

Autobiography of Addie May Crabtree Willoughby  
as told to Sharon L. Willoughby McIntosh  
November 25, 1977

**Q When you think about your dad what do you think about, when you were a little girl?**

**A** When I think about my dad when I was a little girl I think about security. He was a rancher - he had a homestead in Northwest Oklahoma. He raised cattle and horses but his main job was bronc busting, now do you know what bronc busting is? Riding and training horses until they make gentle beddable cow horses. I've known him to have as many as 18 horses in what they call a string and he'd ride one in the morning and turn that one loose and ride the other one in the afternoon and the next morning - he'd pick up another one or maybe the same. one depending on whether he thought that horse needed more training or not. And the horses would buck like demons but it just tickled me to death, I never was afraid, I never saw him thrown, and I wasn't afraid that he would be. He was a real rider. HE WAS A REAL RIDER! He got so much a head for braking and training cow horses and I can remember a man saying one time; because dad was a little short man in stature; I remember a man saying "He's a forked son of a gun." That merit that when he forked a horse, when he straddled a horse and stayed there.

**Q Was that because he was short?**

**A** Not particularly, it was because he knew horses and he could judge what a horse was going to do next. But he was one of the gentlest, kindest men you ever knew and one of the most mischievous. My mother used to say "George you would play a. prank on the lord governor." He said, "Well I guess so."

**Q What are some of the things he did?**

**A** Just funny little pranks and jokes that he'd play on people. He wasn't malicious with his jokes or mean or anything, it was just all in fun and it would just kill his soul if he thought he had really hurt somebody's feelings or made them mad, But he just loved to play jokes on people and pranks. Things were always lively around where Dad was. And young people just congregated at our house. When I was just a little child, teenagers, we always had a house full of people. They just loved to be around where he was and everybody called him uncle George.

**Q How come he was named after George Washington?**

**A** Because his birthday was the same day.

Q **What about your Mother?**

A My mother was a very dignified straight-laced person. They made a funny couple because she was taller than he was. And he would do something and she would say "George". But they were so very opposite in disposition. Mother was very conscious of what other people, was going to think about what she did or what vie did, in fact in all our growing if we did something that wasn't just right she'd say "Well what will people think" and that's the thing I grew up under and it took me. a long time to learn to do things because I thought it was the right, thing to do or what I wanted to do rather than think about what somebody was going to think about me. She was a hard worker, she was a clean house keeper but she hated house work with a passion. She'd rather go to the field and work or take a team and go to town with a load of grain or anything like that than do housework. I guess that's the reason why I learned to do housework young and take care of the other children.

Q **Didn't you say once she was a horse woman?**

A Oh yes, she was a very fine horse woman, she rode anything.

Q **How did your parents meet?**

A I don't know. He moved into the community where when she was 18, I think they'd known each other about two years when they married. Well, he was 13 years older than she was and I guess he was ready to settle down and she was marriageable age and so they just gravitated together. He had been in Arizona and had owned land and cattle in southeastern Arizona and when this old Indian chief, of the Navaho tribe, Geronimo. Geronimo's last ride when they broke away from the reservation and went on the war path they killed Dad's partner, that he was in partner with in cattle. And Dad was off on the round up or they would have gotten him at the same time I guess but he came back home then and sold the cattle and the ranch and gave this man's sister her half of the proceeds and his mother kept worrying about him so he came on out to Oklahoma where the rest of the family was. His mother was a widow with a big bunch of kids and they had come out to the Oklahoma stripe and homesteaded. And that was in about 1895, I think, somewhere like that.

Q **Why did they come?**

A Grandmother Crabtree and her family came there in wagons and homesteaded that land. My mother's father came there as well, he was a buffalo hunter. He brought Mother and her 2 sisters and little brother out there to that territory when there was only 2 women within 100 miles of where mother lived. These 3 little girls and within 100-mile radius there was 2 other women. So, you know it was a raw county.

**Q What are some of the things that you did when you were young?**

**A** *The recorder was not working during this portion. This is a summary:*

Addie did not have time for any hobbies, but she did like to read. When she was a young girl her and her parents lived on a ranch and she was the oldest and when she was about 7 her Dad decided to move into town since they had no way of going to school before then, so they moved into town so they could go to school and her Dad started carpentry work. His father had taught him that when he was younger, so he started doing carpentry work and supported the family that way. The kids started going to school and Addie got typhoid shortly after that when she was 7 so she had to stay out of school and start again so she actually didn't start first grade in school until she was 9 years old.

