

roads were so bad that they could only haul about 500 pounds of coal at a time and in bad weather it did not last very long. In place of coal they would gather and stack cow chips and cactus for fuel. One winter they ran out of fuel, but did have lots of corn. They burned up hundreds of bushels of big long ears of fine yellow corn that winter to keep warm.

In those early days he tells of his Aunt Maude who lived down around Ardmore. In some way she was married into the family closely related to Jesse James.

One time a bank was robbed in Missouri and the James Gang was blamed. But his aunt said the James boys were at her house when the bank was robbed.

There have been many good people who have spent all of their lives in the Cookson Hills, but this area has excited writers and journalists as it was a haven of refuge for a few of the outlaws of another day. No stories have come yet about the good people, so we continue to hear of the less fortunate.

When it came to killing one another it made no difference whether one was Indian or white. The case of Marion Balleu was one. He got into an argument with a neighbor and sitting on his horse, shot and killed his neighbor sitting on the porch. The dead man's boy grabbed his dad's gun and killed brother Balleu. The boy ran off into the woods. The law came looking but the mother knew nothing. She would put food and clothes out at night for the boy so the law would not see. Fred Vance, a lawyer told the sheriff to leave the boy alone and his mother would bring him in in a few days. The woman did bring the boy in and Vance defended him. At the trial Balleu's boy was on the witness stand and revealed that he was in with his dad "to see the job done." The boy was set free.

Old grudges smoulder. In their hill-country way, revenge for a wrong is the only way. A few ill-chosen words and hair rubbed the wrong way at the wrong time has ended up with somebody getting shot. The names of Carter, Balleu, Carlile, Ghormley, Sapsucker, and Smith are mentioned in connection with the