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## INDEX CARDS

Ranching--Cheyenne and Arapaho country

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Fords--Canadian River

Openings--Cheyenne and Arapaho

Beef contracts--Cheyenne and Arapaho

El Reno

Field Worker: Lenna M. Rushing  
March 8, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Bart Bartley (White)  
Stroud, Oklahoma  
Route #2

BORN Indiana  
1879

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I was Indiana born, but we moved to the southern part of Illinois when I was four. From there we moved to Missouri, and when I was ten years old I ran away and came to Oklahoma. That was before the country was opened to any whites. However, there were some white men here who worked under the government. I got a job with a government cattle herder named Wanny, who lived at the Indian agency at Darlington. We herded cattle in the Fort Reno district, and I have seen many herds of cattle going over the Ghisholm Trail near El Reno. There were two fords that I remember in particular. One was over the North Canadian two miles north of Fort Reno; the other was at the Powder Face Bluffs, seven miles southwest of Union City, over the South Canadian. I got to know the country round about there pretty well.

In a way I took part in the opening of the Cheyenne-Arapahoe country. I did not run for lands myself, but I ran with a fellow named J. B. Barnes, and two of his sisters-in-law. He contracted beef from Indians, and was a pretty tough hombre. He would rustle cattle from the government, and then turn right around and sell it back to them. Since he had been in the country

for some time, he knew the country well and had picked out the places he was going to run for. We were in a buckboard pulled by two run-away broncs, and so it was pretty fast going for us. Before the race started we drove in between two surreys, and asked if anyone was going to run from that particular spot. They said there was not, and that we were going to have to go some to beat them. When that cannon shot the signal, those broncs jumped about fifty yards ahead of every thing else, and it was not long until we were two miles ahead of everyone. Barnes knew exactly how to go, and it was just a little while until he had dropped off his sisters-in-law where their places were. Then he continued on up toward Powder Bluff to the spot he had picked out for himself. But when we got there, there was a wagon already there. The man had also plowed up several furrows of ground. We knew that he had hidden in the territory, and not started at the line, so Barnes pulled out his Winchester, and asked this man if he was going to move on or not. The other saw that Barnes meant business, so he packed up and left.

Before the run and for several months afterwards El Reno was packed and jammed with all sorts of people. It was so full that you had to pay your way into the post office for your mail. Besides the people there for the run was the usual group of cattlemen. These men brought in large herds of cattle on their way up north, and a lot of trading was done in El Reno. In other words, it was one of the main trading centers in those days.