When she was a little girl she said her parents were both Baptist, raised Baptist but they didn't have a church of any kind. Anywhere they lived when they were on the ranch. She remembers one time when a circuit preacher came around and was giving a sermon and then they went out to the river and had baptisms after, and she remembers her parents being baptized at that time, even though it wasn't a Baptist preacher, it was another denomination, but they weren't being baptized into the church, they were just being baptized. Their next move was to dryer climate because of her mother's poor health.)

**Q What were some of the things you did when you were a teenager?**

**A** When I was a teenager, I didn't have much teenage life as most kids do. Anybody that guessed my age thought I was 20 when I was 15. Taken care of babies and cooking and washing and doing all those things you see. And I didn't have boyfriends or dates, I didn't go to parties or any of the things most teenagers do. As I said before reading was about my only hobby I had. Mother never stented me on reading matter, and there was a pretty fair library for those days in the town where I lived and a I usually had something good to read. and she was such an avid reader herself that she provided us with magazines and I remember very well the magazine that was in vogue at that time was "Youths Companion" which was a magazine for teenagers, it was very good. I read a big doctor book that she had and by the time I was 20 years old I was as knowledgeable about taking care of the sick and children and so on as most licensed nurses were in this day and time and expect if I had had a chance for any advanced education I'd of made a nurse or maybe a surgeon because I loved it. I loved to take care of the sick and nothing made me sick or I wasn't squeamish about anything like that. I could do anything that needed to be done. I used to say I could just cut anybody's head off if I thought it was doing them good.

**Q How did you meet Tesie?**

**A** When we moved from Colorado back to Oklahoma, was because of Mother's health, the doctor said we had to get her to a drier climate and we lived in the Arkansas valley where it was wet and seepy. And we moved back to Oklahoma and moved to a ranch again, or farm, it was farming then instead of ranching and Daddy T had a homestead there close, he was just one of the young fellows in the neighborhood and all the girls were crazy about him and I dated him to see what there was about him that they all liked. I had never dated anyone before and I was almost 18 and we went to parties together, that is not he and I but all the kids together you know, I went with my brothers and I would see him at the parties. I think I had known him 6 or 8 months before I dated him.

**Q What was dating like then?**

A Well, most of our going was about one party a week and then Sunday School. He came and took me to Sunday School. And we had a union Sunday School that incorporated any denomination that wanted to be, and we had the Baptist people at church twice a month and the Methodist people had church twice a month and then on the 5th they'd get just whoever they could find to preach, sometimes it would be just a layman, sometimes it would be a traveling preacher, sometimes they wouldn't have any church service on that 5th Sunday, and we always had it in the afternoon because most of the ministers had churches in the little towns around and they'd have to come in the afternoon if they came at all. So we'd have Sunday School about 1:00 and then about 2:00 the preacher would be there and we'd have a church service and then we'd all get out and somebody would gather up all the song books after church and take them to somebody's house and we'd have a singing that night. So that was someplace for young people to congregate and where ever there was an organ, well, that was where they usually went and my Aunt had an organ and my mother's best friend, they had an organ in their house and after Tesie and I married we had an organ and so they generally meet where ever there was an organ or maybe some kid had a mandolin or a guitar. We just sang church songs because we had those little Sunday School song books. And who ever took the song books home with them was responsible for getting them back for the next Sunday School.

**Q How big was the community?**

A There wouldn't be over 15 or 20 people at the biggest gathering we 1d get for anything. It was no town, the nearest town was 7 miles away and it was just a little town, just a few stores and a railroad depot and a post office.

**Q Tell me more about your courtship.**

A I think 6 or 8 months before he proposed to me I would have snapped him up in a minute and by the time he did propose to me I had had second thoughts about it and it took me about 6 months to say yes.

**Q You mean you left him hanging there?**

A I guess I left him dangling. But he kept coming back so I guess...

**Q How old were you then?**

A I was almost 20.

