

McGUIRE, EVELYN. INTERVIEW

6873

276

McGUIRE, EVELYN.

INTERVIEW.

6973.

Alene D. McDowell,
Interviewer,
July 24, 1937.

Interview With Mrs. Evelyn McGuire,
Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

William M. McGuire and his cousin, Joe Core, were working on a ranch near the Texas border, in the Choctaw Nation. One day Mr. McGuire, Joe Core and Charlie McMurphy had driven a herd across the creek to a better pasture and a water hole and were rounding up the stragglers, when they smelled the odor of burning hair. They left their horses and crawled to a gully a short distance down the creek. There they discovered two men changing the brand on some cattle. In a small valley below they discovered about fifty more and upon close observation, found they were just freshly branded and the burn had not yet healed. About twenty of these cattle belonged to the outfit for whom the boys worked. When the cattle thieves saw they were caught, they ran for their horses, but not before they were recognized. They were newcomers to the vicinity and were trying to augment the small herd they had bought. They made good their escape and disappeared, leaving their own

McGUIRE, EVELYN.

INTERVIEW.

6973.

-2-

herd of about one hundred head. In about three weeks their cattle disappeared, it was not known if they returned for them or if cattle rustlers drove them across the border.

One time Mr. McGuire was making a trip from the southern part of the Territory to the home of his parents northeast of Copan. He was traveling alone and one night his trusty old horse again saved him. He never staked his old horse at night for it never strayed far away from him. He rolled up in his blankets and was asleep when the horse "nosed" him in the face and ^{wakened} him. When he sat up the horse threw up his ears and looked in the direction from where voices were heard. There were many bandits and horse thieves in that section of the country, and not being interested in meeting any of them, he saddled his horse and rode the rest of the night.

One time Mr. McGuire was making a trip across the Territory in a buggy, driving two ponies. He was asleep, under the buggy when he was suddenly awakened by the ponies snorting and pulling on their stake ropes and found the place surrounded by a pack of about ten coyotes. He shot into the pack and killed one and the rest disappeared in

McGUIRE, EVELYN.

INTERVIEW.

6973.

-3-

the darkness. He was not bothered by them again but he slept the remainder of the night in his buggy.

Mr. McGuire, his brother, Noble, his cousin, Lou Rowland, and a man named McElwain were hunting a lost horse owned by Noble McGuire. They stopped near a creek east of Copan, in Washington County, to prepare dinner. While Noble and Lou Rowland cooked the meal, Mr. McGuire and Mr. McElwain seined the creek. Noble and Rowland refused to go into the water, Noble had been chilling and Rowland said he was sick, so Mr. McGuire and Mr. McElwain decided they could seine alone for the creek wasn't large. Suddenly Mr. McGuire felt something flapping his leg and called to McElwain to come in close with the seine and when they lifted the net they found a 25 pound cat fish. Within five minutes Noble and Rowland forgot they were sick and were in the water waist deep. Their largest catch was the 25 pounder, but they caught several weighing from five to ten pounds. The creek was receding from a flood.

One time Mr. McGuire and another fellow took a bunch of horses over near Kingfisher and sold them. There was no passenger train out that night and they did not want to

McGUIRE, EVELYN.

INTERVIEW.

6973.

-4-

stay in the town with several hundred dollars in their possession and no place to put it for safety. There was a freight train pulling out and they hopped it. When the brakeman came along they offered to pay their fare and he would not accept it, but put them off at the water tank. They waited until the train started and hopped on near the end, and rode into Guthrie. The train crew ate their midnight lunch at Guthrie, and when Mr. McGuire and the other fellow walked into the same cafe with them, the brakeman asked if they were not the same boys he had put off down the line. They admitted that they were and he offered to pay for their supper, because they had put one over on him.

I well remember the first rodeo I attended was in 1905 and was held on the prairie between Dewey and Copan. We drove a team that was not accustomed to cattle and when the steers ran toward our buggy the horses would rear up and I thought the buggy would be upset.

The cattle were long horn Texas steers and were wild, dangerous looking creatures. I was afraid of the team and the team was as afraid of the cattle as I was of them.

McGUIRE, EVELYN.

INTERVIEW.

6973.

-5-

Mr. McGuire was a good roper and several of the men tried to persuade him to do some roping but our little daughter, who was about three and one-half years old, cried and begged him not to leave her and I was so frightened he would not leave us. Griff Graham suggested that he unhitched the team and tie them to the buggy but he was afraid they would upset the rig. I knew he would have liked to take part in the riding and roping but did not. We all stayed in our buggies and the men all stayed on their horses.