

HURT, HARRY

SECOND INTERVIEW

#8615

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

HURT, HARRY.

INTERVIEW.

8615.

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes.

This report made on (date) September 20, 1937. 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Harry Hurt.

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story Santa Fe Railroad in
1889 & 1890.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Louise Barnes,
Interviewer.
September 20, 1937.

An Interview With Harry Hurt,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Mr. Harry Hurt came to Oklahoma on April 22, 1889, at the age of 18.

The opening day of April 22, 1889, has become historical. On that day the Santa Fe Railroad had arranged its forces in readiness to accommodate the anxious thousands; and from the time the sun reached its zenith, train after train within short distances of each other conveyed settlers to the promised land. No such migration of people had ever before occurred. Between noon~~day~~ and sunset fifty thousand people had been thus transported. A new state had been planted. Towns of eight and ten thousands sprang into existence as if by magic. The setting sun on April 21, 1889, ^{shone} only on the wild solitudes of nature; on April 22, 1889, its last rays shed this luster over a thickly populated country.

In this gigantic and successful undertaking of populating a vast country within a few hours, the Santa Fe Railroad cannot be too highly praised. All the building

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material and subsistence in thousands of freight cars had to be brought, and the promptness was remarkable.

The people of the west and in particular the people of Oklahoma feel under obligations to the Santa Fe Railroad, and will always remember this great system for what it has done.