Jack Moody discusses Grandma Adams Birthday Picnics

Lizzie Adams’ old ranch is above us—everybody called her Grandma Adams. So at the June 10th picnic, they had a grand time. There’d be as many as 150 people show up. And they all came from miles away, once a year. They all got together, and they had food, and they had ice cream, and a couple cowboys would ride into Benson and get ice to make ice cream. If they couldn’t do that, they’d get over to Dragoon and they’d telegraph to Benson, and they’d put the ice on the train, and when the train went through, they’d just throw the ice off, see. And the cowboys had to load it on a buckboard and get it over here. (chuckles)

They did that. But when everything really got wound up and the home brew broke out that night, then Governor Hunt showed up with his cronies. And he would stay here and party, and it was a good political… You know, there was votes here, there’s 150 people. He was the governor, the first one, of Arizona. Governor [George W. P.] Hunt. That’s when the territorial mansion was in Prescott, so he was the first governor. He’d come down here and campaign and get just as drunk as the rest of them, and dance and whatever else they wanted to do. Sometimes it’d last a day, sometimes it’d last a week.