



FULP, J. A.

INTERVIEW.

5614.

Dawes Fife,  
Field Worker.  
May 1937.

Interview with J. A. Fulp,  
Age 61, Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

J. A. Fulp was born in 1876 near Indianapolis, Indiana, but he moved from there at the age of five to Washburn, Missouri, and lived there until October 29, 1898, when he came to Sapulpa to see his boyhood friend, Joe A. Denton, also of Washburn.

Mr. Joe Denton had come to Sapulpa on the advice of Mr. Fulp. Mr. Fulp had intended staying only three days but Mr. Denton persuaded him to stay and enter into partnership with him. They became partners in the grocery and feed business on the corner of Hobson and North Main in Sapulpa where the Kirby second-hand store is now located.

Mr. Denton was a shrewd trader and made the most of his purchases such as pecans, turnips and wild game.

A Mr. Bill Headden ran a big gambling establishment on the second and third floor of the building which is now the Bell Building. He owned the building. Mr. Fulp said tens of thousands or more dollars exchanged hands at his place.

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Mr. Fulp told an amusing story. Mr. Denton expressed his opinion of the poor grade of meat served at the old Harvey House where the two men ate their meals and told the manager that he could get plenty of fresh meat worth eating. The manager told him he would buy all Mr. Denton brought in. Mr. Denton got in touch with several good hunters; they went out and brought in two deer, lots of turkeys, rabbits, squirrels, twenty dozen quail, and a bunch of ducks. Mr. Denton told the hunters he would buy from them all the game they didn't want so he purchased from them one deer, nine turkeys, forty teal ducks, forty mallard ducks, nine or ten dozen quail and lots of rabbits and squirrels, paying about \$25.00 for the amount of game he purchased. That same evening Mr. Denton and Mr. Fulp went to the Harvey House to eat supper. Mr. Denton told the manager he had a wagon load of game for him that he had promised to buy. The manager protested saying he could not use that much meat. Mr. Denton started ribbing him and finally the Harvey House manager gave in and bought the game, paying \$50.00 to Mr. Denton for it. After stock-

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ing up the Harvey House there in Sapulpa, he sent the rest to the Harvey Houses at Monett, and Springfield, Missouri, and to his surprise they asked for more game.

Another time, Mr. Denton bought fifty bushels of turnips, paying 25 cents a bushel for them, Mr. Fulp objected saying they could not possibly sell that amount. But they sold all the turnips in the store at one dollar a bushel.

Another time Mr. Denton bought eighty bushels of pecans from Creek Indians at 75 cents a bushel. He re-tailed them at 10 cents a pound. What he could not sell he shipped to other places. The Indians did their trading in the store.

Mr. Fulp was in business with Mr. Denton from October, 1898, to February, 1899, when the store burned; also all the buildings in the Southeast part of town.

The following April he opened a store at Vinita where he was in business until October, 1900. He then came back to Sapulpa and went into business with H. C. Hall. He remained in business with H. C. Hall un-

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til 1910. When Hall sold out, Fulp was appointed receiver and sold the store.

When Mr. Fulp was in business with H. C. Hall, a Government school superintendent who made purchases for three Government schools, The Euchee Mission, Wealaka, and another school, came to the store for supplies and groceries. He gave Mr. Carothers, the manager of the store, a check for \$1500.00; he had bought a thousand dollars' worth of supplies and he wanted \$500.00 back in cash to pay the Government employees. Mr. Carothers could not cash a check of that amount so he took the check to Bill Headden's gambling house, getting it cashed immediately.

Mr. Fulp ran a grocery market from 1912 to 1916 in Sapulpa. From 1916 to 1918 he lived on a farm. He was court clerk (J. C. Davis was the first county judge), from 1918 to 1923, since which time he has been in the abstract business.

He started in the abstract business with Mr. Fitzhughes. He is now the owner of the business, and it is known as the Oklahoma Abstract and Title Company.