

Elmer Gwynn--interviewed 12 July, '82, n. of Havre

3--b. Ft. Benton, 1915

8--age 4, moved nr Havre (10 mi. e. of current farm)

19--on farm where he is since 4th grade; 23, both taught school 16 yrs

49--Grace: 5 is min # of kids to start rural school

58--400 a. crop, 400 summer fallow; 64, has to raise winter wheat except 40 a. barley

90--weeds combated by planting spring wheat

94--married '39

108--coal seams nr Havre; 134, also n. of Chinook, \$5/ton

164--Xmas '62, house burned

216--hailed drinking water from Havre, wash water from reservoir; farm has 410' well to salt water

→235--watering garden with ~~water~~ resvr water: can raise "whatever we have nerve enough to plant."

242--putting in 3000 gal cistern for Milk ~~W~~ R. Water, @ \$110/mo.

267--Havre city water system sells water, so much per 25¢; spews a given amount, whether you have room for it or not

→275--used to haul water in galvanized gas tanks off old tractor

329--homesteader to the n. counted on rr going in every 50 mi.

368--small towns est'd as rr water stops (?)

--371: supposedly spun a globe and jabbed finger down, to name the towns

- 413--"whole parade" of people left in Dep'n; G's father said if the rate cont'd, there'd be nobody living n. of Havre.
- 422--Grace: also exodus in abt '23--at least near her home at Brady--because of drought and foreclosures.
- 450--county gave away some land to get it onto tax rolls, sold other for 50¢/a
- 491--Grace's father got coal at Belt, ~~and~~ uphill all the way home
- 520--1 pr corduroys last hi schl kid thru wk: wash them on Saturdays
- 532: mother made slips from flour sacks
- 560: mother wanted him to wear ~~knicker~~ knickers to dress up, but "We didn't go anywhere quick enough and I grew fast enough" that he never did.
- 573--original Wild Horse Trail was downhill all way to Havre; present road hits a coulee
- 605--lake to the n. would draw wild horses; 623, homesteaders realized horse trail was easiest route
- 645--Grace's parents lost homestead in '20s
- 657--WPA road projects
- 701--neighbor farmed "with a powder finish on top"
- 725--dust storms come from west
- 753--one advantage of strips: you can see progress as you farm, completing a strip, whereas the same amount off a 200-acre block of land looks small.
- 770--"dust mulch" fills cracks in crusted earth, helps retain moisture
- 800--~~dust~~ wind can blow soil away from roots, killing young wheat (spring)

823--40' soil in the area; 7' down, salts have settled

→ 885--Gs live in Grainbelt area; ~~in~~ didn't have Dep'n exodus; Cottonwood area to the north, n of that the Simpson area; 10 mi. east, the country did empty--"it just got the habit to move out"