**Q How did your parents like it? Did they like Tesie?**

A Ya, they liked him, but Mother didn't want me to marry because you see I was her right-hand man. When I married she had to take over the housework. And so she didn't want me to marry, in fact every time she'd think I was going to get married – we put our wedding off 3 times, before we finally got married. We was going to get married one date in fact from August we'd thought we'd marry early in October and then we put it off until November and then we'd put it off until Christmas and then we finally married in March. And every time I thought I got to the point where I thought I'd be able to break loose and go on my own, why something would come up at home where I just had to stay there either somebody got sick or some problem of some kind and finally my Daddy said "If you two kids are going to get married I think you'd better just do it and get it done with."

**Q What kind of wedding did you have?**

A We just went to the preacher's house and was married and went back home. We drove 7 miles in the buggy and Tesie's sister went with us and then my brother and his girlfriend and two of my cousins went. The girl cousin that I was very close to and her brother and then my brother and his girlfriend and Tesie's sister Beulah was with us. We just went to the preacher's house and got married and drove back home. Mother had a supper for us which I had cook most of. And then we moved to our new house the next day. We were married Saturday afternoon and Sunday we went to his mother's for dinner and then to our own house that night.

**Q When was your wedding picture taken?**

A Oh within a week or 10 days after we married, we didn't have any way to take pictures at the wedding or the time we were married so we went to town in the buggy, we drove 7 miles in the buggy and then got on the train and went 12 miles and got off and walked to were ever this photograph thing was, I don't remember, and had these pictures made and then we went back on the train got our horse and buggy and went home. And it rained on us that morning and of course they didn't have permanents in their hair at that time and all the curls was just roll our hair up at night and what little kink there was in it. And then it had rained on me and had taken all the curl I had in it and I would look so bedraggled. That was my wedding dress I had on in that picture. My wedding dress cost \$5, it would have equaled \$25 now I expect. And I made it. I was always disappointed about my wedding dress, I wanted white serge, I wanted cream colored wool serge for my wedding dress and I couldn't get the serge and finally bought that piece of silk. See, I was married in the winter and I'd rather had a wool dress.

**Q What was your first house like?**

A Oh, it was the finest thing you ever did see, finest thing I ever did see. It was 2 rooms, it was brand new, my Daddy and my uncle had built it and it was just as good or a little better house then most of the people in the neighborhood lived in. .And there wasn't a speck of paint on it anywhere, but it was just all new lumber; and I never smelled new pine lumber since then but it brings back memories of my first house.

Q **Then what?**

A Then just had a family as fast as we could.

Q **How long before your first one came along?**

A 18 months and then I had another one in two years. No, there is not 2 years, about 18 months between the first two and then 2 years to the next and then less than 2 years between the other 3.

Q **What was Essie like?**

A When she was little? She was the puniest, weaselliest little. She was so little and scrawny when she was born I was ashamed of her.

Q **Was she born at home?**

A Ya, all of them were born at home, there on the ranch. But by the time the children were born we had sold the little house and bought a big house. One of the biggest houses in the neighborhood, in fact it was the old Kimball horse ranch headquarters, and the lumber in that house had been freighted on wagons from Liberal Kansas, back in the early 1e90 1s And I don't even know when the house was built, but it must of been in the early 1890 1s because my grandfather used to freight from there to the railhead which was at Liberal Kansas.

Q **Did Daddy T sell horses when you were first married?**

A No. He was farming at that time. They always had horses around at that time of course because they used horses instead of tractors and he was always very good with horses. It was during the long drought in the, 30's that he started buying horses but he had always bought and sold horses. He loved horses but he wasn't a rider like my Daddy was. He loved horses but he bought and sold horses instead of handling them. He was farming until the drought stopped the farming and then he started buying horses because he had trucks that he could haul the horses out. He'd buy a load of horses, he'd buy a truck load of horses which would be anywhere from 6 to 8 or 9, 10 horses and load them into a truck and he'd go down to Central Texas or Louisiana and resell them and then he'd come back home and when he'd come he'd bring a load of grain or feed or food stuff of somekind, or what ever he could buy that he thought he could resell, you see, so that way he loaded both ways. And he just kept buying horses and mules, and at one time he shipped 2 train car loads out to Louisiana where they needed horses and mules and they really didn't need them in that part of the country because it was so dry that they couldn't raise anything so they wasn't any reason to plant and the horses were staving to death. Cause there was nothing to feed them during that long drought. We had 7 years that we didn't raise anything. Garden or feed stuff for the stock, just didn't raise anything. He was home when the children were real little but by the time they were teenagers he was gone all the time. We used to say it was just like school let out or a picnic when Daddy came home everything else stopped. We just enjoyed Daddy while he was there.

