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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week  
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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week

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7-7-1961

### Smith, Robert H. Script

Howard Langfitt

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# W L B T

CONTINUITY

[Smith, Robert H.]

FOR Farm Family of the Week

DATE Fri. July 7, 1961

BY Howard Langfitt

TIME 12:25-1:00 p.m.

VIDEO	AUDIO
<p>CAMERA ON LANGFITT</p> <p>SLIDE <u>FARM-1</u> MAILBOX</p> <p>SLIDE <u>FARM-2</u> FAMILY</p> <p>SLIDE <u>FARM-3</u> HOUSE</p>	<p>I WANT TO SAY IN THE VERY BEGINNING THAT I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO MR. BELTON BERRY, COUNTY AGENT OF CHOCTAW COUNTY AND MR. JIM MCMINN, WORK UNIT CONSERVATIONIST OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE IN CHOCTAW COUNTY FOR THEIR VERY FINE HELP IN SELECTING THE FAMILY WHICH WE SALUTE TODAY AND FOR GOING WITH ME TO THIS FAMILY'S FARM TO HELP ME OBTAIN THE STORY I AM NOW GOING TO TELL. THIS IS THE STORY OF MR. AND MRS. ROBERT H. SMITH AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN, 14 YEAR OLD BOBBY AND NINE YEAR OLD ANN. MR. AND MRS. SMITH LIVE IN THE LAGRANGE COMMUNITY OF CHOCTAW COUNTY ABOUT 16 MILES NORTH OF ACKERMAN. THEIR FARM IS LOCATED ON HIGHWAY NINE AND IT'S ONLY 3½ MILES SOUTH OF EUPORA. ROBERT SMITH GREW UP IN THIS SAME COMMUNITY, ABOUT A HALF MILE AWAY FROM THEIR PRESENT HOME. MRS. SMITH GREW UP IN THE PROGRESS COMMUNITY OF CHOCTAW COUNTY, ABOUT FIVE MILES AWAY. SHE ATTENDED WOOD COLLEGE AND DELTA STATE COLLEGE AND WAS TEACHING SCHOOL WHEN SHE AND ROBERT MET. SHE GAVE UP TEACHING WHEN THEY MARRIED APRIL 13, 1946. AT THE TIME ROBERT WAS FARMING AND SAWN MILLING. HE HAD BOUGHT THE 80 ACRES OF LAND WHERE THEIR HOME SETS IN 1927. HE AND HIS FATHER HAD BOUGHT 160 ACRES TOGETHER.</p>

# W L B T

## CONTINUITY

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-4  
OLD HOUSE

SLIDE FARM-5  
HOUSE

SLIDE FARM-6  
CATTLE

ROBERT WAS RAISING COTTON AND CORN AND A FEW CATTLE STRICTLY FOR HOME USE. WHEN HE MARRIED HE RECALLS THAT HE MADE THE STATEMENT HE WOULD NEVER MILK COWS FOR A LIVING. WELL, ACTUALLY HE DOESN'T, BUT DAIRYING IS A PART OF THE FARM PROGRAM OF THE SMITH FAMILY. IN THE EARLY YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE THE SMITH'S LIVED IN THIS HOUSE JUST UP THE ROAD UNTIL THEY BUILT THEIR PRESENT LOVELY LITTLE COUNTRY HOME IN LATE 1950 AND EARLY 1951. I MENTIONED TWO CHILDRE, BOBBY AND ANN. ROBERT HAS ANOTHER OLDER MARRIED DAUGHTER. HIS FIRST WIFE PASSED AWAY DURING CHILDBIRTH OF THAT DAUGHTER. WHEN ROBERT MARRIED IN 1946 HE WAS JUST FINISHING UP SAWMILLING. HE HAD SOLD THE MILL. AT THE TIME HE HAD QUITE A LOT OF LABOR ON THE PLACE AND THEY'D QUIT SAWMILLING LONG ENOUGH TO GROW A CROP AND THEN GO BACK TO IT. BUT EVEN BEFORE HE QUIT MILLING ROBERT SAYS THAT JIM MCMINN OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE HAD GOTTEN WITH HIM AND THEY HAD TERRACE THE LAND TO KEEP IT FROM WASHING AWAY. ROBERT ROW CROPPED WITH TENNANT LABOR UNTIL 1951 WHEN HE QUIT THE TENNANT LABOR PROGRAM. HIS LAST BIG CROP WAS IN 1948. ROBERT SMITH QUIT ROW CROP FARMING BECAUSE HE HAD GOTTEN A START IN LIVE-STOCK AND TOO, LABOR HAD BECOME TO BIG A

