

# Susie Brown takes a look back

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

Coahoma celebrated Miss Susie Brown's 100th birthday when more than 200 friends and relatives gathered Sunday to honor the long-time resident.

"They all call me Miss Susie. I guess they don't know I have another name," said Brown, who has lived in Coahoma 74 years.

She traveled from east of Snyder in 1916, when she was 14. Her mother and father, Joe and Alice Brown, and five children, and farmed the land, she said.

"We had horses, but that doesn't mean I rode them. We always kept chickens, though," she said.

The Brown siblings stayed close together, and eventually Miss Susie and her brother James lived alone. "After my parents died, we just made our home together," Brown said.

During World War II, Brown worked in the cafeteria for the Coahoma school district. She and her brother adopted a small boy in 1930. Jim was about 4 years old, she said.

Jim's son, Mike, and Jim's widow, Rita, along with nieces of Miss Susie's from Oklahoma, attended the birthday celebration, said pastor Darren Skinner, of the Coahoma United Methodist Church.

"That was really special to her. She attends church every Sunday that she can. Just to tell you something about her, when she was 90 she was janitor of the church," he said.

Brown said her activities with the women's organizations within the Methodist Church kept her busy when she wasn't busy caring for her son and brother. She became a member in 1925 and taught Sunday school for 50 years.

Until she suffered a spon-

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taneous hip break, Brown continued to visit places around Coahoma and Big Spring. She said she wishes the discount store in Big Spring had competition, and she's anxious for the downtown area to rebuild.

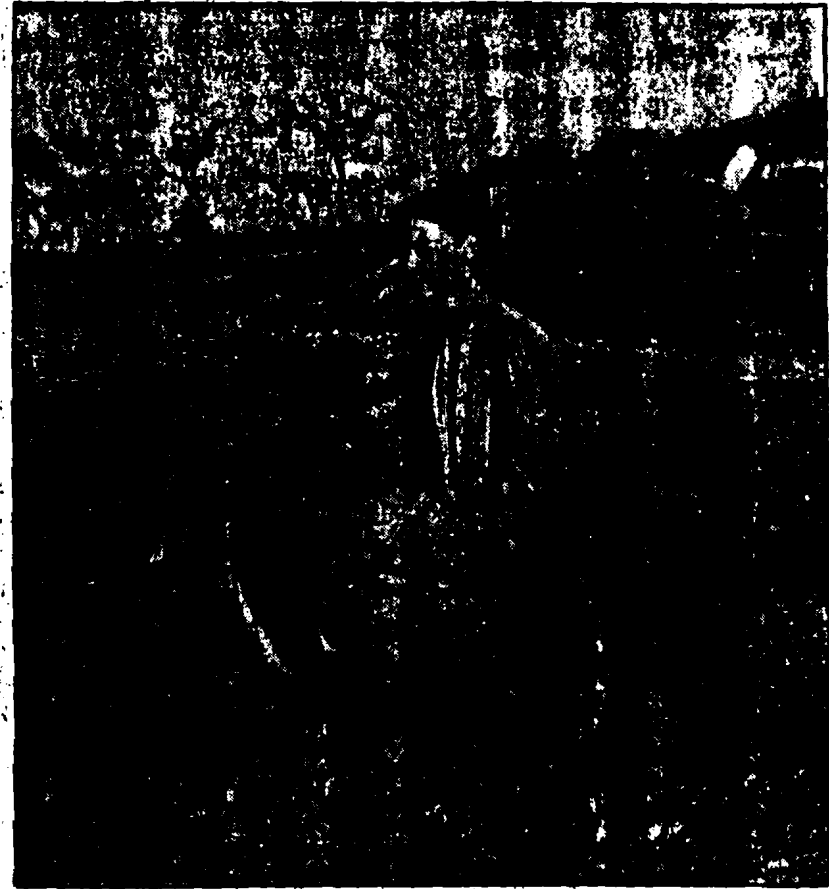
She never learned to drive a car, she said. "There's too many fools on the road, why would I need to be out there with them?"

Today, Brown might be found comforting a friend on the telephone or being visited by her beautician of 14 years.

"Every year we have to have a permanent party, when I give her a permanent," said Linda McCartney of the Coahoma Beauty Center.

Brown said she's not done anything special to live to be 100, and she's glad to celebrate the event. She said her sense of humor has helped her throughout her life.

"I'd rather be 100 than be dead.



Courtesy photo

Miss Susie Brown celebrated her 100th birthday at the Coahoma Methodist Church Sunday. More than 200 people attended the event, honoring the resident who moved to Coahoma in 1916. She has lived in her home for 45 years and raised one son. In the above photo an 18-year-old Susie is sitting near a dugout root cellar in 1910 near Snyder.

I've reached 100 living day by day. But I can't imagine what goes with the years. It doesn't seem any time at all that Webb Air Force Base closed.

"There were 38 houses, that is

dwellings, when we moved here. Now there's quite a few more than that, I would imagine. West Texas has always been my home, I don't know anything else," Brown said.