**Q How long was he gone at a time?**

A Well, sometimes it would be 2 weeks I wouldn't even hear from him, let alone come back. He was gone all the way from 2 or 3 days to 2 or ,3 months. I never knew where he was because he was on the road so much of the time.

**Q He couldn't stop and give you a call then?**

A There wasn't any money to pay for a pay phone anyway. It was scrambling to keep bread on the table. Not that we were ever hungry. We saw a lot of time when we'd of liked to have' something different but there never was a time when we was hungry. And there never was a time hardly when we didn't have somebody living in with us or staying there did we Essie? There was usually somebody who was down on their luck or a hanger on or out of a job. They just gravitated to our place, and another thing, Dalhart was the only hospital within a radius of about 100 miles and if anybody from the community where we lived before need to go to the hospital, why they just came to our place and stayed while their people were in the hospital. Our place was more like a motel or a tourist court. People just rolled in, they didn't tell me "I'm coming or may I come," they just came.

**Q When did you move to Dalhart?**

A Well, we moved down there when this drought first started, it got bad, you know, and we had to out where we could grow a little stuff. We did grow some stuff for a few years, but the drought just kept getting worse and worse and worse until I remember one time he planted 80 acres of corn and never got a kernel of it up. Never a kernel of it sprouted, it was just so dry it just lay right there in the ground.

**Q What was it like with the little children?**

A The kids kind of took care of each other when there were several children in the family they kind of look after each other and if one gets hurt why there's always another to run tell mama. Oh, I don't know, I think where there's several children in a family they get along better than when there's just one or two. But I used to think I had to spread the butter so then that my children didn't have much but at the same time they learned to share. And they learned to appreciate nice things when they did get them. Like so many children now days, they have so much when they're little that by the time they're grown nothing is ever good enough for them. They don't appreciate anything.

Essie Lewis ( Addie May's oldest daughter was in the room and she added): When there's always lots of love and affection and help like there was in our home you don't need a whole lot.

**Q Which house did you like best that you lived in?**

A Well, I was awfully proud of my first little two room house but I think I was happy to get into the gig house so that I had room for my own family and for the hired help that we had. There was always

hired help and it was awfully hard when, I remember one summer we had 3 men pulling broom corn and they all had to sleep out in the yard because there just wasn't room in the house to put beds, but after we moved into the big house there was always plenty of room. And when we had hired help there was always plenty of room, the dining room was a great big room and the bed rooms, there's plenty of room for the men to sleep. I guess probably I enjoyed that house, I enjoyed the first house we built to live in Granbury because I felt I was building that for a home, and I enjoyed the work I put in on that house, but the rent places that we lived for a couple of years was pretty hectic because it was pretty hard to find a place that had plenty of house room and still had barn room for the horses, And I've said a lot of time that "I've never saw the woman I was jealous of but I have been jealous of the horse." Because the horses are what made our living and they had to come first. Because we always had registered breeding stock and they had to be taken care of.

**Q First you lived in the little house in Oklahoma, then the big house, then you moved to Dalhart, Texas; then where did you move?**

A The next place was to Rawls, Texas a little place right next to Lubbock. And we just lived there one year, and we didn't own a home there we lived in a rent house, but Tesie had built a little house in town and had a little trade barn and had a little house where the hired man lived. And then we moved to Granbury on a count of Vincent's asthma. Vincent had cardiac asthma and we discovered that he could breathe down there on the Brazos which is real low and it's only about 500 feet above sea level there. It seemed like that low altitude and just something about that country that he could breathe better. So that's how, come us to move there. That was about 1939, I guess.

**Q How long did Daddy T keep trading horses?**

A Until he got to where he couldn't do anything. He kept on buying and selling horses, and what ever he could make a dime at until he was disabled. He farmed. During the war he farmed a lot because he felt it was his duty to raise feed and food for the war effort and he raised several big crops then. Mostly on rented land because we only had about thirty acres at the place where we lived and that wasn't enough to fool with farming but he had bought a tractor by that time and he farmed peanuts and feed.

