

A STUDY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES
OF THE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT OF THE COOKSON HILLS
ON THE EASTERN OKLAHOMA FARMS

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A STUDY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES
OF THE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT OF THE COOKSON HILLS
ON THE EASTERN OKLAHOMA FARMS

By

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1929

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Submitted to the School of Education
Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
1938

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful acknowledgment is made to:

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick, manager of the
Cookson Hills Project;

Mr. Sam Sheehan, Manager of Eastern
Oklahoma Farm Security Administration;

Mr. E. V. Dawson, Muskogee County Super-
intendent of Public School Instruction; and to

Many other persons for valuable informa-
tion who are interested in the study;

And to Miss Vera Jones of the School of
Education, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical
College, for the splendid help and valuable
suggestions made to the writer.

E. N. H.

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INTRODUCTION

This study was made to determine the extent to which the families involved in the Resettlement Project in the Cookson Hills area availed themselves of the educational facilities afforded them on the Eastern Oklahoma Farms.

SOURCE OF DATA

Records of all the families in the Cookson Hills Project area in the Resettlement office in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The Government Survey made in 1936-1937 of the Cookson Hills area. Same office as above.

Records of all the schools within the project area previous to resettlement. The records are in the Muskogee County Superintendent's office of Education, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Braggs High School, Braggs, Oklahoma.

Numerous trips into the Cookson Hills Project area before, during, and after removal, to secure information regarding the families and individuals involved in the Project.

School visits in Wagoner, Muskogee, and McIntosh Counties where children from the Eastern Oklahoma Farms were in attendance.

Yearly reports of the schools where the Resettlement children have attended in the three counties named under the preceding paragraph.

Visits to the Resettlement farms.

Attending programs sponsored by the Resettlement Organization for the Adult Education Program.

CHAPTER I

THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COOKSON
HILLS LAND RETIREMENT PROJECT, AND OF THE EASTERN
OKLAHOMA FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Resettlement Administration of which under-secretary of agriculture Rexford G. Tugwell has been designated administrator, was created by Executive Order No. 7027, dated April 30, 1935, under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 (Public Resolution No. 11, 74th Congress, approved April 8, 1935). Under Executive Order No. 7028, dated April 30, 1935, transfer of certain property, functions, funds, etc. in connection with the land program from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to the Resettlement Administration was authorized. Under Executive Order No. 7041, dated May 15, 1935, transfer of certain property, functions, funds, etc. from the secretary of the Interior and his agents to the Resettlement Administration was authorized.¹

Functional Organization of the Resettlement Administration

1. Purpose:

a. To carry out the provisions of Executive Order No. 7027 creating the Resettlement Administration; to coordinate all activities thereunder; and to avoid duplication of effort, authority, and instructions, this Administration Order creates an organization, defines the functions and

¹
Land Policy Circular, Resettlement Administration, Washington, D. C., June, 1935.

responsibilities thereof, and indicates the symbols therefor, as shown below.

2. General Functions of the Resettlement Administration.

(R. A.):

a. The functions and duties of the R. A. are:

I. To administer approved projects involving rural rehabilitation relief in stricken agricultural areas, and resettlement of destitute or low-income families from rural and urban areas, including the establishment, maintenance, and operation, in such connection, of communities in rural and suburban areas.

II. To initiate and administer a program of approved projects with respect to soil erosion, stream pollution, sea-coast erosion, reforestration, forestation, flood control, and other useful projects.

III. To make loans and grants to finance, in whole or in part, the purchase of farm lands and necessary equipment by farmers, farm tenants, croppers, or farm laborers.²

METHODS AND PROCEDURE

The initial step taken by the Resettlement Administration in the selection of a project is the definition of the "Problem" area, that is an area in which the conditions of land use demand readjustment. To facilitate the definition of such problem areas, a special section with corresponding sections in each of the 12 regional offices of the Resettlement Administration has been created. Land

²

Ibid.

use specialists attached to the regional offices co-operate closely with the agricultural experiment station in each of the states as well as with state planning boards, state conservation commissions, and other agencies concerned with land. This planning work has provided the basis not only for the selection of projects under the Program of Land Utilization, but also for the selection of land for Resettlement Projects.³

Before final decision on the development of the Project is made, the present economic status of the occupants, the conditions of the soil and native vegetation, including forest resources and the need of the land for public purposes must be considered. Consideration is given to the unemployment situation of the area, and the relief of general conditions by the development of the Project.

In this chapter so far on the organization, the material has been of a general nature in an attempt to show how the Resettlement Program as a whole was set up. At this point the immediate problem will be pointed out and its connection with the organization.

The organization of the Cookson Hills Land Utilization Project has as manager Mr. Charles Kilpatrick, a graduate of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Mr. Sam Sheehan, Assistant manager, assigned to the Resettlement division of the Eastern Oklahoma Farms.

³

Interim Report of the Resettlement Administration, Washington, D. C., April 1936.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Resettlement Administration
Dallas, Texas

(Copy)

R8-6-JTS

March 25, 1937

Mr. Charlie Kilpatrick
Project Manager
Resettlement Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick:

Attached hereto is copy of an inter-office communication from Mr. Tulane Smith relative to the report of the investigation Division on LA-OK 2 and LD-OK 2. Several of the comments contained in this report will undoubtedly be of interest to you.

Taken as a whole and in nearly every part, I think that this report is satisfactory, and you should be congratulated for conducting the project in such a way as to give a basis for a report such as this.

Since I take it that this report is made to the Washington office, I see no reason for making any comment concerning it to the Washington office.

Sincerely yours,

(S) J. T. SANDERS

J. T. Sanders
Assistant Regional Director
In Charge of Land Utilization

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Dallas, Texas

(Copy)

R8-6b-GB
LD-OK 2

September 29, 1937

Mr. Charlie Kilpatrick
Project Manager
Farm Security Administration
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick:

Your letter of September 26, enclosing three copies of complete report of development activities on your Project, has been received.

I am particularly well pleased with this report as it shows in a better way than we have been able to show before the progress of the work, and at the same time shows something of what we expect to do. A copy of this report will be combined with some others we have in the Regional Office to be submitted to Washington.

I appreciate very much the good work that was done in the preparation of the report.

