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BARNES, JONES (MRS.)

SECOND INTERVIEW

9735

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BARNES, JOHN (MR.), SECOND INTERVIEW.

9735.

Ophelia D. Vestal,
Interviewer.

February 1, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. John Barnes,
Lawton, Oklahoma.

Having just received your letter will state: My step-father had leased the grass land from the government having his cattle and horses there, where the town of Lawton now stands. The first people here waiting for the opening date had to camp off the present townsite. The opening date very one rushed to the townsite, causing father's cattle and horses to get scattered and some he did not find.

The trouble spoken of, when the soldiers were taken away to the Spanish-American war, maybe it was "George Rattan". He was an interpreter at Ft. Sill, paid by the government in the early days at Ft. Sill. Mr. Rattan was working there. Receiving mail at the fort was another of his duties. He overheard the Indians talking (the ones that were held as prisoners of war) when the soldiers were on their way to Rush Springs, going to serve in the war. He heard Geronimo say "They have all gone away but just a few, we can over power them and run away and not be kept as prisoners of war."

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Now, the soldiers went by horseback to Kusa Springs, then on by train, as no trains were through Ft. Sill.

I have attended many Indian funerals. Some time after attending these funerals I have gone to the cemetery and seen saddles and sewing machines beside the graves of the person whose funeral I had attended.

It was strictly against the government rules to bootleg during the earlier days here, but white men came to the settlement near the Red Stores hiding in heavy timber and brush, selling liquor to Indians coming from the eastern part of Oklahoma.