

PRICE, LEE.

INTERVIEW

9705

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

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.

This report made on (date) January 19, 1938 1938

1. Name Lee Price.

2. Post Office Address Amber, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) General Delivery.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September 10, 1890 Day 10 Year 1890

5. Place of birth Healdton, Oklahoma Territory.

6. Name of Father R. J. Price Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father Died at the age of 83

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Carlton Place of birth Texas

Other information about mother Died at the age of 55

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Field Worker, Jasper H. Mead,  
January 19, 1938.

Interview with Lee Price,  
Amber, Oklahoma.

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My name is Lee Price. I was born September 10, 1890, at a place called Healdton, which was about twelve miles west of Shawnee. My father was about the first settler in this part of the country.

Shawnee about this time was just a small Indian village. The first railroad that was built through there was called the Choctaw Railroad. The country around Healdton was very rough and hilly. I have seen plenty of deer, turkey, wild horses and wild hogs. My honest opinion is that there were more wild turkeys then than there are tame turkeys now. I have gone wild hog hunting several times with other men and it is a pretty dangerous game to play. if you don't know what you are doing.

The main water supply came from dug wells and springs, mostly springs.

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The kind of laws we had were United States Marshals, one of whom was Heck Thomas. My father, R. J. Price, also was an officer. He put the first man in the Pottawatomie County Jail at Tecumseh when it was first built.

When I first began to remember good around this place where my father homesteaded there was no school, no church house and no roads. If you wanted to go any place, you just started across the country. You directed yourself by certain trees and different land markings.

There were a great many Indians around Healdton. Crazy Snake was one of the chief Creek Indians and an Indian by the name of Big Jim was the Chief of the Shawnees. Crazy Snake was all the time causing a little trouble. He was a little copper-colored Indian. Both he and Chief Geronimo lived to be around a hundred years old.

There were several ranches around Healdton. I used to work on the Cefis Ranch at \$18.00 per month, board and room, but most of this room was on the back of a cow-horse, looking after small calves and running the line - that means looking after the outside fence.

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I said at the first of my story that we didn't have any church house. He didn't but we had what they called a brush arbor. I have hooked steers to the wagon and driven them to preaching at this brush arbor several times. A brush arbor is where you take a bunch of poles and put them in the ground so they will stick up a little higher than a tall man's head, and then run poles from one to the other at the top and pile the smaller brush across them. This makes a shelter and a very nice place in the summer time.

Willard Johnson, who at that time was a widow's son, but who is today a prominent business man in Shawnee, told my father if he would buy up a bunch of lots around Shawnee, some day he would be worth something. But my father never did do it. He figured the country would always be like it was then.

In those early days around Heraldton, people lived differently from what they do today. I was seventeen years old when I saw my first screen door. At meal-

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times, some member of the family would always take a peach tree limb and mind the flies off of the table. It wasn't only this way at our house but everywhere you went, there just weren't any screens in those days.

I have lived in and around Chickasha since 1921 and am a farmer by trade. I am a 1/32 Cherokee, but never did draw anything.