

TODD, ENOCH

INTERVIEW.

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Interview with: Mr. Enoch Todd,
Main Street,
Cleveland.

Field worker: Goldie Turner,
July 2, 1937.

Mr. Enoch Todd; manager of the Oil and Gas Well Supply Store, came to Cleveland, Oklahoma, in 1901 from Kansas.

When I first came to Cleveland, I put in a little cafe, confectionary, and grocery store combined. I rented a small building and freighted in supplies from Pawnee and Perry. We did not have a great deal of business except on Saturdays. Many days when I would go out to the street door to ring the bell for dinner there would not be a person to be seen on the street.

Many cowboys from across the river came to eat with us and there were probably some outlaws, although I knew very little about the outlaws. The Indians seldom came to eat with us, for we served the meals family-style and the Indians had such bad habits of poking their fingers in every dish that I discouraged their coming into the place to eat.

There was then a ferry across the Arkansas River run by a Mr. Simington. It was not run all the time, however, for when the river was low people always forded it.

During those early years, many salesmen would come to Cleveland in buggies and stay sometimes a week at a time. There were several saloons there, and after their business was transacted they would have a drinking party for several days.

In 1905, I bought the first car in the county. It was a one-cylinder Cadillac. One Sunday we thought we would take a little trip, so we started out in the early morning. We reached Jennings in time to eat dinner. Jennings is about twelve miles west of Cleveland. Of course, several times during the trip we had to get out and make a road, or fill up a ditch so that the car could pass over. We stayed only long enough to eat in Jennings before starting the return trip and reached Cleveland in time for the evening meal.

There were never many business buildings in Cleveland until oil was developed on a farm just south of town in 1905; then for a time there was quite a boom.