



Bill Lindsey and Kyle Moreland

Bill Lindsey

By Kyle Moreland

On April 29, 2012, I conducted an interview with Bill Lindsey who lives near Mullin, Texas. He has been a resident of Mills County since 1950. It was at that time his family moved over from West Texas because his families were ranchers and they were having hard times in the west. In 1950 he went to Mullin I.S.D. as a freshman and that is where he completed is schooling as well. When I asked him if he went to college he replied “well I did for a while but then I found out what I was studying was for a desk job and I didn’t like that.”

He worked a lot as a young kid when he graduated he left for a while and sand blasted and painted oil rigs but had to quit just as nearly as he started because he got lead poisoning from the paint. Soon after getting back to Mills County, he got a job at the telephone cooperative in 1959 and worked there until 1992 for an outstanding thirty-three years!

As soon as he retired he went back to his “first love” which is ranching. He has been ranching and been in the angora goat business since the 50’s but he really got back into once retiring

because of his attainment of free time. At times the angora goat business was not the best thing to be into but he kept raising them and once they went back up he had plenty to sell. In the present he works at the sell barns and has been doing that for 4-5 years.

He has had 4 kids since moving here 3 girls and 1 boy and from that they have also attained 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. After answering the question of how many kids and grandchildren he had he also added "And still able to work all day ha-ha well most of it anyways."

He really showed an interest in ranching and that has always been a big part of his life since he was a little kid he could remember going out feeding. So I asked him how he adapted to ranching after all these years and he replied with "Well it all just depends on the weather and you just have to adjust to what happens it's been about the same just ups and downs in the 80's there was a drought for a few years and even this past year there was not much rain at all and we had to sell some livestock because there was just not enough water."

I also asked how much land he owned and from the top of his head he said "well about 365 acres because I have gave some away to some of his children and about 400 acres that I lease out to people." I asked him what the hardest times in Mills County was and he told me "It was probably last year it was real hard to make it and keep everything alive (him being a big rancher) it was just very dry and hot in 2011."

I asked him overall how his life in Mills County was and he said it has been really good and that "There are a bunch of great people, but also a couple of 'soreheads.'" He is a really funny guy and really easy to talk and to listen to. His wife during the interview added that he has done many non-paying jobs for people and just helping people out and he said "well, someone's got to do them."

Something he also told me was that in 1977 his house burned down and that they had nothing but what was "on their back." He acknowledged he was lucky to have some "good neighbors" who helped him through those hard times. Some of his accolades through the years were services to Mullin I.S.D. - School board for 20+ years. Working for the Telephone Cooperative from 1959-1992. He has been honored from FFA as honorary state farmer and honorary chapter farmer.

The experience of my interview and learning from Bill Lindsey about Mills County was very interesting. Learning about his life was interesting and fun as well. And to know that he is such a great guy and that you can find many people just like him in Mills County is a good thing to know.