

W. E. Schooler, Non-Indian
Hugo, Oklahoma

Interviewed by: Ruth Handowsky
June 29, 1967

HISTORY OF BEGINNING OF HUGO AND SPENCERVILLE

All information that I know of, because I have made no effort to make records of all that. I just guess they could get away with anything if somebody don't keep records. I came here in 1902 and this has been my legal residence ever since. I've known quite a number of the old time characters here. And I might say this - there's very few if any living. I'm getting to a point where I'm about the oldest man in town. I'm 90 or will be in December. I don't know hardly, since this is supposed to be an authentic record, I hesitate a little bit, since I'm not a native of this part of the country. But when I came here, the Indian Territory regime was in force. They, the Indians, had their chiefs and had their wars and fights and one thing or another. I made no note of it except as published in my newspaper a good long while, and naturally kept pretty well up on what was going on during that time. But I would hesitate to make a positive statement - well, I wouldn't swear, if that's a good way to put it - to any of the statements that I make are absolutely accurate and correct. Because I made no attempt to make a permanent record; just took it as it happened, you know. It went in one ear and out the other. But it's a very interesting story here. When I came here, this was just a big wide space. There was a big area between the east side and the west side of Hugo. Hugo was first established - well, the settlement came into existence up here about 3 or 4 miles north of town - what was known as Goodland Switch. Then, this A & C Railroad was built from Ardmore to Hope, Arkansas,