

## [J. R. Walkup]

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Words 425 [6?]

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### EXPERIENCES OF J. R. WALKUP (FOLKLORE).

J. R. Walkup of 1510 Thirteenth Street, Wichita Falls, Texas, came to this section of the country in [1875?] and went to work as a cowboy on the MO ranch, which was operated [by?] Reynolds & Matthews. Mr. Walkup recalls two occurrences that were [epic?] in the lives of the MO ranch cowpunchers.

During the spring roundup of 1882 a number of the MO riders made camp for the night about ten miles from the ranch headquarters. They built a brush [corral?] in which to pen the [most?] of their cowponies during the night. Although the Comanche Indians were supposed to be restricted to [their?] reservation across Red River in Oklahoma, bands of them sometimes sneaked off the reservation on horse-stealing expeditions. Some of the MO cowboys, therefore, took precaution to secure their animals against theft by any marauding redskins who might chance upon the camp. The boys tied their ponies with stake-ropes to the horns of the saddles which they used for pillows.

The following morning all the horses were gone, and the cow-boys were afoot ten miles from the ranch. Moccasin tracks in and around the camp showed that Indians had stolen the ponies, not only those in the improvised corral, but also those whose owners had tied them to their saddles. Footprints showed that the Indians had walked among the men as they slept, [even?] stepping over them, without waking a man.

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The other incident which remains vividly in the memory of the former cow waddy was a trip up the cattle trail with a herd of six 2 thousand longhorns to be delivered in Montana. The trip required four mouths' time, three months and one week being spent on the road and three weeks' stop in Wyoming gathering the herd after it had scattered in a stampede. A herd drive had been made through rough country in Wyoming to reach a creek so that the herd could be watered, but the creek was dry, and the drive continued. Two great black [?] clouds appeared at different places on the horizon, and at last came together in front of the vast herd, and a terrific wind and rain storm, accompanied by hail, ensued. The hailstones were so large that the trail drivers in order to escape serious injury had to dismount and unsaddle their horses and place the saddles over their heads, while the six thousand longhorns surged away before the storm and scattered over the country. Two horses and twenty head of cattle were killed by the hailstones, and forty head were lost.