

SMITH, STEVE. INTERVIEW.

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Jimmie Birdwell, Interviewer,  
Indian-Pioneer History  
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An interview with Steve Smith,  
828 South Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City.

A story of Buried Treasure in the Creek Nation.

About 1904 I lived across the South Canadian River from the little town of Indianola, upon what is called the second bank of the river.

There were lots of folks who always hunted buried money. Some would even slip out at night and dig in Indian graves. One of the most shiftless men I ever saw was one of these men who was always hunting buried money. His name was Tom Green. Tom Green came to this country in the summer of 1904, I never did know just when he came or where from. The first I saw of him I was out hunting some cows and ran into a tent back up in a ravine. Soon everyone knew Tom Green, he was always digging somewhere. He would not work for anyone but always had food. He camped on first one man's place, then another. He always had a few bushels of corn; we knew the corn came out of some man's crib but would not bother him for a few ears of corn.

Green had two small children and when they went to town they would leave the boy and girl alone. They always

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walked to town and would usually swim the river. Green was awfully windy and men got so they would use the expression "windy as Tom Green." Green hunted buried money almost day and night, depending on neighbors and what he could steal to feed his family.

He dug hundreds of holes in the hills and a large pot was found where he was known to have been digging but he denied having found anything. He kept his family alone so much day and night that a half dozen men on horseback rode out to where he was camped, four miles across the river from Indianola, and told him he would have to quit his money hunting and go to work and provide for his family. The next morning Green was gone.