



HUGHES ED. INTERVIEW.

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Investigator, W. T. Holland,  
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Interview with Ed Hughes.  
Red Fork, Oklahoma.

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I came into the territory in 1890 and worked about over the country at the carpenter trade, principally. Some of my first work was at Bartlesville, when it was only a village and Mr. Battles was the main business man there. I worked for him.

In 1898, I worked with United States officials, making the geological survey of Seminole, Creek, Cherokee and Delaware Counties. We had more or less trouble in surveying the eastern boundary of Delaware county.

It seems that the western boundary of Arkansas was surveyed by people who either did not care or were incompetent as the line was away off" which caused some of the sections adjoining the Arkansas line to be irregular.

We established corners and placed a stone marker at each section or mile and at each half-section, or half-mile.

Many amusing incidents occurred while we were out.

The Indians did not know what it was all about. Some of the Indians protested, heatedly, against our dragging

chains across their land. They thought it was another act on the part of the government to move or dispossess them or to sell their land.

Some Indians tried to collect fees from us in the way of permits but, of course, we did not pay anything and we suffered no physical harm.

#### No Men's Land.

I was more or less familiar with No Man's Land. I was not a fugitive but three acquaintances of mine were; they passed through this section to a hiding place in No Man's Land.

As far as I know, there were no district boundaries in No Man's Land. It included the land north of the Texas Panhandle, and as I knew it, extended east and came to a point at the Kansas state line near Caney, Kansas.

I know that criminals were safe from arrest while in this territory, for I have been there.

It would be amusing and probably tragic, were I to name men now living who in No Man's Land took advantage of conditions as they were then. A large number of the men who sought refuge in No Man's Land are now respected citizens, and I would not

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name them. Some are high in official positions, and I might add that one man who spent some time hiding in No Man's Land came near winning the nomination for Governor of this state.

These men who hid in No Man's Land were all young then and acted under the impulses of youth and then, too, most of these men had not committed major crimes.

Whisky was freely and openly sold up near Caney, by the Lewis Brothers, who were unmolested for probably four years.

#### Bartlesville.

I was very intimately acquainted with and closely associated with the founder of Bartlesville, Mr. Bartles. I was in Bartlesville when it was founded.

I saw a lot of rough life in the early days and I have seen some bitter fights among the cattlemen over water-holes. These fights would occur on the range away from the running stream, for on the range the cattlemen had to depend on the water holes for water for their cattle and so they guarded these water-holes carefully.

The big fight occurred with men from Texas who would drive sometimes a thousand or more head of cattle, and when

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they came to a water hole, these Texas cattlemen would try to "hog" it and there would be a fight as the Oklahoma cattlemen naturally wanted to conserve the water supply for their own cattle.

#### Survey.

While camping out in the geological survey, we had a chuck wagon, like ranch-hands, and we stayed out for weeks at a time.

We would establish camp and survey a certain distance from that point in each direction. The full-blood did not like for white men to drag chains over their land. They were superstitious and thought dragging chains over their land would bring them bad luck.