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INDEX CARDS

Atwood
Choctaw Nation
Hunting-Wild Hogs
Railroad-Rock Island
Holdenville, McHenry, Henryetta

Interview with Edward F. Ball,
Checotah, Oklahoma, June 21, 1937
Field worker, Carl R. Sherwood.

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My father, F. L. Ball, was born in South Carolina.

My mother, Sarah E. Ball, was born in Kentucky.

I was born in Ranger, Texas, September 10, 1877.

When I was two years old we moved to Noble, Arkansas,
where we stayed about two years; then moved to Teel,
Arkansas.

At the age of six years, I went to my first school
in a one-room school house built of pine. The old school
bell was in the yard, fastened to a high pole.

At the age of fourteen years, ^{I with} my parents moved to
the Indian territory; we located at a town by the name
of Leeder which became the town of Atwood after the K. O.
& G. built their line through.

Here my father bought a half interest in hogs and
cattle with Mr. Atwood, whose wife was a Creek Indian.
We would go into the Canadian River bottom (where Calvin,
Oklahoma is today) and shoot wild hogs and each wagon
load we would sell to people in that community. In the
winter, we would kill about three hundred wild hogs which
we salt cured and hung in a large smoke-house to be
smoked with hickory wood. We sold the bacon and shoulders
at five cents a pound and hams at six cents. We sold
pure hog lard by the barrel to the coal miners at Coal-
gate, Lehigh, and McAlester.

When the Rock Island Railroad commenced laying steel

from Howe to western Oklahoma, my father headed piling with teams to build the first railroad bridge at Calvin. His family went on to Holdenville and at this time my oldest brother came out of the Spanish American War and commenced buying up railroad ties and then went into the mercantile business.

In 1900 I married Miss Agnes Sparks (sister to the Sparks boys that are engineers on the K. O. & G. in Muskogee today) and to this union were born eight children of whom seven are living.

After I married, I went into the mercantile business at Holdenville and bought quite a few cattle. I put on the first free delivery wagon in Holdenville.

Hugh Henry platted some of his land to the town of McHenry (which was its first name). The Frisco Railroad was the first road through this part of the country and as Hugh Henry wanted his wife's name in the name of this new town (his wife's name being Etta Henry) they named the town Henryetta. Here I opened up another store and put in the first free delivery in Henryetta.

In 1921 I came to Checotah and built a home on West Gentry Avenue and went into the lumber business. When

the depression came on, it almost broke me and I began farming.

In 1923 I bought three thousand acres of timber in the Choctaw Nation. I had saw mills and a planing mill and delivered lumber from the stump of the tree to the consumer with trucks. I was among the first to deliver lumber by truck to the consumer and now they are all doing business this way.

I am now in the Lunch and Beer business.