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BRONN, BILL

INTERVIEW

8598

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

**BROWN, BILL - INTERVIEW.**

8598

Field Worker's name Jimmie Birdwell  
This report made on (date) Sept. 15, 1937

- 1. Name Bill Brown
- 2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- 3. Residence address (or location) 521 West California
- 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 14 Year 1888
- 5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

- 6. Name of Father Unknown Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Name of Mother Emile Frisby Place of birth Illinois  
Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes 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 sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_

BROWN, BILL - INTERVIEW.

8098

McNeill, Jimmie.  
Interviewer  
Sept. 15, 1937.

Interview with Bill Brown  
321 West California,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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I came from Illinois, to what is now Oklahoma, in about 1896. I was about sixteen years old.

I had done a little cooking back home in small eating houses, so when I came here I went to work cooking. I followed the boom wherever it was and I cooked in the mining towns around McAlester and in the timber camps in Indian Territory.

A cook always kept his own tools and cooks were all drunkards. I was a heavy drinker myself. Usually as soon as a cook made a stake he was gone. A cook would work long enough to make a hundred dollars or so and then he would get on a big drunk and leave town, showing up in some other boom-town camp.

I was cooking at a mine near McAlester once when a bunch of miners started a fight and broke every dish in the place.

Grain mills were the toughest places at which I ever

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cooked and the sawmill workers were the worst bunch of men to get drunk and fight. A cook would almost have to keep his knives in his pocket to keep the men from stealing them to fight with.

I cooked at a sawmill about twenty miles south-east of Quinton and sometimes deer would slip up to the cook shack and when they did we would have deer meat.