

yours?

W: Some of them we had branded. We would herd them and brand them or mark them somehow. You had your mark registered, and you put your mark in their ear. You had either a mark or a brand.

P: What did you drink when you where little?

W: Milk.

P: Fresh milk? Water?

W: Yes, fresh milk. We milked a cow everyday.

P: How did you celebrate Christmas?

W: Well, I guess like all the other kids in the neighborhood. We never had, as far as I can remember, a big shebang. We never had Santa Claus come into the house. We opened the toys we got on Christmas morning; we did not open them the night before. We did not get any special favors that morning. You could get up as early as you wanted, which was always before daylight. We had to milk anywhere from fifteen to twenty cows every morning.

P: Did you sell your milk?

W: No.

P: Did you drink all of that milk, or did you use some of it for butter?

W: We used it for butter, clabber, and fresh milk. Back then the woods cows did not give that much milk, plus you had to raise the calf, and he got half of it. All you did was just turn the calf in and let him suck a little milk to get a little bit of milk down. Then you parted the calf out and milked the cow. We did this anywhere from a half mile to three-quarters of a mile from home. We put all this milk in five-gallon buckets and carried it back to the house to strain it. Of course, we would always ride one or two of the yearlings when we were boys. After we got back to our place and strained the milk, I might have made the butter, or my sister did.

Then we had to walk to where we caught the bus, and that was almost half a mile from our house. We had to be there usually before daylight because we were the first ones to get on the bus. Back then they had to go so far because there were only about two or three buses going to the Bell school. There were not that many people, but they covered the same territory that is covered now, so there was a long, long bus ride.