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February 15, 1937

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BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. P. H. Peck  
Duncan, Oklahoma

BORN November 1, 1874  
South Carolina

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I came from South Carolina with my folks to Arkansas then to Texas. We came from Ringgold, Texas, crossin Red river when the river was frozen over about eight inches thick. We drove a yoke of oxen and camped on Monument hills. We arrived in the Tucker settlement about 10 o'clock at night, stayed all night in a log house. The next morning there was two inches of snow over everything. We lived there two years. We then moved to Jopanche, Oklahoma, in 1893. My parents died there.

I went into the furniture business. Judge Linn was postmaster at that time. I recall a funny incident, a Mr. Muccombough came into the office and asked if there was any mail for him. The postmaster said "Go, to hell there is not a name like that in the United States."

At that time you had to have a permit to graze cattle on Indian land; this cost was \$5.00. I have some of those certificates yet, if you didn't show a certificate the militia would run them out. Some cattle were run back into Texas.

There were no courts except by carpet baggers decision. If a man was not able to get himself out of trouble he would call on his neighbor to help him.

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The first grand jury was at Ryan, Oklahoma. Henry Pruitt was on the first grand jury. It convened in the morning and instructed jurymen on little stealing and making whiskey, about the only thing people were jailed for. Pruitt told the judge to withhold court 60 days because the people didn't know about the new order or law.

Now, this 98th meridian when it was first surveyed was from the stars and the nights had to be clear so the stars would shine. There is a look out tower in the woods reserved, near the line just northwest of Duncan. It took about four months to survey this strip through here. About eighteen years ago there was a new survey made and this gave to the Choctaw and Chickasaws a strip about 40 yards wide. That is the reason for the jog in the line just west of Duncan.

During Comanche carnival, the Indians encamped near the park. The Indians gave sham battles also gave dances and had a scalping play.

With statehood there were saloons along the meridian. Mr. Leach ( J. B. ) owned the Edgewood saloon west of Comanche. He had a sign in front which read "Comanche to Edgewood, two miles" and "Edgewood to Comanche, 2 mile"--  
mening when they got drunk it would shorten the distance.

I moved to Duncan in 1935.

(end)