

She reflects on the ways of living of long ago when most families were almost self-sufficient. She tells that people used to raise nearly all their food, using from the fields and gardens and preserving for the winter months. She lived in a time that the present generations will never experience. Farming was done with horses and mules, and any farm implement designed for riding was a luxury. She and her brothers were well acquainted with using a double-shovel, A-frame harrow, the 'go-devil', sulky and bull rake, foot-feed baler. Shocking bundled grain and fodder was another chore of the young people of her day. The double-bit axe and cross-cut log saw have also just about passed from the scene, as have the cream separator, butter churn, kraut crock, and molasses barrel. The cow bell is no longer heard in the woods.

Back before statehood Bill Whitsett operated a sawmill and grist mill on Big Sallisaw Creek in the McKeys community. The services provided there added to the progress and growth of this little area. In those days there was lots of good timber in much of the country.

During her time this part of the county has been a peaceful and enjoyable place to live; the rough and outlaw element almost non-existent.

In recent years she says wildlife has been on the increase, probably due to fewer people now living in the area. Coyotes have now come into the area and she says it is almost impossible to keep chickens anymore.

The old school building that still remain stare out at a cold world thru blank windows, a clump of brush now marks the site of the old country stores, graded section line roads have replaced the winding trails of another day, and little is left to tell of another age. Many old burial places still remain, some long abandoned, to record the names of the many people who have lived in this country and did their part to improve their lot. Just a few of the old cemeteries are Round Mountain, Shiloh, Foreman, Brent, Sadie, Watts, Blackjack, and Buffington.