

GLASS, MERRITT J. . INTERVIEW '7353

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION 7353  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

GLASS, MERRITT J.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Mary D. Harvard

This report made on (date) August 26 1937

1. Name Merritt J. Glass

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1104 North Denver

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1880

5. Place of birth Alabama

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 5

Mary D. Derward, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History S-149  
August 25, 1937

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## MERRITT J. GLASS

## A biographic sketch

From a personal interview with the subject  
(1401 North Denver, Tulsa, Okla.)

Merritt J. Glass came with his parents to Indian Territory from Texas in 1892, at the age of 13, settling at Duncan in the Chickasaw Nation.

Merritt was one of four pupils who made up the first school at Duncan, a subscription school conducted by Professor Smoot. Each student paid one dollar per month.

Mr. Glass's stepfather conducted a store in Duncan, handling groceries, meat, hardware, and farm implements, together with the U.S. postoffice. Since it was forbidden to sell liquor in the Territory the store did a lively business in the sale of Peruna and Bitters.

In order to conduct business in the Chickasaw Nation a permit was necessary, charges for such a permit varying from one dollar to twenty-five dollars per year, depending upon the size of the store and the good nature of the permit collector. Almost invariably it happened that the collector would be held up(?) before he could return and surrender his collections.

## "INDIAN BURIAL"

Comanches and Kiowas did not bury the dead underground. They would bury in some cave back under a cliff. The corpse would be rolled back in the cave together with blankets, beads, elk's teeth, saddle, or anything else in the way of small trinkets which had been prized by the deceased, then the opening of the cave covered over with rocks and dirt.

## LAND OPENINGS

Merritt Glass attended the opening of the Comanche and Kiowa lands in 1901. This opening, unlike other land openings, was conducted like a lottery. Registration was of course necessary before the drawing, registration booths being set up outside the office where the drawing was to take place. Each booth was manned by two people, one to enroll names, the other to act as "barker." outside the booth. The barker for one of these registration booths was Thomas P. Gore, later United States senator from the state of Oklahoma. Merritt Glass sold maps of the Kiowa and Comanche lands.

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## AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

Merritt Glass recalls early agricultural fairs at Duncan and Lawton. There were the usual exhibits of farm produce and livestock, with prizes offered for the best specimens. These represented real competition among the exhibitors. Horse racing was usually a feature of entertainment as well as side shows, red lemonade, merry-go-round, etc.

## CATTLE ROUNDUPS

At a cattle roundup there would often be seventeen thousand head of cattle. Cow hands were not permitted to leave their duties until the roundup was over. Anyone who should do so would be shot down, so great was the dread of a stampede.