

FRANNING, JOHN INTERVIEW.

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INDEX CARD

Norman

Field Worker: Hazel H. Haralson
April 2, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. John Franning
622 North Jones
Norman, Oklahoma

BORN: Near Rock Island, Illinois
1862.

PARENTS Father, Lewis Christian Franning
born 2½ miles from Berlin, Germany. Ran a-
way from Germany in 1838 to escape military
service. Parents were wealthy. Was killed
in runaway in 1872.
Mother, Mary Martin, Saxon decent. Came to
this country when 13 years of age (1843) and
settled in Pennsylvania. They were married
in Pennsylvania and later moved to Illinois.

I, John Franning, was born in 1862, on a farm near Rock Island, Illinois, one of a family of ten children. I worked on our farm and adjoining farms until I was twenty-one years of age, then went to Kansas where I worked on the railroad off and on for a number of years. At the same time was continuously studying law. Later I studied and worked 2½ years in a law office at Ashland, Kansas. Was admitted to the bar at end of this time (1893)

In October of 1893 I decided to come to the newly settled City of Perry, which was something like a month old, to establish myself in the law business. I had been there only a short time when I realized I was not fitted by instinct or desire to cope with such conditions as existed there. In the early days of December of 1893, I moved to Norman, Oklahoma, where I have engaged in the practice of law until 1897.

When I came to Norman there were perhaps twelve or maybe

fifteen hundred inhabitants. Practically all business houses, which were scattered along two blocks, were box buildings.

Uncle Sabron Howry was the chief dairyman of the town and drove a little mule team to a hack. The hack had a keg with a faucet on it fixed up to one side in front. Each customer brought a container and caught their quart or half gallon from the faucet.

The public school stood some where near the site of the present Jefferson School building. The Southern Methodist Church had a school on the site now occupied by the Central State Hospital. At that time the President was named Worley. There was only one building at the University and Mrs. J. D. McGuire was instructor in music. I belonged ~~to the first band she organized and our first appearance was on commencement exercises in 1895.~~ I played B flat cornet. There were ten or twelve members to this band.

W. J. Bryan lectured at the University the evening before the fire occurred during the night and all records were destroyed.

I ran the Farnning Opera House from 1897 to 1912 when due to my health I had to seek outside employment. Since then I have dealt in Farm Loan Inspection work and similar Inspection and Sales work. I married in 1893, moved to my present home in 1896, and my wife was accidentally killed in 1926.

Professor Luchanan was a delegate from Cleveland County to the Constitutional Convention but I served on the advisory committee.