

INDEX CARDS

Heather
Snyder

Ruth Lee Gamblin
Field Worker
May 13, 1937

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Interview with Mrs. Ola Carter.
North 9th Street, Frederick, Oklahoma.

Cyclone at Snyder Kills 100,
Worst Cyclone For This Part of State.

The next morning after this storm was an awful sight. This cyclone was May 12, 1905, and at that time Snyder was ⁱⁿ the same county with Frederick--Comanche County.

There was not a house standing in the center of the storm zone. The cotton gin and the brick round house were torn down. Even the grass in the path of the storm was killed and covered with a sort of mud lava. Chickens were found everywhere with their feathers blown out as cleanly as if they had been picked. Boards were driven entirely through buildings and huge openings left in others. Every business house showed signs of the storm. The only house untouched was in the south part of town.

The passenger train that went through Frederick in the morning at 8:30 contained people from Vernon and Davidson, while the Frederick people packed the cars almost to their capacity. As the crowd hastened to what was the heart of the town Snyder, we realized the story was not exaggerated. There were probably

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600 people in Snyder, out of which 100 were killed and half the balance so badly injured they prayed for death. Every building in the direct path of the storm was leveled. This storm at that time was the worst cyclone that had ever visited the American continent. The Indians still will not live in Snyder, because they are afraid of cyclones.

During the night those who were alive worked unceasingly by the light of a candle or lanterns. One hundred doctors were busy caring for the wounded. Over half the people were without food, clothing, or shelter and outside towns sent money and supplies to keep the survivors from actual suffering. It took days and days to clean up after it.

Mrs. Ola Carter helped rescue people in this storm.