

NORTHCUTT, W. O.

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker	Eunice M. Mayer
	April 14, 1937.
Interview	Mr. W. O. Northcutt
	907 North Oklahoma,
	Mangum, Okla.
Born	February 22, 1888,
	Coryell, Texas.
Parents	C. V. Northcutt, father
	Manny A. Dodson, mother.

Will O. Northcutt of Mangum made a trip to Greer County from Coryell County, Texas, in 1889. The trip was made in a covered wagon and the family arrived in the county September 11.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Northcutt settled near Headquarters Mountain at Granite and engaged in farming.

C. V. Northcutt was a pioneer school teacher of the county, and instructed classes in the old Rock Cemetery school near Granite. The cemetery remains, but the school building has long since been obliterated.

The modern generation knows nothing of the hardships endured by children of the pioneer period, Mr. Northcutt says. One winter following their arrival here, the children went barefooted and birds were snared in deadfalls for food. Settlers were desperate and

had exhausted their funds. They used binding twine from bundles of fodder to fashion traps for snowbirds and those were roasted on sticks in the open grate. I will never forget how good those birds tasted at that time," he said. Later, his father operated a straw bridge on the Stick Bridge Crossing between Mangum and Quahan. However, life in the period was not all hardship, and boys of the region enjoyed seining in Elm River during the summer. "We were forbidden to enter the river by our parents, who were afraid of quick sands and other mishaps," he recalled; however, the temptation was too strong. At first, when questioned by our grandmother or aunt, we would deny going swimming, but when our fathers ordered us to remove our caps we knew the truth was revealed; of course he would know if we were guilty by observing if our bangs were wet."