

SCHORNICK, EUGENE INTERVIEW.

5376

432

INTERVIEW WITH MR. EUGENE SCHORNICK
BY
Goldie Turner, Field Worker

Mr. Eugene Schornick was born in Allen County, Kansas, in 1876. He came to Oklahoma in 1898.

I taught my first school in Pawnee County in 1898 at Pleasant Valley. I got \$20.00 a month and taught six months. The next two years I taught at Hopewell, District #64. The school house was a stone building and there were about fifty children enrolled, and all the grades from one to eight. The subjects taught were similar to the ones taught now only more combined, that is the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades usually used the same texts and often recited together. I got thirty dollars a month one year and thirty three dollars a month the next year, and taught an eight months term. The teachers then had to pay \$2.50 each month to the bank in order to get their warrants cashed. Each summer, usually in August, Normal Institute was held in Pawnee. The teachers were required to attend. The Institute gave the teachers an intensive review of subjects to be taught and practical teaching methods, then during the last few days examinations were held for teachers' certificates.

-2-

When I first came here there were no buggies. There were a few spring wagons and two wheel carts, but most everyone went places either in the lumber wagon or horseback.

In 1904 Pawnee got the first mail delivery. Buggies were used and only the town served once a day. Halston got mail delivery in 1905.

When I first came here prairie chickens were plentiful. There were some deer and a few wild turkeys.

The country to the northwest was called the "Otoes" and was all cattle country controlled by a few ranchers. The range was not fenced for there was no farming done. There were not very many fences around here either for there wasn't a great deal of stock and the farmers just fenced their fields.

The first people who came here got nearly all their supplies by freighting either for the Agency or Merchants in town. They were paid no money, only script which were orders on the stores.

All livestock was hauled or driven to Perry or Red Rock. Hogs sold for 2¢ to 2½¢ a pound delivered.

In 1899 I helped a well driller drill wells over the county, he charged 50¢ a foot for drilling.