

wasn't well, and they had kids. So they went after them and made them camp at our house, year around, for seven or eight years. And he also provided for a team for them, harness, and wagon. And they'd also move around with us, and for the same purpose--let them take care of our horses, wood, and this and that. And there was another family that stayed with us a while until their son got married. And they moved--that was my mother's half-sister. So my father had quite a--he was a pretty open-hearted man, I guess.

RIDING HORSES KEPT, AND JESS'S FATHER'S ADVICE TO HIS SONS

But they always had a lot--about a half-acre lot--where those stacks of hays would be and the sheds. And they had a long trough, you know. And my father would just take a bushel-bucket and empty oats out in there and my horse would eat. That's riding pony. Four or five riding ponies. There was a blue--we called him Blue, and there was a bay that we called him Diamond Head--he had a diamond white spot--and then there was Buck--a buckskin horse--and there was a light sorrel we used to call Jerry, and there was another one--I forgot the name of it. They were my--riding horses. My father always fed them well whether I used them or not. And they'd get so hog-fat that when I ride them the surcingle wouldn't go around their belly. They're so fat! And I'd tell my dad, I said, "I don't like to ride a horse that looks like a mare!" Well, he said, "Well, start riding them around a while. Ride them around two or three--don't feed them too regular. Keep them off the oats." About the time they wear their stomach off, then they looked pretty. But one thing he used to tell us--tell me and my brother--"Don't ever try to decorate yourself or your horse unnecessarily. Why? Because first people will look at your horse. They won't look at that fine saddle or fine bridle or fine blanket under your saddle--no. They're going to look at the horse. How fat and pretty he is. Never mind how old your saddle is, or how old your bridle is--that horse is what is going to take their attraction. Same way with you," he used to tell us. "Don't try to dress too fancy--in bright colors. No. Colors fade and your clothes get old. But if you just got good moccasins and you got good