

RICE, JOHN L. INTERVIEW.

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

Field Worker's name Mrs. Mora Lorrin, El Reno, Oklahoma

Report made on (date) July 7, 1937

Name Mr. John L. Rice

Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) 415 North Rock Island.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 27 Year 1875.

Place of birth Elk County Kansas.

Name of Father Theoderic Bland Rice Place of birth Wath county, Gen. Ind., 27, 1844

Other information about father Died Aug. 17th, 1911.

Name of Mother Mary E. (Allen) Rice Place of birth Walash County Indiana

Other information about mother April 29th, 1854.

They were married in Pettis county Missouri in 1871.

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
pages attached _____.

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three hundred dollars.

He has seen the actual service of the Indian medicine man, attired in his old professional garb, attending the sick. The Medicine man had a cow head on his head. It had the horns and also a tail on it. There were gourds and rattles, as part of his paraphernalia and he would dance around the patient (who was a woman) lying on a skin in the center of the tent, dancing, singing and rattling his gourds. Then sometimes he would fill his mouth with water and spray it toward the roof of the tent. Mr. Rice was only a boy of fifteen at the time and raised the flap of the tent and watched the performance.

He has seen the Scalp dance, the War dance, the Ghost dance, the Green Corn dance (celebrating a feast), the Omaha dance and the Squaw dances. At the Scalp dance, they have a scalp which is the center of attraction, and they dance about it.

The Omaha dance is a dance mimicking an attack with a bow and arrow; creeping up on an enemy. He says that these dances are symbolical and tell a story to

anyone who understands them, much as folk songs do.

He used to trade, buy and sell to the Indians.

He saw the first Marshal of this town shot to death by a cowboy. The marshal's name was Neville and the cowboy was Johny Sparks. Johny had been drugged and robbed and he went berserk it seems.

He shot the marshal, and the marshal shot him in the arm, the boy was taken to a building about where the Kelso store is now located, and his arm was sawed off with a meat saw, and the only anesthetic used was alcohol in the stomach of the doctor who did the operation. The boy was later sent to the penitentiary, and after statehood he was returned to Oklahoma and died in the Insane asylum.

Mr. Rice was court clerk in 1912, and was re-elected in 1914. He was elected County Superintendent in 1916, and state Senator in 1926.