

MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
04	Came to Catoosa, Oklahoma, October 27, 1907, born in Carroll County, Arkansas in 1893. Came with parents, 7 brothers and sisters, traveled 12 miles from Catoosa in edge of Verdigris bottom in Springtown vicinity west of Lock and Dam 18. Bottom was a wilderness at that time. A man could not ride through if he did not go on a cattle trail.	
	My father was John U. Norris, farmer, trapper, hunter. He farmed for Gypsy and Nancy Schilocky, the first year and hunted and picked up pecans for a living. He had a string of hounds and traps. In 1925 he was Oklahoma champion.	
	We could go in the river bottom and kill wild hogs for our meat. Nancy Schilocky told me to go dig sweet annison roots to put in the lard to give a sweet smell. We went on Adams Creek and dug it.	
	My father carried the first ballot box to our house & held the first election in Adam Creek Township. The election is now held in Compton Schoolhouse. He was a democrat.	
34	6 years later I married John L. Gilbert. We drove to Tulsey in a two-seated surrey pulled by 2 mules on Nov. 30, 1912, settled in Compton community, lived there 42 years as farmers, Broken Arrow was our trading post.	
38	At that time Broken Arrow had no streets. I have seen wagons bogged down in Main Street. We farmed cotton mostly, raised hogs and cattle. He came to Oklahoma in 1901, settled on Adams Creek. We have two sons, one with American Airlines, O. J. Gilbert, of Los Angeles, California. Eugene Gilbert with the Corps of Engineers in Tulsa. They graduated from Broken Arrow High School, then to Tulsa University.	
46	I belonged to the farm extension club 52 years and still attend. My husband belonged to an organization called the Anti-Horse Thief Organization.	
48	Catoosa was a very wild place, 2 or 3 killed ^{each} week. The young people today are not much worse than then. More of them and word can get around faster by telephone or TV - long hair and beards don't mean anything.	
53	The men wore beards and ladies bangs. I heard of no drugs but certainly plenty of liquor and it was against the law and shipped into Catoosa. I know one woman made a trip every week there.	
56	There was a boy, Floyd Jones, who got his throat cut just below our house. A Childers and a McCullough killed him. One held his hands around a tree, the other cut his throat, and gambling was the men's pastime. They were drunk and gambling when they done it. They both died in McAlester prison.	

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63

No schools at that time. When I was 5 years old we came to Grove, OK in a wagon train. There were no schools.

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My dad got a big wooden box and brought it home from town and fixed some benches and hired a woman to teach my sister Willard and I, and we went to school every morning in this big box.

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We stayed at Grove a year after that and went back to Arkansas until I was 10, came back to Grove, and then came on down to Catoosa. My father was an old time fiddler, played for all the square dances.

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Nancy Shilocky also rode with Belle Starr.

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My father and my husband made caskets because the mud in winter was so bad that they couldn't get in town to get them. I have lined caskets and fixed them for people.

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I was 5 years old when we came to Grove, Oklahoma. Came in wagon train with parents, mother's sister, Esther Crittenden (she married Wash Powell while we were in Grove) and my 2 sisters, I was the oldest. Father was born and raised in Arkansas and was hunter there also.

We came with a family by the name of Underwood in the wagon train. 2 or 3 nights after we left Arkansas the roads were terrible. We could hardly get through. We crossed White River and it was really scary. I was 5 years old and it almost scared me to death. We traveled on and got to our camping place that night and there were 2 grown boys in this other wagon and they got into a fight and one of them busted a cedar bucket over the other's head and my aunt took me and my sister and ran off into the bushes while they got them settled.

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Then when we went on we went to Southwest City, Missouri, stopped and bought horsefeed. I'd always been scared of the indians although I have a little indian in me and I thought we'd be scalped. We went on out of Southwest City and camped for dinner and some indians wearing moccasins came up on little ponys and told my dad "you went in our field and got corn for your horses" and he said no, he'd stopped in Southwest City and they said "oh yes, you did, if you don't pay us for it we'll go back and get a posse" so my dad took out a silver dollar. I'll never forget it. He held it up and they said yes, that would be all right and they took the silver dollar and went off a whooping and a hollerin. So we drove on in to Grove and got settled and I was a really happy little girl to get off that trip.

