



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW ABSTRACT

CONSULTANT: John W. "Bus" Riley

DATE OF BIRTH: 1925 GENDER: Male

DATE(S) OF INTERVIEW: October 19, 2009

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Unknown

INTERVIEWER: Christina Garton

SOURCE OF INTERVIEW: NMF&RHM

TRANSCRIBED: June 30, 2010

NUMBER OF TAPES: Two

ABTRACTOR: Donna M. Wojcik

DATE ABSTRACTED: December 15, 2010

RECORDING QUALITY (SPECIFY): Fair. Some tape distortion on end of Side One, beginning of Side Two.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Comes from a long line of cattle ranchers. He grew up on a cattle ranch in the Deming, N.M., area. He discusses ranching in the southwestern New Mexico.

DATE RANGE: 1925 – 2010

ABSTRACT (IMPORTANT TOPICS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

TAPE ONE, SIDE A:

His grandparents moved from Texas to the small town of Badger (now called Hope), N.M. which was named because the townspeople lived in dugouts. The nearest water source was the Peñasco River, which they dammed and ran to orchards via canal. Cisterns were eventually dug.

Riley was born in Carlsbad in 1925. His uncle had a large ranch in the Deming area, and his father went to work for the uncle. His father's work for the Grazing Service division of the Civilian Conservation Corps is discussed. In 1937 his father purchased a ranch in the Florida Mountains near Deming. Riley tells how the ranch was acquired, and the particulars of the ranch land as well as improvements to the ranch. He discusses weather, his chores, and briefly talks about the military take-over of land for what is now known as White Sands Missile Range.

TAPE ONE, SIDE B:

Riley talks about ranch life, gardens, family holidays, family traditions as well as his education, and job at the Bureau of Land Management. He also talks about the fate of ranches around the Riley Ranch near Deming.

TAPE TWO, SIDE A:

Riley discusses the quality of life on the ranch, and the changes that he has seen over the years. While there are a lot of ranches that have been converted into wilderness areas and wildlife refuges, Riley believes that the ranching way of life will continue. Several people are mentioned for future interviews. He discusses the government's program to kill cows during the drought years and states that the rancher was paid \$2.50 apiece. He shares a story of a white cow that he and his cousin thought was a ghost.

TAPE TWO, SIDE B: Blank