

SMILEY, W. H. (Mrs.)

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Interviewer, Ruth Kerbo;  
August 25, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. W. H. Smiley,  
Mangum, Oklahoma  
229 West Jefferson St.

Born                    June 13, 1875.  
Garrets Bluff, near Paris,  
Texas.

Parents                Joe Lubbs, Texas,  
Rancy J. Lockhart, Mississippi.

Mrs. W. H. Smiley, of Mangum, first saw this community about forty-two years ago when she visited her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Bellum, at Turkey Creek in Pittsburg County. Mrs. Smiley visited this section twice before her marriage to Mr. Smiley at Patrick, Texas.

The Smiley family lived in a house near the business section of Mangum in the early days. Indians who visited Mangum made trips to the rear of stores to salvage bits of bright colored paper or cloth.

Mangum housewives hooked their screen to keep the Indians from walking into their homes. Indians were accustomed to walking into homes without any ceremony.

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Since no fruit trees were grown here in the early days, settlers often banded together to hunt wild plums and grapes. The parties would camp several days while gathering fruit.

Mr. M. H. Kellum, uncle of Mrs. Smiley, was a stockman near the present site of Duke on Turkey Creek in Pittsburg County.

Mrs. B. W. Waters, a cousin of Mrs. Smiley, and Mr. Waters had been residents of Greer County about two years when Mrs. Smiley came here. Following the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Smiley in 1900, the couple came to Mangum where Mr. Smiley engaged in the cattle business with Mart Byrd and Ed Hawkins, who operated a ranch near Delhi.

Byrd and Watkins later quit the cattle business in this section and moved to Quanah, Texas. Cattlemen made up the moneyed class here in the early days. There was considerable friction between stockmen and farmers in the early days.

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Cattlemen resented the farmers because they fenced the country, while the farmers complained that the stockmen grazed their cattle on land which belonged to the farmers.

During a drought in the early days many farmers left this section. Some sold their claims for as little as fifty dollars.

Sam Doxey, who owned a large ranch near the present site of Bayre, donated the townsite for the Doxey Community. A successful rancher, Mr. Doxey had several registered head of stock valued at several thousand dollars. Stockmen of this vicinity went to Quanah for the horse races and fairs of the early days.

Dances were favorite amusement for cowmen. Cowboys sometimes rode fifty miles to a dance, leaving early in the morning and visiting with their friends after their arrival.

Aaron, an early community near the present site of Clustee, was where Turke, Creek settlers received their mail.

Duke then consisted only of a post office and store.

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Cattlemen drove their stock to Quanah or Goddard for shipment to the markets.

Stockmen in this section wore ranchers' hats and not the sombreros seen farther west.

Stockmen took pride in the possession of such fine tools, saddles, and bridles which they obtained at their own expense for the cattle market. They returned to the market with silks and dresses for their wives and daughters.

A flood almost washed away the home of Mr. [redacted] at Turkey Creek in the early days. Mr. [redacted] was ill with slow fever at the time of the flood and was unable to leave their home. The overflow from Turkey Creek was pouring into the lower part of the house when Mr. [redacted] was rescued by a neighbor who saw his team to the inundated home.

Many of the ranch houses were half-dugouts with a frame room above the ground. On another occasion, a cyclone lifted the bellum house to a position fifty feet from its foundation.

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Early cattlemen in this section were an educated class. They were distinguished by their courtesy and consideration for others. They were well-to-do sent their sons and daughters to school in the South.

Among the early day cattlemen were Mr. Mathewson; Mr. J. J. Boyd; Pete and Carl Harmonson, who later lost their lives in Texas flood; Bill Hunt, who ran a grocery store here and later became interested in an early day land.

Mr. Hunt later moved to Canadian, Texas, where he made twenty-four sections of land. His children are still residents of the vicinity. Hunt, a community in Beckham County, was named for the pioneer cattleman.