Sincerely yours,

(S) GLEN BRIGGS

Glen Briggs, Acting Chief
Land Acquisition, Project
Planning and Development
Section

CHAPTER II

THE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES OF THE COOKSON HILLS AREA
AND THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND EDUCATIONAL
BACKGROUND OF THE FAMILIES

In the extreme eastern part of Muskogee County of Eastern Oklahoma is an area originally part of the Cherokee Nation, this part being of foothill mountain type was used for a hunting ground in the early period of territorial development. Game was abundant in the area and the streams were well stocked with fish.

The Cookson Hills area was gradually settled by a few Indian families with little or no farming carried on previous to 1890.¹ Only small fields were tilled through the area by the families. The area was open range with herds of cattle and horses roaming the fenceless area. Land openings by the Federal government caused an influx of settlers seeking free land for homes. Farming displaced grazing within the area reaching the peak about 1920 when serving the area at Braggs, Oklahoma, were three cotton gins, a grain elevator, and other market facilities.

Lack of proper care of the soil, over-pasturing of grazing lands, and the clearing of timbered hillsides unsuited for cultivation gradually reduced the productive value of the thin rocky soil. Such practices caused the abandonment of the fields and clearing of other tracts to take the place of the washed hillsides, until a general decline of farming was evident.

¹

W. W. Ayers, Braggs, Oklahoma (1890-1938) Early Resident.



A cultivated field after a rain

The decline in farm prices due to the economic crisis of 1929-1930 reduced the low income of the families within the area, thus causing a marked decline in taxes for the support of schools, roads, and local government. (See Chart I) The distress of the families in this area was greatly increased by the drouths of 1934-1936, when the crops were reduced to a minimum in many cases. Such crop failures and a general decline in prices of farm products resulted in a great many delinquent tax problems.

Schools within the area felt the tax decline and were forced to operate on a minimum program aided by the "weak school aid funds" appropriated by the state legislature. Attendance dropped as could be expected, especially the older children were forced to aid in the economic support of the family. Roads which at best were poorly maintained, soon became washed trails throughout the area, but since

Tax Decline and Delinquency in the Four
Townships of the Cookson Hills Area from
1928-1932, inclusive

Place	Year	Total Assessed Value of Land and Buildings	Total Value of Property Delinquent	Per Cent of Delinquency	Per Cent of Total Tax for Schools	Total Delinquent Tax Per Acre
Brewer	1928	848070	85120	12.4	42.4	\$.473
	1929	678860	133056	19.6	44.9	2.26
	1930	684420	191295	28.4	41.8	.365
	1931	570680	181915	31.9	43.2	.345
	1932	557231	165728	36.2	45.3	.279
Harris	1928	1247924	100070	8.	47.1	1.269
	1929	1071870	129906	12.1	44.8	1.16
	1930	1087345	222276	20.4	45.1	.976
	1931	1066685	237540	22.3	44.2	1.023
	1932	1059241	242692	22.9	51.6	.816
McLean	1928	504045	88215	17.5	45.6	.423
	1929	486830	91740	18.8	45.4	.43
	1930	492490	122845	24.9	43.7	.363
	1931	413220	121860	29.5	43.6	.281
	1932	330220	108892	33.	42.7	.230
Nash	1928	783765	127316	16.2	40.9	.478
	1929	784045	184660	17.3	44.	.55
	1930	770725	184974	24.	45.9	.516
	1931	741903	239350	32.3	44.4	.467
	1932	595306	216574	36.4	50.6	.395

no tax funds were available they were not maintained by the district.



A road that serves the Cookson Hills area

Poor roads had a tendency to reduce the chances for social opportunities as it was found that some of the family heads had not been as far from home as Muskogee, a distance of only 15 miles. The social functions were built around Sunday schools held at the school houses in the area, with occasional church service at same. Parties, dances, school programs, singing schools in the summer, were popular social activities for the young folk.



Log house with native board roof



Run-down farm house



Farm buildings in a run-down condition

Braggs High School served the area for the elementary school graduates, but lack of means for transportation reduced the attendance to a minimum. Economic conditions made it necessary for the older children to assist in farm operations in many instances. Parental encouragement was lacking in many cases due to low educational levels of the parents.

In presenting the foregoing facts an attempt has been made to show the existing conditions found within the area as shown in the survey made in 1936,² and from a careful study made in close association with many reliable people who are well informed on the general conditions within the area. The program has been treated in a general way in order to give any reader the opportunity to see what

²

Footnote Survey

conditions existed in the Cookson Hills at the time the project was accepted by the Regional Division of the Land Utilization Program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration³ in 1936.

The United States Government Survey of the Cookson Hills area under the direction of Ira Rex LeCamp, Senior Selection Specialist, was started June 15, 1936 and completed May 15, 1937. Living in the project area were 282 families, composed of 34 Indian, 28 Negro, and 220 Whites, some of the latter claiming Indian blood. A total population of 1288 and an average of 4.567 persons per family.



A young family typical of the area

Hence the need for a rural resettlement program to alleviate the social, economic and educational facilities was evident. Two hundred and twenty-nine families or 81.5 per cent were on relief at the time of the survey, the

³

Footnote Survey, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Land Utilization Program

government having spent \$73,000 through the Federal Educational Relief Administration within the area.

Since relief to the families living in the area could only be temporary with existing economic conditions as they were, the far-reaching program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration stepped in to bring about the program of resettlement of the families in the area thus making possible the opportunity for the citizens to live the better life, such an opportunity being possible by a better standard of social, economic and educational advantages to all involved.

In 1934 the average income of the farm owners of the surveyed area was \$49 a year over bare necessities. This income did not include consumed production, but was a cash income from the sale of crops, livestock, or both. For the tenant farmers the same year their cash income was \$39. The survey shows the average for all families in 1936 within the project area to have been \$525., including consumed produce. Withdrawing the security wage, the average income from farms was \$253.

Numerous letters are presented at this point to show the general attitude of leaders familiar with the area, and the steps proposed for solution.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Muskogee, Oklahoma
February 14, 1935

(Copy)

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick
Project Manager
Oklahoma Project A-2
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick:

I am quite interested in the development of the plan known as the Cookson Hills Project.

It is a well-known fact that a large acreage of unproductive land is in this area which can be made into a beautiful park, in as much as there are places which can be dammed and made into large lakes and give to this locality a water supply which at present is not there.

The region is not capable of supporting schools and churches in the manner in which it should. Therefore, in the hope of bettering the standards of the inhabitants, these people can be moved to more productive land in this section.

