

who they were) told the ladies how to mark their ballots and how to vote properly.

BURROUGHS: Well now, wasn't that before a school board election? Wasn't that the very first...?

MRS. DUNLAP: No, I think it was the Women's Suffrage, I mean when we got the vote.

BURROUGHS: I see. Well, do you happen to know about the school board election in which the Women's Club of this area rallied around and nominated Mrs. J.P. Stone for it?

MRS. DUNLAP: We have just been discussing that, and had a nice program, which that was included. I believe that was back in 1923, or something of the sort.

BURROUGHS: Yes.

MRS. DUNLAP: Anyway, our minutes show that Mrs. Stone was elected, and from what we find, she in the only woman who has ever been a trustee or a board member.

BURROUGHS: Of the Portales School Board?

MRS. DUNLAP: Of the Portales School, yes.

BURROUGHS: And that was the first time women really got behind a measure and used their influence.

MRS. DUNLAP: Well, I believe that the women have really, since they've had suffrage, that they have worked at it. Because we have had several little clippings from the newspaper, back of sixty and fifty years ago, where we have read that and mentioned it into our minutes, just this past year when things have become, you know, legally as they have.

MR. DUNLAP: I can't understand how it was that we got rid of liquor about 1910, and you say they didn't get to vote until 1915, or something. But I know my mother, and Aunt Ella, and Mrs. John Farley, and Mrs. Stone, and Mrs. Carr and those were real workers to see that we got rid of this liquor.

BURROUGHS: Well, maybe they couldn't vote themselves, but maybe they influenced their husbands, do you suppose?

MR. DUNLAP: I imagine they did.

BURROUGHS: That was the way it was. Well, there's one more thing of local interest that I would like to have your opinion on, and that is the (unclear) of the Democrat Party here in Roosevelt County. I'm going to ask you to comment on the registration and the vote goes sometimes contrary to what you might expect with a two-to-one registration.

MR. DUNLAP: That's going to go on that tape?

BURROUGHS: Yes, I'd just like for you to say what you....

MR. DUNLAP: All right. We have in New Mexico Democratic primaries, and if you belong to the Republican Party, you can't vote on the Democratic primary, and we have got a lot of people that would like to elect a certain person and when they get beat they jump on the other side of the fence like Collins. He came out here for county representative, and when he got beat, he got on the other side, the Republican side of the fence and campaigned until the election was over and he got beat. And one time I offered to give him a coat with the sleeves turned wrong side

out. He didn't wup me.

BURROUGHS: Bill, would comment on the fact that because Republicans can't vote in a primary, and most of the county offices go to Democratic voters, why it is that we have so many people voting Democrat in the general election...

MR. DUNLAP: You mean in the primary election?

BURROUGHS: ...in the primary election, and then they'll switch and vote Republican in the general.

MR. DUNLAP: The Republicans don't let the average people have anything to do with their primary selection of candidates. They practically ramrod that on them, take it or leave it, and the Democrats let everybody run.

BURROUGHS: Sometimes too many.

MR. DUNLAP: Sometimes too many is right.

BURROUGHS: Well now, in this county, maybe a county clerk or county sheriff or something, people that I know vote Republican in the general election are registered Democrat, so they can vote in the Democratic primary and vote for these county offices.

MR. DUNLAP: Yes, and then whenever the one that they want to win doesn't win, they just jump on the other side of the ticket. I don't do that.

BURROUGHS: You're a straight Democrat, aren't you?

MR. DUNLAP: No. If they've got somebody up there I know is not for the good of the country, I just don't vote on them. I just leave them blank.

BURROUGHS: You do that?

MR. DUNLAP: I leave him blank, because I know he's not the man for the place. When Eisenhower came out, Adlai Stevenson was against him and I knew that Eisenhower was a lot better president in my estimation. I might have been wrong, but I knew he was a lot better, and I campaigned for him right down there in the court house in Lovington.