**Q Where did you live when you first moved to Granbury?**

A We lived in a rented house the first 2 years we lived there. Then we built the house. Then we built 6 other houses in Granbury, we built them for rent houses. Daddy T came home one day and said "I've found a place I think we'd like to buy, I want you to go tomorrow and look at it." So the next day we went over and looked at this place and it was covered with cedar and mesquite and the house had burned down. The house that had been on it had been a real real old house, and a big house but it had burned down the year before. This land was up for sale and so he wanted to buy it and I liked it. I fell in love with the big live oak trees, and the pecan trees that was on it. And so when he said he'd like to buy it I said "Now if you want to buy this place and make a home out of it alright, but if you just want to buy this place to speculate on, just live here a year or two and then up and move somewhere else, well, I'm not for it because I'm tired of movin' around." So he said "Alright, we'll make a home out of it." And so I had to stand up for my rights several times to keep him from selling that place, because he never had anything that he wouldn't sell for a price. I always said the only thing saved me was there



wasn't anybody else have me.

Essie: "wonder what saved us kids?"

Sharon: "Nothing, he gave you away."

Addie: "He was crazy about his kids and he loved all of them"

**Q What was it like to have 5 kids?**

**A** Wasn't nothing else in the world.

Essie was timed, sort of an attrivert, after she was about a year old she got over being so puny und frail looking. And she was a pretty baby at that time and she was smart 1 she was intelligent, she never made outstanding grades in school, she always made a passing grade, she was knowledgeable about so many things that was beyond her years, maybe because she grew up the oldest child and had responsibility. Albert was a roly poly little fellow, he was fat when he was born and he was a stout little, stubborn as mule. He still is (stubborn). He outgrew her, he was the healthiest and the strongest of my children. He could out do her by the time he was 6 months old she was a year old of course, two years old and he weighed more than she did. And then on well, she could try but she couldn't boss him. She had to just get around him, she hadn't been smarter than he was, more capable of out witting him. Well she was nice to the baby, in fact she never seemed to take much interest in anything until he was old enough to play with. Then she began to snap out of it.

Then Vincent was a frail little thing all his life and he was just as different from Albert as you would even know they were brothers because he was, he is more like his Granddaddy Crabtree than anybody, he's mischievous and a happy end loves everybody and everybody loves him.

And June was a regular little butter ball when she was born, she was just as wide an she was long and she was a pretty healthy baby and she never was any trouble except for having the colic a lot when she was little, she wasn't a bothersome baby.

And Glen - I don't know, I had so many kids by the time I had Glen that I don't remember what he was like.

Sharon: "You just handed him to Essie didn't you?"

Addie: "I guess I did. Maybe I just handed him to Essie. Essie .had a whole lot of taken cure of the two little ones when she was little because I had so much to do, I had so many other things to take up my time that I didn't have time to cuddle a baby."

**Q How many can you hold on your lap at once?**

**A** Well, you can get two on top of your apron and one under.

**Q What about when they got older?**

A Just everything normal kids do. They loved like friends and fought like brothers.

**Q How did the Depression affect your family?**

A Not too much because their daddy didn't work wages. I don't remember him working a month for a paycheck in all our life. He always made his own job. He always worked for himself and I always encouraged him to work for himself. That way he wasn't only working and, making a living for himself but he was providing jobs for other people. So really the Depression didn't hit us as hard as it did a lot of people. We never were hungry and we didn't always have fine clothes, we always had enough.

**Q How about the war?**

A Well, the war came along the boys were big enough, Albert had already been away from home a year and a half when he was drafted and Vincent wanted to volunteer and he wasn't quite old enough and his Daddy finally signed him in and then he liked to about went crazy about it because he was so worried about him. And the time Glen got old enough that he wanted to join I couldn't keep him in school, he just wasn't interested in school or anything else and I went to one of his teachers and ask him if he could help me in any way about it and he said "Mrs. Willoughby I don't see that I can, every boy in the class feels just like Glen does and I feel just like the boys do. If this gets any worse, I'm going to volunteer myself," and there they were. Well, just as quick as Glen was old enough, he volunteered and went into the Army. So, I had two overseas. I didn't have three in the Army at one time because Vincent was discharged just a short time before Glen went in. Then Glen put in about 32 years. He was in Europe during three campaigns and then he went to the Orient.

