

COKE, EDD

INTERVIEW

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Interview with Edd. Coke
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

Interviewer--Louise S. Barnes
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
July 27, 1937

I owned a saloon several years of the earlier days in Oklahoma and I believe this is a very good description of what most of the saloons were like.

We had a building, large enough to accommodate the whiskey and wine bars in the front part, with an archway separating it from the back of the room, which was used for the gambling and poker rooms.

The saloon opened with a door in the center front, having a show window on each side displaying all kinds of whiskey, brandy and wine. After entering the first article on one side was a large cigar case and behind and beside this was a screen made of mirrors which closed in the wine bar. Back of the bar there were all kinds of whiskey, brandy and wine.

In the gambling room there was a crap game, and a roulette table. Roulette was played by means of a large wheel with pockets that turned round and round,

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you bet on numbers. Faro Bank was played with cards, Klondike with paddles, and Keno with numbers. In these rooms it took one man to look after each game and there were thirty men employed to run this saloon.

The poker room was more private and was off by itself.

I don't believe there was any more disturbance and trouble than there is today, because they did not sell drinks to anyone under twenty-one and young men were hardly ever in the saloon under that age. At that time a man's word was as good as his bond.