BURROUGHS: You, a Democrat, campaigning for Eisenhower.

MR. DUNLAP: And I campaigned for him, right there in the court house. They got the saying out that "Dunlap carried the court house for Eisenhower". And I was campaigning, I think the same time, for John Burroughs.

BURROUGHS: That was in (1958).

MRS. DUNLAP: Yes, that was in '58.

MR. DUNLAP: Some of them out there at the little meetings we had around, they wanted me. They offered to pay me if I'd go to campaign for them. I says, "No, I don't do...you don't hire me to campaign for nobody." I just campaign for the one that I think is the one for the place. And I know that John swamped them down there, but they come to me before the next election (I didn't go to John, I didn't have a chance) and they says, "John let too many of those little old politicians sit in that office and help him run the state, and we don't like it."

BURROUGHS: Well, you know, when you get up there, you have 32 counties to consider, not just Roosevelt or not just Lea.

MR. DUNLAP: I know it. That's what I tried to tell them, but you know, I just give up and quit.

BURROUGHS: Well, that often happens, about profit being without honor in your own county. And I think maybe John Burroughs feels like Washington Lindsay now--he's had it.

MR. DUNLAP: Well, I campaigned for him the last time, but I got turned down several times on him, because that was the main story they would tell me.

BURROUGHS: Yes.

MR. DUNLAP: And I tell you what right now, I wish you'd cut that thing off...

BURROUGHS: We'd like to talk about this school consolidation issue.

MR. DUNLAP: For the good of the state as a whole, today we need consolidation. But if our state keeps developing like it will do, I'm pretty sure that in ten or twenty years from now, we'll need these rural schools that we're abandoning today. We'll need them again.

BURROUGHS: Why do you think that we'll need them again?

MR. DUNLAP: Because you don't make any more land, and you do have more people, and the country's going to get settled thicker and thicker. Right over there at Ft. Sumner, where they used to have the average farm at 160 acres or more, they don't average 20 or 30 acres to the farm.

BURROUGHS: So now you think that the...

(End of Side 1)

(Side 2)

MR. DUNLAP: ...worth nothing. And there's lots of taxpayer's money put into that house.

BURROUGHS: But what do you think about the idea....

MR. DUNLAP: And Rogers, the same thing. And Cousey's got a good little school system--it's way off down there by itself. When they consolidated, they put the Dora community clear to the Texas line on the north side of it, clear to the Texas line on the south side of it. The State guys, the politicians are the ones that did it. And I was down there and they had 53 little irrigation wells that someday will be making a living for a little family (you know, truck farming or something) if they had the school system there. But if they don't, there won't be anything.

BURROUGHS: They'll be moving out. Well now, they're supposed to be doing that because the quality of education offered in those schools doesn't enable the student to compete with graduates of other schools. What do you think about that?

MR. DUNLAP: Oh, I'll let you go out here and ask Dr. Meister who his best students are, and he'll invariably tell you his kids from the little country schools.

BURROUGHS: You agree with that, Mrs. Dunlap?

MRS. DUNLAP: Well, they get individual attention in the smaller schools where they do not in the larger schools, but I don't say that Portales is a large school either. However, the others, maybe their schooling is not the type that they would get in Portales.

BURROUGHS: Well, there's so many more things anti to the cirriculum, rather than straight academic reading, writing, and arithmetic that they used to get in the old schools.

MR. DUNLAP: You go down to Causey and look at the pennants in that restaurant over there that that school has won--state pennants on everything you can think of. And then go to Portales and see if they've got anything like that many...no!

BURROUGHS: Well now, are you talking about basketball?

MR. DUNLAP: No, I'm talking about just pennants of educational achievement.

BURROUGHS: There's a present discussion going on between Floyd now and Elida. And we have the former state senator Ike Morgan being on one side of the fence--his son-in-law, Wendell Best, who is president of the school board down there I believe, and he is differing with the present state senator. Do you care to comment on that situation and what are we going to do about it? This question is before the legislature right now.

