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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.