There is a great portion of this land which is in no way suitable for anything but grazing purposes. There are hundreds of families living in this area who are struggling to make a living, but the soil is so poor that it is practically impossible for them to do so. If the people can be located in a section south and west of Muskogee, where the land is more fertile and suitable for farming purposes, they will become an asset to the county rather than the relief problem they now present.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

L. C. JENNINGS

County Assessor

NATIONAL RESOURCES BOARD
INTERIOR BUILDING
WASHINGTON

(Copy)

304 Dairy Building
Stillwater, Oklahoma
April 8, 1935

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick, Project Manager
Land Policy Section of the
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Municipal Building
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

After driving over all of the area which is included in the eastern Oklahoma Proposal A-2, I was very much impressed with the sound economic judgment which was used in the location of this sub-marginal land project. In my estimation, this area is definitely submarginal for arable farming and you will note from my land use problem area map of this portion of Oklahoma that I have so designated it.

If I am not mistaken, your Form No. SL-2 shows that the average income per family of five people in this area for the year 1934 was approximately \$49.00. This amounts to less than ten dollars per person and is far below the subsistence level. With the present farming organization and with the uneconomical use of rough, severely eroded land, a major portion of these families may be expected to remain permanently on relief rolls. This, in my opinion, is an area which it would be more economical in the long run for the government to purchase rather than to indefinitely provide with roads, schools, and relief money. Many of the families within this area are deserving and when rehabilitated on better lands will very likely have no further need for relief.

Briefly, I wish to express my conviction that this project has been located in a truly submarginal area. In addition, I wish to recommend that this area be devoted to extensive pasture, forests, wild life reserves, and recreational parks as proposed in your final plan of defelopment.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) BEN G. DUNCAN

Land Planning Consultant
for Oklahoma

BFD:m

MUSKOGEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Muskogee, Oklahoma
February 15, 1935

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick
Project Manager
Oklahoma Project, No. A
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick:

With reference to the "Cookson Hills Rehabilitation Project", I wish to state that I am highly interested in the carrying out of this project.

Due to the fact that a large amount of sickness and ill health are brought about by the environment of the inhabitants of this section, it is my opinion, as a physician, that it would promote better and more healthful living conditions as well as agricultural, to remove these people to more suitable and productive areas.

My conception of the conditions as to the suitability of the land for agricultural purposes, at present, is that the productivity of the soil is very low. The lay of the land, being hilly as well as rocky, would be an ideal and most appropriate location for a playground, instead of the inhabitants continuing on there, struggling for a meager existence. It would also do much to improve Eastern Oklahoma.

Yours very truly,

(S) CHAS. ED. WHITE

Dr. Chas. Ed. White
Supt. of Health

CEW:pr

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Muskogee, Oklahoma
February 14, 1935.

(Copy)

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick, Project Manager
Oklahoma Project No. A-2
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I have been asked what I thought of the Oklahoma Project making the Northeastern portion of this County into a large park.

I am interested in the welfare of the people in that part of the country because they all are my friends. I am interested, of course, in the school situation also.

I believe that this project would be an advantage to those people living there, in that it would afford them an opportunity to settle elsewhere with better land and better school advantages. The valuation of this country now is such that a school can scarcely maintain without a tremendous burden upon those who pay taxes. Road conditions are always bad, and marketing is at a disadvantage. It is my opinion that the people who desire to move will be afforded an opportunity by the government to locate in a more fertile community and where the schools are already established and are maintained much more efficiently. Those who are left in the section will be given an opportunity to transfer into larger units.

I think those who desire to move will be better off as well as those who remain, due to the hand the government will have in the development.

Very truly,

(S) E. V. DAWSON

County Superintendent

CITY OF MUSKOGEE

Muskogee, Oklahoma
February 21, 1935.

(Copy)

Mr. Charles Kilpatrick, Superintendent
Cookson Hills Project
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I wish to second and commend the efforts the Federal Government is making on the rehabilitation work you have started on what is known as the Cookson Hills Project in Muskogee County.

Of course, you have thoroughly familiarized yourself with the depleted condition of the land in this district and the vast amount of it that is no longer suitable for farming, though the residents of this district attempt to farm every year. In the majority of cases, it is plain that they are merely wasting their labor on a fruitless enterprise, for even during the most favorable seasons they cannot hope for a return sufficient to recompense them for the labor expended on this farming so the reversion of this district back to grass and timber land is extremely desirable.

I wish also to call your attention to the possible development of this section into a fish, game and grazing preserve. I am thoroughly convinced that turning this district back to grass will provide more revenue as a grass district than for farming under present conditions. It is also an ideal district for game propagation, such as quail, prairie chickens, wild turkeys and deer. There is plenty of quail stock in the district, a few wild turkeys and perhaps a few deer, but if placed in a game preserve properly protected, they would greatly increase and, if restricted from any hunting, would in my opinion soon stock the surrounding country where hunting could be permitted outside of the preserve.

I also wish to call your attention to what is known as Greenleaf Creek, flowing through this district. As you know, the bottom land along Greenleaf and the adjacent slopes have been cultivated and eroded away to where they are practically useless for farming any further. There is an excellent dam site or two on this creek where I would say lakes can be impounded of the varying area anywhere between five hundred and one thousand acres at comparatively nominal expense.

Page 2
Mr. Kilpatrick

One such site is close to the present State Highway crossing the project. This stream has been very prolific for game fish such as bass, crappie, perch and channel catfish. A lake would make it an ideal mecca for fishermen for such game fish as these and such fish multiply in a lake in this country surprisingly.

If a development like this could be established, I believe it could be made to produce considerable revenue from sportsmen for fishing privileges. This has been the experience with other lakes in Eastern Oklahoma, especially lakes impounding water supplies for various cities such as the lake supplying McAlester and also Spavinaw lake supplying Tulsa.

I would like to suggest you consider this as a possibility. It will also furnish much needed work for people living in this vicinity as well as fit in with general plans for Flood Control that are so much agitated in this State.

I am merely calling these matters to your attention, thinking perhaps you may find them worthy of consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) T. P. CLONTS

City Manager

TPC:amm

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COOKSON HILLS
LAND UTILIZATION PROJECT

The development of the Land Utilization Program of the Cookson Hills Project and the Eastern Oklahoma Farm Security Administration began in 1936 with the acquisition of options of owners of land within the area. With prices agreed upon for a majority of the acreage within the project area definite procedure of development could be started.

