

- BURROUGHS: (Indistinct) He jumped up to Oregon before I got to Portales. Let's go back to Portales High School.
- BOYKIN : Okay. We went to Amarillo one time, and we only had fourteen men on our squad. We went to Amarillo to play them, and there were five teams there running signals. That liked to have scared us to death to see all of those men suited out. We got out there and we won the toss, and they kicked off to us. I made a touch down on the kick off, and it was called back. They told us we couldn't beat them there. They kicked off again to me and I ran it in there, another touchdown.
- BURROUGHS: That one counted then, didn't it?
- BOYKIN : No, it didn't, they brought that one back, too. I said, "We're started here and we're not going to make anything, so let's just hold them and not let them make anything." When we tried, they beat us six to nothing.
- BURROUGHS: You never did get your touchdown counted, then?
- BOYKIN : No.
- BURROUGHS: About what year was that, Bolly? Before you graduated from high school?
- BOYKIN : That was in 1921.
- BURROUGHS: Who were your teammates that went up there to Amarillo with you?
- BOYKIN : Lee Johnson, Oscar and George McCormick, Eldridge Price, Reid Mike Lindsay, Clint Fairly. He was the center, and he was a good one. You just couldn't move him, he was a good center. We sure did hate to lose that game, we cried all the way home. We knew they had beat us.
- BURROUGHS: Did you travel in a school bus?
- BOYKIN : No, I don't know how we got over there. No, Mrs. and two or three women took us over there.
- BOYKIN(P): Tell her how Mrs. Priddy always used to. . .

BOYKIN : She would always take us.

BURROUGHS: That is Mrs. J.B. Priddy?

BOYKIN : Mrs. J.B. Priddy. And she would stand on the side line and say, "Kill them, Bolly, kill them."

BURROUGHS: (Laugh) Knowing her and her later life when she was pretty sedate and proper, I am surprised that she would do that.

BOYKIN : She did, though. (Indistinct) When nobody else would go, she would go around and try to get people to go, and she would usually get them to go with her.

BURROUGHS: Who were the other ladies that took you?

BOYKIN : I don't remember any of them. I never did ride in their car, so I can't remember who they were.

BURROUGHS: Were her daughters. . .

BOYKIN : It wasn't all women.

BURROUGHS: In class with you?

BOYKIN : What?

BURROUGHS: Were her two daughters in the same class with you?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: Or about the same class?

BOYKIN : The same class.

BURROUGHS: Did they ride over with you?

BOYKIN : Yes. They rode over with us. She had a big olds that would hold about a half a dozen kids, but it was kind of stacked up.

BURROUGHS: You all didn't mind stacking up?

BOYKIN : No. We went down and played Canyon, one time, and they ran over us like water over low land. They had big old boys there that weighed 250 pounds.

BURROUGHS: They grew big in those days, didn't they?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: They still do. Who was the coach of this football team?

BOYKIN : We didn't have any. . . it was Kenneth Livingston's brother. He didn't know anything about it, but he did a pretty good job of handling us.

BURROUGHS: So you just played?

BOYKIN : What?

BURROUGHS: You just played?

BOYKIN : Yes. We'd play anybody, we didn't care who it was.

BURROUGHS Did they have championships in those days?

BOYKIN : No. Roswell was our hardest team. Roswell and Clovis, and we beat both of those that last year, and then we were satisfied. Everybody had more kids than we had. Roswell had about three teams and we just had one. We had three substitutes, Houston Price. . . who is this fellow that married the girl at the news journal? Sometimes I want to think of it, but I can't.

BURROUGHS: The three substitutes mostly had to play the whole game, didn't you?

BOYKIN : Yes. Houston Price and Ralph Jackson, oh, what is that fellow's name that married that girl?

BOYKIN(P): Stinnett.

BOYKIN : Stinnett.

BURROUGHS: Oh, Marion Stinnett.

BOYKIN : His brother.

BURROUGHS: What was his brother's name?

BOYKIN(P): Rufus.

BOYKIN : What?

BOYKIN(P): Rufus.

BURROUGHS: They were the substitutes?

