

RB 143873

New Mexico - Homestead  
Lingo - ...

Tape #1

Miss Estelle Margaret Johnston

Length: 60 min.

"Homestead Life Near Lingo, New Mexico"

Interviewed by Mrs. Jean Burroughs  
July 28, 1972

(Introduction to tapes by Mrs. Burroughs)

- 001 Faulty tape
- 009 Middle of sentence 1880-1898 (something about early coming of railroad).
- 015 Portales Springs was famous early day watering hole.
- 032 The greatest difficulty early settlers met was lack of water.
- 044 Many settlers didn't realize dry land farming was so different.
- 049 Most people came originally from Missouri. (Note: questionable fact)
- 058 People will be interviewed not only because they are old timers, but because each family represented has contributed in some unusual way to the history of the town or the county.
- 065 An attempt will be made to trace history of education in Roosevelt County; at one time there were more than 150 schools established in the county; now only 4.
- 075 Same was true of post offices.
- 083 Banks, doctors, and druggists of early days will be included.
- 092 Some of the reunions and Old Timers Day will be attended.

(Interview begins)

- 112 An early day school teacher and business woman from the Lingo Community.
- 115 Born in Oklahoma on February 8, approx. 1895 (Estimated from age given later).
- 119 Grandparents: Mother's - David and Manah Potter (came from Texas)  
Father's - Never knew them
- 131 Mother's real father was killed by lightning when mother was three years old.

- 134 Mother was born in Texas on May 4, ?.  
Father was born in New York City on April 5, ?.
- 147 Brothers: Frank, Hath, Phil, and Emit.
- 149 Sisters: Edna and Gladys.
- 152 She was second child.
- 164 1916: Mother and children came from Oklahoma to homestead here;  
came in two covered wagons; trip took 8-10 days--around 400 miles.
- 192 Filed in extreme southern part of Roosevelt County (then Chaves).
- 200 Mother and children filed on four sections.
- 211 Believes it took three years to prove up on claim.
- 218 Had to go to Roswell to file; minimum filing fee was charged.
- 230 Had three room dugout house on three sections and a storm cellar  
on other section.
- 237 Dugout built by digging 6-8 ft. deep - boards put over top and  
covered with dirt.
- 258 Had dirt floor; wet down and swept floor to make it hard.
- 265 Sand came through the walls.
- 267 Had five glass windows.
- 280 Had windmill for water - well 200 ft. deep.
- 298 Began teaching school when she came here in 1916 at Lings; she  
was twenty-one years old.
- 310 Had eight grades and approx. 20 pupils.
- 314 Got school supplies in Portales.
- 338 Held school for about seven months.
- 370 Most homesteaders came from Texas and Oklahoma at that time.
- 372 Weather was bad - cold and lots of snow.
- 388 Some families still living in Blew<sup>u</sup>it area (?); Bill Perkins,  
Singleton, Hill.
- 435 1919: She left homestead and moved to Portales with mother and  
two younger brothers.
- 455 She taught fourth grade at Central Grade School in Portales.

- 466 Pupils she remembers: Ruth Ann Wheeler, Willie Mae Aldrom, Stewart Long (parents owned Portales Drug), Emit White, Kenneth Jones, Orville Harris, James Compton, Wortham family.
- 526 After she quit teaching school, began working for Mountain States Telephone Company for 7-8 years.
- 533 Office near where it is now but it was in a little white house; they lived there.
- 549 Had only two operators; switch boards were open at night.
- 553 Not many emergency or long distance calls were made.
- 560 Had telephones you had to crank.
- 564 Usually had three or four people on each line.
- 590 Doctors in Portales: Dr. Pearce, Dr. Woolard, and Dr. Camp (druggist).
- 613 Dr. Pearce owned drug store on Main Street.
- 642 1945: She worked at Welfare Office for a year.
- 663 Believes most recipients were worthy.
- 692 Was charter member of Business and Professional Women's Club (started approx. 1933); originally had 18 members - now 43; has scholarship loan fund for ENMU.
- 728 Was Altrusa member.
- 735 1964 or 1965: Retired from active work.
- 742 Member of Methodist Church since 1919; is on Advisory Board; used to teach a class.
- 779 Rev. J.J. Richards was pastor of church when she joined in 1919.
- 796 Rev. Thurston also mentioned.

(Side Two)

- 001 Father was staunch Republican (was county accessor in Oklahoma).
- 021 Father died in Oklahoma about 1912.
- 043 Father also served as President of Township.
- 081 Had night bell at telephone office.
- 095 Telephone company rented home she lived in; located on what is now Ave B.

- 107 Less than 200 people had telephones.
- 117 Had Victrolas and records.
- 122 Music at Methodist Church - choir director was Mr. Cratley (Supt. of City Schools); Vera Black (McCleary now) played piano.
- 136 Had revivals; often outdoors in tents during the summer.
- 158 First courthouse made out of block stones and was very small compared to now.
- 162 Jail was west of courthouse and also made of stones.
- 183 Recalls funny incident of firedrill when L.L. Brown was principal of Central Grade School.