

RICKEY, E. W.

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H. T. Holland
Investigator
April 13, 1938.

Interview with E. W. Rickey
619 So. Elwood, Tulsa, Okla.

My first trip into Oklahoma, or the Indian Territory was in 1896. This was just after the opening of the Sac and Fox reservation for settlement. I came to Shawnee, then about six months old, and principally a tent city. They were selling lots and some buildings were going up. Some men of course had already built frame houses, but the bank was housed in a brick building. Three other men and I came through in wagons, we had four wagons and teams, and in addition were bringing several head of mules for a friend of ours at Shawnee. We came here from Macon County, Missouri, and were sixteen days on the trip. The trip was interesting to all of us, as we had not seen to what we then had to do, and too the many tales we had heard of the Indians and outlaws in this country, and the danger connected with such a trip, had a tendency to keep our nerves on edge and always alert to any possible danger, which never came, so, in all the trip itself was one to remember. We came through Tulsa. Before reaching here, out near Turkey Mountain, we spied a flock of turkeys. I tried to get a shot at them, but couldn't get close enough to kill them, so I changed my load to

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shot of a smaller rifle, to shoot until. As soon as I
did this, I looked out at my side and there stood a
big buck deer. I had time to load my rifle.

I had shot, but he would not let me load, as the
deer was so close. I shot at him, but I saw no
effect. I then tried to shoot at him with my
rifle, but I did not get a shot. I then
went on my way.

On my arrival at Chassee, I soon got a job with the
post and went on railroads. I was full in my rail-
road work at Chassee, at that time. While I lived there, I
saw, through the window of my room, with the signs of
soldiers, confederate outlaws. Chassee was in old Oklaho-

ma territory. I saw only, and nothing horses ran wild
over the land. There were many bands of outlaws.
I carried two six-shooters led to them, with blacksters
and their saddles were common. That was the usual work.
There was all this, and it took some time for me to
become accustomed to it.

There were about a dozen United States marshals
out, and to say, all of them were not what an officer should

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TEMPERATURE

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have seen him at business and social meetings with his
 high top hat and suitable clothes and then maybe next
 day he would have a typical western or Indian outfit on.
 Parker finally moved to Anadarko, as he was
 so bitter toward him, for what the Indians termed his
 "selling them out". Under his agreement with the govern-
 ment he was to receive eight acres of land with
 a house built on it and each Indian was to be furnished
 with tools and farming implements. Parker, the chief, as
 he said, had six wives and also thirty-two children. He
 was given an additional two thousand acres
 for his "white secretary", whom he had seven children.
 He was allotted land as well as the others, as he had been
 admitted into the tribe by Chief Parker.

These Chickasaw Indians did not want to farm, didn't
 want any of the things that were to be learned. All they
 wanted was to be taken care of, and too, the privilege
 of being paid by the government. They received rations every
 ten days, and while in front of the reservation the dates,
 and the corn of Anadarko were full of Indians. They
 would load up their wagons with rice and dry goods, kill

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handkerchief around his neck. Well, he felt fine, we could tell from the expression on his face, even though he couldn't speak English. He strutted around town the rest of the day, to the amusement of the

Mass Indians, for the most part, lived in groups of about thirty to fifty. They were all of the same blood.

One day a friend and I went out before dawn. Our dogs were not after a deer, about noon, for the kill, when about thirty Delaware Indians and took our deer. They cut up the deer and each Indian tied his piece of meat to his back and rode away. They would live in the woods, or marshes, in summer, and down near the Delaware River in the winter.

I used to attend the Indian dances just to look on. I recall one visit to a dance to their dead. It was a memorial, the interpreter told me, to honor their dead. There had to be a pot on, as usual at their dances. This dance lasted from sundown Friday until sunup Sunday. I looked into the pot, or kettle and saw something cooking and asked what it was. I was told it was a rat pup.

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I knew two old Indians down on the Canadian River, the old man lived in one side in a dug-out and his squaw on the opposite side in a cave. When we questioned her she said, "Hil. puss all time, no food". So, that was the solution of their domestic affairs, and the river left them there.

Sundays were the lively days for Shawnee. The railroad ran excursion trains in from the "Nation", I. T., and they were always loaded. Their passenger would be "loaded" too, in a little while after arrival as they came to drink and gamble.

I was in Lawton in 1901 at the Iowa and Comanche branch. There was one building there, a Government building, used for registration. Agents sprung up and a man started printing papers. Everything was hauled in from Lawton, as the railroad did not run into Lawton. We went over to Fort Bill to get our mail. There were hundreds, yes thousands, of line there some days, looking or asking about mail. There was a lot of pilfering and robbery at Lawton.

I worked in and around Lawton for two years; then in 1902, hearing of the gas well in Red Fork, I came to Tulsa.

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Red Fork was then larger than Tulsa. I later followed
the oil business working in Glenn Pool and in other fields
and later was interested in the development and production
in North Texas. I was at Burkburnett in the boom days.

In 1909, I married Clementine Harris, an Oklahoma
pioneer. We were married in Houston, Texas. We have lived
in Tulsa since our marriage. I still am interested in

real estate and own several properties, one the apartment building
at 1111 South Alwood. We have two children living.

I was born in Boone County, Missouri, in 1871. I have never
before and I am going to Oklahoma. It has been an inter-
esting experience to me.