

the elk and buffalo had disappeared before he came. One buffalo was chased across the ice on the Missouri River near where the White Cloud ferry was located. The winter was very cold and the river froze over, the ice being thick enough to bear the weight of heavy teams. Hunters pursued a buffalo into Nodaway County and it was killed about four miles west of Mr. Jones' farm.

Elk and deer horns were so thick in those early days that they looked like dry limbs scattered over the prairie. No mowing machine could have mowed the prairie grass at that time on account of these horns. Mr. Jones says the turkeys were so thick in those days that he has often killed with his shotgun three at a time. Once he saw some turkeys walking along a furrow or ridge of ground, one nearly behind another, and at one shot killed seven, and wounded two or three more, crippling them so much that they were not able to fly, but ran off and thus escaped. He says he has sometimes killed five deer in one day. He hunted deer at times in the night. His child would carry the lantern, and he going carefully beside the child would see the eyes of the deer glisten and shoot them. Once he saw fifty deer in a herd, and at another time thirty-two. Tame turkeys would fight the wild ones, and sometimes go off with them. He has lost four flocks in this way. When a deer was shot, the hunters would hang it up on a small tree, to keep it from the wolves, which were very troublesome. When a deer was killed and brought in, the wolves would follow in and howl fearfully around the house most of the night. Fur animals were very thick on the One Hundred and Two River. He says that Dr. Talbott caught enough otters to make himself a fine overcoat.

In pioneer times bees flourished on account of the wild flowers with which the prairie abounded. Mr. Jones says he has taken sixty and eighty pounds, a washtubful, of honey, out of a single bee gum. Bee hunters would fall a bee tree at night, close the orifice from which the bees escaped, saw off the log on both sides of the bees, and taking it home, set up the part of the tree in which the bees were located, calling it a bee gum. Hollow trees were often cut off in sections, four or five feet in length, cleaned out with an ax or chisel, and boards nailed on the ends. Mr. Jones says he has had thirty-three such bee gums at one time. He prefers them to patent hives, and says the bee moths are less destructive with the old-fashioned bee gums.

The pioneer had one advantage over the farmer of the present time which Mr. Jones thought worthy of especial mention. The range in those days was unlimited, and the grasses were very luxuriant. Underneath the tall rank grass, even during much of the winter, the grass would still be green and fresh, and cattle would thrive upon it a long time in the season after the farmer of the present day begins to feed them. Cattle would become exceedingly fat on the open range, to such