BOYKIN : Yes. We put old Rufus in there one day, and I was running around out there in Clovis, and an old boy ran right by him, and somebody else had to tackle him. I said, "Why didn't you tackle that fellow, Rufus?" He said, "I could have if I would have thought of it."

BURROUGHS: That was real sharp football. Bolly, can you comment on the town life, and the general amusement, and social activities, other than football, or is that all you did?

BOYKIN : That's about all I did, but I'd go to dances.

BURROUGHS: Where did they have them?

BOYKIN : They had them in the band hall and just back of the hotel, that's where Pauline and I were married, where that hotel is.

BURROUGHS: Which hotel?

BOYKIN : Cal Boykin.

BURROUGHS: The one that is called the Plains Hotel now?

BOYKIN : Yes. See my mother owned that property there, and she donated some for them to build that. . . she was living on the farm out here then, and she donated some of that land for the hotel.

BOYKIN(P): She was living at home, right there on that land.

BOYKIN : Yes.

BOYKIN(P): At that time, when I met him, that's why we were married at the hotel, because he was the owner.

BURROUGHS: Where did you come from, Pauline?

BOYKIN(P): Roswell.

BURROUGHS: Were you a homesteader down there to? Did your people come from Roswell, I mean from Texas?

BOYKIN(P): Not originally. I helped live out two homesteads. I helped my <sup>dad</sup> live out one, and I helped my husband live out one.

BURROUGHS: Where was your dad's homestead?

BOYKIN(P): My dad's homestead was out at Elkins.

BURROUGHS: Between here and Roswell?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: What year was that when he claimed it?

BOYKIN(P): That was about 1916 or '19. We were out there during that terrible flu in 1918, I remember that. Then we moved to Roswell, and I went to school and finished Roswell High School. And then I went to Clovis and got a job. And then I came down here one night to a dance, and that's where I met Bolly.

BURROUGHS: How soon after that were you married? He was very lucky.

BOYKIN(P): A year or more.

BURROUGHS: A year or more.

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: When did you and Bolly homestead, and where?

BOYKIN(P): In 1933, down south of Kenna.

BOYKIN : Fourteen miles. 126 miles due west of the county line out here.

BURROUGHS: How long were you there?

BOYKIN : Three years. We built a rock house out there, and how much that cost us? Sixteen dollars?

BOYKIN(P): Sixty-five dollars.

BOYKIN : Sixty-five dollars.

BOYKIN(P): But before that we had a lot worse experiences. We lived in tents. We lived in a tent with the top built out of a tarp and the bottom made out of something else, I don't [Indistinct]. First we lived out there in a tent and the wind blew it down. Then in the gulley, and lived in that. And we had a kitten, and one night it rained and it came clear up in that tent, and I thought that kitten was going to drown, I wasn't worried about myself. As soon as that bad rain was over with, I thought about getting up on the side, instead of right down in the draw. And then we built the rock house that cost us sixty-five dollars.

BURROUGHS: You helped him build it?

BOYKIN(P): Oh, boy did I ever.

BOYKIN : She did all of the plastering. She was the best plasterer you ever saw. I was going to get her a job.

BOYKIN(P): We made the adobe ourselves, they don't make adobes for partitions.

BOYKIN : We tromped them our with our feet.

BOYKIN(P): Rock [Indistinct]. Right there in the place was all rock. We had the rock right there.

BURROUGHS: What kind of rock was it?

BOYKIN(P): Oh, those great big. . .

BOYKIN : Sandrock. You could cut it just as smooth. You just line it up and hit it in the middle and it will break in two.

BOYKIN(P): We molded these adobes [Indistinct].

BOYKIN : We tromped them out with our feet, too.

BURROUGHS: You put straw in them, you mean?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BOYKIN(P): And when we got the partitions built [Indistinct] we plastered all inside of the walls with the same plaster. He'd bring it in by the wheelbarrow load and throw it up on the wall and I'd smooth it down.

BOYKIN : She did a good job.

BURROUGHS: Did you mix cement with the sand?

BOYKIN : We didn't have any cement, it was all mud and sand.

BOYKIN(P): Mud and sand, no cement.

