



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

HUTCHINS, LOREN A.

INTERVIEW

9023

Field Worker's name Ruth E. Moon

This report made on (date) October 26 1937

1. Name Loren A. Hutchins

2. Post Office Address Guthrie, Okla.

3. Residence address (or location) 624 E. Mansus

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 16 Year 1894

5. Place of birth Lyon County, Kansas

6. Name of Father M. A. Hutchins Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Rocella Drake Place of birth Kansas

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Ruth E. Moon  
Investigator  
October 26, 1937

Interview with  
Loren A. Hutchins  
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

The Hutchins family came to Oklahoma in May, 1890. They chartered a car and brought all their livestock and other belongings from their farmer home in Lyons County, Kansas.

There were only two children, Loren and a younger sister, Jeannette, who is now Mrs. H. A. Dutcher of this city. Loren was six about the time they moved here.

They stayed the first night after their arrival in Guthrie at a hotel just south of the depot by the tracks. This hotel was a frame building, and nothing but a shell, but it was two stories high.

Mr. Hutchins bought a quarter section of land seven miles east of Guthrie in Bear Creek township. There was a two room house on the quarter-section. One room box style had been built first, then another room was added to it.

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Loren started to school that Fall in the district nearest, with a Miss Sutton as teacher. The building was divided by a partition, making two rooms. The white children used one room and the negro children with a negro teacher occupied the other. A plowed furrow divided the playground. Sometimes someone would cross the line, and there were several fights on account of that. By the next year a negro school house was built about a half mile away.

There were no seats or desks when Loren first started to school. A bench had been built all around the wall and on it the pupils sat, leaning against the wall with their books lying on the bench beside them.

Loren thinks that desks had been ordered at that time, for it was not very long until they were installed.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins kept a Sunday School in the school house going all the six years that they lived there. Mr. Hutchins was the Superintendent, and Mrs. Hutchins played the organ, led the singing and taught

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a class. Sometimes a preacher would be there and would preach and usually stayed all night with the Hutchins family, for it was too long a trip to drive back to town after dinner. George Seamon was one of these early preachers. He married one of the neighborhood girls out there.

The Reverend Mr. Rice was an early pastor at the First Methodist Church in Guthrie and the Reverend Mr. D. W. Keller at the Barnes Chapel in West Guthrie.

When the Iowa land was opened for settlement, Fred L. Wenner, who was correspondent for several big Eastern papers, hired Mr. Hutchins to drive him out to the line so he could get the story. They went in a buggy and Loren went with his mother when she took a fresh horse down to the road. The Hutchins house sat half a mile back from the road. There they waited until the men came along, driving as fast as possible in order to get Mr. Wenner's story on the wire ahead of competitors. They changed horses there taking the fresh horse from Mrs. Hutchins and rushed

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on to Guthrie with the news of the Opening.

D. S. Mitchell, who had been a photographer in Guthrie during the first year, was living on a farm just across the road west from the Hutchins. From him they obtained many pictures of Guthrie scenes taken in 1889, which they still have.

After six years on that farm, the Hutchins family moved into town where the children attended school. They kept the farm, however, for several years, and Mr. Hutchins engaged in the real-estate business. Later, they bought a twenty-acre farm three miles east of Guthrie which is still owned by the family.

Loren was graduated from the local High School and then took a business course at the Epworth University, now Oklahoma City University.

Since 1922 he has been Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Guthrie, except for six months in 1925 where he resigned and moved his family to Florida, but after six months, he was offered his old job in Guthrie

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back and accepted it.

His parents are both dead now, but they made their home <sup>in</sup> Guthrie as long as they lived.