

ROOF, ERNEST L.

INTERVIEW

#7995

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ROOP, ERNEST L.

INTERVIEW.
BIOGRAPHY FORM

7995.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward.

This report made on (date) October 27, 1937.

1. Name Ernest L. Roop

2. Post office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 703 South Owasso Avenue.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 22 Year 1871.

5. Place of birth Pierce City, Missouri.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 4

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Mary Dorward,
Investigator.
October 28, 1937.

An Interview with Ernest L. Roop,
728 South Owasso, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ernest L. Roop was born in 1871 at Pierce City,
Missouri. He came to Tulsa, Indian Territory, in
September 1895, to run a flour mill for the Burnes and
Boyd mill at the southeast corner of Brady and North
Boston. He remained with Burnes and Boyd until January
1896, when, due to a shortage of grain, the mill was
forced to close.

There were very few farms around Tulsa at that time,
most of the surrounding country being devoted to ranching.
Burnes and Boyd was a small firm unable to import grain.
While there Roop purchased corn for fifteen cents a bushel,
the cheapest he ever knew it to be. At the same time
wheat brought about forty cents a bushel. That was during
Cleveland's second administration.

In January, 1896, Roop went to work for Pat Coyne,
owner of drug store, and has been in the drug business
ever since. At that time Coyne's drug store was farthest
south of any business in Tulsa, and was at the northeast
corner of Second and Main Streets, where the Busick drug
store now stands.

Business in Tulsa when Roop came were:

Robinson Blacksmith Shop

Beard Implement Shop

Tate Brady General Merchandise

Ut. Elmo Hotel

Tulsa Lumber Company

J. M. Hall General Merchandise

A. C. Archer Hardware Company (G. W. Howbra, Jr., manager).

Postoffice (John McAllister, postmaster)

Wallace and Calkoun Meat Market.

Lynch Mercantile Company (Bob, the Colonel, and Bill).

Tulsa Banking Company

Price and Gillette Merchandise

Egan Brothers General Merchandise

McAllister Sisters, Dressmaking

R. E. Goffe Drug

Lewis and Troback; Hardware

The Scott Merchandise

W. A. Bynum Merchandise

Joe Trutman Furniture

Jim Barr Drug Store

Shacklin & Hall Drug Store

L. Price, Saddler and Harness

Indian Republic, weekly newspaper

Tulsa Democrat, " " " "

The firms mentioned extended from Archer to Second Streets.

In addition there were:

Colonel Moore's Hotel and Restaurant

Tulsa Milling Company

Burdes and Boyd Milling Company

Hogan Livery

Dick Hughes, Photographer

In 1905 Roop built the house in which he now lived at 708 South Owasso, at that time away out in the country and now a well-built-up section of the town.

The Roos sometimes attended the Indian stamp dances which were held in the vicinity of Eighteenth and Cheyenne. The Indians would cook beef in open kettles, put it up, and lay it out on tables, where it was exposed to dust and flies, and then eat it as they wanted.

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The biggest excitement was watching the cattlemen swim their stock across the Arkansas River. There would be thousands of head of cattle, sometimes the Texas long-horns, all crossing at one time.

Everybody was "shutmouth" concerning outlaws. They were known, would sometimes come into a town and stay all night at one of the hotels, but no one ever asked any questions, and they always paid for everything they wanted. Joe Price had a big gray horse which they would sometimes take with them but they would always return it when they were through with it.