MR. DUNLAP: Well, I personally believe that Bob Wood is wrong. For the future of the country, I believe he's wrong, because we're going to have to have room for people, and when we have to have more room for people, they're going to have to settle the country up thicker and thicker and thicker.

BURROUGHS: They're going to have to come back to the farm.

MR. DUNLAP: They're going to have to get somewhere to live.

BURROUGHS: What do you think, Mrs. Dunlap? Do you care to express yourself?

MRS. DUNLAP: Well, maybe I shouldn't, but I agree with Mr. Wood. I think that he has a long, long look at it, and not just the immediate consolidation of the school.

BURROUGHS: Well, I think it's rather interesting that Senator Morgan was not able to hold the committee vote the last year of his office. And it was voted against, and while he's still very much of the same idea. It seems that the vote will naturally go against him. Well, we've talked about controversial things, now let's go back to the old times. You have a whole list of things to tell me, and let's start with that wagon-wheel measurement of the section.

MR. DUNLAP: Let me close that off and read you what I wrote here just a minute....

(Tape is cut off, and resumes shortly)

BURROUGHS: We were going to talk about measuring section land with a buggy wheel, or a wagon wheel. How did you do that?

MR. DUNLAP: We'd tie a prominent rag on the spoke of the back wheel, because it didn't wobble as much as the front, and the driver of the outfit would have a compass, so he would try to go working straight west or straight north or south, with his compass. And then the other one set there and count those things as they turned over.

BURROUGHS: Sat in the back of the wagon?

MR. DUNLAP: Yes, and that was a job that I sure didn't appreciate.

BURROUGHS: Well now, how did you go about counting them though?

MR. DUNLAP: I just said, "One, two, three, four, five...", and if you don't think that gets monotonous, you try it a round.

BURROUGHS: And you get up to one hundred and mark it down.

MR. DUNLAP: When I'd get to one hundred, I'd put a cross and start over. And whenever I'd get to five hundred I'd put a cross over it like that.

And it just takes so many rounds of that wheel to make a quarter of a mile, and it takes so many rounds to make a mile, and it wouldn't miss but very little. Then that wasn't legal surveying but you'd know about where your land was enough that when you went to file on it, you'd know about what you were going to get before you had it legally surveyed by a high priced surveyor.

BURROUGHS: Well now, did you do this to help your dad as a locater on the section?

MR. DUNLAP: I did it when he told me to do it, that's all I know.

BURROUGHS: Well now, how long did you continue that system?

MR. DUNLAP: Oh well, that didn't last very many years. It got to where we had fences and things, and there was another interesting thing about fences. A rancher would not want Tom, Dick, and Harry to be tying on to his fence, so he'd lay back about five feet from the line. He'd have his line here, and he'd set back about five foot and build a good fence, but he wouldn't let that other man tie on to him, or put a fence across that five foot space in any way, because that was his land. Used to say, well a man put stakes out across there. Well listen, that's this man's land. He can just come over there and cut them out and throw away.

BURROUGHS: What happened to that little five foot alley then if the other fellow put up his fence? You mean that there was a little strip is between?

MR. DUNLAP: The people would get so they couldn't get along. I knew two men to kill each other over a little strip like that.

BURROUGHS: Now, was that in this county?

MR. DUNLAP: It was over at the Dunlap's.

BURROUGHS: Oh? Do you care to relate the circumstances? You don't need to call the names, but just the circumstances.

MR. DUNLAP: Well, this one man had a good fence, and the other one didn't have, and he always overgrazed his pasture, and he'd cut his fence, or kick the other man's fence down, let his cattle in there. And the man just got tired of it, took hired hands and went over there, and putting up this good five wire fence. And the other man came over there with a six-shooter and his son with the intention of killing him, and got killed in the act.

BURROUGHS: Oh, himself.

MR. DUNLAP: And I was the first one there--the first one they sent to get.

