

HILL : And stayed there awhile, a few days, and then came on back to Portales. And then from Portales out toward Richland and out in that way and then down through the country to Redland. It was, our place was about four miles south of Redland and there wasn't any Lingo there.

BURROUGHS: No Lingo at that time?

HILL : No, and it wasn't for a long time after we even left there.

BURROUGHS: Well, let's go back to that covered wagon. What did you have in it besides the five gallon keg of water?

HILL : Well, we had two trunks. We had our belongings, nearly all that we had, packed into the trunks.

BURROUGHS: In the trunks.

HILL : And then had a washing machine.

BURROUGHS: A washing machine?

HILL : And a sewing machine.

BURROUGHS: Well, you were very up to date in 1910.

HILL : Well, this washing machine was, you washed by hand, you know. It had kind of a rub board on it. . .

BURROUGHS: You washed by hand and then had a wringer, but. . .

HILL : You had a wringer, but we didn't. . . And we had, the washing machine it had. . . It was kind of like a rub board at the bottom.

BURROUGHS: Yes, corrugated copper board.

HILL : And it fit into that and you put the clothes in there and just work it back and forth. It was open, you could see it and all.

BURROUGHS: Well how did you turn it? What was the power that turned the motor?

HILL : It was our own steam.

BURROUGHS: Oh, elbow grease motor. But it kept your hands from having to do all that hard scrubbing on the board.

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: What else did you have in the wagon besides those two valuable machines?

HILL : Well, we had our bedding, I don't know what all was with that.

BURROUGHS: Had you carried bedsteads?

HILL : No. And, had two feather beds, and our quilts, and things. My father, usually. . . When we camped it was in the summertime, and he slept outside and mother and I slept inside. But, one night, now, where we traveled--got four miles from camp in Roswell, after we left Roswell--why I slept outside that night. My father was sick and I remember sleeping outside.

BURROUGHS: Well it was beautiful and cool and a sky full of stars, wasn't it?

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: How did you cook?

HILL : Well, I think we had a. . .

BURROUGHS: Oil stove?

HILL : No, no we didn't have. . . After we got into our cabin, after we got into our home, why we had a cook stove. We burned, we burned a lot of shinary. We had that on the place.

BURROUGHS: What is shinary?

HILL : Well, it's little shin oaks, you know. It's not very tall and there's just so much of it dead all around over the country that you could just go out and pick up loads full of it.

BURROUGHS: How long did it take to gather that wood?

HILL : Well, it would take all day to get a load, and we, a lot of us burned cowchips. We didn't burn many cowchips.

BURROUGHS: Tell me about gathering cowchips.

HILL : Well, it's not any trouble at all. You have a sack and you just gather them and put them in the sack, you know, and when you get it full, take it and empty it and go back and get some more.

BURROUGHS: Go back for another.

HILL : And usually we'd go where the watering places was over in Texas, near and around close to. . .

BURROUGHS: You'd leave home in a wagon then; to go gather?

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: How long did those cowchips last? Did they burn up pretty quick.

HILL : Yes, they burned up pretty quick. But, that's all a lot of people had to burn.

BURROUGHS: Were there buffalo chips mixed with it, too?

HILL : No, I don't think so.

BURROUGHS: Just the cow chips from the range cattle.

HILL : Yes, and there's a lot of range cattle.

BURROUGHS: Yes, I'm sure there were. Did your father have cattle on his place?

HILL : Well, he had a few. He had about a hundred head, maybe a little more than a hundred head, I don't remember how many. But, we sold them just before the depression you know everything went down in the panic.

BURROUGHS: What year was that?

HILL : I think it was in about 1918, 1921 there. . .

BURROUGHS: 1918, 1920, it was right after the world war then, first world war?

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: And the cattle prices dropped?

HILL : Yes, they did. They sure did.

BURROUGHS: Didn't that put a lot of ranchers out of business?

HILL : Yes, it did, a lot of them.

BURROUGHS: Well what did they do then?

HILL : Well, I don't know what they did. The ones that didn't have so many cattle or didn't have so much land, why, I guess they farmed. I know there was some south of us that farmed and one about six miles he had a pretty good ranch and I don't know what he did. He lived down there awhile and then finally he moved back to Texas, but he lost everything.

BURROUGHS: He lost his claim then when he moved back?

HILL : Yes. He just bought this ranch from Mr. George Anderson.

BURROUGHS: Well when people lost their claim like that, who had title to it? What happened to the land and how. . .

HILL : It went back to the government.

BURROUGHS: Went back to the government?

BURROUGHS: Went back to the government?

HILL : Yes, if they hadn't proved up on it. If they had proved up on it why it was theirs and they could do what they pleased with it, sell it or do what they want to.

BURROUGHS: Yes. Well did some of the ranchers then take advantage of that and get a lot of land pretty cheap?

HILL : No, no, I don't think they did because in after years, now, the men that had money had bought up a lot of land.

BURROUGHS: Can you tell me any of those people in this county who bought up a lot of land at that time?

HILL : I don't believe that I know of anyone that bought at that time.

BURROUGHS: Well what about later?

HILL : Later there was quite a few. Now there's. . . In Lingo, why, this Balko that's here. . .

BURROUGHS: Yes.

HILL : He bought a lot of land. He has a lot of land. I don't know how many acres, how many hundred acres. He has several hundred acres in crops you know, maybe a thousand acres. And then, in the Dora community, Joe Burney has a lot of land. He bought a lot of places. Then Biddie Hayes has, too, and. . .

BURROUGHS: Don't those people who have large holdings more or less still live on that land now?

HILL : Well some of them do and some of them don't. Joe Burney doesn't, he lives in town.

BURROUGHS: In town.

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: But he still farms it? Do any of his children live down there?

HILL : No, they don't. But J. D. Hayes, he farms. I don't know how many hundred acres he has, but he does farm his own.

BURROUGHS: Is there a tendency for the people to move away and come into town now?

HILL : Yes, they do.

BURROUGHS: You don't have very many old time folks still down on the places?

HILL : No. No. Well nearly all the old timers, the ones that were there when I first went there, are gone. They're passed away you know, they were really old. My mother has been dead forty some odd years and my father had been dead thirty three or four years.

BURROUGHS: Well it's been sixty-two years since 1910 when you came.

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: How old were you when you came?

HILL : Twenty.

BURROUGHS: So you have seen many years and many changes.

HILL : Yes.

BURROUGHS: Thank you Mrs. Hill.

HILL : You're quite welcome.

BURROUGHS: It had been a privilege to talk to you. Mr. Bilberry, will introduce these gentlemen to me and let me get their names and where they came from?

BILBERRY : I sure will. This is Mr. J. B. Kizer from Lingo. This is Mr. Hiner, lives here. He's my brother-in-law. And that's Mr. Bill Perkins. He's from down south of Lingo.

BURROUGHS: Mr. Perkins, will you tell me when you came to the Lingo community?

PERKINS : Well I came to the Bluit community just south of Lingo, but we're all in the same part of the country down there, anyhow, you might say.

BURROUGHS: What year was that?

PERKINS : 1915.

BURROUGHS: Where did you come from?

PERKINS : Oh I came from down close to Fort Worth. Jack County, Texas.

BURROUGHS: Most everybody came from Texas.

PERKINS : Yes, that's right.

BURROUGHS: Did you know Jack County Terrell?

PERKINS : Yes, I knew Jack County Terrell.

BURROUGHS: I talked with some of his folks yesterday at Floyd. Were you on a homestead?

PERKINS : Yes ma'am.

BURROUGHS: Sir, will you tell me when you came, I forgot . . .

HINER : It was June 1934. The first time I . . .

BURROUGHS: You're not an old timer.

HINER : No, not really an old timer. I just got out of CC camp in Oklahoma and I came out here with my brother.

BURROUGHS: Who was your brother?

HINER : Saler[?] Hiner.

BURROUGHS: Hiner.

HINER : Yes, Saler[?].

BURROUGHS: Now he was a homesteader down there?

HINER : No, he had been there oh, four or five years before that. He really wasn't a homesteader.

BURROUGHS: I see. And, when did you come?

KIZER : Well we moved here in '30.

BURROUGHS: Well you're not an old timer, either.

KIZER : No.

BURROUGHS: But still, that's forty years ago.

KIZER : Yes.

BURROUGHS: Thank you very much. I'm speaking to Mrs. Ruth Bilberry. Will you please tell me when you first came to the Lingo community?

BILBERRY(R): I came there in September of 1910.

BURROUGHS : How old were you then?

BILBERRY(R): I was about eighteen.

BURROUGHS : Did you come in a covered wagon with your family?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, my husband. I didn't have any family at that time.

BURROUGHA : Oh, you were married.

BILBERRY(R): Yes, we had been married just about a year.

