

ETHNOGRAPHIC FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Bureau History - Anthropology - Oklahoma

HEFLEY, JENNIE

INTERVIEW.

10051.

Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway.

This report made on (date) February 23, 1938

1. Name Jennie Hefley

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 307 East Oklahoma Avenue.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 11 Year 1867.

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father W. A. Stacey Place of birth Tennes-

see

7. Name of Mother Martha Clayborn Stacey Place of birth Virginia

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached five.

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Lillian Cassaway,
Investigator,
February 23, 1938.

An Interview with Mrs. Jennie Hefley,
307 East Oklahoma, Anadarko, Okla.

Mr. Hefley and I came to El Reno about a year and a half before the time of registering for homesteads and lived in a little three-room house one block from Kerfoot Hotel. We had been reading of the registration but had not paid much attention to it- just thought it would be nothing very unusual. In my mind I thought it would be like voting, just a steady flow of people, but nothing like it really was. One morning Mr. Hefley went to the back door and called me. The street was a solid mass of people; there were, it seemed, thousands of people swarming around the registers' booth. Spaces were rented at different points in town where people registered.

The town was so crowded that there was nowhere for people to sleep. One day a woman came to my house and asked if I had a room to rent. I told her, "No," that I only had three rooms and I had nothing. She said that there were four of them- her father, brother, sister and herself, and they

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wanted somewhere to sleep. They had been to the hotel and had been told that it was full but that I might let them have a room. I told her that I had one room but I couldn't make all of them comfortable. She said that if I would let her have the room they would make themselves comfortable. When I showed her the room, she went to the bed and saw that it had two mattresses. She said that she would take one mattress and put it on the floor and she and her sister could sleep on the floor and her father and brother could have the bed. "Oh," I said, "You won't be comfortable there". She said that it would be better than sitting up in the depot all night so I let her have the room. The next day she asked me what she owed me. "Oh," I said, "You don't owe me anything. I wouldn't think of charging you for the bed on the floor, and I never let out a room before." She said that she had come prepared to pay me and asked if \$4.00 would be enough. It was a new experience for me, but from then on I kept some one in that room.

People then were honest and treated each other fairly. During the registering people would bring their luggage to

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me and leave it sometimes for several days. I had one room in which luggage was stacked almost to the ceiling against the wall and I didn't know how I was going to remember each person's property. One man showed me how to make tickets so I could tag them. Others would leave money for me to take care of.

There were eating joints all along the street in front of my house. There were under tents with long planks for eating counters. Some of them were covered with oilcloth and others were bare, but all were nice and clean. People would come over to my place to get water. I told them that they could have some. They wanted to pay me for it but I would tell them "No" that I paid only the minimum and to take what they wanted. They nearly always, though, left some money for the water.

Dennis Flynn was responsible for the drawing and one time at a speech he said: "I'm going to bring my old nurse up on the stage with me, and let her sit to one side. She is colored but she has been a mother to me; in fact she has been more than a mother to me and I think as much of her as any white woman." One time when someone came to this

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old nurse and told her that Dennis was drunk, she said:
"What of it? Dennis has more sense when he is drunk than most men have when they are sober." Everyone knew her as Granny Jones, but she had rather be called Mrs. Jones.

Mr. Hefley came on to Anadarko, during rag town days, He had a large tent that would hold a hundred cots so he set up this tent and kept sleepers. When the lots in town were sold he put up this tent on Main Street in what is now the 100 block. I don't know just the street number but it was about 113 East Main Street. A woman had an eating joint next to Mr. Hefley's sleeping tent, so she fed those who slept there.

Mr. Hefley served on the Police force under John Blackmore who was the first Chief of Police of Anadarko, Mr. Blackmore was appointed to this office but the second term Mr. Hefley was elected chief and filled this office off and on until his death.

In 1903 or 1904 we had a big parade; I don't remember what the occasion was but Geronimo was brought up from Fort Sill to be in this parade; he was never allowed to be without a guard. When he and his guard got here the guard wanted to

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see over the town so turned Geronimo over to Mr. Hefley to guard. Mr. Hefley brought him down ^{to} the house where we lived and came in the house for something. He told me that Geronimo was outside and for me to go see him. I looked at him as if he was some strange animal out of a zoo. When I got out there he was off his horse fixing the girth of Mr. Hefley's saddle. He said to me, "White man no know how fix em saddle." I was very surprised that Geronimo could talk English. He fixed the saddle and then jumped on the horse and started running up the alley. I called to Mr. Hefley that Geronimo was getting away, but when he got to the end of the alley he turned and came back. That was the first time I ever saw Geronimo. I have a picture of that parade with Geronimo among those at the head of it.