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CONTINUITY

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BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-7  
CATTLE

SLIDE FARM-8  
CATTLE

SLIDE FARM-9  
CALVES

PROBLEM. AT ONE TIME ROBERT RAISED AS MUCH AS 50 ACRES OF COTTON. HE USED A TRACTOR TO BREAK THE GROUND AND FARMED WITH MULES. ROBERT SAYS HE QUIT COTTON BECAUSE HE SAW HE COULD HANDLE CATTLE EASIER WITH LESS LABOR AND WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS HE HAD BEEN FIGHTING HE FIGURED IT WOULD BE MORE PROFITABLE. ROBERT RECALLS THAT HE STARTED BEEF CATTLE BY GOING TO SALES AND BUYING ~~MLK~~ JERSEY HEIFERS. HE WOULD GROW THEM UP TO MILK COWS AND BREED THEM TO A GOOD REGISTERED HEREFORD BULL. IT WAS IN 1939 THAT HE STARTED WITH THE JERSEY HEIFERS. IN 1942 ROBERT PUT DOWN HIS FIRST PERMANENT PASTURE... 8 ACRES OF IT. IN 1946 HE HAD ACCUMULATED 16 HEAD OF GRADE COWS, RED POLLS AND JERSEYS. HE BOUGHT A FEW OCCASIONALLY BUT SINCE 1945 HE HAS RAISED ALL HIS HERD REPLACEMENTS. HE HAS SAVED HIS BEST HEIFERS AND IS SAVING SEVEN THIS YEAR. TODAY THERE ARE 48 BROOD COWS IN THE HERD AND HE HAS 105 HEAD OF CATTLE ON THE PLACE. HE FOLLOWS A COMMERCIAL COW AND CALF PROGRAM SELLING THE CALVES MILK FAT OFF THE COW. ROBERT GETS NEARLY A 100% CALF CROP AND HE CALFHOOD VACCINATES. IN FACT HE VACCINATES HIS LIVESTOCK FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. UNLESS HE GETS MORE LAND HE HAS ABOUT ALL THE CATTLE HE CAN HANDLE. ROBERT

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CONTINUITY

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-10  
CATTLE

SLIDE FARM-11  
DAIRY CATTLE

SLIDE FARM-12  
POND

SMITH CREEP FEEDS ALL HIS CALVES AND USES BACK RUBS IN THE PASTURES FOR INSECT AND PARASITE CONTROL. AS I SAID, DAIRYING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SMITH FAMILY PROGRAM. IN FACT THEY HAVE 20 GROWN COWS AND ARE MILKING 15. THEY ACTUALLY GOT STARTED DAIRYING BECAUSE THEY HAD FOUR COWS THAT THE CALVES COULDN'T TAKE ALL THE MILK FROM. THAT WAS IN 1952. THEY BEGAN TO SELL THE SURPLUS AS MANUFACTURING MILK. ROBERT SAYS THEY GOT TO GETTING A LITTLE MONEY TO SPEND AND LIKED IT SO WELL THEY BEGAN TO EXPAND. THEY STARTED OUT MILKING BY HAND BUT NOW USE A PORTABLE COW TO CAN MILKER. MRS. SMITH AND ANN AND BOBBY HANDLE MOST OF THE DAIRYING AND ROBERT GROWS THE FEED FOR THE CATTLE AND HANDLES THE BEEF PROGRAM. ROBERT LOOKS AT HIS DAIRY PROGRAM IN THIS WAY. HE FEELS IT'S EASIER ON HIS WIFE TO BE MILKING A FEW COWS TO ADD TO THE FAMILY INCOME THAN TO BE OFF WORKING ALL DAY IN A FACTORY TRYING TO HELP MAKE ENDS MEET. WATER FOR LIVESTOCK IS SUPPLIED FROM STOCKPONDS SIMILAR TO THIS ONE. THAT'S SOIL CONSERVATION WORK UNIT CONSERVATIONIST JIM MCMINN WITH ROBERT ROBERT USES ALL HIS A.S.C. ~~EXXMENTX~~ ASSISTANCE AND THEN DOES A LOT MORE ON HIS OWN IN BUILDING

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BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-13