The plan to restore the land to its original productivity by introducing good soil conservation methods was made. Grazing, forestry, and recreation areas were decided upon for the project. To prevent erosion, terraces and check dams were built in the 9,380 acres of grazing land. Grazing and forestry combined claim 3,394 acres,



Terraces to prevent soil erosion

forestry and wild life 15,840 acres. Two recreation parks, 2,100 acres for whites, and 1,100 acres for negroes were planned.



Braggs Lake

Lakes and ponds for the conservation of water to supply the needs for grazing and recreation were made. The Braggs Lake (See picture) covers an area of 900 acres.

A large club house and 30 or more cabins serve as



The club house in the recreation park a center of recreational activities. The hills of the

park are transversed by paths and walks of great scenic beauty.

A tree nursery for the reforestration program with a



Returning the land to its proper use.
Forest and grazing

million tree seedlings per year capacity was established in the early part of 1937. More space will not be given to the Land Utilization Program as the study is concerned directly with the educational facilities of the Resettlement Program.

Selection of the Eastern Oklahoma Farm Resettlement Project

Land use specialists from the Regional office at Dallas, Texas, Region 8, after careful study of available land areas in Wagoner, Muskogee, and McIntosh Counties decided upon the Resettlement Program in connection with the Cookson Hills Project. Schools, churches, farm

clubs, roads, markets, soil, and general environmental conditions were used as a basis for final acceptance.

Options on tracts in the project area were secured to accomodate 41 families, and unoptioned tracts were rented for 11 additional families in the fall of 1936, (See maps for location) making a total of 52 farms for resettlement the first year. On some of the optioned tracts it was necessary to build houses, barns and other improvements, while repairs were necessary on tracts that had farm improvements.

The selection of families to be placed on the resettlement farms was effected by a careful study made by the family selection specialist working in close co-operation with the manager of the resettlement farms. In addition to the selection criteria used as a basis for rural resettlement, the size of the available tract was considered in the selection of the family for the tract.

Families Eligible for Resettlement

The following groups of families are eligible for resettlement on rural colony or infiltration projects:

I. Families required to be resettled in connection with land use projects. If such families satisfy the criteria of selection set up for the particular project, they will be given preference.

II. Destitute and low-income farm families of following types:

A. Farm owners, farm tenants, croppers, farm laborers,

or persons who were recently in any of the foregoing classes.

B. Other persons with farming experience who are or were recently on relief rolls.

C. Other persons with farming experience who are or were recently registered as borrowers or receivers of public aid from a state Rural Rehabilitation Corporation or from the Resettlement Administration.

D. Other persons with farming experience who are in default in payment to a Federal Land Bank and are in danger of foreclosure and eviction.

E. Other persons with farming experience who are in default to or have been denied credit by the Farm Credit Administration or any agency thereof.

F. Other persons with farming experience who are in need of public aid, including ex-service men and young married men just entering upon the enterprise of farming.

G. On the subsistence homestead type projects, the following groups of families are eligible for resettlement.

1. Low income, self-supporting families from rural and urban areas desirous of relocating in satisfactory homes outside of or near industrial centers.

2. Destitute or low income stranded workers' families who have in the past executed a capacity for self-support.

Note: Merit of families must always be considered.

The following statements define eligibility for obtaining farms in the farm tenant security projects. All candidates for such homes will be referred to the projects by approved referral agencies who will nominate as candidates only families meeting the following requirements:

I. They must be farm tenants residing in the state in which the project is located.

II. Their principal occupation during the past five years must have been in connection with agriculture.

III. In general, no families should be considered whose selection would involve moving them a long distance from their present place of residence.

IV. Families already residing on land obtained or purchased for a farm tenant security project are eligible and will be given preference provided they satisfy the criteria of selection for the particular project.

V. Families required to be resettled in connection with land use projects of the Resettlement Administration are eligible for resettlement on farm tenant security projects and will be given preference, providing they satisfy the criteria of selection for the particular project.

VI. It is not necessary that any candidate be on the rehabilitation or relief rolls.

General Selection Criteria

Families satisfying the above mentioned eligibility requirements may be accepted for resettlement and licensing or other necessary agreements may be executed with them, prior to occupancy, as far as available homes or farm units permit, if:

I. Each family as a whole desires the opportunity being made available.

II. They evidence acceptable initiative and resourcefulness.

III. They show promise of ability to enter into community life and profit from instruction and guidance.

IV. They give reasonable assurance of attaining economic stability sufficient to enable them to meet the rental and other payments on the homes or farms for which they are proposing to obligate themselves.

1. Reasonable probability of successful outcome of acceptable farm and home management plan.

2. Should have demonstrated past successful farm ability and managerial capacity.

V. Each family has a reputation for paying its debts and meeting its responsibilities.

VI. They have shown sufficient stability of residence.

1. It is desirable that families have some previous knowledge of or connection of land they wish to occupy.

VII. They are free from infectious diseases and disabilities that are likely to obstruct the fulfillment of obligations.

1. Medical examination for all members of family.

VIII. On all projects 21-55 will be given preference.

IX. Young married couple preferred with one or more children. Size of family adequate to furnish labor supply without hired labor.

All families within the Cookson Hills Project were contacted by persons able to explain the procedure of government resettlement. Some of the families wanted loans, some requested resettlement, and others were able to locate farms without assistance from the government.



New resettlement farm home



Resettlement farm home showing improvements

The resettlement farms were occupied by the families selected by the selection specialist in December 1936, and January 1937. A general farm program was worked out with each farmer by the manager of the Eastern Oklahoma Farms. The home economist worked out a program of home management with each farm wife meeting the needs of food, clothing, and home improvement.

Each resettlement farm was equipped with feed, seed, livestock, and implements needed to carry on the farm program decided upon by the farmer and the farm manager.

Results of the farming done in 1937 on the resettlement farms will be shown in the next chapter.

CHAPTER IV

RESETTLEMENT FARMING IN 1937 ON THE
EASTERN OKLAHOMA FARMS

The general farm program that was started in January 1937, on the Eastern Oklahoma Farms met with an exceptionally good crop year and the material progress of the families on these farms indicates much better economic conditions than previous to resettlement. Fifty-two account books were started on this project, but six of the farmers withdrew before the year was up and only 46 records were completed. The record kept on each farm consisted of a combined farm and home account book with space for inventories, cash receipts and expenses, net worth statement, and other related information.

