

Great Land Lottery." The territory comprised the lands of the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, and Caddo tribes, a great many of whom had become educated and were now living in peace, except for some of the Apaches. Geronimo and a party of Apaches were being held prisoners of war at Fort Sill at the time of the opening.

Dennis T. Flynn, a territorial delegate to congress--famous in Oklahoma as the author of the Free Homes Bill--introduced and secured the passage of the act which provided for the land lottery. He was one of the many who registered at El Reno who failed to draw a lucky number for a tract of land.

Lone Wolf, head chief of the Kiowa Indian tribe, brought a suit at El Reno seeking to stop the land opening through an injunction.

Clinton F. Irving, a judge of the territorial federal court, heard the application and denied the prayer of the Kiowa chief. An appeal was taken to the territorial supreme court at Guthrie, but this too was lost. The higher court, presided over by Judge John H. Bedford, refused the prayer, and the land officials went ahead and held the registration and drawing.

A crowd estimated at from 10,000 to 20,000 had gathered near the outskirts of El Reno and El Reno, and Fort Sill were also places for this drawing.

The counties that came out of this great land lottery were Kiowa, Comanche and Caddo county.

Lone Wolf goes to Washington to stop the opening. He accused the government of robbing its own children. Ethan H. Hitchcock, secretary of the interior under President William McKinley, sent a copy of the president's proclamation for the opening of the new country to the Oklahoma State Capital at Guthrie, for the release of the morning paper, dated July 8, 1901. Monday morning papers in Oklahoma Territory at that time printed an extra edition, with letters on the first page that took up half a page, the big line being "Proclamation."

Nearly everybody in the territory was expecting the proclamation announcing the date for the big registration and the opening in the history of the nation. Everybody was waiting for a chance to gamble for 160 acres of land in the last frontier opening.