

and gardens and all that. And then the young men started out. And at harvest time when they used to get through harvesting their corn, them boys have enough money they'd bring a team in with harness. And sometimes ride on horseback and bring the horse in, and fit them up with harness--like at Weatherford, Watonga, Canton, Kingfisher, El Reno, Calumet--young Indians would buy their own harness and wagons and haul it home. Those were the systems.

(Back in those days, what kind of crops could they make money on--like if they were going into it to make money?)

Most of it was corn and oats.

CROPS RAISED AND SHARE CROPPING: STOR ABOUT JESS'S LEASE MAN

(If they were raising it to sell, how would they go about getting rid of it--or getting their money out of it?)

Well, mostly the system of that sort was that they'd sharecrop with a man, besides what they raised for themselves for their own use, and in turn they'd sell their share of the sharecrop--give it to the same farmer that raised it on the sharecrop basis. Or maybe another man would come in and buy the corn from them and husk it himself, all the way. Those were the systems.

(Now he would be sharecropping with a white man or another Indian?)

No, a white man, yeah. It's mostly the lessee--sharecrop with them. Once in a while, I know I had it lucky twice, my lease expired in July. In 1903--I think I was a senior or junior at Haskell--not knowing, I came home for summer vacation and the head farmers and white men were stationed at Watonga, Geary, Calumet and Bridgeport and down there south of Fort Reno. They go out and check the Indians. Well, they have to come out and check me--check our part of the country north of Geary--the soil (unintelligible word).

So this farmer says, "Jess, there's a corn crop on your place but your lease expired in July. So that man is either going to have to lose that corn--because it will be yours after July 1--or we'll have to charge him for trespassing. And we will appraise your crop." I said, "Do whatever is right. I'm not on to those things." That's when I was going to school.