BURROUGHS: Did you live nearby?

MR. DUNLAP: Oh, about five miles or there, or six.

BURROUGHS: What year was that?

MR. DUNLAP: About 1920. No, no, wait a minute. It must have been '21, '22, because 1920 they elected me--when we started to move our cattle to Roswell--they all got together the first night and put me in charge of driving over 2000 calves to Roswell to deliver them to the McCoy brothers that was buying them. And they got together because they knew that this fellow had a...well now, that oughtn't go....

BURROUGHS: That oughtn't to go in this story. So they sent for you when the man was killed?

MR. DUNLAP: Yes, they sent for me and we got a jury there and Dr. Braswell had just come to Ft. Summer and, of course, my uncle was sheriff. And he sent Dr. Braswell down there to help hold the inquest. And they

put me in charge. And Dr. Braswell says, "He was killed by unknown hands", and I says, "Killed by unknown hands, nothing. Tom White shot him in the belly." He says, "No, that's not our place to decide. We're just supposed to tell what we see, and the jury decides who killed him." So, I finally signed the darned papers.

BURROUGHS: Oh? Well, did the jury then convict the man?

MR. DUNLAP: They wouldn't even convict him.

BURROUGHS: Why?

MR. DUNLAP: They didn't even bill him. The other man was already shooting at him like that in twenty foot of him when Tom jumped and whirled around to his old open-top Ford car and jerked the back seat up and grabbed a rifle and set down like this under the smoke and shot right here, five inches of the stomach, and the bullet landed in his backbone. That's what the doctor said-- now, I didn't cut in there and see, but the doctor said....

BURROUGHS: And that was killed by unknown hands then?

MR. DUNLAP: Yes, killed by unknown.... I got the bullet, I got the cartridge in there in my trunk right now that killed that man, I think.

BURROUGHS: Well, maybe we ought to put that on display in the Roosevelt County Museum.

MRS. DUNLAP: It didn't happen in Roosevelt County though.

MR. DUNLAP: It was in De Baca.

BURROUGHS: It was in De Baca County then.

MR. DUNLAP: So they didn't even bill him for doing it. And then Dr. Braswell told Dewey Langston, says, "You know, they've even got a rule over there west of the river. If you go to carrying a gun, those sons-of-guns make you dig your own grave, 'cause that graveyard up there where we buried them is as hard as the dickens. Takes six men all day to dig a hole there." That day while we was digging a hole for him, we made a resolution there that anybody we caught--these homesteaders, ex-servicemen, or anybody--carrying a gun, to go dig his grave, or put that gun up, one. I was just kind of a free gratis deputy under my uncle, I never drewed a dime for doing it. Whenever somebody went to doing something, why some of the others say, "Why, so and so's carrying a gun", I'd just say to him as unconcerned as I would to you and tell him, I says, "You put that gun up. We've got a little room down here. You go dig your own grave or leave that gun at home."

MRS. DUNLAP: We're supposed to be reminiscing about Roosevelt County.

BURROUGHS: Well, that's a sign of the times. Let's come back to Roosevelt County now. What else to you have written down there on your paper of old-time recollections?

MR. DUNLAP: Well, about that measuring the land, and then....

MRS. DUNLAP: Well, fencing, I think you talked....

BURROUGHS: You told about the fencing.

MR. DUNLAP: Oh, it was heavy, heavy penalty in that day and time to cut a fence. You catch a man cutting a fence and you sent him to the pen for a year or better.

MRS. DUNLAP: Or leaving a gate open.

MR. DUNLAP: Leave a gate open is a pretty heavy fine.

BURROUGHS: Well, now did they do that by accident or on purpose?

MR. DUNLAP: Well, they better not leave it, and if they cut it, you'd know it was on purpose. And if they left the gate open, of course they always said that they didn't aim to, but the jury didn't decide that way. If the cattle got out and caused some trouble, they generally fined him enough that he didn't do it anymore.

BURROUGHS: