Suggested Topics for Question #17

The following topics are suggestions about how you might answer question #17 of the Centennial Farm & Ranch application. These are only suggestions and you are not limited to the topics listed nor are we asking you to answer all of these topics. We have created them to help you think of information/stories about your family that you might wish to share in the application.

Question #17 is optional and will have no effect on your acceptance into the Centennial Farm & Ranch Program; however, the State Historic Preservation Office, of the Oklahoma Historical Society, is interested in collecting as much information as possible about the lives of the farm and ranch families who have played such a vital role in Oklahoma's development. We thank you in advance for your time and for sharing your stories.

THE FIRST YEARS

1. Where did your ancestor live before coming to present-day Oklahoma?
2. What was their daily life like during the first years on the land?
3. How did your family survive during the first years? What foods did they eat? How did they deal with extreme weather?
4. What were the first structures built on the property, and, if known, in what order were they built? (Was the first structure a barn instead of a house, a windmill instead of a barn, etc?)
5. What crops and animals were raised? Were there any crops attempted that failed to thrive?
6. Did your ancestors supplement their farm income through any other business activity?
7. What did your family do for entertainment?
8. How far was your family from town? How often did they go into town? What did they do while in town?
9. When was the first local school built? What was the school term?
10. How did the women survive and maintain the farm when the men were away on long trips?
11. How many surviving children were there during the first years?
12. What were some of the dangers or stories you heard regarding childbirth during the first years?
13. Was there ever a dispute over land between your ancestor and a neighbor and how was it resolved?
14. How did your family acquire the property?

HISTORIC MOMENTS

15. How did the Great Depression of the 1930s impact your family?
16. Do you know why your family kept their land during the Depression while others in the same area did not?

17. Did your family participate in home front efforts during wartime? If so, how?
18. Did any of your family members serve in the military during wartime, and if so, how did the women survive and maintain the farms while they were gone?

FAMILY FIRSTS

19. When did the family buy its first tractor? What kind?
20. When did the family buy its first car? What kind?
21. When did the family first acquire electricity?
22. When did the family first acquire telephone service?
23. When did the family first acquire indoor plumbing?

RECENT TIMES

24. Do you irrigate your farmland; if so, when did you start? If not, was it ever irrigated? When? Why did you stop?
25. What soil conservation measures have been used on your farm?
26. What has been the single biggest change in farming that you have seen in your lifetime?