

[O'Possum Hunt]

1

McGuire, Delise

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Floyd County

District 17

"Folk-Customs"

Page 1

Bibliography

("Aunt" Lou Gravatte, 55 years old, Floydada, Texas. Date of interview, Nov. 23, 1936)

O'Possum Hunt

They would have possum hunts in the winter in Jack County in the hollows and hills. I know every crook and turn in that county. The old people, the young folks, and babies, maybe sometime 40 or 50 people, would go out on one of these possum hunts. This was one of the favorite pastimes in that county when I was a girl. We would walk until we couldn't walk. Had a big ole bunch of hounds, 25 or 30,[?] would tree the possums and bark until we would get there. In woods you can tell jest exactly where they are and you can hear them hounds yelp for miles. Let a baby cry down there and you can hear it fer miles . crying. We would locate that possum up in a tree with his tail curled back over his back.

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Who ever could shoot good would shoot 'em. And if they hunted all night they would kill that possum right there and eat em. Build up a big old heapin' fire and roast that possum. Put him on a forked stick and one would hold him over the fire until he would get tired and then antother another one would take him. I have seen many a one rasted roasted . Shoot, people don't know what it tis now. They used to come to our house at 11 and 12 o'clock and wake us up by blowing big ole cow horns. Then we would all get up and start on a possum hunt. Lord , we used to see more fun in Jack County than you ever see out here in yere life.

Some man or woman would bring along a little sack of sweet taters to eat with the possum. You build yer fire an 2 then after it dies down you get hot ashes and roast yer taters in the hot ashes. They would have a big log heapin heapin' fire to keep warm but just a small slow fire to roast the possums. The men would make two pronged stick forks to eat the posum possum with. Sometime the men would leave the women with the roasting posum possum and go out huntin another one. They would hunt until it got done, then the women would give a "Toot" with the big cow horn and here they would come. Sometime we would not get home until sunup or daylight and then go to the field and work all next day.

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There are people living in Floyd County and nearby towns who have attended these possum hunts in Jack County , . [the?] ones I remember are: W. A. Amourn, Mrs. J. S. W. Owen; J. S. W. Owen, deceased and J. J. Foster, deceased; George Foster, of Lubbock; and Ivey Wilson, of [?], Texas.

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