The families on this project showed an average increase in net worth of \$450.92 for the year. The 15 families showing the highest increase in net worth averaged \$891.29, while the 15 families showing the lowest increase in net worth averaged an increase in their net worth of \$49.67. This represents a difference of 841.58 between the high and low thirds. Some of this difference may be attributed to variations in weather and soil conditions. However, the greater part of the difference was due to superior management of those making the most progress.

Even with lower prices at the end of the year than at the beginning, increases in farm inventories accounted

for a large part of the increase in net worth. Increases in canned food on hand at the end of the year were also very important as shown by the average of 293 quarts of food per family on hand at the end of the season out of the 637 quarts canned.¹



Mrs. Jess Green, champion canner of 1937,
with 2267 quarts. Eastern Oklahoma Farms

The crop season of 1937 in eastern Oklahoma can be understood with the use of Charts I and II.

¹
Farm Security Administration, U. S. D. A. Dallas,
Texas, May 1938. Preliminary Farm Business Report on
46 Farms in Eastern Oklahoma in 1937.

FACTORS INFLUENCING INCOMES

A comparison of your farm with the average of all farms, the high group and the low group may help locate strong and weak points in your farm and home operations.

ITEM	YOUR FARM	AVERAGE 46 FARMS	AVERAGE 15 HIGH	AVERAGE 15 LOW
Increase in Net Worth	\$	\$450.92	\$891.25	\$ 49.67
Food Preservation:				
Qts. on hand at start		9	15	11
Qts. of food canned		637	794	561
Qts. on hand at end		353	477	281
Qts. of food used		293	332	291
Farm Products used in Home	\$	\$338.21	\$372.08	\$311.04
Rent Paid in 1937:				
Agr'l Value of Land & Bldgs.	\$	4851	6942	4292
Total Rent Paid in 1937		250	382	163
Gross Rent Rate of Return		5.15%	5.50%	3.80%
Acres in Farm		99.4	110.4	85.1
Agr'l Value Per Acre	\$	\$ 48.80	\$ 62.88	\$ 40.44
Rent Pd. Per Acre in 1937		2.52	3.46	1.92
Acres & Yields of Crops:				
Acres of Corn		27.8	33.2	22.0
Bus. or Corn Produces		580	900	309
Bus. per Acre		20.9	27.1	14.0
Acres of Cotton		20.9	26.7	17.8
Lbs. of Lint Produced		7566	11043	5739
Lbs. per Acre		362	413	322
Acres of Oats for Grain		21.4	20.2	26.7
Bus. of Oats Produced		620	838	720
Bus. per Acre		29.0	41.5	27.0
Increase in Feed on Hand	\$	\$250.97	\$377.46	\$178.82

ANALYSIS OF NET WORTH STATEMENTS ON 46
EASTERN OKLAHOMA FARMS, F.S.A. PROJECT RR-OK-17 FOR
1937

ITEM	YOUR FARM	AVERAGE 46 FARMs	AVERAGE 15 HIGH	AVERAGE 15 LOW
Farm Inventories:				
At Beginning of Year	\$	\$ 398.47	\$ 610.02	\$ 266.44
At End of Year		1 148.91	1 624.14	886.38
Increase during Year	\$	\$ 750.44	\$1 014.12	\$ 619.94
Household Inventories:				
At Beginning of Year	\$	\$ 174.00	\$ 214.46	\$ 148.77
At End of Year		458.98	609.00	368.93
Increase during Year	\$	\$ 284.98	\$ 394.54	\$ 220.16
Assets (All we own)				
At Beginning of Year	\$	\$ 583.56	\$ 838.42	\$ 417.06
At End of Year		1 660.17	2 326.05	1 275.85
Increase during Year	\$	\$1 076.59	\$1 487.63	\$ 858.79
Liabilities (All we Owe)				
At Beginning of Year	\$	\$ 95.79	\$ 131.02	\$ 39.84
At End of Year		721.46	727.36	848.96
Increase during Year	\$	\$ 625.67	\$ 596.34	\$ 809.12
Net Worth:				
At Beginning of Year	\$	\$ 487.79	\$ 707.40	\$ 377.22
At End of Year		938.71	1 598.69	426.89
Increase in Net Worth	\$	\$ 450.92	\$ 891.29	\$ 49.67
Agr'l Value Land & Bldgs.	\$	\$4 851	\$6 942	\$4 292
Rent Paid in 1937	\$	\$ 249.86	\$ 381.96	\$ 163.15
Gross Rent on Land & Bldgs.		5.15%	5.50%	3.80%

