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

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Field Worker's name Ethel B. TackittThis report made on (date) June 8 1937Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.

1. Name Mrs. Lula Crouch Johnson
2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) North Pennsylvania Avenue
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1874
5. Place of birth Troy, Missouri

6. Name of Father John R. Crouch Place of birth MissouriOther information about father Pioneer Hotel Man.7. Name of Mother Anna Y. Crouch Place of birth MissouriOther information about mother Noted among the early freightersand cowboys for her good cooking and hospitality.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of 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 sheets attached 3.

I was born in Missouri in 1874 and when I was quite small my parents moved to Texas. My parents were John R. Crouch and Anna Hath Crouch, and there were four children, W. T., Belle, Johnnie and I.

We moved from Whitesboro, Texas, to the present location of the town of Mangum in Greer County in May, 1884. The family of Uncle Henry Sweet came along with us. There were no other white families in that part of the country that I know of. The land my father selected for his home was on the trail used by freighters between Wichita Falls, Texas, and Old Mobeetie.

The freighters usually traveled several together with wagons strung out one behind the other and drawn by from eighteen to twenty oxen. They would make camp at Draw Springs, which is yet to be seen in the draw in the edge of the town. We soon became acquainted with these men and father would invite them to eat with us, as we were always glad to see anybody who came along and they were glad to eat mother's cooking, for many of them had not eaten a woman's cooking for years. They would offer to pay but in those days nobody would think of accepting pay for a meal. The cowboys also made it a point to get to our place about meal time, and at last it was

suggested that father and mother put up a hotel, so they hauled lumber and built the De Crouch Hotel. This was the first hotel in Greer County so far as I have any knowledge.

The long wagon trains would come from Texas loaded with groceries and drygoods for Mobeetie and would return loaded with buffalo bones bought or collected on the way back. Buffalo bone buying and hauling was a very profitable business in the early eighties.

There was only one fence in Greer County at that time, a line fence that belonged to the Day Land and Cattle Company and ran from their headquarter ranch on the west side of Greer County to North Fork of Red River on the east side of the County. Cowboys called "line riders" looked after this fence, and there were line camps all along where the line riders lived. There were usually two line riders, and one rode so many miles east and the other so many miles west to where the other line rider's part of the fence started. This fence was to keep the cattle in different parts of the country, and was some times called a drift fence. Without it the cattle would have drifted before the wind, clear out of the country.

For recreation, we would ride over the country horseback and go plum hunting and fishing in the summer. The next year some other families came, and we began to have picnics, to which people would come from fifty to one hundred miles around.