

JESS'S JOB AS FIELD ASSISTANT OR FIELD FARMER FOR BIA

--and the hardware people got hold of me. But I thought I had a pretty good system, according to as near as I could comply with the policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, plus my own ways of farming and getting the Indians interested to be self-sustaining and self-supporting and independent and have good stock. Those were my personal aims.

(What time was this?)

About 1918 to--no--I don't know--well, it was 1915 to 1918. Then two more years after that to 1920.

(What was your job at that time?)

Field Farmer. From Geary District Arapahoes. That was for Concho, yeah. Bureau of Indian Affairs. I lived in that house, that McElhaney's live in at that time--here in Geary.

(What were your duties then?)

Well, I paid out semi-monthly checks to the older Indians--well, all those that had money at the Office. And I looked after their--oh, like funeral arrangements, you know, and telephone calls. And I had leases. All this land around here--Indian leases--I knew the areas at that time. I know them yet but they're all gone. And I'd have to appraise the land at leasing time. And the method of our appraisal on a lease bond was whatever the lease was worth a year--on accepted appraisal--was one-year bond. For a three-year lease it was three times that. We used to have land leased for four hundred dollars a year--a good quarter (section). One year's rent for that was four hundred dollar bond, purchased by the lessee. For a three-year lease it was three times that--twelve hundred dollar bond.

(What was this bond for?)

To secure the Indians from being defrauded from their leases, or the lessee over-stepping their rights in the amount of land they farmed, and the amount of pasture that was reserved. Keep federal regulation on Indian land