

ABM 5965

Business - Portales (1903)

Artesian wells - Portales (1922)

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Tape #10 Mr. Carl Yoachum and wife, Maureen Priddy Yoachum, Length: 65 min.
and Mrs. Elizabeth Priddy McClung

"Early Days of Portales"

Interviewed by Mrs. Jean Burroughs
August 22, 1972

- 005 Grandparents of Maureen and Elizabeth were Felix Priddy (died 1887) and Margaret Cole Priddy (died 1924).
- 015 January, 1903: Parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Priddy came to Roosevelt County.
- 024 1905: Maureen was born.
- 029 Father established mercantile business with brother-in-law, Freddie Poashing (?).
- 032 Had business in J.C. Penny building which he built.
- 034 Later opened P & F Grocery which Leon Jones managed; kept until 1930.
- 047 Also established a grain dealership.
- 056 Bear grass was used in brooms, rope, cattle feed, and soap.
- 091 Through contributions Mr. Priddy helped finance many of schools and churches in the county; he was active member in Methodist church; mother was a Baptist.
- 098 He served on first city council.
- 103 City Commission wouldn't have been able to do much without help of Portales Women's Club; mentions removal of livestock from streets.
- 119 Mrs. Priddy was charter member of Women's Club, UDC, and Eastern Star.
- 124 Women's Club: had cultural events such as operas, helped in Confederate Memorial Day, provided for firemen during fire, and fenced Court House square with iron picket fence.
- 162 Chamber of Commerce set out elm trees around 1912 (many on North Floyd Road).
- 180 Merchant put up money to drill Artesian well on Court House Square.
- 187 Mentions great flow of water from Portales Springs around 1922-26.
- 204 Mrs. Priddy worked in women's department of store from 1903-30.

- 212 Mrs. Priddy was also in Glee Club.
- 230 Children came to Women's Club meetings.
- 241 Mrs. Priddy was elected life-time membership in Woman's Club and honored several times.
- 250 1912: Mr. Priddy attended constitutional convention for New Mexico.
- 253 He casted electoral vote for James Cox in Presidential Election.
- 268 1928: He was an ardent supporter of Alfred Smith - Catholic.
- 300 Illegal politics brought up.
- 328 He served on Selective Service Board during WWII.
- 331 Served in Spanish-American War.
- 332 1916: Organized first National Guard in New Mexico which went to fight Pancho Villa.
- 351 Was personal friend of many of the governors including McDonald and Curry.
- 362 Was turned down three times for physical reasons in WWI.
- 378 They have guns of grandfather Priddy which he used fighting for Confederacy during Civil War.
- 400 Portales had wet and dry party in early days.
- 440 Mr. Priddy was president of Board of Directors of First National Bank for forty-one years.
- 460 Mr. Neer was neighbor of Priddy's.
- 484 Mr. Priddy told of antelope stampeding through town.
- 533 Mr. Yoachum's family: Mother - Stensors - came from Oklahoma; 1906: His parents came here as homesteaders near Dora; six children in family, he is the oldest.
- 570 Father died 1936 and mother 1948.
- 605 Carl and Maureen were married December 26, 1927.
- 623 Carl helped organize fire-department. z Portales (H.M.)
- 649-705 First water, sewers, and electricity in Portales discussed.

- 712 Gas companies came in.
- 720 Paving and street signs discussed.
- 742 Carl's father had Yoachum's Grocery; made deliveries in Model T.
- 778 First telephones discussed; in country ran phone lines on barbed wire fences.
- 853 Mentions Woman's Club started first city library.
- (Side Two)
- 001 Cemetary mentioned.
- 026 Woman's Club began library by contributions and maintained in homes.
- 037 Library was moved to Woman's Club building when built.
- 037 All of Maureen's and Elizabeth's high schooling was where L.L. Brown School is now. Recall L.L. Brown, W.N. Wilson (Superintendant), and other teachers.
- 095 Played jacks, marbles, and jumprope.
- 103 Football was played on sand field next to school; mother was big supporter.
- 114 Mother would take kids and players to ball games in their big car.
- 131 She was first woman in area to drive.
- 148 Both attended Wayland Baptist College and received bachelor's degrees from Hardin-Simmims.
- 150 Elizabeth taught music in Portales.
- 152 Maureen received masters from the University of Texas and was on first faculty of Eastern where she taught English and Spanish.
- 184 She was injured March 2, 1936 when bleachers collapsed and had to quit teaching.
- 205 Elizabeth taught for a while in Hondo Valley Schools.
- 225 Carl entered grocery business with father.
- 228 1932: Opened meat market on Main Street; closed in 1937 and moved to Amarillo.
- 1943: Returned and began farming; raises peanuts, alfalfa, and grain sorghum.

Rotary Park

- 255-305 Discuss importance of peanuts and finding Portales peanuts around the country.
- 309 1934: Rotary Club was organized; 1935: received charter; Carl is charter member.
- 325 1956: He was elected President and they went to Philadelphia for Rotary International.
- 328 *Rotary Park*
Rotary has park here.
- 348 Grandmother of Elizabeth and Maureen: Esther Elizabeth Tinsley Green, born in South Carolina in 1844 mentioned; she lived to the age of 104 years old.