

SHUMATE, JOSEPH W.

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Alson J. Chase
Investigator
March 23, 1938.

Interview with Joseph W. Shumate
Woodward, Oklahoma.

In 1867 I went with my folks and helped drive a herd of 5000 cattle from Brownville, Texas, to Abilene, Kansas. Most of these cattle were marketed and some of them were put on grass in Kansas. We would leave Texas early in the spring and it would be late in the fall when we got to Abilene, Kansas. We came through Fort Worth and then north across Red River. We had no trouble with the Indians in crossing Oklahoma.

In 1893 I came to Woodward and made it my home. I filed on a farm six miles northwest of Woodward. Sold my relinquishment about six months after I filed. Then I began to work on ranches in eastern Oklahoma. I was employed as a cook. In 1925 I quit ranch-life and have been living in Woodward.

Up until the Strip opened in 1893, cattle raising was done mostly on the open range, and the ranchers did not make any arrangement for winter feed except running their cattle on winter grass just like they had during the summer months and when we had bad winters, like the winter of 1886, thousands of

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cattle froze to death. When the Strip began to settle up, it was necessary for the cattlemen to make arrangements for winter feed, and they began to plant feed crops and raise their winter feed, and when cotton seed oil cake came on the market it was used with rough feed and winter grass very successfully.