**Q When did your kids start leaving?**

A Essie? Well, she went to work, and she worked about 4 years before she married and Harmon was in a production plant in a Fort Worth and they transferred him out to Los Angeles so he couldn't get leave to come back home to marry her so he sent for her to come out there so she went out to Los Angeles. And the same year she went out there, June went to Fort Worth and went to work so the kids all left home within a year.

**Q What was that like?**

A Well, it feels mighty empty. Well, I don't think you are really ready for them to leave home. I never resented my children leaving home because I wanted them to do what they should do. I wanted them to do something for themselves and I wasn't financially able to do very much for them so I said...June said one time, "Mama why I don't think I could stand it if one of my children went off to Fort Worth like I did with so little money in her pocket," I said, "Well, you think I didn't sweat blood," I said "Well, I couldn't, do anything for you so I didn't have the right to tell you you couldn't try for yourself." It's like the old colored woman said "Love 'im and lick 'im and let the Lord do the rest."

**Q When did Daddy T get sick?**

**A** Let me see, he had his first bad heart attack before he got the last crop completely harvested and that was in 1944, about that. He put in the biggest crop, he tended more acres single handed than anybody else in that county that year but he had his heart attack just before he got it harvested. I don't remember what we did about the crop because he was down flat in bed for six weeks, that I didn't even let him raise up. At the time he was down in bed I was milking two cows and feeding a bunch of hogs and I had 200 baby chickens in a breeder house and I had a team of horses to feed and take care of and I'd run out and do a little bit and run back and see about him and run out and do a little more and run back and see about him, because I was keeping him so sedated that he didn't know much about what was going on all the time and I was afraid he'd get out of bed and the doctor had given me orders not to let him get up so I kind of had my hands full that year. I was makin' butter and selling it and then when the chickens got big enough I was dressing chickens and selling them and a we butchered out the hogs that fall and sold some of the meat and put the rest away for our own use. We nearly always had a beef calf in the coral fatten I up, you know, to kill. But he had to get rid of the horses soon after that because he got where he wasn't able to do much.

Daddy T got quite a bit better after that heart attack and it was several years before he had another one and during that time, after he got better where I was able to do anything sew after that. Sewed for 5 years. I sewed and make a little money. And I had always wanted to do upholstery work and I was just doing a little for neighbors around close you know, I wasn't even charging them for it at first really, and then my brother got disabled to where he couldn't hold down a regular job and he'd come down to my house and if I was having a struggle with a piece of furniture why he'd pitch in and help me a little bit and he got interested in it so finally he said one day, "There's enough lumber here (I was trying to work in the back porch, and every time that back door would open why WISH would go that dirt out of that old furniture into my kitchen and that was unpleasant and made lots of extra work for me and it was so crowded that it was a lot of trouble too) so he said "There's enough lumber, scrap lumber around here that with just a little more lumber we could build a room on to the back end of the garage that you could have for an upholstery shop" He put the proposition up to Daddy T that he would put his labor up against the lumber to build this room, then we could both work. So that's the why the upholstery work started. So we upholstered furniture for about 10 years.

**Q How come Uncle Jack was in Granbury where you where at?**

**A** He traveled around an awful lot in his time and he like the country down there so after he married Darlena, well then he just decided to, they wanted to settle somewhere so they just decided on that, and then I think he kind of liked to be where I was too.

**Q What about politics?**

**A** I did a lot of community work but not political, I voted my own conviction and said nothing to anybody about who I voted for or why I voted. Inver argued politics. A lot of people thought it was kind of crazy because I didn't vote like Tesie did and a lot of people wouldn't believe him when he said he didn't know how I voted, but I was pretty independent about that. I voted what I thought and just kept my

mouth shut. about it. But I did a lot of community work. And during the War I did extension work. Government Home Economics and home demonstration work and we had a county home demonstration agent that brought the lessons in home economy and everything pertaining to the home and the community was divided into clubs and I was instrumental in organizing 3 clubs. I served as president in 5 clubs, and I was county chairman of the whole council of clubs. There was 18 clubs in the county at one time and then we had a council meeting once a month which had a president and a voting delegate to this council and I served as chairman of that council for 2 years. And one year when we didn't have a home demonstration agent I served as program chairman for the clubs and I got program material together and gave it to this council and then the club presidents and council delegates took the program back to their clubs and give the demonstration or what ever. I served 3 years on the ration board.

