

INDEX CARDS

Ranching--Chickasaw Nation
Openings--Old Oklahoma
Guthrie
Purcell
Pioneer life--Oklahoma Territory
Social gatherings--Oklahoma Territory
Dances--Indian
Orlando
Openings--Cherokee Strip
Openings--repeaters
Tecumseh
Collections

Field Worker: Harry M. Dreyer
March 10, 1937

1094

223

BIOGRAPHY OF: Guy Cox,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

BORN: August 9, 1872
Jefferson Co., Kansas

PARENTS: Father came from Indiana
Mother came from Iowa

I, Guy Cox, was born in Kansas in 1872 near Tongonoxie, on a farm that my father had homesteaded. Father came to Kansas in 1858. Grandfather was born in Kentucky and Grandmother was born in Virginia.

I began work in a grocery store at Wichita when a boy and saved a little money. My father and my brother came to Oklahoma before 1889 and worked on a ranch 27 miles northwest of Purcell, near Newcastle, called Peery Ranch. I corresponded with my father from Wichita, Kansas and knew about where they were located in Oklahoma by the map.

I came to Oklahoma when the strip opened but was too young to take up a homestead. I came in on the Santa Fe train by myself. While on the train I met two young fellows who had considerable baggage with them. They were coming to Guthrie to open a cafe. When we landed in Guthrie it was hot and dry. My two acquaintances, whose names I cannot remember, staked some lots a few minutes after arriving and began putting up a tent. They sent me after a bucket of water, so I went down to the railroad where the engineer was filling the tinder with water. I said to the engineer, "Would you please give me a bucket of water?" He did. The people crowd-

Apparently he means the Oklahoma Country G. Debo

ed around me begging for a drink of water, offering a dime for one drink. I could not take money for water. I had never heard of such a thing. In a few minutes the whole bucket of water was gone. The engineer was not quite through filling the tender, so I asked him for another bucket of water. This time when he gave it to me I carried it on up to the tent. The water surely tasted good, as I was extremely thirsty.

I stayed with those boys that first night. There were several thousand people there. We slept on the ground in the tent. The next day I went by train to Purcell, Okla. and stayed in a rooming-house there, sleeping on a bed made down on the floor. I paid fifty cents for the bed where I shared the room with several other people. I had fifty dollars with me that I had saved from working in the grocery store in Kansas. At the rooming-house I inquired for the Peery Ranch and having been directed, I hired a negro from a livery stable to take me out there. The ride cost me five dollars.

I walked up to the ranch house and asked the lady if this was the Peery ranch. She said, "Yes, it is, and you are Guy Cox." She knew me because my father and brother had talked about me. I found my father and brother and they had both staked one hundred and sixty acres apiece, across the river from the Peery Ranch.

After a few days we went over to our claim and dug a cellar and built a small house above it, making a nice two-story house. My father went over to the Johnson ranch near and got some wild horses that he used a year for breaking

ground. My father went to Oklahoma City and bought a ²²⁵wagon and breaking plows from Petee's Hardware Co. on terms. They broke the sod and planted Black-eyed Peas and put up a quantity of prairie hay. My father bought one hundred and fifty head of yearling cattle from Mr. Johnson that same year.

Some of the settlers put up sod houses. Everyone in the neighborhood was very friendly. I attended to many dances in those sod houses, dancing all night and going home the next morning at sun-rise.. If some of the boys who came to the dance were unable to pay twenty-five cents, the usual fee charged for the evening, some of the others would give them a ticket so that they could dance.

I also attended the Pi Cody Indian dances. Several of my boy friends and I went to Pi Cody's dance one night. They were dancing in the open. The Indians were friendly to us. There was a white man who was drunk there at the dance. The Indians were doing a ghost dance, so this white man got a sheet around his head and joined in the dance, dancing in a circle, until finally, the Indians discovered him there and they gave him a kick and put him out of the circle.

When the country opened around Orlando my brother and some friends made a run there and took up some town lots, which they sold at a profit of seventy-five dollars profit before they had filed on them. I staked a lot too, but a fellow came along and said, "Here, young fellow, you can't file on this land, you are not old enough." I replied, "Come on, and take it if you want it, I was just staking it for fun."

When the Perry country was opened, I was twenty-one, so

I staked a claim near Perry. I rode in there on horse-back, lost my canteen of water on the way. My father and a friend made a run for town lots in Perry where I was to meet them later. After filing my claim, I rode into Perry where I found them. In the run for town lots they met a wave of people coming in from two directions and the dust was so thick they could hardly see where they were going. A woman was dragged by her running horse and my father's friend started to shoot the horse to save the woman, but because of the dust and the crowd of people he was afraid to shoot. I never found out whether the woman was killed, or whether her foot finally slipped from the stirrup of the saddle and she escaped.

I made the run in Tecumseh, too, for town lots and staked an alley that I sold for seventy-five dollars. The man who bought it discovered later that he did not get anything except an alley.

Mr. Roundtree, a famous roper and rider, fell from his horse in the Orlando run and broke his neck and died instantly.

I moved later, to Oklahoma City, where I have lived since.

THE END

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227

HISTORICAL COLLECTION OWNED BY Mr. Guy Cox
28 Northeast 7th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Pictures.

Ten pictures and pamphlets with pictures of early Oklahoma City and names of settlers. All pictures are 10" x 12" in frames and large wall pictures. Painting by his daughter now deceased.

Painting of large picture of Indians shooting arrow aflame and torch fire from mountain. Received from Washington.

Collection is kept at 28 Northeast 7th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Storage place in good condition. Collection in good condition.

Owner intends to keep these pictures. Perhaps would later turn to Historical Society after he is gone, but not now.

Mr. Cox's daughter taught in Indian schools and he received part of these from deceased daughter.

Mr. Cox has two pictures on the wall, in frames, that are oil painted by his daughter, of Indian Squaw and Indian man.

Mr. Cox has pictures of Oklahoma as follows:

Santa Fe street taken in 1889.

Oklahoma City teachers taken in 1894.

Main street taken in 1889, showing bunch of oxen in middle of street.

Pictures of first and second post offices of Oklahoma City.

Both log sheds apparently about 10' x 8' and flat roof.

Mrs. Cox has a pamphlet of City called "First Families of Oklahoma" in 1893. And name of first families and pictures of Oklahoma City.

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