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MRS. LEON VINE NELMS, NON-INDIAN

INTERVIEWED BY: BILL SAVAGE

INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 27, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

GENERAL SUBJECT: FIRST SETTLING IN OKLAHOMA; EXPERIENCES WITH
INDIANS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

FIRST SETTLING IN OKLAHOMA
FATHER: A PREACHER
LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRIP TO NORMAN
OPENING OF FIRST SCHOOLS
VISIT TO TEXOLA
EDUCATION AND RAISING HER CHILDREN
MORE ABOUT TRIP TO NORMAN
SEEING INDIANS FOR FIRST TIME
FIRST MOVING FROM TEXAS
BACKGROUND OF FATHER
COWBOYS
MRS. NELMS EDUCATION
FATHER'S OCCUPATION AS A PREACHER
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
TEACHING SCHOOL
HER SON'S EDUCATION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Mrs. Leon Nelms is about 75 years of age. She came to Indian Territory in 1898 near what is now Granite, Oklahoma and the following year the family moved to Texola. Her father, an ordained Baptist Minister built the first church in Texola in 1904. At that time the town of Texola consisted mostly of saloons and the first church was burned. Her first encounter with Indians was when the family had gone to Tecumseh, Oklahoma to visit relatives. She attended a rural school until the Texola school was built, then a Baptist Girl's School in Belton, Texas, Weatherford Junior College and Junior College at Sayre, Oklahoma. She taught school for several years in that area and moved to Norman about 1943.