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Tulsa  
Family life--pioneer

W. T. Holland  
Field Worker  
June 12, 1937

Interview with Mr. D. C. Shelton  
715 S. Detroit. Tulsa, Oklahoma

I worked as a clerk in Bynum's store until 1901, for twelve years. There was plenty of work at such a job, but the pay was not so much, however, I continued to work until 1908--Mr. Bynum owned most of the west half of the lot between Second and Third streets on the east side of Main. He spent a good part of his time in this plot, as his garden or truck patch was there.

I had saved some little money and asked him about selling me a portion of this lot. This was about 1900 and he agreed to sell me a portion, 70x130 feet for \$700.00. Then I had to satisfy the Indians for their interest which took \$250.00, when I became owner of the lot. On this I built me a home, as this area was considered the suburbs at that time, in Tulsa.

In 1904, the McBirney Brothers, Jim and Sam, wanted a place to build a bank building, so I sold them twenty of the seventy feet off of the south lot, for \$4000.00.

I then purchased a plot of ground, out of town then, at the 700 block on South Detroit, where I moved the house that I had erected on Main. The entire lot was vacant so I took the \$4000.00 I got for the 20 ft. and added \$3000.00 to it, most of which I was fortunate enough to have, and built a two story brick building 50x130 feet. This building is on east side of Main Street, between Second and Third Streets. I then rented the building for \$250.00 per month, and soon paid what money I had to borrow in the erection of the building. At one time since, this property has rented for over \$1000.00 per month.

I quit clerking in 1906 and have worked for myself since. I haven't added anything as I can see to the betterment of the state only that I've always tried to attend to my business, lead a temperate life and educated my children. That is one thing I'm really proud of--the education of my children. I was married to Lillie Hampton, of Carthage, Missouri, in Tulsa, April 7, 1895, and we have had born to us five children, four boys and one girl. The four boys

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are Frank Hampton Shelton, graduate of the University of Missouri; John M. Shelton, graduate of the University of Oklahoma; George B. Shelton, graduate of the University of Oklahoma; Haskell Shelton, graduate of the University of California. Lucille, my daughter, is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

I was fortunate in making some investments in real estate that have produced and still are producing revenues sufficient to support me, and educated my children. A great factor in what success I may have had, was the ability to borrow money when I needed it. I always tried, and was successful in meeting my obligations promptly. This established what credit I needed. My early bankers and friends were Jim and Sam McBirney. Jim is still living and active in business, but Sam passed away in 1936.

Speaking of schools, I suppose the lack of an education on my part, caused me to be especially interested in an education for my children. I supported all the early efforts in the educational line in Tulsa, and saw to it that nothing interfered with my children attending.

I would like to talk to you again, and may be  
I can tell you something of interest, if not of  
any value."