

[Mrs. Bell Mattison]

Week No. 3

Item No.

Words 40 [???] [Dup?]

Percent

Received

Accredited

Do Not Write In This Space

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R #1 W Front N. Platte

DATE Jan. 16, 1939 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant [Mrs. ??] or [??] [E 10 St. N. Platte, Nebr.?)

2. Date and time of interview

Jan. 16, 1:30-4

3. Place of interview

[Home of Mr. & Mrs Madison?]

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant

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5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. C15 - 2/27/41 - Nebraska

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R #1 W Front N. Platte

DATE SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Bell Mattison E 10 St., N. Platte, Nebr.

1. Ancestry

2. Place and date of birth - '64

3. Family - Twice married [3?] children born Filmore Co., and [3?] in Frontier Co., only raised 2 children

4. Place and date of birth

5. Education, with dates

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates - Farm & laboring woman

7. Special skills and interests - Seems to have had no time for such development.

8. Community and religious activities - very limited but enjoys old friends & has lived [50?] years or more as neighbor to [Hood?] family.

9. Description of Informant - Small worn out looking transparent big-knuckled hands were idle while she rested.

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10. Other points gained in interview

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R#1 W. Front N. Platte, Nebr.

DATE Jan. 16 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Bell Mattison [or Matison?]

It was pretty tough in those times. We came to Filmore Co. '68. My mother had died and my father had re-married. We had an awful hard time.

We never had school for I don't know how long then we had 3 mo., 3 mi. away. We had a spellin' book, never had no reader or [rittymetic?], just spellin and we walked 3 mi. a way walk. I froze my fingers and froze my toes and I'm tellin' you the truth I never had a pair of shoes on my feet for 3 years, winter, nor summer. My dress one [summer?] was made out of an umbrella and it was the only thing I had to wear, there wasn't a thread for underskirt or panties or another stitch.

We had corn meal one year, corn meal gravy, corn meal porridge, corn meal mixed with soda and water and baked corn meal roasted & boiled for coffee and it was that way about a year there just wasnt a speck of anything to eat unless it was a big old jack rabbit.

I never tasted candy until I was 14 or pretty nearly grown. It was stick candy.

I had a corn cob doll, a corn cob with a rag wrapped around it. We never went nowhere, always stayed at home. Our biggest enjoyment was to set out on the prairie and hold to a rope on the old cow so she could eat. 2 [??]

My father moved to [Seandy?], Kans., when my stepmother took sick and died. Father had proved up on his homestead and mortgaged it and the mortgage took it.

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I went back to Filmore Co. to work. I made my own way from about the time my stepmother died when I was 13.

I got to going with a fellow after I went back to Filmore Co., that I met at a dance hall and we were married in '81 and went to farming.

We came to Frontier Co., and took a homestead in ['83?]. It was better settled than when my folks came to Filmore Co., a family on every quarter it seemed like. We had good crops and got along good but didn't make nothing only a good living. I only left Frontier Co. 11 years ago, we were there a long time. We came back to N. Platee in '28.

Woman I've seen hoppers so thick on the ground that you could scoop them up with a scoop shovel.

When we put in wheat in Filmore Co. we tied brush together to use for harrow to cover the wheat with, any way to get along. I can see my old dad yet with a sack on his back sewing wheat, broadcast.

Put 12 pennies in a cup of vinegar let it stand 24 hours and wash your hands in it to heal that [?].

Make some sage [toa?] and put in a chunk the size of a cherry for a gargle. I've cured dyptheria with it.