

taught two years; then Melrose and taught four years, then back to Alamogordo and put in several years. How many years did he say he put in, Jack? Forty or something. Quite a few years that he taught.

Burroughs : That establishes you very firmly right here, doesn't it?

Greathouse, B. : Yes, It does.

Burroughs : I noticed that you were down at the Floyd reunion the first part of the month.

Greathouse, B. : Yes, I went to school the first nine years of my schooling at Floyd, then to Causey, and I graduated at Melrose. My brother, he graduated at Floyd in 1947. Just he and I are the only two children. He teaches at Farmington now, or he is a principal up there.

Burroughs : How many schools are there now operating in Roosevelt County?

Greathouse, B. : Oh, let's see, Causey is consolidated. Four I believe.

Burroughs : There used to be dozens, didn't there?

Greathouse, B. : Well, the way dad used to tell about it there was about a dozen right there at Floyd. There was a little place called Hawkins, and I don't know, just different ones--little branches out from Floyd that had schools.

Burroughs : The transportation was such that the children couldn't go very far. I noticed there is a very interesting old photograph here of the first school bus that was run in Portales. Can you tell me about that school bus at Floyd, Mr. Greathouse?

Greathouse : I can tell you about that school bus at Floyd.

Burroughs : That's what I am talking about.

Greathouse : At Floyd?

Burroughs : Yes, sir.

Greathouse : I drove one of them and looked after the other two.

Burroughs : Where did you get the buses?

Greathouse : I don't know, they got them and brought them here from back east somewhere. We've got an old picture of that.

Burroughs : That's what we're talking about. Jack, didn't you tell me those buses were built up?

Greathouse, J. : It was a homemade body, in other words a wood frame body.

Greathouse : Yes, it was already made.

Greathouse, J. : Was it made in a factory?

Greathouse : Yes.

Greathouse, J. : I guess it would be a Model T as far as the make of the car or the truck?

Greathouse : Yes.

Burroughs : How many students did they carry then?

Greathouse : Twenty-five in a wagon, I guess was about average.

Burroughs : I noticed Louis Smith said that he drove a school bus when he was thirteen years old. That's a little different from the present day school buses that have to have trained drivers.

Greathouse, J. : I believed these three buses occurred shortly after Floyd was consolidated, in the year 1922, wasn't it?

Burroughs : '22 or '23, I think.

Greathouse, J. : '22 or '23. I noticed according to this picture they were fancy, they had white sidewall tires.

made it, it was a wooden framed body bus. The steel buses didn't come on until the late '30's, '38, '39, or maybe the '40's--as far as what we call the modern steel body bus. Cleo Eminger drove my school bus. I don't know whether you recall the Eminger family in the Floyd area or not. Cleo Eminger was my school bus driver and I believe he was missing in action in World War II, in the Phillipines, I believe... my school bus driver, if I recall right.

Burroughs : While we're talking about buses, Mrs. Greathouse, didn't your father have an old car, a rather ancient vintage that's still on display at the university now?

Mrs. Greathouse : Yes, he did. He bought that car from a doctor that used to be in Elida.

Burroughs : What doctor was that? You don't remember?

Mrs. Greathouse : My mother could tell you, but I can't. He bought it to drive a little team of mules through it and before he took the motor out, my brother and I would ride in this little car. One would have to push it to get it in high gear on hard ground and then the other one would jump on the back and we would ride all around the place, there. We had fun riding that car.

Burroughs : Was that a Model T?

Mrs. Greathouse : The one that is out here at the museum at the college?

Burroughs : I think that is a Model T, I'm not sure.

Mrs. Greathouse : No, I believe it's a Buick, but I'm not sure. But it isn't a Model T.

Burroughs : That's the one in the museum?

