

RICHEY, IRENE

INTERVIEW

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Form A-(S-149)

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Worker's name Eunice M. Mayer.report made on (date) September 11 193 7Name Mrs. Irene Richey.Post Office Address Langum, Oklahoma.Residence address (or location) West Pierce.DATE OF BIRTH: Month            Day            Year           Place of birth Waco, Texas.Name of Father M. H. Kellum Place of birth Texas.Other information about father           Name of Mother Deleia Lockhart Place of birth Mississippi.Other information about mother           

es or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story  
the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions  
Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of  
ets attached

Mrs. Irene Richey was born at Waco, Texas, and later moved to Vernon, where she attended school. She recalls that her parents made the trip from Vernon to Greer County in a buggy. Their household goods were hauled to Turkey Creek, eight miles east of Duke, in a freight wagon.

M. H. Kellum, Mrs. Irene Richey's father, was an old time cattleman; he owned and cared for 5,000 cattle on his extensive ranch.

Mrs. Richey recalls that the chuck wagon outfit was busy all the year around "cutting out" and rounding up stock of the cattlemen whom it served. There were no fences and the cowmen made no effort to keep their stock within range boundaries after Christmas.

Sometimes the stock strayed several hundred miles south, and on several occasions, Smith Kellum found the G-T-S brand as far south as Wichita Falls, Texas.

When the calves were branded at a roundup, they were turned loose and no effort was made to keep them in a pasture, since the principal duty of the ranch hands was to be sure that the stock was all returned to the ranch at headquarters.

Mrs. Richey moved to Mangum in 1908, where her son, Kellum Monroe, was born. He was graduated from a school of pharmacy in Denver, Colorado, recently and is

now a registered pharmacist at Longview, Texas.

A devastating drought struck the county in 1893 and many farmers in this section faced a shortage of food. The situation was taken in hand by the Reverend Mr. Kizzar, a pioneer Baptist minister, who solicited contributions of money to buy food in Fort Worth.

The minister described the serious plight of the pioneer settlers, and received a substantial sum from citizens of Fort Worth. Food was purchased in that city and was shipped to Quanah and was freighted from Quanah to Greer County.

Before 1900 Mangum was host each year at an elaborate Independence Day Celebration. An arbor of willow branches was constructed in the downtown square for the accommodation of visitors and a dance platform was erected.

The dance would begin at two o'clock in the afternoon and continue until one o'clock the following morning. These celebrations were anticipated eagerly by the cowhands working on the numerous ranches in this section of the country and they always attracted people from miles around.

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