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ARCHER, W. R.

INTERVIEW. 4767

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History - ~~Field Worker~~ Oklahoma

ARCHER, W. R.

INTERVIEW.

44767.

Field Worker's name Warren D. Morse,This report made on (date) July 9, 1937

1. Name W. R. Archer,
2. Post Office Address Duncan, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) Same
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Day Year 1879
5. Place of birth Texas.
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 Three.

ARCHER, W. R.

INTERVIEW. #4767.

Warren D. Morse,
Field Worker.
July 9, 1937.

Interview with W. R. Archer,
Duncan, Oklahoma.

I started cowboy life early when I was thirteen years old. I came to Oklahoma in 1890, over the old Chisholm Trail. This was about the only one we could get over. I settled due east of Duncan on Mud Creek.

I worked for a rancher, Maxwell, who ran an outfit just east of Bill Washington's outfit. I was a fence rider and herd rider; this was a dangerous job.

I worked for Maxwell for some time, then started out for myself. My ranch house was not very big. It was made of rawhide cottonwood logs that I cut and hauled over to an old mill. The mill had no finisher so these boards were rough and green. I just had three rooms, that was all I could afford then. They told me I should wait until these boards dried to build but I needed a house so did not wait. I wish you could have seen that house later. You could almost throw a dog through the cracks. The best part was the chimney. It

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was made of mud, held together with sticks. The floor was uneven and rough when new and after the lumber dried it was worse.

I drove cattle to the Chisholm Trail until the railroad was built.

There was quite a settlement started at this place after I was there a while; a store and post office were built. It was first called Ara; I think it was named for a lady who came there early. It was changed to Claud later because there was another town by the name of Ara.

Mail delivery was slow. We were lucky to get mail once a week. In rainy weather Wild Horse Creek would keep us from getting mail sometimes for a month.

There were a few log bridges across creeks but they were no help if the creeks overflowed.

The roads were only trails. Most of them were made by cowboys on horses.

It was thirty miles from this place to Duncan and, with no roads it took us some time to make the trip.

After settlement came farming; Ranchers moved out and left it to us.