

Lillian Grumbles
Interview 125a
November 1, 1987, Diboll, Texas
Macy Grumbles, Interviewer
Retyped by Courtney Lawrence

ABSTRACT: Lillian Grumbles moved to Cochino Creek in 1939. Most of her time was spent doing housework, garden work, and yard work, getting kids to school and cooking. She mentions creek flooding, playing Forty-Two with neighbors, and owning a car. Other people mentioned are: Bonnie Brown and Clifford Bringe.

Macy Grumbles (hereafter MG): This is Macy Grumbles and I am interviewing my Grandmother Lillian Grumbles at her home in Diboll, Texas. I'm interviewing her about when she lived on Kachina [Cochino] Creek, November 1, 1987. When did you move to Kachina [Cochino] Creek?

Lillian Grumbles (hereafter LG): In 1939.

MG: Was there any particular reason?

LG: So the children could go to school, they had to ride a school bus from Kachina [Cochino] Creek to Apple Springs.

MG: What time did they have to get up in the morning to catch the bus?

LG: Well, the bus came about 6 o'clock.

MG: How late was it before they got home in the evenings?

LG: It was dark, sometimes way after dark.

MG: What does the word "Kachina [Cochino]" mean?

LG: It means "dirty hog."

MG: Do you have any special memories of when you lived at Kachina [Cochino] Creek?

LG: Yes, I have a terrible lot of memories. I was sick a terrible lot, I was anemic but still it didn't keep me from doing my work.

MG: Which was?

LG: Housework, garden work, yard work, getting kids off to school and cooking for them when they came in, in the evening. I had a little girl that lived across the street from

us, up the road from us, she was a diabetic and I always had something cooked for her to eat because she couldn't eat what my children ate. That was Rita Beth Roach.

MG: About what time did you get up in the mornings?

LG: Oh, usually I got up at four.

MG: And what time did you go to bed at night?

LG: Whenever the notion struck me.

MG: Anything else?

LG: Well, while we lived there we dug us some wells, we didn't have no water, actually we hauled our water until we dug the well. We had our own cows, we milked our cows, had our own butter and milk, we had our own chickens and our eggs. We had goats and sheep. We sheared the goats and the sheep. Had a good garden every year, hadn't, we would have starved to death if we didn't have that garden.

MG: Tell us some things that happened on Kachina [Cochino] Creek that you remember best.

LG: I just don't remember everything.

MG: What about when it flooded?

LG: Oh yes, it always came a flood, the kids couldn't get across, the bus couldn't get across the creek so their daddy would have to get on a horse and go and get them, bring them back on horseback across the creek.

MG: Did it rain very often?

LG: Yes, it rained hard, got up in the garden one time when we lived there. We had pecan trees out in front of the house and we killed a good many squirrels under the pecan trees they were eating the pecans.

MG: What about the time you went fishing and the fish got away?

LG: We went fishing one day, had a big old long string of fish and Leon let them get loose and we never did find our fish.

MG: What did you do to Leon?

LG: We didn't do anything to him. He couldn't help it, he just dropped the string and they just went yonder.

MG: How old was he at the time?

LG: He must have been ten.

MG: What kind of entertainment did you have?

LG: All the entertainment we had was to play Forty-Two with our neighbors. Always on Friday and Saturday nights nearly.

LG: Yes, we finished it up and moved there.

MG: How did you get the wood and everything?

LG: We hauled it in a wagon.

MG: Where from?

LG: Oh, about six or seven miles from where we lived, or farther.

MG: How did you get the wood?

LG: We tore an old house down and got the lumber out of it.

MG: Tell me how you did it, when you told me last night?

LG: Oh, well, the way we would do, we'd pull the nails, we tore it down and then we had to have the nails pulled out of it and me and the kids went over, we walked about a mile and a half, or maybe two miles, and we would pull nails all day and then we would walk back home at night.

MG: And how long did it take you to get it all done?

LG: It took us about a month or two to get the nails out of it, get the lumber hauled.

MG: So it took about a month to finish the house?

