

of you the others would take it up and all of you whip the teacher?" With some hesitation she replied, "Yes, Sir." The trustees said, "You're excused." Ione left the room. The trustee turned to us and said, "I knew that girl would tell the truth."

Then Mr. Cobb said to me, "I'm going to send Willie back to school and if she ever needs a whipping, do just like you did before." Willie was back the next morning and from then on everything went smoothly to the end. I didn't have to use the rod much after that.

But the weeks and months dragged on, Oh, so slowly. I was anxious to finish and go back to my darling girl in East Texas. At long last, the day came. I found myself speeding away on that "Iron horse" (Train) back "Home."

WEDDING BELLS

During the time that I was teaching I had gone out to New Mexico where my father lived, and bought out a claim (160 acres government land). So now, after all, I had not saved up much money, but we felt like we could make it some way, and so we did.

WE HAD LOVED AND WAITED
NOW WE SET THE TIME
THE 11TH DAY OF AUGUST.
NINETEEN HUNDRED NINE.

It was a quiet wedding at the home of the bride's parents. Some friends and kinsmen on both sides of the house were invited. About six o'clock in the evening, August 11th, 1909, we marched out into the hall and took the solemn vows of matrimony. Then followed the "wedding supper." T'was rather embarrassing to a backward boy like me to be the chief character in a drama like this, but I made it through all right, perhaps. My memory is somewhat vague as to how I did conduct myself on that special occasion.

WESTWARD BOUND

After a few days visiting friends, my young bride and I boarded a train headed west. Our final destination was to be Portales, New Mexico, where my father and mother lived and where during my school term at Big Spring, I had gone and bought out a government claim of 160 acres of land as heretofore related.



"Sweet sixteen"
My bride to be