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BEAVER, DAVID MILTON

INTERVIEW

#12065

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FIELD WORKER EFFIE S. JACKSON
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
November 5, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID MILTON BEAVER
228 1/2 E. Third Street,
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

David Beaver was born July 19, 1878, six miles north of the site of the present town of Bixby. Like all Creeks, his parents had plenty of land. His father, Milton Beaver, was a full-blood Creek, born in Alabama. His mother was Lydia Perryman, daughter of Lewis Perryman, and sister of Legus, later Chief of the Creeks.

When he was seven months old his parents both died of tuberculosis. They left four children. His sister is Mrs. Bob Atkins, (Vera Betty), Bob Atkins is the brother of Louise Clinton, mother of Dr. Fred, Paul and Lee Clinton.

When Milton Beaver and his wife died the four small orphans went to live with "Aunt Rachel" and George Perryman. In a report on "Aunt Rachel" is found the long list of orphan children whom she

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mothered. Dave grew up in the old Perryman "white house", still standing about half-way between Peoria and Lewis on 41st, where the first post office was located. He remembers the "Old Log House", one-half mile north; this was the ranch house, home of the cowboys who worked for George Perryman on his famous Figure 5 Ranch. Dave liked to hear the stories the cowboys told and very much regretted moving into town with Rachel and George in 1887, to the fine new house, at Main and Sixth. Until this time he had gone to the old Mission School at Coweta, now he went to the Mission School where the Gosden Building is today at Boston and Fourth Street. Lilah D. Lindsey was his teacher and he has only praise for her work.

His allotment was seven miles southeast of Tulsa, across from what is commonly called the "Lou North Comer." In 1904, he married Buna Hearn, now deceased, from Georgia. Buna Hearn was a Norwegian, typical

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of her race, tall, fair, with reddish gold hair and very beautiful. Dave, a fullblood Creek was a handsome Indian type of fine physique, regular features and due to his education he was pleasing in his address.

There were two children, a son, George Milton Beaver, now thirty-two and a daughter, Mary Jane, age twenty. The son represented a blend of the two races. He seemed to have inherited physically and mentally the best of each. Mr. Long describes him as being very tall and commanding, with a clear olive skin and brown hair and very striking in appearance; racially difficult to classify if one did not know his parentage.

George Beaver attended Central High School, Tulsa; and from there to Wentworth Military Academy at Mexico, Missouri, where he graduated. In 1925, received an appointment to West Point, where he graduated in 1929 as Second Lieutenant. While in school camp during his Junior year his eye was in-

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jured while fishing. Finally sight was restored but due to this mishap his commission hung in the balance. Only through the influence of another officer, who was of Indian descent, did he succeed in getting his commission. This officer was Col. Patrick Hurley, at that time Secretary of War. After Lieutenant Beaver's graduation from West Point he was stationed at Fort Sill and then transferred to Fort McKinley, Philippine Islands. He is now stationed at Fort Crook, Nebraska. Lieutenant Beaver is the first Indian from Oklahoma to receive a commission from West Point.

Dave Beaver, now almost sixty years old, has the appearance of a man of about forty years of age, well-preserved with fine physique and his white hair gives him a rather distinguished appearance. He is used as an interpreter in the office of the United States Indian Field Agent.

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He has also made a specialty of Indian titles.

His daughter, Mary Jane, now twenty, has not been as fortunate as her brother. For years almost a cripple from a tubercular bone condition, with scientific aid she is overcoming this handicap. She is now employed at the Morningside Hospital, Tulsa, where she has received treatments which may completely restore her health.