

Interview with Josie Adams

By Kristin Riney

2/9/06

Manor of the Plains

Where were you when you were 17 years old?

A: We lived in the county south of Meade. I moved into Meade so I could attend high school. I worked for my board and room and also had other jobs

Describe the place where you lived.

A: We had a two-room wood frame house. My father purchased an old school building and attached it to the house and then at that time he piped water into the house.

What was your main job at this time? What was minimum wage?

A: When I was living in Meade, I was cooking at a hotel and was also a waitress. I don't remember minimum wage.

What did you do for entertainment?

A: We would get together for picnics, attend baseball games, and also played games and went to the movies.

How was school? What classes did you take? What sports did you play?

A: I enjoyed school. I took the classes that were required. Penmanship was important. I played some basketball.

How much did things cost, such as cars, food, and gas?

A: I don't remember.

What was transportation like?

A: We had a team of horses that pulled a wagon and later my parents purchased a car. In nice days we walked a mile and a half miles to school. On cold days, we rode our horse.

What was your first car? How much did it cost? When did you get it?

A: An old coupe. I don't remember the price. After I graduated from high school.

What did your parents do for a living?

A: We lived in the country. My father was a farmer. He raised cattle and hogs and also maintained the roads. My mother was a homemaker and always had a garden.

What was your favorite meal?

A: I like potatoes, meat, and cornbread.

Were there conflicts between countries? If so, what?

A: I don't remember.

Who was President? What was voting like?

A: I don't remember.

How are things in Ensign and Cimarron different now than in the 1920's?

Everything was different then.

Did people farm more than they do now? Did they use animals to farm with?

A: No. Yes.

How were things heated and cooled?

A: We collected cow chips for heating and cooking and later had kerosene stoves. We had an icebox that held a big block of ice.

What were the social issues, such as drugs?

A: I don't remember any.

What was your clothing like? Did you buy or make them?

Clothing was probably cotton, and our long dresses were dark colors with long sleeves. Did you have many chores? What did you have to do?

A: Yes. I helped with the milking, tended to the chickens and guineas. I helped my mother with cooking, baking, and housekeeping.

What was the popular "thing" to do?

A: I remember that my friends played a lot of games and baseball too.

Describe the Dust Bowl.

A: The dust storms were so bad that machinery, fences, and other things were covered up. I was a nurse and was working in the hospital. We hung up damp sheets to cover some of the windows. In other rooms we put damp paper in the windowsills. Only emergency surgery was performed.

Describe the jackrabbit drive. Were you a part of it?

A: Neighbors gathered in a large circle and walked toward the center driving the rabbits and then clubbing them. The rabbits were destroying the crops.

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I agree that persons doing research may use my name and my statements without further approval on my part.

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Address: Box 604
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