LG: Yes, longer than that.

MG: What about your bathtub and your toilet?

LG: We didn't have no bathtub, we built us one out in the yard close to the well, out of cement and we layed boards down from the bathtub to the porch so we wouldn't get sand on our feet when we took a bath and track it in the house.

MG: What about in the winter?

LG: In the winter we would just take a bath in a tub behind the cook stove. Didn't even have no electricity, all lights we had was coal oil lanterns.

MG: How did you heat the house?

LG: We would heat the house by a wood cook stove and by our wood heater.

MG: And your cooking, I don't think you had junk food like we have today.

LG: No, man, we didn't know what junk food was, what we had we cooked. We had our own chickens. I killed our own chickens and fried them.

MG: What about your neighbors, did you have any?

LG: Yes, we had neighbors and we had good neighbors. They were better than my neighbors I got where I am living now. The neighbors I got where I am living now are not very good neighbors. When we lived on Kachina [Cochino] Creek we were all one family nearly, all of us. There was Clarence and Zetha Lee Roach, Louis and Jewel Minton and her family, Arthur Brock and Mary lived there. Bonnie Brown was a foreman there for the railroad, was a railroad foreman. And there was a man and woman named Mr. & Mrs. Musick lived there. We all really had a good time, we would all go to each others house and eat dinner and then we would eat supper with this one and that one and then on top of that we would all play Forty-Two, most of the time they came to our house to play Forty-Two.

MG: Were they all farmers, too?

LG: No, they worked on the railroad track.

MG: What about transportation?

LG: Transportation? We had a car, yes, we had a car. I loved to drive it, too. I learned to drive it in about '45, I guess, something like that, and I have been driving a car for a long, long time.

MG: When did you get your car, what year, do you remember?

LG: We have always had a car, we came to Texas in a car. We've never been without a car.

MG: Oh, okay, I thought you had a horse and a buggy?

LG: We had one horse wagon that we went around in the woods in because you couldn't go in the woods in a car because the roads weren't fixed for cars to go over it, they were fixed for a wagon, or a hack or a buggy or something like that. But we always had a car.

MG: Tell me about the time when some of your kinfolks came to see you and you went walking in the woods.

LG: Oh well, we went way off down Kachina [Cochino] Creek walking and we found a persimmon tree, some ripe persimmons and some green persimmons. One of my husband's nieces, she got a green persimmon and she ate it and said, "Oh, I'll never whistle again, my mouth is puckered so."

MG: Did she ever eat another persimmon?

LG: I don't know, I don't think she did, not that day no how.

MG: How often did you get to the store?

LG: We only went to the store once a month because we only got paid once a month. We went to the store once a month and if we ran out we done without, until we did go to the store.

MG: Where did you go?

LG: We went to Apple Springs, Mr. Tom Tate, we traded with him, he ran the grocery store in Apple Springs.

MG: Tell me about the bull you raised from a calf.

LG: We raised a calf one time, I've got the horns in the house of the calf we raised, he was a Brahman, he was a pretty thing. Clifford Bringe took him down on the lower end of the ranch and he didn't feed it and take care of it and it got out and it died. And I've got the horns and they are beautiful horns in my house.

MG: Were any of your children born while you lived on Kachina [Cochino] Creek?

LG: Yes, Charlie was born when we lived on Kachina [Cochino] Creek, he was born October 13, 1944.

MG: When did you move from Kachina [Cochino] Creek?

LG: We moved from Kachina [Cochino] Creek in January of '45, we moved on 94, on the lower end of the ranch, it is called.

MG: Was there any reason you moved?

LG: Well, the reason we moved down there was because Southern Pine Lumber Company, that's who my husband was working for, wanted us to move down there because Walter Robertson lived there and they moved out on the old Durham place way down on the other side of Huntington.

MG: Walter did?

LG: Yes. Walter did, so they wanted us to move down there and let another man move in our house on Kachina [Cochino] Creek.

MG: Thanks very much for your time, Granny, and I hope I get a good grade on this.