Q **During this time what was Daddy T doing?**

A He hauled scrap metal, see that was quite a thing during the war; that was when they first begun recycling things, recycling metal especially tin and he and some more men went into the city dump and got out these tin cans and took them to the recycling plant where they melted them down and reclaimed this tin which was very precious at that time because it was when we didn't get any. You see there's very little tin mined in the United States. Our tin had to come mostly from South America and we couldn't get it during the war and he did quite a lot towards the war effort in that respect. In fact, enough that he had a little citation for work he had done in that line. Just a little community thing, you know.

I have somewhere stuck away a little citation signed by the president for work I had done on the ration board. I was busy but I've always been busy, I'm not one to sit around and twiddle my thumbs, if I'm not, if my hands are not busy I'm reading something or studying something. I had to fill up my time with something.

## Story

We had a French Coach stallion. French Coach is a breed of horse, and they're a tall, long-legged horse. They're not primary saddle stock but they do make pretty good saddle horses when they're trained properly, and we had this stallion that we keep for a good many years and a breed lots of mares, you know, for work stock and he was gentle to ride and so Vincent was a baby, when he was a little baby I used to put Essie and Albert up behind the saddle and tie the saddle straps together and make stirrups for them to put their feet in. Then I'd wrap Vincent up in a blanket and pin the blanket good and tight around him and lay him on the corner of the porch, then I'd get in the saddle and reach down and pick him up and take him up and I'd go see my mother-in-law. So the first time I did it I rode up in front of the house and hollered "Mammy, Mammy," and she said "I'm in here, come on in" and I said "I can't, you'll have to come and get me." So she came to the door and saw me with all 3 of those kids up on that horse, she just threw up her hands and said "Oh Mercy! What are you going to do next?" So that evening when I got ready to go home I got the two kids back up behind me and Mammy handed the baby up to me and I went home and laid the baby on the porch and got down and took the other two kids out of the rumble seat.

## Remembered Christmases

We lived about 150 miles from Clayton, New Mexico, which was the rail head and that's where we bought our groceries twice a year and it took all day, it was a long hard drive by wagon and team to go to Clayton in one day. And my Uncle and my Father went to Clayton to buy supplies and when they got to Clayton and bought the supplies it would have been the 15th of December. I don't remember it was but anyway early in December and they pulled out of town and camped thinking they'd get an early start the next morning thinking they'd make it home that day. If they started by 4:00 in the morning they could make it home by night and when they woke up the next morning they were covered with about 8 inches of snow. All over their bed, all over their tarp and their camp beds and so they got up and took a look at things and everything was covered with snow just a complete blanket for 100s of miles around them and they couldn't see the wagon road, and all they could have done was struck out East and hope they was hitting the right trail and so they each cot on one of their horses and lead the other one and went back to Clayton. And they put the horses the wagon yard which was a boarding place for peoples horses and teams. And they stayed there in town for nearly a week before they could get out, and when it got Christmas Eve they just couldn't stand it any longer so on Christmas Eve Morning of the 24th they decided to just make a try at it so they went out to were they had left their wagons, now their wagons loaded with all their provisions was sitting out there in the county about 5 miles all this time. But they didn't worry about it, people didn't steal in those days. Nobody would have bothered those wagons out there. So they hooked up and came on in. And they got in sometime after midnight and their hands and feet were frozen and their mustaches were frozen to their face. And their cheeks were frozen. I can remember seeing my father's cheeks peel off where they were frost bitten and his hands were so sore for several days that he couldn't hardly use them. But they got in the night with our Christmas so we didn't miss Santie Claws.

I remember one Christmas that we had at a neighbor's house when we had a big Christmas tree, but there wasn't a present bought, not a present. All the presents were homemade, it was a, they made it a rule. I think there was about 4 families that went together and had this Christmas tree at this friend's house, their names were Gamel. And they were very good friends of mother and dad and they had a big family of children and we had a Christmas tree which was huge cedar tree. And it was trimmed with what ever they could find in colored tinsel or one of the men had cut out stars out of tin vegetable cans because they were bright and shiny, and hung them on the tree and the girls and women made rosets and bows and things out of bright colored quilt scraps and they strung popcorn and put on the tree and we had plenty to eat and a good time.