High and low groups sorted on basis of 1937 Increase
in Net Worth

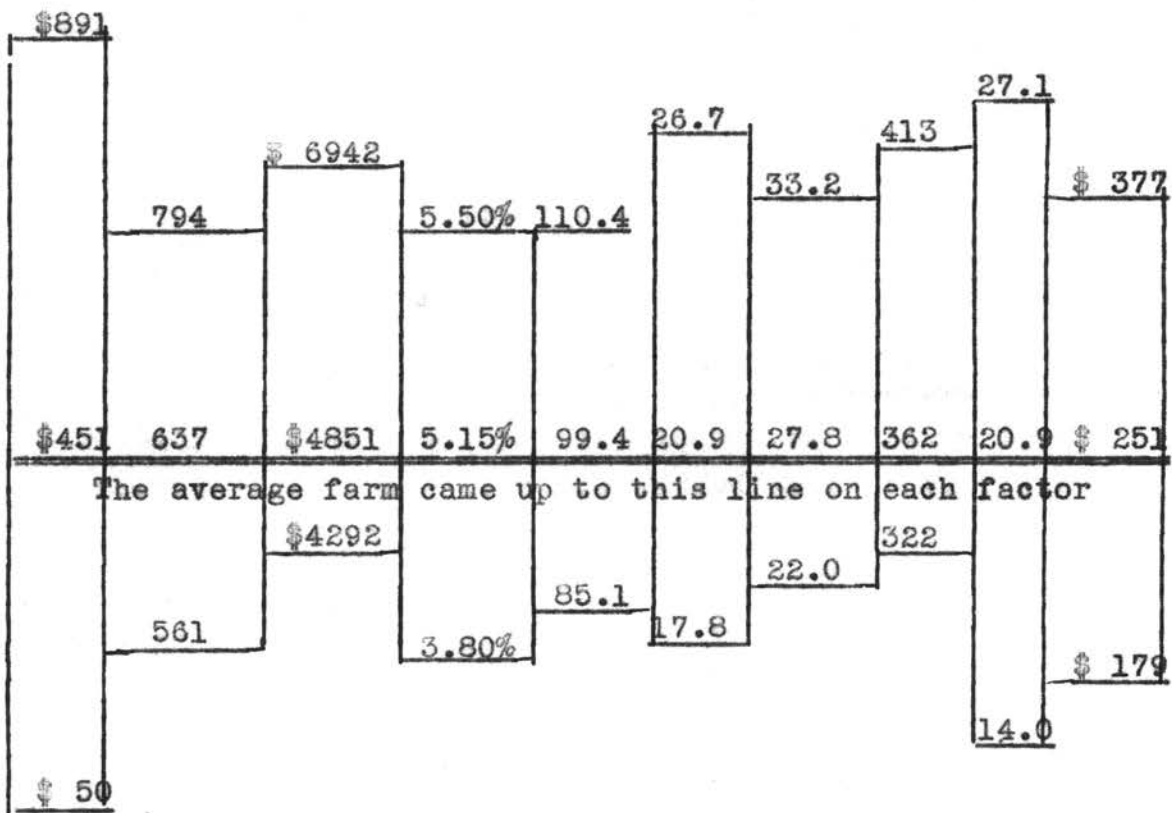
FARM EFFICIENCY CHART

NOV 11 1938

Net Worth Inc.	Quarts Canned Food	Land And Bldgs	Gross Rent Rate	Acres In Farm	Acres of Cot- ton	Acres of Corn	Lbs of Cot- ton Per A.	Bu. Corn Per Acre	In-crease In Feed on Hand
\$1307	2267	\$16000	11.99%	211	48	65	716	45.8	\$ 697

The highest ranking farm on each factor is indicated by the figures on the above line

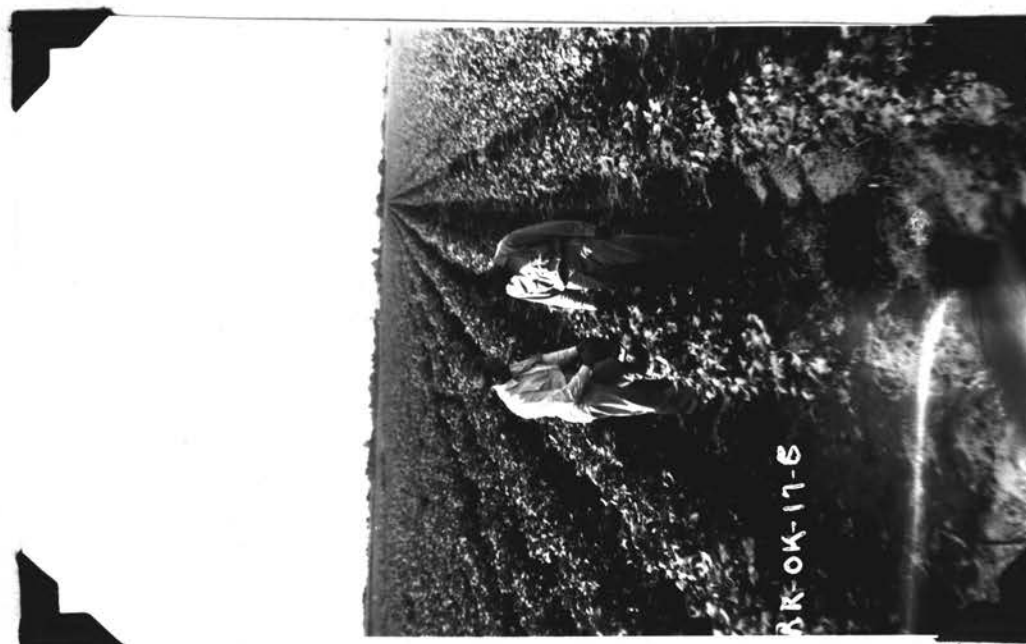
The average of the 15 high income farms is indicated by the figures at the top of the bars



The average of the 15 low income farms is indicated by the figures at the bottom of the bars

\$457	202	\$1020	.70%	40.0	5.0	12.0	0	5.7	\$ 45
-------	-----	--------	------	------	-----	------	---	-----	-------

The lowest ranking farm on each factor is indicated by the figures above.



Prize cotton on a resettlement farm
inspected by Charles Kilpatrick and Sam Sheehan

Cotton yields on this project varied from 0 to 716 pounds of lint cotton per acre. Seven farmers out of the 46 produced more than a bale of cotton per acre. Seventeen made more than 400 pounds of lint per acre. The average yield of cotton was 362 pounds of lint per acre. Corn yields varied from 5.7 to 45.0 bushels per acre with an average of 20.9 bushels. Other yields per acre were as follows: oats, 29.0 bushels per acre; grain sorghums, 14.4 bushels per acre; cane syrup, 40 gallons per acre; alfalfa, 2.3 tons per acre; and oat hay, .6 of a ton per acre.

OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE
LIBRARY
NOV 11 1938

LIBRARY
AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE
MUSKOGEE, OKLA.



Left, Paul V. Moris, National Director
and C. M. Evans, Regional Director, Farm
Security Administration, inspecting a field
of corn on an Eastern Oklahoma farm

The average rent paid on a third and fourth basis amounted to \$250 per farm. The average estimated agricultural value of the farms as shown on the leasing agreements amounted to \$4851. per farm. The average gross rent of \$250 amounted to 5.15% on the average agricultural value. Most of these farms are now under purchase contracts at 4.326% annual payments.

CHAPTER V

THE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE
TO THE RESETTLEMENT FARM FAMILIES
ON THE EASTERN OKLAHOMA FARMS

The educational facilities available to the Resettlement Farm families on the Eastern Oklahoma Farms were considered adequate by the land use specialists assigned to the project. A study of the records of the children from the families who had children of school age was made to determine the use made of the available opportunities.