BURROUGHS : What was his given name?

BILBERRY(R): Olin Bilberry.

BURROUGHS : Olin Bilberry.

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Where did you stay?

BILBERRY(R): We settled on our claim.

BURROUGHS : Will you tell me about that?

BILBERRY(R): Well you know it wasn't the same when we were there and we just staked off our claim and built a half dugout and moved in.

BURROUGHS : Now, did you help him?

BILBERRY(R): Oh yes.

BURROUGHS : Will you tell me about digging that? I'm very interested in knowing how it was built.

BILBERRY(R): Well he took a spade, I mean, what we called a "slip." It was. . . now what is the name of it? I can't think . . . But he took, hitched to it and come out at the doorway, you know, and he could dig that down.

BURROUGHS : He kept digging down.

BILBERRY(R): Down yes, but of course he had to take his spade and straighten up the walls, but he'd go out the same place right out at the doorway each time and he dug it about four feet deep and he walled it on up with lumber.

BURROUGHS : Did you have earth walls or did the lumber go from the floor up?

BILBERRY(R): No, it just went to about, the dirt was about four feet and then the lumber was about six feet I guess.

BURROUGHS : Six feet tall.

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : So that made the whole thing about between eight and ten feet tall?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : What kind of floor did you have?

BILBERRY(R): A dirt floor.

BURROUGHS : Hard packed?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : And cool.

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Tell me about the windows and the doorway.

BILBERRY(R): Well we had steps going up in the doorway you know, and just built kind of a little shelter over the steps with the roof, you know. It had a shingle roof on it and we just had steps going up there, and the windows was, we just had one. The door was to the east and the window to the west and it was in the, up above the dirt, you see.

BURROUGHS : Yes. Well what did you burn for fuel?

BILBERRY(R): Mostly cow chips.

BURROUGHS : Who gathered those?

BILBERRY(R): Well, I did.

BURROUGHS : I bet it was you.

BILBERRY(R): Yes. And then, when my husband, we had cattle you know, and when he could, he would help me and that's the way we . . .

BURROUGHS : How long did it take to gather enough for a day's fuel?

BILBERRY(R): Oh, it took about three hours I imagine and he did a lot of grubbing, the mesquite grubs, you know. I don't know if you've been down in that community or not, but you know there's a lot of tall mesquites there.

BURROUGHS : Yes.

BILBERRY(R): I'd say they are ten or twelve feet tall, you know.

BURROUGHS : Yes.

BILBERRY(R): And he would dig out those mesquite grubs, and he'd sell some of those and then we'd burn some of them.

BURROUGHS : Where did you get your water?

BILBERRY(R): Well my father-in-law drilled a well. That's the first thing we done when we got there. And we had, we got, he got a sixteen foot wheel put over a four inch outfit, piping you know, and we had a good well there and we used that.

BURROUGHS : Was this a well that was drilled with some kind of core or was it hand dug?

BILBERRY(R): No, it was drilled with a well machine, you know.

BURROUGHS : I see. How much did that cost?

BILBERRY(R): Well, it didn't cost much. It didn't run but about 165 feet deep you know, and I think it was about a dollar a foot at that time.

BURROUGHS : Oh, well that's \$165.00.

BILBERRY(R): Yes, I know.

BURROUGHS : Alot of people didn't have that much money, did they?

BILBERRY(R): That's right, they didn't, no. But you know, they have to have water.

BURROUGHS : You can't stay without water.

BILBERRY(R): Yes, and lots of times people would come and settle, you know, and they'd depend on the cattle man for water, for their water.

BURROUGHS : Yes.

BILBERRY(R): That was the only way they could stay. They couldn't drill a well.

BURROUGHS : You mean they had to haul water?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, from our wells, you know, stock wells. They had to haul that water.

BURROUGHS : How far did they usually have to go?

BILBERRY(R): Oh, different distances you know. Some had probably seven or eight miles.

BURROUGHS : How long would that take in a wagon to make a trip, and fill the barrels and then go back?

BILBERRY(R): Oh they could do that in half a day.

BURROUGHS : About half a day?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Well that took time away from their work if they had to go very often, didn't it?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, it did. And, where they had to haul water for their stock, you know, well they probably had to haul water practically every day.

BURROUGHS : Did you ever know of an instance where some of the cowboys or ranchers shot the water barrels full of holes?

