

ABM-1111

Tape #15

Clarence and Rola (Hatch) Rice

Length: 70 min.

"Homesteading Roosevelt County"

Interviewed by Mrs. Jean Burroughs
August 29, 1972

- 006 October 1906: Mrs. Rice's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Sidney Hatch came to Roosevelt County from Arkansas; she was three years old.
- 028 Mother born 1877; Father born 1869; married in Arkansas 1900.
- 043 Came to Roosevelt County for father's health.
- 075 Lived in Doss Community north west of Portales.
- 090 It took five years to obtain a 160 acre homestead.
- 100 Many couldn't make living from land and would go to Texas to pick cotton during season.
- 105 Could obtain title to land by paying \$200 instead of living on it.
- 129 December 1907: Mr. Rice's family came from Ballinger, Texas in three covered wagons and a hack.
- 170 Located by J.W. Thompson on a relinquishment at Cromer (twenty miles south and three miles east of Portales).
- 198 First school attended named Doyal.
- 200 Mentions early communities of Menco and Richland.
- 230-320 Mrs. Rice names schoolmates who are still in Portales.
- 330-360 Mr. Rice recalls school incidents and schoolmates.
- 368 Had conscriptions schools which lasted as long as parents paid teachers (usually received \$20-\$25 a month).
- 441 Had literary society meetings with speaker, debate, or poetry.
- 472 Had church in school buildings.
- 509 Mentions custom of children waiting until last to eat.
- 534-620 Food: pinto beans, chicken and dumplings, fried chicken, ham, buttermilk pies, fruit cobblers, cornbread; ate young thistles (tumbleweeds) for greens; also ate lamb quarters.

- 812 Mrs. Rice has brother and sister who live in Roosevelt County
(Jim Hatch and Mrs. Joe Naylor).
- 840 They were married in Portales in 1921 and live here ever since then.

(Side Two)

- 001 Have three children: Maxine Christian, C.N. Rice, Jr., Jimmy Rice.
- 034-070 List of Hatch family living in county given.
- 074 Mr. Rice was originally a barber but didn't like it.
- 086 1972: Began building and contracting business.
- 100-150 Lists some of houses he built in Portales.
- 158 Worked on Administration building and first dorm built at Eastern.
- 174 Used to be CC^ocamp where Greyhound Stadium is.
- 188 Helped build four defense camps (gives locations).
- 200 Retired in 1960.
- 315 Both like Portales.