

Tape # 14

Mrs. Georgeanna (Richardson) Cooper

Length: 60 min.

"Recollection of Early Schools"

Interviewed by Mrs. Jean Burroughs
August 29, 1972

- 007 March 1910: came from Pecos Co., Texas by covered wagon
parents: Robert F. Richardson and Lela Merick Richardson
(3 children)
- 027 Both parents were school teachers
- 032 Dad taught: Hawkeys (N. of Elida)
Mother taught: ~~Taback~~ (Dora Dist.) Roe buck
- 040 Tried to space schools 6 mi. apart; 8 children necessary for
school.
- 045 1910-20's: more than 100 school districts in Roosevelt Co.
- 065 Rode in buggy with father to school
- 118 Father also farmed since he received only \$40 a month for 4-6 months.
- 152 Describes one room school
- 170 Classics were read out loud
- 210 Spelling bees were regular Friday afternoon excercises.
- 225 Would have spelling bees, arithmetic matches, and foot races with
other schools sometimes.
- 235 Games played: stealing sticks, red rover, darebase, marbles, rolley
holley, tick tack toe, box.
- 304 Christmas program was community affair
- 317 Usually used coal for fuel at school
- 338 Described performing 3 act play about an Egyptian mummy that
came to life.
- 376 Sheets and bows of covered wagons described
- 418 People seldom had Chrostmastrees in homes but usually had one
at school.
- 470 1923: rode horse to high school in Portales
- 475 Wore riding skirt over regular clothes
- 572 1922: attended old high school first year it opened

- 527 Superintendent: Walter Pratley; Principal: Mr. Arrant; also lists several teachers
- 549 Classmates mentioned; 41 in graduating class.
- 617 August 1953: began working for Portales News Tribune.
- 625 Taught school for 5 yrs. (in Causey and 4 in Texas).
- 632 1933: married Marshall Cooper; children: Laurie, Lelan, Lewis.
- 672 Duties with paper: society column, turning back the calander column, and photography.
- 734 Portales News Tribune is on microfilm; reads 1912 clipping describing streets.

SIDE TWO

- 006 Remembers in 1921 McDonald's grocery store using team of mules and wagon to deliver groceries.
- 025 Mentions Johnny McDonald as square dance caller.
- 033 Play parties: everybody sang and played: (not considered dance)
- 046 Prevalent feeling against dancing here in Portales in early days.
- 053 First school contract she signed had no dancing clause.
- 120 Approx. 1942: began providing rural electricity and telephones.
- 132 Some areas in county still don't have electricity (W. of ELida)
- 154 People used newspapers on inside of walls for insulation.
- 189 Describes making molasses out of sorghum cane; (sold for 50¢ a gallon in 1930's)
- 257 1914: describes making trip in covered wagon; recalls terrible taste of gyp water around White Sands; experience of not having water in Oregon Mountains.