

HANCOCK, C. A. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

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EARLY SCHOOLS OF CADDO

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Lula Austin, Interviewer
Indian-Pioneer History
September 30, 1937

Given to me by Mrs. C. A. Hancock,
Caddo, Oklahoma.

In the year of 1872, sixty-five years ago Caddo, one of the oldest towns in the state of Oklahoma was started, being the terminal of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. It was a tent city, springing up over night like the oil towns of today.

The M.K.&T. Railroad built a supply depot six hundred feet long, the longest one known at that time, from Paris and Fort Concho, Texas and Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Freight was brought here and conveyed by horses, mules and oxen to their destinations.

The O.T. (Overland Transfer) ox trains ran a regular line into Texas. They all had trail wagons. At times there would be hundreds and hundreds of wagons loading freight. Loads and loads of whiskey and feed went to Ft. Sill, as well as supplies. The feed and whiskey could not be unloaded until it reached Ft. Sill, which at that time was a well-manned post, as the Indians were on the warpath.

Caddo was a thriving little city with a trade radius of several hundred miles, and it was wild and wooly. Plenty of whiskey was brought over the Red River but there

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were no open saloons. There were no gambling houses, but plenty of gambling. I am proud to say there was no red light district, but plenty of shooting and fighting.

Many desperadoes rode in from other states for they were comparatively safe. I remember one in particular, a young man, tall and slender, very handsome who went by the name of "Hurricane Bill". He could shoot the light out of a candle without rocking the candle.