

LAB 9335

Tape # 28

Mr. & Mrs. W.B. Cox

Length: 35 min.

"Barbed Wire Collecting

Interviewed by Mrs. Jean Burroughs  
January 13, 1973

- 009 1934: came to Roosevelt County as a farmer
- 019 Have 5 children (names given)
- 029 1945: <sup>Lou Ann, Joyce, Cox</sup> she came to Portales as member of library staff at Eastern.
- 034 Was one of the three original members of library staff.
- 040 He has collected barbed wire since 1943.
- 047 Discusses XIT ranch (says XIT stands for 10 counties in Texas) and state capital bargain.
- 066 Over 1300 patents on barbed wire.
- 079 He has over 450 ~~pe~~ices of wire in frames.
- 094 When he started there were only 13 collectors in the U.S.
- 106 18 in. lenghts - standard
- 112 1872: J. Glidden of Ill. invented barbed wire to keep dogs out of flower beds. Used coffee mill to make wire; could make 150 ft. a day.
- 188 <sup>Bois d'Arc</sup> ~~Bois d'Arc~~ trees used for fences.
- 201 Mus fences described
- 214 1881-82: XIT first big ranch in Texas to be fenced with barbed wire 800 mi. of barbed wire used; wire came from Belgium.
- 236 1880-1900: barbed wire industry grew.
- 253 1976: Texas Catttle Association meeting in San Antonio; Gates made pen that could hold wildest cattle; amusing advertisement.
- 305 1886: Gov. Ireland of Texas led legeslation to restrict fencing in nesters; also stated fences have a gate every 3 miles.
- 333 N.M. was territory and not allowed to fence until later; only drift fences running East and West allowed.
- 360 Lincoln County War: John Chisum on side of ranshers and suppose to have hired Billy the Kid.

- 419 1875: 5 tons of barbed wire manufactures  
1880: 40 tons of barbed wire manufactured  
1900: 200 tons of barbed wire manufactured  
1945: 234,000 tons of barbed wire manufactures
- 451 Originakky wire sold for 20¢ lb.
- 496 Wire Pullers Union
- 530 First barbed wire called thorny wire.
- 583 Most scholarly book on barbed wire: The Wire That Fenced the West  
by Henry McCallum.

SIDE TWO

- 047 Mr. Cox's birth date: July 12, 1898