's what the Office would offer her. And then, they (the Office) watch you. That's one good thing I like about them. They'll come out here if you tell them and say, "Look at how many cows you got," and I think you're supposed to have so many cattle on an acre of land, and the government watches that for you. They can't dig a pond, they can't dig water or anything unless they let the office know about it. And the way, I think they are watching.

(Is it hard to get a patent? Like if you wanted to get one?)

Oh, yes. I think it is.

(Bonnie: How does a patent differ from the selling of the land?)

A patent? A patent is a --the government turning you loose--just like you're a white man. Just turning you loose.

(See, the land now is restricted, so that everything they want to do they have to go through the Office.)

And that's a good thing in a way because nobody can touch us. Let's say that somebody come in and they say, "I'm going to take your house away." It's on government land, and they say, "No. He ain't going to touch it." They can't sue us because we have our own lawyers and everything.

(Bonnie: you don't even want a patent, do you?)

No. Why should I want a patent? When if I get a patent, I have to pay income tax? I have to pay land tax and house tax. And this way I don't have to pay anything. And I don't ever have to worry about somebody coming in here and threaten me to take this.