GRIM, CLYDE. INTERVIEW. 9578.

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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Linnaeus B. Ranck

This report made on (date) December 22, 1937

1. Name Clyde Grim

2. Post Office Address Gage

3. Residence address (or location)

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 14 Year 1888

5. Place of birth Hickman, Nebraska

6. Name of Father Solomon Grim Place of birth Missouri

7. Name of Mother Place of birth

Other information about father Early day western freighter.

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.

GRIM, CLYDE. INTERVIEW. 9578.

Linnaeus B. Ranck,
Investigator.
December 22, 1937.

Interview with Clyde Grim.
Gage, Oklahoma
Born August 14, 1888
Father-Solomon Grim.

Clyde is the son of Solomon Grim, an old plainsman, freighter and Indian fighter of the early-day West. The father helped to build the first continental railroad across the United States.

The family left Hickman, Nebraska, in the spring of 1893 in a covered wagon drawn by oxen, bound for old Oklahoma. They arrived in the vicinity of Hennessey not long before the date of the Strip opening. Clyde's father did not make the run into the Strip for a claim, though some of his relatives did, and Clyde Grim was on the line in the Hennessey locality the day of the opening and vividly remembers the throng of people assembled along the border and the dash for claims when the soldiers gave the signal to advance. Every kind and description of conveyance or mode of transportation known to those days was employed by those who made the run; even, one man started out on foot carrying a bundle hung to a stick over his shoulder.

Sometime during the winter following the Strip opening, the Grim family went on to the old Cheyenne-Arapaho country, having replaced their oxen with horses in the meantime. They located on a farm not far from the site of the present town of Leedy and near a country post office called Angora. The post office was so named because near by it lived a man having a large number of Angora goats. The Grim family established residence in a dugout and undertook some farming. The place where they located, however, was still largely the cowman's country and the ranchers vigorously opposed the settlers taking the range from them. So farming was a hazardous undertaking unless a settler was able to fence effectively against the range cattle, otherwise, and since "free range" was the law, the range cattle ate up everything.

Clyde Grim's father was a staunch "herd-law" man and a consistent advocate of the issue which, during those middle and late '90's, became such a troublesome matter in Oklahoma politics. A cowman of the name of Crowe, ranching in the section where the Grim family lived, had succeeded for some time in keeping a number of desirable quarters of land hid-

den away, as it were, in the heart of his ranch unknown, it seemed to prospective homesteaders. Eventually, though, this unpreempted land in the Crowe Ranch was discovered and a settler filed on a quarter section. Crowe, previously, had resented old Solomon Grim's agitation of the "herd-law" question and concluded the senior Grim had disclosed to prospective homesteaders that open land was to be had within the Crowe Range. At any rate, the ranchman served notice on old Solomon Grim to leave the country within so many days lest he suffer dire consequences; Grim went to the ranchman and served personal notice that he would stay as long as he wished and the difficulties between the two men seemed to end at that.

While Grims lived near the the old Angora post office Elk City was their main trading point. At Elk City they marketed such meager products as they had for sale. It required three days to make the round trip to Elk City and back. While on the farm near the Angora post office they used to raise castor beans and found a ready market for them at Elk City.

In 1901 the family moved to Grand, then the county seat of old Day County. At that time, the town was at the heighth of its unique and glamorous history. It had a population of some three hundred or more people then, yet it had three newspapers, at least a half dozen lawyers and three saloons. According to Grim, Grand at that time was not a very suitable place for a Sunday School convention as most of the social life of the town centered around the portals of its three saloons.

During that early period numerous parties of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians used to come to the vicinity of old Grand and to the mouth of Hackberry Creek farther east along the river and at other points along the Canadian River in old Day County every fall and pitch camp for several days or a week, usually to pick persimmons. On these occasions the Indians would bring with them to exchange for persimmons, new and nearly new blankets, new cotton cloth by the bolt, various sorts of cooking utensils, many of which apparently had never been used; beads, trinkets, moccasins etc. The squaws and children picked the persimmons, great quantities of them, and

packed them in mammoth boxes and barrels. Those Indians were always ready to trade for or to beg a fat dog which sometimes they would eat while in camp along the river. Most of the men usually had money with them, but it was reserved for use in horse trading with the white men and in gambling with the settlers and cowboys of old Day County.

Those were gala-days along the river when the Indians came to pick persimmons; the white people would come in from many miles around to see the Indians and to barter with them. The Indian bucks spent most of their time during the camping period in gambling, drunkenness and horse trading. The greater part of the commodities the Indians bartered for persimmons had just been issued to them by the Government.