

EWING, BILL

INTERVIEW

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An Interview With Bill Ewing

Guymon, Okla.

Carl H. Mayfield, Field Worker

Pioneer Indian History, S 149

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Mr. Ewing came to the strip with his parents in the spring of 1887 from Kansas, the broad, rich valley of the Palo Duro Creek being their destination. At that time only a few ranches in the entire country; Hitch and Westmoreland on the Coldwater, the Ox Ranch on the Beaver, the Anchor Dee owned by E. C. Dudley farther west, and Jim Beasley where the Coldwater empties into the Beaver. There were also a few scattered nesters.

The country at that time was open on both sides and both ends. Antelopes were thicker than jackrabbits.

Mr. Ewing's mother filed on a claim in 1888 and received her title in 1890.

In 1889 Mr. Ewing hired out to the Anchor Dee as a cowhand. At that time about eighteen to twenty thousand head of cattle were carrying the Anchor Dee brand. He worked for them until 1891 when E. C. Dudley sold all of his holdings to T. C. Shoemaker; then he worked for the new owners until the spring of 1893.

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In the spring 'r. Ewing went north with one of the last large herds to use the Old Montana Trail across No Man's Land. In 1894 he was cook for the O. B. Ranch which belonged to Synders, who had come in a few years before. In 1895 and 1896 he worked again for the Anchor Dee Ranch.

During the time he worked for various ranches in this country, parts of west Texas and later on a horse ranch farther north, he earned the reputation of being one of the best riders in the country. He was known as a "top-hand" when it came to breaking young horses. "I always liked to break my own mount. Then I knew I would never be out trying to work cattle afoot."

About 1904 he bought a livery barn and wagon yard, which he operated until 1910 at Hooker, Oklahoma. His barn was one of the most widely known of its kind in that section.

Mr. Ewing says his experiences may be characterized as "just a hell of a lot of hard work."