

**NEW MEXICO  
FARM & RANCH  
HERITAGE  
MUSEUM**

**ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
INTERVIEW ABSTRACT**

CONSULTANT: Don King

DATE OF BIRTH: July 3, 1930 GENDER: Male

DATE(S) OF INTERVIEW: September 9, 2004

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Bruce King home near Stanley, NM

INTERVIEWER: Cameron Saffell

SOURCE OF INTERVIEW: NMF&RHM  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSCRIBED: Yes: December 5, 2006

NUMBER OF TAPES: One

ABTRACTOR: Donna M. Wojcik

DATE ABSTRACTED: March 8, 2005

QUALITY OF RECORDING (SPECIFY): Good

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: King family's dry land farming, ranching, propane businesses  
in the Estancia Valley.

DATE RANGE: 1930-2005

## **ABSTRACT (IMPORTANT TOPICS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):**

### **TAPE ONE, SIDE A:**

The interview begins with a discussion about King's birth and early years, in particular his chores as a child and his responsibilities during World War II. He discusses the family's bean farming business, Indian workers and equipment. The effect of the weather on farming and ranching, drought years, and the use of irrigation wells and how this impacted their bean farming business were discussed.

There is a discussion about the propane business, the different trucks they used, and how cheap fuel was a help to their business endeavors. There is a brief sidelight about the hay hauling business.

King states that the key to their farming and ranching success was that they could sell corn silage through the feedlots.

### **TAPE ONE, SIDE B:**

The discussion of the propane business continues. King recalls that in the early years they did not make much profit. He states that Alice King [sister-in-law] is actively involved in the business.

The King Family takes pride in the fact that they always leave the land in better shape than they found it. The land is never overgrazed and they have consistently practiced soil conservation measures by planting grass to keep erosion under control. There is a brief discussion about the Soil Bank.

There is a lengthy discussion about the impact of drought in the years from 1950 to the present time. Food preservation methods, especially canning, are discussed. Pulling together was very important. Rather than sell surplus canned goods, the King family gave them to neighbors and those who were in need. There is a brief discussion about food storage systems in those early years including iceboxes. Ice came from the icehouse in Moriarty.

*Director's note: The program hopes to do additional follow-up interviews.*