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CALLAHAN, F. J.

INTERVIEW

10218

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

96

CALLAHAN, F. J.

INTERVIEW.

10218

Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway

This report made on (date) March 14, 1938

1. Name F. J. CALLAHAN

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 412 West Main Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 10 Year 1877

5. Place of birth Independence Kansas.

6. Name of Father Owen Callahan Place of birth Ireland

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Rose Givens Callahan Place of birth Ireland.

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 3.

CALLAHAN, F. J.

INTERVIEW.

10218

Lillian Gassaway,
Investigator.
March 14, 1938.

Interview with F. J. Callahan
Anadarko, Oklahoma
Born July 10, 1877
Father-Owen Callahan
Mother-Rose Givens Callahan

I made the run at the opening of the Cherokee Strip on September 16, 1893, with my brother-in-law. I was only sixteen years old. My brother-in-law was a hardware merchant in Caldwell, Kansas. I came over from Independence to Caldwell to learn the hardware trade from him. We started from Caldwell and reached Pond Creek late one night. We drove through in a covered hack, leading one saddle horse. Pond Creek at that time was a railroad town. The Government located what was then known as Round Pond as the County seat and land office. The railroad would not recognize Round Pond and wouldn't stop the trains there. Everyone had to get their mail at Pond Creek across the Salt Fork River. The merchants had to go there after their freight. They put up a fight to get a depot at Round Pond. The fight lasted several months. The citizens did everything they could to cause them to stop. They would shoot at the trains until the passengers got so they would

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get down on the floor of the cars when they came near the town. No one was ever hurt as the people shot over the cars in order to scare the trainmen. They put wagons on the track. But the train plowed on through any obstruction that might be there. After several months of conflict Round Pond was made Pond Creek and Pond Creek was given the name of Jefferson. The County seat got a depot. At the same time Enid was having the same trouble. Things were very interesting. The Militia took about sixty or seventy men to Guthrie for trial but nothing was ever done to them and they were turned loose.

Our main occupation during the summers while at Pond Creek was hunting Antelope on the Salt Fork River. There was other game too, but our main sport was Antelope.

The people had a hard time for about four years. There were no crops until 1897. The country was dry and hot. It was worse than I had ever seen it here.

I came on to Caddo County one week before the opening, before there was even a rag town. I camped in Otto Wells' yard a quarter of a mile east of Anadarko. Three days after

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the lot sale I had a man build me a hardware store at 104 West Main Street. This building was 25 X 40 feet. When a few years later I replaced it with a brick I sold the old building to J. J. Methvin to be used at the Methodist Mission. This was in 1904. At the opening of Anadarko, there were eighteen hardware stores in town. I was one of the first councilmen of Anadarko serving ward three. Have served on the council board several times since and always for the same ward. As far as I know I am the only one of the first councilmen living.