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ARCHERD, PINEO

INTERVIEW

#7955

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ARCHERD, PINEO, INTERVIEW.

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Investigator, Lula Austin,
October 22, 1937.

Interview with Pineo Archerd,
737 East Main,
Durant, Oklahoma.

Born May 16, 1853,
Polk County, Texas.

Parents John W. Archerd, Mississippi,
Elizabeth Foreman, Louisiana.

I came here with my parents in 1871, locating in
Woodville, remaining there three years.

We then moved near Oakland and lived there three
years. I met Martha Moore of Linn, a Chickasaw. We were
married and moved to a place near Oakland where I built
a one-room, log house. I built a bed in one corner and
my father-in-law gave me a plank to make a table. We
cooked on the fireplace for several years after we were
married. I traded a claim to Captain Dick Wiggs of the
Confederate Army for a cook stove.

The cattle thieves were very busy in the Chickasaw
Nation. They would steal the cattle, burn the old brand
out and put their own brand on. Many people were killed

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trying to take possession of their own cattle when they would meet the thieves driving these stolen cattle to Caddo, from which place they were shipped. In those days more people died by violence than from natural causes.

During the election there was nothing said about being a Republican or a Democrat. The Medicine Men would call a meeting and select the man they wanted to be elected.

I was in front of the Pickens County Courthouse, which was located in the wood near a small creek, when Governor Overton sent Charley Mule a constable, out to arrest a man who was drunk and had whiskey in his possession. The man shot at the constable, the bullet passing through his saddle. The constable went back and told the Governor about shooting at this man and Governor Overton said, "Get six men and bring this man in dead or alive." He was brought in dead.

We did our trading in Sherman, Texas. There were only five stores in Denison. There were two in buildings and five in tents. I took my first load of corn to Denison, receiving fifty cents a bushel. I sold it to Hanna and

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Resencrants. I thought it strange to sell corn by weight as I had always sold it by measure.

With this load of corn I had a cowhide and one of the men working in the store asked me what I would take for it and I said "I will take the best offer." He said he would give me ten cents a pound. The cowhide weighed 107 pounds and he paid me \$10.50, knocking off two pounds for cockle-burs on the hide. The reason the cowhide weighed so much was because it was frozen but the man did not say anything about that so I did not either.

There were lots of antelope around Chickasha and there were also many prairie chickens. I saw about fifteen hundred prairie chickens settle to roost one evening.

My father would build a trough about twenty-five feet long out of pine logs to tan hides in. He would place fifty hides in the trough, using the bark for dye. It would take a year to tan these hides.

I was a member of the Militia and we were out to catch white men who had more cattle in here than they were allowed to have. Each man could have five milk cows.

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One night we were camped close to the Spanish Fort on the Texas side when one of the boys, Alfred Murray, decided he would go to the Fort for some whiskey.

In the dark he could not find his horse so he took a horse belonging to Hamp Willis and on the way back he got drunk and shot Hamp's horse. Alfred Murray had to buy Hank another horse.

We were near Marietta cutting fences around pastures which had more land than the Government allowed settlers to fence. Each man was allowed to fence a hundred and sixty acres. A bunch of cattlemen stole our horses and killed twenty-eight of them, leaving us a foot. Governor Overton found out who it was and they came in and confessed and made a settlement. It cost the men who stole our horses twenty-eight hundred dollars.