- Burroughs : They did?
- Greathouse, J. : They had inner-tubes in them, didn't they?
- Greathouse : Yes.
- Greathouse, J. : They weren't solid tires, they had inner-tubes in them.
- Burroughs : They had plenty of ventilation it looks like, too.
- Greathouse : Those windows dropped down in between the walls.
- Burroughs : So, in good weather you just drove with natural air conditioning.
Where did you park these buses and where did you take care of them?
- Greathouse : Whoever was driving them drove them to the end of the line, and that's where you took care of them.
- Burroughs : You just went around maintaining them, then?
- Mrs. Greathouse : You had a little shop there at Floyd where you did repair on them, through the day, while they [the children] were at school.
- Burroughs : How long did they last?
- Greathouse : I don't know. I drove one, one year, and then someone else drove them the next two or three years.
- Burroughs : But how long did the bus last? I mean before they had to be replaced, these wooden framed bodies.
- Greathouse : Four or five years, I guess.
- Burroughs : And then they got the steel body regular bus...
- Greathouse, J. : Well, these steel bodies didn't come in until much later, Mrs. Burroughs. When I started to school, I guess I was in about the sixth grade at Floyd, the I rode on was what I call the homemade. Even though a cabinet-maker might have

Mrs. Greathouse : It's the one in the museum.

Burroughs : I have often wondered how they got that car inside...

Mrs. Greathouse : They got that car from daddy.

Burroughs : In the museum though, how did they get that car inside the building?

Mrs. Greathouse : I don't know.

Burroughs : Do you know, Mr. Greathouse?

Greathouse : I don't know.

Mrs. Greathouse : We had a little team of mules for that in the buggy for a long, long time.

Burroughs : Did you use that as a personal conveyance, or delivery car, or what?

Mrs. Greathouse : No, we went to town to get groceries. We went all over the country to socials and things like that.

Burroughs : I've heard of mule-drawn street cars, but now I've never heard of a mule-drawn car.

Greathouse : Did you ever see one?

Burroughs : No, I didn't.

Greathouse : I've seen one.

Burroughs : You have?

Greathouse : Yes.

Burroughs : Where was that?

Greathouse : In Ohio. It had one horse that pulled this streetcar.

Burroughs : Yes, I've heard my grandmother, who lived in Kentucky, tell about that. My parents came from Kentucky, so they have shown me pictures of those. Jack Greathouse now has something

I asked him about a while ago. I believe he's located this; it's regarding the first county commissioners.

Greathouse, J. : When New Mexico became a state the county commissioners of each county was authorized to levy money for building and maintaining roads, and this was to be provided for by the commissioners appointed to each county. Elida received two appointments by the governor at that time as Roosevelt County Commissioners and one from Elida. Of course, it's hard to realize now, but I've heard my grandfather Kinsolving mention that Elida used to always out-vote Portales, because they had more population than Portales. Of course, this changed in later years.

Burroughs : Now what years was that?

Greathouse, J. : Right after statehood.

Burroughs : 1912.

Greathouse, J. : 1912, yes. It was amazing, but there was great opposition to the first road building in Roosevelt County. People didn't want to pay for it. They didn't think they needed any right-of-ways as we think of right-of-ways---thought the little roads were just fine. My grandfather looked forward for the time there would be a nice dirt road from Elida to Portales.

Burroughs : That was before the days of automobiles, then?

Greathouse, J. : Automobiles were just coming into being at that time when they were talking about building roads. So the first roads were built for the wagon travel, yes.

- Burroughs : And those were the ruts? Just the narrow ruts. How much right-of-way did you say they were asking?
- Greathouse, J. : I think my grandfather Kinsolving used to advocate those early years would like a right-of-way of about sixty feet. People would laugh at him and thought that was too wide. Of course, our modern roads, some of them are 300 feet right-of-ways.
- Burroughs : Did he make an estimate on the traffic that might be going between Portales and Elida to justify that much roadway?
- Greathouse, J. : It seems like he referred to one time his estimate was, that he was working on the road project, that they would see the day where there would be two or three hundred cars in Portales.
- Burroughs : In the town of Portales?
- Greathouse, J. : Yes, in the town of Portales. People thought he was crazy because at that time there was only one or two cars in the whole county.
- Burroughs : Times have certainly changed now. I can't even estimate the number of cars. Is there anything else that your grandfather advocated as a county commissioner that would be of interest?
- Greathouse, J. : No, I don't believe so. He was strong on good roads for people to go back and forth to trading centers, haul supplies out, to be able to come into a town to do business, and so forth.
- Burroughs : Floyd and Elida are both in Roosevelt County, but where was his home? Was that closer to Elida than Floyd?

