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Interviewer
August 16, 1937

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Mounds and Mounds Builders

As an employee in the Geological Survey and State Mineral Survey for thirteen months in the year 1935 and 1936, I learned these facts about mound builders and gas mounds in Atoka County.

Of the three major breakdowns the largest is from Boggy Depot along the southern line of Atoka County. Another is in the north-eastern part of the county known as the McGee Valley. The third is west of the Choctaw Fault located with North Boggy running through it. The southern breakdown has great gas mounds in different locations. These mounds are always imbedded in sand with quartz gravel, showing that in the erosion from hillside and water, this sand and gravel has been washed almost clear of soil. The quartz and gravel are being used at present for hard top and concrete abutments and concrete slab purposes on different highways and roads in Atoka County, southwest of Atoka. Approximately one thousand mounds have been built on a high rolling prairie; that shows they were built and inhabited sometime in the

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past by some tribe supposed to be the Mexican Indians. These mounds not being gassed mounds show that the earth was rounded up from a radius of twenty to fifty feet making these mounds. These mounds show that they were not inhabited long until they were abandoned, showing that this tribe of people subsisted on the wild fruit and game that grew and ranged in the community surrounding them.

Their mode of living and getting game for food is shown through dead falls and pits being excavated or dug in different localities over the country. The McGee Valley breakdown in Sections 24, 23, 26 and 25, Township 1 North, Range 14 East, shows there are from five to seven thousand of these mounds that have been raised up or built by the same tribe and these mounds were located, with streets, as cities and villages.

Some mounds near the center of this village prove that larger families inhabited them. The soil that had been cut away by road builders through this village shows that these mounds were built or raised up by hand and inhabited in the past by some tribe.

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From trees, such as red oak, post oak, grape vines, sassafras, wild red haws, that have sprung up and grown from some of these mounds it is shown that these tribes of people lived from the natural growing wild fruits of the surrounding country.

The west side, north and west of Redden, from this great break down, shows that there were at one time gas bubbles which caused gas mounds and that these filled with sand and quartz gravel.

Enclosed are four kodak pictures taken from airplane views. Two of the scenes pictured are six miles east and west and eight miles north and south in area and two are eight miles north and south and twelve miles east and west in area. These scenes cover the eastern part of the great slide and break downs that are caused from this McGee Valley major break down. In townships 1 and 2 South, is what is called the great Little and Big Booger Boo Canyon through which flows the water into what is known as the Double Horseshoe Bends in McGee stream.

These canyons and bluff, or precipice, consist of

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great boulders that have fallen down from the divide between McGee Creek and Buck Creek causing great crevices, caves and lots of natural pits in these timbered and mountainous. With very little work wild game of all kind could be trapped. Dead falls, and all these formations show that these tribes of mound builders subsisted and lived on the wild fruits that grew on the side of mountain streams and forests and as before stated on wild game and fish that inhabited the locality. These mound villages show from different assays and different soils that probably they are only about one hundred fifty or one hundred seventy five years old.