

## [W. L. McAulay]

c 12 2/11/41 Tex Box 1

Range-Lore

Annie MacAulay

Maverick, Texas.

Page One

RANGE-LORE

“My family and I had been living on a ranch near where the Concho River empties into the Colorado, before we moved to Runnels County in 1879,” says W.L. McAulay.

“Heavy rains often disturbed families, cattle and stock that were located so near the two rivers. I always tried to be at home when a heavy rain came as my wife was afraid of that location.

“One day in the early spring a bunch of cowmen and I went over near Ballinger on a cattle deal. I left my wife and baby at home with a hired hand to keep things going.

“The rain began to fall, my how it did rain, then we had a West Texas down pour. I knew the creeks and rivers were swelling far and wide and I had to get to 1 my family, so I headed home. When I came to the Colorado River I discarded my clothes with the exception of my slicker which I fastened to the saddle. I swam the river, leading my horse, and we made it across safely then I put my slicker on and rode a few miles to the Concho River crossing. Here the river was not so high nor wide but the water was very swift. I again attempted to swim, leading my swimming horse with my slicker tied to the saddle,

## Library of Congress

as before. I was always a good swimmer but my horse was a little shy of the water. He got frightened, began to rear and pitch in the water, then pulled himself free and at the same time the saddle girth came loose. My horse made for the bank he came from. During this escapade I lost my slicker, saddle, horse and all. I had to walk four miles facing the cool spring breeze in my birthday suit before I reached home.

“This was my most trying experience during my forty years of riding the range.”