THE FERTILITY OF HIS SOIL AND IN KEEPING IT IN GOOD GROWING CONDITION. PERMANENT PASTURE CONSISTS OF 100 ACRES DALLIS AND BERMUDA GRASS, FESCUE, BAHIA GRASS, WHITE DUTCH CLOVER AND SOME SERECIA LESPEDEZA. BAHIA AND SERECIA ON MOST OF THE SLOPES WITH DALLIS AND BERMUDA IN

SLIDE FARM-14  
PASTURE

THE BOTTOMS. ROBERT CLIPS HIS PASTURES FOR WEED CONTROL AND LIMES AND FERTILIZES THEM TOO. IN THE FALL ROBERT PUTS 75 ACRES OF OATS IN HIS PASTURES WITH A PASTURE DREAM. HE PUTS ALL HIS ROW CROP LAND TO OATS FOR WINTER GRAZING TOO.

SLIDE FARM-15  
HAY MACHINERY

HE PUTS OUT ANOTHER 12 ACRES FOR HAY. THIS YEAR ROBERT SMITH HAS THREE ACRES OF MILLET FOR THE DAIRY CATTLE AND TURNED IN ON IT FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST SATURDAY WHILE I WAS VISITING THE FARM. HE ALSO HAS 4 ACRES OF LESPEDEZA FOR HAY. ALL TOLD ROBERT PUTS UP THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND BALES OF HAY EACH YEAR...OATS, GRASS AND SOYBEANS. HE IS COMPLETELY MECHANIZED WITH TWO TRACTORS, A COMBINE, HAY BALER AND ALL OTHER NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO CARRY ON HIS FARMING PROGRAM

SLIDE FARM-16  
CORN LAND

IN FACT HE DOES SOME CUSTOM HARVESTING AND PASTURE DREAM WORK. ROBERT HAS 25 ACRES IN CORN HE PLANTS HYBRID SEED. IT YIELDS AN AVERAGE OF 65 BUSHELS TO THE ACRE AND HE FEEDS IT ALL AND

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BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM -17  
SOYBEANS

SLIDE FARM-18  
SOYBEANS

SLIDE FARM-19  
TIMBER

SLIDE FARM-20  
TIMBER

AND BUYS SOME. ROBERT CRUSHES HIS OWN GRAIN FOR FEED FOR BOTH THE DAIRY CATTLE AND FOR USE IN THE CREEP. HE HOPES TO AVERAGE 75 BUSHELS TO THE ACRE ON CORN THIS YEAR AND EXPECTS TO DO IT THROUGH HEAVIER THAN USUAL FERTILIZATION. I MENTIONED THAT ROBERT PUTS UP SOYBEANS FOR HAY. HE HAS 35 ACRES IN BEANS AND WILL PUT IT ALL UP AS HAY. ROBERT'S BEANS ARE GRASSY BUT THEY ARE THAT WAY ON PURPOSE. HE LIKES A GOOD GRASS MIXTURE WITH BEANS FOR HAY. HE SAYS IT CURES BETTER, HOLDS THE LEAVES BETTER AND MAKES A BETTER GRADE HAY. THE BEANS WE SAW A MOMENT AGO WITH BOBBY STANDING IN THEM ARE BEHIND OATS. ROBERT PUTS UP 12 ACRES THIS WAY. THESE, OF COURSE ARE EARLIER SOYBEANS. ROBERT SMITH ALSO HAS ABOUT 46 ACRES IN PINE TIMBER. HE IS PROTECTING IT FROM FIRE, DOING A LITTLE WEEDING OF UNDESIRABLE HARDWOODS AND SAVING IT FOR A RAINY DAY. HE BUILT THE FOUNDATIONS, SUB-FLOOR AND SIDING OF THEIR HOME FROM HIS TIMBER. MOSTLY HE USES THE TIMBER NOW AS SHELTER FOR HIS LIVESTOCK AND REALLY THINKS IT DOES A GREAT JOB. ROBERT HAS CLEARED MOST ALL HIS LAND. HE CLEANED UP 40 ACRES OUT OF RAW WOODS AND SOME FROM SECOJD GROWTH BUSHES AND BRIARS.. HE CUTS HIS OWN FENCE POSTS AND ALL HIS LAND IS FENCED

