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BOLENBACK, HERMAN

INTERVIEW

#084

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Interview with Herman Bolenback
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

Field Worker - Louise S. Barnes
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
July 28, 1937

I came to Oklahoma with my parents at the age of thirteen. Father made the run on April 22, 1889, and staked a claim, SE4 25-17-6. We came to Oklahoma from O'Brien County, Iowa, on a train which was fired with coal, to Hennessey, and then by coach on to Kingfisher.

I went to school in a sod school-house that was built by my father and the neighbors; it was located on SE4 26-17-6, and had a dirt floor and roof. We used cottonwood slabs to make benches from. Slab is the round or outside piece sawed from a log. It is always very rough because it usually has the bark left on. They used slabs because they were cheap.

In the school-house we met for entertainments for the whole community—for meetings of the Literary Society and for church.

When the night came for the Literary Society all the families would hitch up their teams to the wagons, and put on their best clothes and get started early.

They had very good programs consisting of readings and maybe some singing or other music. Then there was always a recess when we could visit, which was something everyone enjoyed, and after recess there would be a debate with at least six taking part. One of the subjects I remember was, "Is fire or water more destructive?"

We had great times going to the Literary Society because everyone enjoyed things more then and there was so little entertainment that people were not so hard to satisfy.

The school-house is now gone but only a mile from there they have a large consolidated school called the Big 4.