

McCUNE, ED.

INTERVIEW

10627

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

McCUNE, ED

INTERVIEW

#10627

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) April 28 1938

1. Name Ed McCune

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 409 South Ninth

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 7 Year 1883

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

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Ophelia D. Vestal
Investigator
April 28, 1938.

Interview with Mr. Ed McCune
Lawton, Oklahoma.

I was born December 7, 1883, near Lampassas, Texas. living there until I was about five years old, when with my parents I came to Fort Sill by wagon, driving two mules and bringing two cows and a few supplies.

When we came in sight of Fort Sill at Arbuckle Hill, east of Lawton, my father stopped the wagon looking the country over. My mother held me up to see Fort Sill but all I could see was the old corral.

We moved on slowly toward Mount Scott, finding a pretty fair location to camp, my father and the older boys finding work to do cutting wood to supply Fort Sill. When I grew large enough I worked in the wood, then worked at different jobs around the post and I have been working ever since.

This was a beautiful country, the clearest water, wonderful tall grass and pretty trees. An ideal spot for the big cattlemen to lease the grass for their large herds of cattle.

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In the earlier days in this country, people were much different than they are now. Everyone was sociable and more neighborly. On Sundays the young people would gather at one home, sing and have good times, then the next Sunday they would gather at another home, always a big bunch and have good times.

I was almost grown and remember this incident very clearly. Some of the boys were told to carry some water and I went along to help. When we got to the spring, not so far from the house, we saw something partly uncovered. Dipping the water and taking it to the house as soon as we could, we came back to find the hidden treasure. After digging quite a while we found the remains of an Indian buried there long ago. After finding some bracelets we decided it was a woman. Many times after that we found some remains and one discovery was made; the Indian men did not have bracelets and the women always had several bracelets.

A queer custom which the Indians had, and all Indians knew, though very few white people knew of this custom, was when an Indian wore a certain color bow between the shoulders it meant that Indian was married, at another place on the back it meant they were engaged.

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I have many real old Indian friends. Most people think the Indians are queer, but I don't know of anyone more jolly than they are to people they think are their real friends. We have had many enjoyable hours together talking of our early days here.

At the northeast side of Mount Scott is an old burying ground of the Indians.

I believe the records for the first county courthouse show the cost of the building to be \$1,540. This temporary building was used a few years before the brick structure was erected and now a new courthouse is under construction.

I am working at Fort Sill as a teamster now, living in Lawton.