

SNYDER, WILLIAM. INTERVIEW

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INTERVIEW WITH MR. AND MRS. WM. "BILL"  
SNYDER.

FIELD WORKER --- GERTIE GOODFOX

April 20, 1937

I lived on a ranch on Chilocco Creek, about four or five miles down near the Arkansas River. I lived there before the Indian School, Chilocco, was built. I was born in Iowa, 1858, I started in the cattle business, had my cattle on the ranch on Chilocco Creek. I had two children by my first wife. You know my wife (present wife) and I were both born in Iowa, but we never knew each other---I was thirteen years old when we left Iowa and came to Arkansas City, I was married to "Bill" when I was nineteen years old. The year before the opening of Old Oklahoma, we were ordered out of the "Strip". My brother-in-law Sam Hawk and I drove the cattle to Cherokee, Nation up in the timbers on old man Bradley's place. Then I came on back to Arkansas City to make the run of '89. I boarded the train at Arkansas City, and came to Oklahoma City, but I didn't get the place I wanted. I wanted a place on the river bank for my cattle. I came back to Arkansas City. I got my place five miles south of Ingalls. Before I got the place, I looked for a grassy place and with plenty of water. I had my cattle ranch at Ingalls and George Davis had a horse ranch there at Ingalls.

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When the "Strip" was open I wanted to come to Pawnee and stake me a lot, but I was sick at the time of the opening.

After the strip was open, I started in the butcher shop business with Charles Schaffer. Before I went in the meat market I worked in a butcher shop in Perkins used to sell meat to the Iowa Indians.

When we went to Arkansas City for supplies, we left Stillwater in a covered wagon. It took us a day and a half to reach Arkansas City.

I used to buy up all the spotted horses I could buy, that's the reason why the Indians (Pawnee's) call me "spotted horse" in Indian.

Saloons were plentiful when I had my butcher shop. There were pool halls, too, and the Indians used to hand out in both places. I know one time, an Indian by the name of Captain Jim, who asked me why the McLaughlin Bros, just as soon as they won in the "chuck-a luck" he raked in his money right now but, when he won, he looked at the money a few seconds before he raked in his winnings.

Another time Sitting-Bull told me those outlaws stopped at his place on their way to Pawnee to rob the C. L. Berry bank. Sitting-Bull lived three miles south of town in a mud-

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lodge. He had a well on his place, about the only well that was in Pawnee; the other places were springs. Sitting-Bull had fixed a trough for the horses. He was sitting out by the well when three men came riding up to the well, each had three six shooters on him. They stopped and asked him how far it was to Pawnee City. Sitting-Bull never answered. The next out-law asked him the same question, he also refused to answer; then the third out-law rode up with his six shooter pointed at Sitting-Bull and said, "Indian, you talk and tell us how far it is to Pawnee". Sure, Sitting-Bull, he talked fast and said three miles.

I quit the butcher shop business about thirty or thirty five years ago. I still have my farm south of Ingalls. My wife and I live here in town. Sure, I'm an old timer. Been friends with the Indians a long time.

I see George Davis here in Pawnee now and then. He used to have his ranch right by my cattle ranch. He lives in Stillwater now.