BOYKIN : [Indistinct]

BURROUGHS: It didn't crumble, it stayed together.

BOYKIN : No, no it stayed on there.

BOYKIN(P): We had to put sand floors down, too. Sand floors, of course I'd walk around all the time and sweep it.

BOYKIN : That was during the depression, and we'd give bridge parties and they would come for sixty miles.

BURROUGHS: To play bridge?

BOYKIN : Yes, to come up there and play bridge, sixty miles. No one had any money.

BURROUGHS: Who were some of your bridge playing friends?

BOYKIN : Nobel Dunlap and his wife.

BURROUGHS: Nobel Dunlap?

BOYKIN : Yes. He is dead now.

BOYKIN(P): Bo Fisher [Indistinct].

BOYKIN : Bo Fisher, he worked for the railroad, him and his wife. There were some ranchers over there and then Adron Turner, he is my uncle. We would have those bridge parties all of the time and we didn't even know there was a depression on. We didn't care.

BOYKIN(P): [Indistinct]

BURROUGHS: Where did you get your food? Did you try to grow some out where you were?

BOYKIN : Yes, we tried to, but we didn't do very good, because we didn't have. . . we had to fence it off from our stock. We didn't have any wire to fence it with, so we used stakes, cut brush.

BOYKIN(P): We had a little garden.

BOYKIN : A little garden.

BOYKIN(P): We drilled a well, and got our own water right down at the bottom of the draw.

BOYKIN : It was good drinking water and there was not any in that country. I traded that to Adron.

BURROUGHS: Your little homestead?

BOYKIN : Yes. I traded it, but I wish I would have kept it.

BOYKIN(P): We built the chickens a half dugout and they had a roof over their heads and everything, and we had our own eggs. We would go down to Roswell to my folks and they would load us up with groceries. We would come over to Portales to see Bolly's mother and she would load us up with all kinds of fresh farm goods and all of the canned goods she could can, and if it hadn't been for both of our parents we just couldn't have survived.

BOYKIN : No, we couldn't have made it.

BURROUGHS: About how old were you then? Did you marry pretty young?

BOYKIN : No. She was going to school, weren't you?

BOYKIN(P): I was twenty-two, he was twenty-five. About a year after we were married the depression came.

BURROUGHS: The depression hit. That was in about 1929 then?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BOYKIN(P): We were married the first day of January, 1929 and he was working for the railroad--he hasn't gotten to that yet. And he was cut off the third day of January.

BOYKIN : They have to cut you off when they don't have much business. In the depression days you didn't get much business.

BURROUGHS: What railroad was that?

BOYKIN : Santa Fe.

BURROUGHS: What were you doing for them?

BOYKIN : I was fired, then. I worked for the railroad all of my life, nearly. [Indistinct] called me back.

BURROUGHS: Now wait a minute, you said that you. . .

BOYKIN(P): Not all of your life.

BURROUGHS: When did you start working for the railroad? When you weren't playing football. . .

BOYKIN : I was working for the railroad when we married, and then I got cut off.

BURROUGHS: What. . . You started. . .

BOYKIN(P): After he got through playing football and going to college of twenty-eight then. He hired out to the railroad, and tell how come you to hire our, working for what's his name, the builder contractor [Indistinct].

BOYKIN : Yes, Earl McCollom. I was working up there. . .

BURROUGHS: He's the contractor?

BOYKIN : Yes, and I was shingling a barn over there for that old oil outfit [Indistinct]. I wasn't shingling it, I was putting a tin roof on it, and that is hotter than ever, you know. Old Earl crawled up there [Indistinct] and he said, "Look over there at that old boy on the engine, that fireman he just throws in a scoop of coal about every ten or fifteen minutes." I stood up and looked at him and then he went ahead and said, "Why don't you go ahead up there and get you a job? You're big and stout, you can handle that [Indistinct]." I looked at him another ten minutes; and I just reached back and pulled that double-bowed knot on that apron, and took that off and, pitched that nail apron to him and said, "I believe I will." He said, "I don't mean now." I said, "I do." "I've had enough of this."

BURROUGHS: How did you know you were going to get a job?