- Greathouse, J. : Yes, it was ten miles north of Elida, whereas Greathouse Ranch is west of Floyd, 6 miles upon mesa country, which is about 500 feet higher than Portales. This mesa even today is known as the Greathouse Mesa.
- Burroughs : What member of the family still owns that?
- Greathouse, J. : My father is the only original Greathouse with any property west of Floyd, now. My uncle Charlie Greathouse, one of the last ones remaining west of Floyd, sold out about nine years ago and moved to Oregon.
- Burroughs : So you, Mr. Clarence Greathouse, are the only one that still owns that property? And that was the original property that you filed on in 1907 then?
- Greathouse : It was changed around some because I traded my quarter for a quarter, and I got mine altogether.
- Burroughs : I see, you added to it then? Your house stands on your own property and you're no longer in a corner of a section then?
- Greathouse : No. (all laugh)
- Burroughs : What happened to those little houses after you began to consolidate your land and everything?
- Greathouse : They just fell down.
- Burroughs : They weren't very substantial, were they? Is there any other recollection of the early days of your grandfather, Jack, that you would like to add?
- Greathouse, J. : My grandfather Isaac R. Greathouse passed away while I was extremely young and I really never knew him. But the stories handed down through his children and friends that knew him

and the story I make up for him coming to this country, even though it was for his health, he did have a dream of coming out to the wide open spaces of America. The story I really made up except it's partly true, back in Ohio they lived on the river bottoms and they would always lose crops by floods. So they came to New Mexico and one of these locaters showing the land west of Floyd, this Greathouse Mesa, which I just mentioned was 500 feet higher in elevation than the general Portales basin. When he arrived at this mesa, he said, "Well, we will never be washed away here." My joke is since we are in an area of limited rainfall, my joke is when he picked this spot out that it never would be washed away, that it never has rained since. (all laugh) In that this is basically a dry land country.

Burroughs : That's right. That mesa does look very arid at times, it surely does.

Greathouse, J. : Of course, Betty and I, as the younger generation we are proud of our heritage and our grandparents who came to New Mexico and homesteaded. This is something a lot of people do not have when both parents came the hard way and worked hard, homesteaded and helped make America, we call it.

Burroughs : I certainly agree with that and that's one of the reasons I wanted to talk to this particular branch, because I did know that both sides were homesteaders and long time residents. Mr. Greathouse, what can you add?

- Greathouse : We went sixty miles after posts at Quay. Then we went 125 west and got posts and hauled them.
- Burroughs : To make your fences?
- Greathouse : Yes.
- Burroughs : Will you comment on that fence cutting and why you had to be so careful in fencing in your crops? What was happening down here during those days, between the nesters and the ranchers?
- Greathouse : There was quite a confusion among them.
- Burroughs : What ranch was close to your homestead? Who was operating in that area?
- Greathouse : Charlie Hart was operating just over the fence a mile with fifty or seventy-five sections.
- Burroughs : Who controlled the water hole?
- Greathouse : He had water places on this ranch.
- Burroughs : When you came in and filed did you infringe on any of his range land?
- Greathouse : No.
- Burroughs : You just fenced in what the locater found for you?
- Greathouse : We didn't fence much those days.
- Burroughs : How could you keep your crop from being destroyed by the cattle?
- Greathouse : We herded the cattle.
- Burroughs : What do you mean by that?
- Greathouse : We had to drive the cattle after grass and let them graze and bring them back that night and put them in the corral.
- Burroughs : You did that every day?

