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BLANCHARD, J. L.

INTERVIEW

#12000

412

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

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) October 27 1937

1. Name J. L. Blanchard (White)

2. Post Office Address Durant, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1 mile southwest

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 12 Year 1865

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father James Henry Blanchard Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Sarah Ann Sussan Place of birth Louisiana

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 _____

BLANCHARD, J. L.

INTERVIEW.

12000

Interview with J. L. Blanchard,
Durant, Oklahoma.

I came from Texas and settled in Durant July 4, 1895, opening up the first shoe shop in Durant; my sign read "Hand made Shoes and Boots." I bought my material from Paget Bros., in Dallas, Texas. My prices were the same for boots and shoes from \$6.00 to \$12.00, according to the grade of material used.

We had no tan leather for it all came in black. I would send the tops of the shoes to Dallas to be stitched and then I would put the soles on and do the finishing. The first pair of shoes I made was for Greenwood Thompson; when I measured his foot he insisted on having me make his shoes skin tight. I did and he never wore those shoes out as they were not comfortable. They were made of Kangaroo leather.

The next pair I made for Will Durant, who wanted his shoes quite loose.

Later, I added a harness shop to my shoe shop. I made double and single harness, charging \$20.00 to \$35.00 for double and \$10.00 to \$25.00 for single harness.

In the fall of 1901, I sold out and went into the grocery business. Then I went into the produce business in 1902 and shipped the first carload of eggs out of Durant.

BLANCHARD, J. L.

INTERVIEW.

12000.

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Eggs were selling then from 5 cents to 15 cents a dozen. Chickens were sold for from 10 to 25 cents a piece. We never thought of selling them by weight.

I did a big credit business but never thought of taking a note or a mortgage. A man's word in those days was as good as gold and everyone had credit.