BOYKIN : I knew I was going to get one, I just knew it.

BURROUGHS: Whom did you talk to, to get a job?

BOYKIN : The superintendent.

BOYKIN(P): In Clovis.

BURROUGHS: Who was. . .

BOYKIN : [Indistinct].

BURROUGHS: You just stopped right then and went up to Clovis?

BOYKIN : Yes. From there, the superintendent.

BURROUGHS: And he put you on?

BOYKIN : I had to go over and talk to the math mechanic too. So I got the job and I had to make some fuel trips. Then I was working a little, when Pauline and I got married, I got cut off the next day. And I didn't work for ten years, did I?

BURROUGHS: Not ten years on the Santa Fe?

BOYKIN(P): Not that long.

BOYKIN : Well, it seemed like ten years.

BOYKIN(P): About five years. We were on the claim three years of that time.

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: You left the claim after about 1932?

BOYKIN : When they called me back, I went right back.

BURROUGHS: The Santa Fe?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: What were you doing for them, then?

BOYKIN : Firing.

BURROUGHS: Still firing?

BOYKIN : Yes, your seniority doesn't grow unless you work. And then the last year I worked, the last two or three years I worked I made 126 dollars. And I just worked ten days a month.

BURROUGHS: That was good wages, then.

BOYKIN : Yes, it was.

BURROUGHS: You were never an engineer, you were always a fireman?

BOYKIN : No. . .

BOYKIN(P): [Indistinct].

BOYKIN : You have to take an examination, you see. I passed it and there was another old boy in there, Fred Maizes (?), from the South. I finished my paper and turned it in. He came outside, he didn't know I'd finished, and he said, "Boy, I just can't get that, I'm going to walk right off." I said, "If I was in your shoes and it came time, they'd have to tell me when to quit trying." He was going to quit, and 'darned' if he didn't go back in there and finish it.

BURROUGHS: He finished his exam?

BOYKIN : Yes. But he blew up an engine down here at Station 74, between here and Roswell, down there where they take water.

BOYKIN(P): [Indistinct] '48?

BOYKIN : It wasn't that late, was it?

BOYKIN(P): Well, he was an engineer for long years.

BURROUGHS: What run did you have?

BOYKIN : I had all kinds of runs. I'd go to Carlsbad for four days, the next day they just call you where they want you. I'd go to Belen, and go over there and work out of Belen a while, and then come home. We lived over at Belen a little while.

BURROUGHS: When did the engines change from firing the old coal engines? Tell me something about the engines.

BOYKIN : I imagine twenty years ago.

BURROUGHS: What did they change to then? Oil?

BOYKIN : They changed to deisel. We had oil engines here long before we got deisel. Most of it was coal. They had stokers on most of the engines, big engines they did, but the little engines you had to fire them by hand.

BURROUGHS: Mr. Clifford Dean told me that he used to work down here. . .

BOYKIN : Yes, he did.

BURROUGHS: At the Sante Fe office. And he would go out and fill up coal skuttles to keep the station room warm, and how bad it was in the winter. So the people got their coal from the railroad, then?

BOYKIN : Yes.

BURROUGHS: It was just brought in and distributed?

BOYKIN : Yes. We got carloads of coal in there.

BURROUGHS: Who were the coal dealers?

BOYKIN(P): Slaten?

BOYKIN : (?) Price was a coal dealer and there were two or three in town.

BOYKIN(P): Wasn't Mr. Slaten one?

BOYKIN : Mr. Slaten was one. If I had my life to live over, I'd just start railroading.

BURROUGHS: You wouldn't play so much football, you'd just start railroading?

BOYKIN : I'd just start railroading.

BURROUGHS: Why did you like it so much?

BOYKIN : Oh, I don't know. I loved every minute of it. I don't care if it was a school or what it was. I sure did like that engine, I wish I had one.

BOYKIN(P): [Indistinct] that job of running Abe Lincoln down at Carlsbad.

BOYKIN : Yes, I'd like to have that.

BURROUGHS: [Indistinct] running the engine all the time. Did you ever have any particular experiences as an engineer, that you remember?