- Greathouse : Yes.
- Burroughs : I certainly am surprised at that. I thought that the cattle just roamed except at round up time.
- Greathouse : They did over west, over west it was that way, kind of.
- Burroughs : I see. How many cattle did you herd back and forth morning and evening?
- Greathouse : I don't know. Two hundred, I imagine, or three hundred.
- Burroughs : Then you had a corral built where they were herded in at night? Open, it didn't have any kind of shed or protection from the...
- Greathouse : Yes, there was a shed on one side.
- Burroughs : Did you ever lose any from blizzards and bad weather?
- Greathouse : We lost twenty-five or thirty in one winter there, from blizzards. We had a wind break and the wind would blow through the boards and it would freeze the cattle's legs.
- Burroughs : That was pretty rough weather wasn't it? Many ranchers lost I'm sure... Go ahead.
- Greathouse, J. : My father used to go with my grandfather Isaac R. Greathouse to Quay, New Mexico and Tucumcari. And that my grandfather, Isaac R., was a primitive Baptist preacher and he would ride across country on horse and sometimes in a buggy and preach at Quay, I believe, the community of Quay, south of Tucumcari. My father, Clarence Greathouse, would go with him many times, I don't know whether they would stay in between...
- Greathouse : We stayed over there with Brice Woody at Quay.
- Greathouse, J. : You'd stay a day or two at a time?
- Greathouse : Yes, two or three days.

- Burroughs : How long did it take you to get from the Floyd community to Quay?
- Greathouse : It took two days.
- Burroughs : That was by wagon or horseback?
- Greathouse : Yes.
- Burroughs : That's about eighty miles across country, isn't it?
- Greathouse : It was sixty miles from our place to where we went.
- Burroughs : Sixty miles? Then you cut the cedar post there in the breaks and brought back to make your fence. Can you comment on the time that there was so much rain about the time a baby was born in your family? I noticed in some of the material you showed me that there was quite a story about someone going after the doctor and having to stand up in the buggy.
- Mrs. Greathouse : That was my sister.
- Burroughs : Would you tell that Mrs. Greathouse?
- Mrs. Greathouse : There was a big rain and the big draw northwest of Elida was flooded. Daddy went on and got this doctor and the doctor wouldn't come, you see, it was a bad storm.
- Burroughs : What doctor was that?
- Mrs. Greathouse : I couldn't tell you. He was from Elida. And daddy went on in, Dr. Young, from Elida and they had to stand up in the buggy seat and the team swam through with the buggy coming back. My sister was born about midnight.
- Burroughs : That's amazing considering the story that you said about the Greathouse Mesa and hadn't had any rain since. To think that there had ever been that much rain down there.

- Mrs. Greathouse : We lived northwest of Elida on the claim they filed on and then came out here.
- Burroughs : The water really drained down in a low place.
- Mrs. Greathouse : Yes, in a low place. Some people by the name of Flowers lived there.
- Burroughs : I'd like to ask Ross to say something. Ross, is the fourth generation from the original homestead Greathouse and the third generation here in the living room tonight. How old are you, Ross?
- Greathouse, R. : I am twelve years old.
- Burroughs : What grade are you in?
- Greathouse, R. : I am in the seventh.
- Burroughs : That's the first year of junior high, isn't it?
- Greathouse, R. : Yes, ma'am.
- Burroughs : Tell me about your brother, how old is he?
- Greathouse, R. : He is fifteen.
- Burroughs : He is in high school?
- Greathouse, R. : Yes, he is a sophomore.
- Burroughs : What do you do mostly that you like in school, what is your favorite subject?
- Greathouse, R. : Noon break. (all laugh)
- Burroughs : That's a typical boy answer. Tell me about your dog that barks out here.
- Greathouse, R. : His name is Wishbone.
- Burroughs : How long have you had him?
- Greathouse, R. : I've had him about five years, I guess.

Burroughs : What kind is he?

Greathouse, R. : He's a Mastiff.

Burroughs : He really takes care of the Greathouse clan, doesn't he?

Greathouse, R. : Yes, ma'am.

Burroughs : Thank you, all of you. It's been so much pleasure talk.
Is there any statement that you've made that you wish restricted
on this tape? You are willing for people to listen to it?

Greathouse : I believe so.

Burroughs : Part of the Oral History Program for Eastern New Mexico
University. Thank you and good night.