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CONTINUITY

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-21  
GARDEN

SLIDE FARM-22  
FREEZER

SLIDE FARM-23  
CANNED FOOD

SLIDE FARM-24  
SEWING

AND CROSS FENCED. ROBERT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED WATERWAYS AND FILLED IN SOME OLD DITCHES AND STRAIGHTENED OTHERS. THIS IS VERY MUCH A LIVE AT HOME FAMILY AND THEY ALL WORK TOGETHER TO PRODUCE THE FOOD FOR THE FAMILY'S NEEDS. THEY HAVE ABOUT AN ACRE AND A HALF OF GARDEN INCLUDING THE TRUCK PATCHES. ABOUT AN EIGHTH OF AN ACRE OF IT IS YEAR ROUND GARDEN WHICH WE SEE HERE. SPEAKING OF FOOD, ROBERT EVEN PLANTS PEA PATCHES FOR THE GAME BIRDS HE LOVES TO HUNT. FROM THE FAMILY FOOD SUPPLY MRS. SMITH EACH YEAR FREEZES ABOUT 1,800 POUNDS OF FOOD IN THE FAMILY UPRIGHT FREEZER. IN ADDITION TO WHAT SHE FREEZES SHE ALSO CANS ANOTHER 300 JARS OF FOOD....SUCH THING AS JAMS, JELLIES, PICKLES, PEACHES BEANS, TOMATOES AND SO FORTH. IN ADDITION TO THEIR GARDEN THEY ALSO HAVE A FEW PEACH TREES. WHEN I ASKED MRS. SMITH IF SHE LIKED TO COOK SHE SAID I RECKON SO, IT'S A NECESSITY. SHE ALSO DOES QUITE A BIT OF SEWING BOTH FOR HERSELF AND FOR DAUGHTER ANN. I FOUND HER WORKING ON A DANCE COSTUME FOR ANN. ANN PERFORMS TAP AND BALLET DANCING. SHE ALSO MAKES HER OWN CURTAINS AND DRAPERIES. MRS. SMITH ALSO LOVES FLOWERS BOTH IN DOORS AND OUT OF DOORS. SHE SAYS HER HOBBY IS HAULING THE CHILDREN. SHE TRIES TO HELP THEM



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CONTINUITY

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-25  
CHURCH

CAMERA ON FAMILY

DO THE THINGS THEY WANT TO DO. MR. AND MRS. SMITH AND THEIR CHILDREN BELONG TO THE LAGRANGE METHODIST CHURCH WHERE ROBERT IS A STEWARD AND CHURCH SECRETARY AND WHERE MRS. SMITH TEACHES THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. MRS. SMITH IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE LAGRANGE HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB AND SHE AND ANN WON THE FAMILY GROUP DIVISION OF THE COUNTY STYLE SHOW THIS YEAR. ROBERT IS A SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER AND FARM BUREAU DIRECTOR. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CHOCTAW COUNTY FARMER'S HOME ADMINISTRATION COUNTY COMMITTEE. HE SAYS HE RELIES HEAVILY ON COUNTY AGENT BELTON BERRY AND SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE TECHNICIAN JIM MCMINN FOR ADVICE IN CARRYING OUT HIS FARM PROGRAM. BOBBY IS A 4-H CLUB MEMBER. IN SCHOOL HE PLAYS BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL AND ALSO RUNS THE 440, 880 AND IS ON THE MILE RELAY TEAM IN TRACK. HE LIKES TO FARM AND CAN DO MOST ANYTHIN THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. ANN IS IN THE FOURTH GRADE. SHE GATHERS THE EGGS AND MILKS WHEN SHE IS NEEDED. THIS IS A FINE LIVE AT HOME FARM FAMILY AND IN THE TIME THAT REMAINS I WANT YOU TO MEET THEM.

1. WHAT ARE YOUR HOES FOR THE FUTURE?
2. HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE YOU WITH COTTON?

# W L B T

## CONTINUITY

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VIDEO

AUDIO

3. HOW MUCH LAND DO YOU OWN...HOW MUCH DO YOU FARM?
4. DO YOU TURN YOUR CATTLE IN ON CORN FIELDS?
5. MRS. SMITH, WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE CHILDREN?
6. DO YOU PLAN ANY ADDITIONS TO YOUR HOME?
7. WOULD YOU RATHER WORK INSIDE OR OUTSIDE?
8. BOBBY, WHAT IS YOUR 4-H CLUB PROJECT.
9. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU FINISH HIGH SCHOOL?
10. ANN, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DANCING?
11. WHO PLAYS THE PIANO I SAW IN THE LIVING ROOM?
12. DO YOU LIKE LIVING ON A FARM?