BILBERRY(R): No. No, we didn't live in that type of a community. We lived in, our community. . . there wasn't very many people around it, and they would. But the settlers coming in, you know, from different places, why it got pretty rough down there. They got lots of whiskey stills back in the sand hills, you know. They'd take them back in the sand hills and make lots of whiskey down in there. And. . .

BURROUGHS : Now who was doing this, the ranchers or the homesteaders?

BILBERRY(R): The homesteaders.

BURROUGHS : They made their own then?

BILBERRY(R): Oh, yes. They'd get by that way. They'd sell it, you know.

BURROUGHS : Oh, they did it as a means of livelihood?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Now what year was this?

BILBERRY(R): What?

BURROUGHS : Well about what year was this?

BILBERRY(R): Oh, it was about '14 or '15.

BURROUGHS : That was before national prohibition then?

BILBERRY(R): Well, yes.

BURROUGHS : Or was that the reason they were doing it, because of the national prohibition law?

BILBERRY(R): Well, no, they were doing it to make a living.

BURROUGHS : To make money?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : How much would a quart of hooch cost?

BILBERRY(R): I have no idea.

BURROUGHS : Well, they had to sell quite a lot, didn't they?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, but they could make a lot, too. I don't know what they make it out of but. . .

BURROUGHS : You don't know the ingredients?

BILBERRY(R): No, I sure don't.

BURROUGHS : Most of it was corn and what they called corn liquor, isn't that right?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, I imagine, and grain, you know. . .

BURROUGHS : Do you suppose they supplied the cattle with a little of their provisions?

BILBERRY(R): Well, I imagine they fed the mash to the hogs and I don't imagine they. . .

BURROUGHS : Did you have any tipsy hogs?

BILBERRY(R): No, no, we didn't. No we didn't. And, as I was going to tell you, when I first come to that country, I wasn't afraid to get on a horse and ride anywhere on the range, you know, but it got to where along later in 1918 around then, I wouldn't have went hardly anywhere by myself.

BURROUGHS : Oh really?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, they got. . .

BURROUGHS : You mean 1918, it was rough then?

BILBERRY(R): '15 and around that you know?

BURROUGHS : Yes.

BILBERRY(R): It was rough. They just really would shoot a horse from under a man or, and this one man disappeared and they never did find him down there.

BURROUGHS : Well, what was the reason for that kind of activity? Was it personal enmity or. . .

BILBERRY(R): Yes, yes, it was. You see they were on this special occasion I'm thinking about, the settlers moved in there and the nesters we called them. . .

BURROUGHS : Yes.

BILBERRY(R): Why they would, they didn't like it, you know, but they had to have the water to stay there. But if a cow got on, well they didn't like that you know, that's just the way it was.

BURROUGHS : Well that's what they called range wars then?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Is that right?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Do you recall the name of the man who disappeared?

BILBERRY(R): Golden was his name.

BURROUGHS : Golden?

BILBERRY(R): Yes.

BURROUGHS : Did he leave a family?

BILBERRY(R): No, he was a bachelor.

BURROUGHS : And they never knew what happened to him?

BILBERRY(R): Never knew what happened to him.

BURROUGHS : What year was that?

BILBERRY(R): Well it was along about '14 or '15 somewhere in there.

BURROUGHS : Well that's the wild and wooly west that we read about now, is that right?

BILBERRY(R): Yes, it was. It was at that time. It's gotten to where it was pretty rough there for a few years, but then it tamed down after some people began to move out, you know. I don't imagine that most of, well I know most of them didn't prove up on their land because they couldn't keep it. They couldn't make a living on it.

BURROUGHS : Well now, was that because they didn't. . . the crop failed?

BILBERRY(R): Well some, yes, some. And, you know, a lot of the nesters came in there, they didn't have teams to work with.

BURROUGHS : You mean they came without a wagon and team?

BILBERRY(R): There was one family moved in south of us that just dug a hole in the ground and put a wagon sheet over it, and my husband loaned him his wagon and team to go to Elida and meet his family, and that's what they had to do--they didn't have anything.

BURROUGHS : Oh, well how did they survive?

BILBERRY(R): Well, they, a lot of us that they'd. . . oh I don't know, milk that I had given to many people, they would come and get it, you know. And, we always had a few cows and they'd come and get the milk and they'd live on rabbits or, I really don't. . . And you know they'd eat beans, a lot of beans. I just don't know how they did survive.

BURROUGHS : Did he intend to ranch or farm?

BILBERRY(R): My husband?

BURROUGHS : No, this family that moved in without. . .