The survey made in 1936 showed that in the school year 1935-1936 there were 47 girls and 63 boys of school age (6-20) who belonged to the 52 families resettled on the Eastern Oklahoma Farms in 1936 and January 1937. Only 25 girls and 39 boys were enrolled in school during the 1935-1936 school year and 11 girls were retained or 44%; 19 boys were retained or 48.7%. The average days of attendance of the 11 girls retained was 73 days, while those promoted attended 134 days. The 19 boys retained attended 86 days, the 20 boys promoted attended 137 days. Thirty per cent of the girls of school age and 31.7% of the boys of school age were promoted.

The age-grade distribution of the boys and girls for the 1935-1936 school year is shown in the following tables:

Grade	Boys											Total by Grade
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
12												
11												
10												
9									1	1		1
8								1		2		3
7												0
6						1	1					2
5						2	2	1		2		7
4					4	3			1			8
3					2							2
2		2			2	1	1					6
1	6	4										10
Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	

Grade	Girls											Total by Grade
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
12												
11												
10												
9												
8									3	1		4
7						1					1	2
6							2		1			3
5						2	1	1		1		5
4					2		1					3
3				3						1		4
2		1										1
1												
Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	

1935-1936									
Boys' Attendance by Months									
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number	2	1	5	5	4	5	9	6	2

1935-1936									
Girls' Attendance by Months									
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number	1	1	5	7	0	2	4	4	1

The school records of 1935-1936 as shown in the tables were used to compare with similar tables showing attendance records of the 1937-1938 school year of the same children after resettlement on the Eastern Oklahoma Farms.

The age-grade distribution tables of 1937-1938 are presented here to compare same with tables compiled on the 1935-1936 school year.

		Boys 1937-1938													Total by Grade
Grade															
12															
11												2			
10													1	1	
9															
8										1		1	1		
7										1				1	
6						1	1			4	2			1	
5							1	1			1	1			
4								1	4	1					
3				1	2	1			2	1	1				
2			1	4	1										
1	5	5	1	1											
Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
															12

		Girls 1937-1938													Total by Grade
Grade															
12															
11															
10													1		
9										2		2			
8										1		1			
7									1	1	1				
6									2	3	1		1		
5								1	1	1					
4						1	2					1			
3					2	1									
2	1	1	1			1									
1	3	4				1									
Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
															8

Boys' Attendance by Months									
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number	3	2	8	5	9	6	2	11	8

Girls' Attendance by Months									
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number	3	1	1	5	5	8	3	8	6

Forty-seven girls and 64 boys on the resettlement farms were of school age and 40 girls and 54 boys attended school as the 1937-1938 tables indicate. Five girls were retained, two moved away before the end of the school year, 17 per cent were retained. Fifteen boys were retained, six moved, giving 39 per cent retained when the 21 boys were classed as one. The average attendance of girls promoted was 133 days; retained, 36 days; moved, 81 days. Seventy per cent of the girls of school age were promoted. Fifty-one per cent of the boys of school age were promoted. The average daily attendance of the boys who were promoted was 140 days; retained, 56 days; moved, 81 days.

The school year 1935-1936 being the last school year that the children attended a full term before resettlement, the records were used instead of the records for the 1936-1937 school year where a change in school was made. School changes are factors that affect school progress in the case of the average child, as new teachers, new schoolmates, and new adjustments must be made.

The schools attended by the children previous to resettlement were one-teacher schools, except Braggs High School where 12 of the children attended. Records of the tenure of the teachers in the rural schools for the five-year period, 1931-1932-1933-1934-1935 show that one school changed teacher each year, two schools changed

four times out of five years, one school three times, and three schools two times. Certificates ranged from a first grade county to a life elementary.

Schools serving the children from the resettlement farms vary in size from a one-teacher rural school to five consolidated high schools. Children from five families attend the one-teacher school. Children from 10 families attend the consolidated schools, and the remaining children attend schools which were supervised by a teaching principal with from two to four teachers in the school system. Twenty-seven boys and 14 girls were members of 4-H clubs. The club work was directed by the county farm agents and home demonstration agent with the aid of a teacher as club coach in each school organization.

Adult Education

In four community centers located near the resettlement families night classes in adult education were conducted for 10 weeks. The classes were not restricted to resettlement families and as a result many families who were neighbors welcomed the opportunity to attend the programs. Educational films depicting improved home and farm practices were shown first, after which various groups with common problems met with the leaders of the program, the farm manager discussed current trends in farm development and seasonal farm work, also labor-saving methods and many problems common to the group. The home economist

assisted groups of women on topics chosen as units for study including: farm and home record keeping, landscape and vegetable gardening, time savers in meal preparation, home management, and poultry raising.

Participation in the programs by as large a number of individuals as possible created an interest which resulted in reading current literature so that intelligent comment could be made in group meetings. Social barriers were removed in programs carefully directed which cannot be measured by any yardstick except co-operative group activities found functioning in the communities.

The following pictures were shown in the Adult Education Program conducted by the Resettlement Administration of the Cookson Hills Project of Eastern Oklahoma: Green Pastures, How Seeds Germinate, How to Grow Hogs, Control of Worms in Hogs, Marketing Cotton, Norris Dam, How to get Rid of Rats, Horses and Bots, Producing Quality Chicks, Care of Baby Chicks, and Haymaking.

The following chart of attendance indicates good interest except in bad weather.

Place	Total Attend- ance											Meetings
		10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Time Saving in Meal Preparation												
Truck and Hog Growing												Subject
Harris	18	5	4	10	13	11	8	13	3	10	4	Women
	214	19	13	41	33	14	12	20	30	17	15	Men
	295	24	17	15	46	25	20	33	33	27	19	Total

Landscape and Vegetable Gardening												
Hotbeds, Hog Production												Subject
Fame	191	4	19	27	30	36	23	13	2	15	22	Women
	443	12	37	57	58	66	71	44	24	30	44	Men
	634	16	56	84	88	102	94	57	26	45	66	Total

Household Management, Landscape Gardening												
Hog and Truck Growing												Subject
Choska	79	10	8	6	5	13	8	6	6	8	9	Women
	157	10	12	26	20	25	22	14	8	10	10	Men
	236	20	20	32	25	38	30	20	14	18	19	Total

Poultry and Hog Raising												Subject
Spring Hill	95	9	14	N. M.	15	20	9	2	9	17		Women
	217	20	37	N. M.	27	54	19	6	20	34		Men
	312	29	51	N. M.	42	74	28	8	29	51		Total

*No Meeting

Size and Educational Status of the Families Resettled

The size of the 52 families resettled ranged from 2-11 with an average of 5.57 persons in each. The following chart indicates the distribution.