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My father's great grandfather came, I think, on the Trail of Tears. They came to Arkansas long before Ark. was a state and when they allotted the land to Oklahoma he came, my father said, to put myself,

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	my sister Willard and my sister Nellie, on the rolls and I don't know whether he put us on the rolls or not. He went to Pauls Valley, OK and worked to get money to come back to Arkansas on and when they proved up on the land he couldn't get the money to come back and prove up so that left us out. When he came back from Pauls Valley he had his hair long like Indians wore it and had it braided in real long black braids and us kids didn't know what to think of that (I have, not much, but a little Cherokee blood).	
158	My husband belong to the Anti-Horse Thief Assoc. First time he ever came to see me before we were married he brought his picture and he had been to this AHTA and I have a picture and the ribbon they pinned on his coat. It was in 1910. They organized because the good horses couldn't be kept, people came in at night and would ride them clear out the country and at that time you know a horse could go pretty fast and get away in a night and they'd take them out to sell they were so valuable.	
187	We were cotton farmers, it was a hard life, we picked the cotton, took to Broken Arrow and paid our bills and then didn't have much left to live on and my husband worked hard and I worked hard with him. I believe in a husband and wife going hand in hand in anything they do and our children had a real hard time getting their education too. My husband introduced the first peanuts that was raised in Wagoner County. Mr. Bob Jeffries was the county agent at that time and he took a lot of pictures of us that was in the farm paper and my husband really knew how to make the shocks look bright and pretty. When they went to thrash them they said he really knew how to take care of them.	
206	I wish the boys and girls of today knew how hard it was out in there to get to college or a high school. My oldest, O. J. would walk 5 miles to catch the bus for high school, the roads were so bad and muddy. They would call out and he would meet them wherever he could get. At that time he even had to stay with a family closer to BrokenArrow by the name of Rafferty. Harold Rafferty was his buddy, and he'd stay there and if he didn't have enough money to buy his lunch Mr. Rafferty would give him money to eat on until he could get back home to get his money. So boys and girls, take advantage of everything you can and get education for that is what counts in life. I know because I didn't have any, I had to work in the cotton fields and take care of 7 children smaller than me and I never had any education so I feel inferiority about not having an education but thank God I've stood the test and had a wonderful life.	
227	Lady came in from Wagoner by the name of Hopkins and started a sunday school at Springtown and we went there for a long time and studied the New Testament. I met my husband at sunday school in 1910 and he gave me a testament. I still have it. She got a preacher, Mr. Peters, to come in for a revival.	

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Oh Bertie, raise my little children up to meet me and it made me think that there was a higher power and I should get right with the Lord. I did, I went to a revival and got saved when I was 18 years old. And I'm not sorry to say I worked very hard for our Lord all these years.

257 Then when we moved in the Conklin vicinity we had church services in it and we worked hard to keep a little service going and it was un-demoninational at Conklin. At Springtown it was Baptist.

265 I'll never forget the wars. WWI I worked in the bond drives. We had a sale. Bluford Patrick of Catoosa had a sale and we women worked hard to serve lunch there and it was all turned over to the bond drive and Mr. Patrick gave us a pig. We put that up and sold it. I don't remember what it brought but it ran way up there. The man that bought it gave it back to us and it was sold a second time.

284 I was young then. We had a victory garden for 3 years and I have their certificate now in good shape. I am very proud of it.

288 I've got my 50 year pin, gold, from the Wagoner County Extension Club. There were only 6 women in Wagoner Co. that got it and I was one of them and it made me very happy to know that I had worked to help benefit somebody else.

293 My oldest boy was in 4-H and I worked hard helping him with all of his plans.

296 WWII - we had to raise our own food and we had molasses mill and I learned to use molasses in everything instead of sugar. I can make real good gingerbread yet and I really enjoyed the work. I've always enjoyed helping someone else.

We couldn't get gas to keep our little sunday school and things going so I walked 2½ miles Sunday morning and back to keep our little sunday school going. Then finally we got a little more gas and Mrs. Berry came in and we kept our church agoing in that community which I'm very thankful for; but I'm sorry to say its not going now. But I hope some day to see a big church in the Conklin community.

316 I'm Bertie Norris Gilbert. I live at 410 East Broadway, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and my age is 78 years and I'm happy to be an Oklahomean.