

McBRIDE, W. P.

INTERVIEW

9220

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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McBRIDE, W. P. - INTERVIEW.

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Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) November 18, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) W. P. McBride

Address Blanchard, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

Development of Oklahoma.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 5

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Boatman, Robert H. - Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
November 18, 1937.

Interview with W. P. McBride
Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I grew up in Texas, in which state I was born July 31, 1868, and lived there until I was twenty-two years old.

I came over into the Indian Territory in 1890 and after wandering around for some time I settled near Kiowa in the Choctaw Nation, in what is now known as Pittsburg County. This country was all open at that time and there were lots of Indians and several earlier settlers who had come to seek their fortunes. Most of the settlers were engaged in the business of stock-raising.

A short time after I settled there a man named Dimp Bell discovered that there was coal in that section of the country and it was he who dug the first pit of the Kiowa coal mines. These mines were opened and went into operation in 1895, after which nearly every one began prospecting in hope they would find a rich vein of coal. Thus the coal industry took shape and soon spread to different sections of the country.

The Choctaw Indians were very friendly toward the

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white people, but there were several Territory negroes who were worthless and made their living by stealing - mostly hogs. Once I had some hogs stolen, after which I took some shelled corn, sprinkled flour over it to feed my hogs and told some of those negroes it was strychnine. Those were the last hogs that were stolen from me.

I then moved to the western part of the territory among the Apache and Comanche Indians and began work on horse and cattle ranches and it was here I met with lots of fun and trouble. I was working for the Double Circle outfit and we had to be constantly on guard to keep the Apache Indians from stealing the horses. Old Geronimo was chief of the Apaches and they did not seem to think it was wrong to steal horses and were always willing to deliver a stolen horse for a small amount of money. Generally the Outfit would pay from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per head to the Indians and they would then deliver the horses as strayed horses.

Once they got a fine horse from the Double Circle and they kept him for over a year, then a couple of the range boys met two Indians, one of whom was riding this horse. They engaged in conversation with the Indians and inquired about the horse but the Indian wouldn't agree to give him

up. One of the boys was standing beside the horse and managed to loosen the girth of the saddle, while the other was tinkering with the saddle and winding his rope around the horn of the saddle. When all was ready the boy on the ground kicked the horse and away he went leaving the saddle and Indian at the end of the rope of the other boy. The other Indian certainly did yell and laugh at the one who was thrown.

I began trying to make friends with the Indians and trying to teach them that it was a crime to steal horses. As the years pass I feel I have been somewhat instrumental in the progress of the Indians of the territory.

I later moved and settled at the town of Blanchard where I have lived for the past several years.