Size of Families													
Number in Family		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Number of Families in Each		2	6	11	11	5	8	3	3	1	2	0	52

Tables to show the age of the family heads, their education, and a table showing the age, grade distribution of the families are given here.

Age of Family Heads												
	Under 21 yrs.	21- 25	26- 30	31- 35	36- 40	41- 45	46- 50	51- 55	56- 60	61- 65	66- 70	Total
Men	0	6	8	7	7	9	6	5	2	2	0	52
Women	5	9	6	11	5	6	6	2	2	0		52

Education of Family Heads							
Years Reached no in School	School-		1-4		5-8		Total
	ing	Yrs.	Yrs.	Yrs.	H.S.	H.S. College	
Men	1	10	37	2	2	0	52
Women	0	5	39	5	2	1	52

Age-Grade Distribution for Families			
Age	Number of Individuals in Each Group	Total Grades Reached for Each Age	Average Education for Each Age
1- 5	61	0	0
6	9	0	0
7	7	4	.57
8	7	1.5	2
9	5	7	1.4
10	10	41	4.1
11	8	31	3.87
12	12	54	4.5
13	13	69	5.3
14	6	42	7
15	9	68	7.55
16	6	40	6.66
17	8	63	8
18	8	58	7.2
19	8	59	7.3
20	2	13	6.5
21-25	22	164	7.4
26-30	17	123	7
31-35	18	128	7
36-40	13	84	6.4
41-45	15	88	5.8
46-50	12	65	5.4
51-55	7	35	5
56-60	4	31	7.7
61-65	2	9	4.5
66-70	0		
71-75	1	0	0
76-80			

The table for the education of family heads shows 47 men and 44 women as not having attended high school, so the type of educational program worked out for the men and women required a great amount of skill and leadership in order to administer a program which would secure co-operation.

Bulletins from the Extension Division of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and the United States Government have been furnished in enormous quantities to improve the available knowledge of farm helps. The Home Economist worked out numerous explanatory letters and pamphlets to send with the bulletins from the extension division. In her visits to the farms, she would go over the materials included in the bulletins and aid the farm women to understand the content so that it could be applied.

In the year 1936, seven of the families who were later resettled were subscribers of daily newspapers; 22 families were subscribers of 30 farm and household magazines, while 30 families were without newspapers or magazines of any kind. The Home Economist Supervisor's Report for the quarter ending September 25, 1937, listed the following facts: Families subscribing to newspapers: daily, 17; weekly, 28; farm papers, 28; magazines, 21. Such a trend in the number of educational aids to the entire family leads toward the possible goal of the better life found in the major objective of the Resettlement

Program; to provide adequate homes and good farm land
for those who now toil on sub-standard land.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The material progress found in the Farm Efficiency Chart for the 46 resettlement families indicates that a chance to farm land that is productive under well planned farm practices was all that was necessary for the families to improve their economic conditions. The figures at the top of the thermometer indicate the record of the highest ranking farm for that particular factor. The figures at the top of the shaded portions of the thermometers indicate the average for the 15 farmers showing the highest increase in net worth. The shaded portion at the bottom indicate the average for the 15 farmers showing the least increase in net worth.

The school records for 1935-1936 show that only 25 girls out of 47 girls of school age enrolled in school and only 14 girls or 30 per cent of the girls of school age were promoted. The school records for 1937-1938 show that 40 girls out of 47 girls of school age enrolled in school and 33 girls or 70 per cent of the girls of school age were promoted. Fifteen more girls attended school or a gain of 32 per cent of the total and 40 per cent gain in promotions.

Records for the boys for 1935-1936 show that 39 boys out of 63 boys of school age enrolled in school and 20 boys or 31.7 per cent were promoted. The records for

1937-1938 show that 54 boys out of 64 boys of school age were in school, with 33 boys or 51.5 per cent promoted. Fifteen boys more enrolled in 1937-1938, or 23.4 per cent, with a gain of 19.8 per cent in promotions.

The increase in the number of children attending school and also the number promoted tends to indicate that better economic conditions promote better participation in available educational facilities.

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R 20 E

U. S. HIGHWAY NO. 62

SHEET NO. 1
14" x 20" S.SHEET NO. 2
14" x 20" S.SHEET NO. 3
14" x 20" S.CHEROKEE COUNTY
SEQUOYAH COUNTYMUNROE
SEQUOYAH
COUNTY

PROJECT PLANNING AND LAND
ACQUISITION SECTION
LAND UTILIZATION DIVISION
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DEVELOPMENT MAP

LEGEND

- PROJECT AREA BOUNDARY
- PRESENT HIGHWAYS
- EXISTING COUNTY ROADS TO BE MAINTAINED AS PARK ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS TO BE MAINTAINED AS FIRE & TRUCK TRAILS
- PARK ROADS
- TRUCK TRAILS
- BATHING TRAILS
- SEWER LINES
- TELEPHONE LINES
- WATER LINES
- HIGH WIRE FENCE
- CATTLE GUARDS
- FIRE BREAKS
- BEACH IMPROVEMENTS
- BARN
- BATH HOUSE
- BOAT HOUSE
- OVERNIGHT CARRS
- DWELLINGS
- LATRINES
- LOOSE
- LOOKOUT TOWER
- SHELTERS
- STORAGE HOUSE
- YOUTH CAMP
- DISPOSAL BED
- TANK CESSPOOL
- WATER WELL
- CLEARING & CLEANING RESERVOIR SITES
- NURSERY
- OVERLOOKS
- PUBLIC HOUSING GROUNDS
- WOODS PARKS
- FISH HATCHERY
- FARM PONDS
- MOUNDING DAM
- FORD
- ENTRANCE GATES
- FISH HABITATS
- POWER SYSTEM
- 250 WINDMILL & SHOPS
- 608 SAWMILL

NOTE:

GENERAL LAND TREATMENT
THROUGHOUT PROJECT AREA.
JOB# NUMBERS - 105, 107, 108a, 108b,
123, 125, 127, 128, 113
401, 404
601, 602, 604, 605

* Held in Abeyance

COOKSON HILLS
PROJECT
LD-OK 2
SCALE

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1" = 1 MILE

DRAWN BY: *AG* DATE

CHECKED BY: DATE

APPROVED BY: *Charles* DATE

OK-2, 3-1

Typist:

Mrs. Florence Lackey

Stillwater, Oklahoma