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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

81

BUFORD, R. B. (DR.) - INTERVIEW.

12017

Field worker's name Margaret McGuire

This report made on (date) October 29, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Dr. R. B. Buford

Address Ada, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story Story of the Indian Journal,
oldest paper in the state. Its editors and publishers.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

BUFORD, R. B. (DR.) - INTERVIEW.

12017

McGuire, Margaret. - Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
October 29, 1937.

Interview with Dr. R. B. Buford.
Eufaula, Oklahoma.

At this time, 1937, the Indian Journal goes into its sixty second year serving McIntosh County. Sixty-two years ago the people of Eufaula and the Creek Nation awoke to find something to crow about. A weekly newspaper, the Indian Journal, had come to be a full fledged newspaper only a few hours before as the two hundred copies of the initial issue found their way into the expectant hands of the citizenry. It was a matured, well developed four page, five column, home edited and home printed publication with news of Eufaula and surrounding communities.

On October 21, 1876, Eufaula, a backboneed country, which then called itself the king of the Canadian, and boasted the best trading post between Kansas and Texas. One should also bear in mind the head lines of the paper that caused so much excitement. The Journal of 1876 now seems as antiquated as the ox wagon and horse and buggy days. Eufaula was an Indian Territory post sixty-two years ago. Dr. Roberts, a budding young physician from the blue grass state of Kentucky, founded the Indian

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Journal, from the best information obtainable.

Eufaula while considered at that time one of the largest Indian trading posts in the Indian Territory, was a village of less than three hundred inhabitants. Physically the little Indian town had little to offer the visitors who sought civic attractiveness as the streets in the village were not paved and there were no side walks to be found. In dry weather the dust swirled in clouds, and when it rained the mud was often hub deep in the streets and in the business section. Bath tubs, pretty lawns, flowers and shrubs were nowhere to be seen, yet with all of the disadvantages and ill kept premises, there was more than a promising future.

The one indomitable element was the citizenry itself; the pioneers of Eufaula, made up of the native Creek Indians and the adventurous white men were an extraordinarily deserving group. The business leaders of 1876 were determined that Eufaula be made one of the good and substantial towns of the Indian Territory.

Given the alert and progressive spirit of the Eufaula business men and backed by the substantial patronage of the merchants, the Journal has kept abreast of the times.

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As Eufaula, the Indian village of 1876, grew and prospered and became ^{one of} the most prosperous and progressive city in the southwest, so did the Indian Journal grow and prosper from a small frame building, a George Washington hand press and hand-set type, where the first paper was printed, containing four pages of five columns, with a circulation of two hundred. Today the Journal is housed in its own modern brick building, equipped with modern machinery, and publishes from eight to sixteen pages of six column page paper ^{and goes} per/ to forty-five hundred readers weekly. I have been editor and publisher since 1908, one year after Statehood. I came to Eufaula thirty years ago and shortly after coming here I bought out the Indian Journal and have edited this paper ever since.

Dr. Roberts was the first editor of this paper, in 1876; since then it has changed hands several times. Some of the former editors and publishers of the Indian Journal were Dr. Leo G. Bennett, J. M. Thornton, Kirk Whitmore, Alex Posey, George A. Raker, Albert Wortham, of Texas, and his brother, Dennis Wortham.

Kirk Whitmore, Dennis Wortham and myself are the only editors of this paper now living.