

INNIS, JACK N.

INTERVIEW

#8506

411

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Alton J. Chase

This report made on (date) August 25, 1937

1. Name Jack H. Innis

2. Post Office Address Supply, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 1st Year 1868

5. Place of birth Indiana

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 \_\_\_\_\_

INNIS, JACK N.

INTERVIEW

8366

Interview with Jack N. Innis  
Supply, Oklahoma.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was born in Indiana, later going to Missouri.

I had a brother in western Oklahoma, so in 1886 I left Missouri and came to No-Man's Land on a hunting trip. Game was plentiful, so I hunted quail and prairie chicken for the market. I received \$3.00 per dozen for quail and \$4.00 per dozen for prairie chickens. I squatted on a piece of land near Gate.

I came to Oklahoma in a covered wagon, this was in January, 1886, and on the 7th of January there came the worst blizzard I ever saw. The storm caught me about ten miles from the Oklahoma line. I pitched camp and the storm lasted two days. Lots of cattle and some people froze to death. After the storm, it was very common to see men with one hand or foot or both that had been frozen off.

INNIS, JACK N.

INTERVIEW

8866

2

Livestock froze to death by the thousand. Some cattlemen lost their entire herd, cattle drifted with the storm and piled up in canyons and against drift fences and were found frozen that way.

While in No-Man's Land I worked some on ranches but not farming. I had a cedar picket house 12 x 14 feet and I batched. I used spring water. The following ranches were in this country before the opening of the strip: The R. Bar S. Ranch, covered thousands of acres, with headquarters about one mile north of the present town of Dunlap, on the Beaver River. They had thousands of cattle.

The Y. L. Ranch was located on Kiowa Creek with headquarters about twenty miles southwest of where Laverne, Oklahoma, now stands. They also handled thousands of cattle.

The V. Bar Ranch was located north of Woodward with the ranch house located in Bent Canyon, about twenty miles north. The owner of this ranch was J. V. Andrews.

INNIS, JACK N.

INTERVIEW

8366

3

In 1887, I went to work on the Bar V. Ranch. This was on Snake Creek, in the north part of the now Harper County. This was a small ranch, owned by Ed Jaquens and he had about 2,000 head of cattle.

In 1890, I went to work at Fort Supply as a teamster, and worked there until the Fort was abandoned. I helped move the teams and equipment to Fort Sill. We left Fort Supply on Christmas Day, 1895, and I stayed at Fort Sill and worked for about a year.

In the latter part of 1895, I filed on a claim near May, Oklahoma, and lived there on the claim for three years.

Then I moved to Fort Supply and freighted from Fort Supply to Woodward with a team and wagon.

In 1900, I went to work for the York Key Lumber Company, as manager of the yard they put in at the little town of Supply, located just a mile west of

the old Fort.

I was manager of this yard until the yard quit  
business, about fourteen years later.

Since then I have done odd jobs and still live  
in Supply.