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KELSO, R. E.

INTERVIEW.

6816.

Dawes Fife, Interviewer.  
July 16, 1937.

Interview with R. E. Kelso  
316 W. Bryan St., Sapulpa, Oklahoma.  
Born in 1865.

R. E. Kelso was born in Macon County, Missouri, in 1865 and he entered Oklahoma-Indian Territory-July 13, 1884, while working with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad building grades.

The Price and Bell Construction Company, which had the contract for building the railroad grades for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe lines from Arkansas City, Kansas, to the South Canadian River and to Texas, used one thousand teams and men in the construction of the line.

Mr. Kelso worked with construction crew through Mulhall and Guthrie and from there to Oklahoma City, entering the city at 23rd street which was then bottom land.

One day the construction crew ran out of provisions and the men did not have any food for one whole day.

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The next day supplies were brought to them from another crew of men near by.

During the Opening of the Indian Territory in 1889, Mr. Kelso did not make the "run" but he did take part in the Sac and Fox and the Shawnee Run, September 22, 1891, filing on one hundred sixty acres of land located five miles south and two miles west of Perkins. He proved up the homestead, building a log house there in which he lived. Mr. Kelso farmed this land, raising cotton, corn, and grain.

The Sac and Fox Indians, who farmed, raised horses, pole beans, corn, pumpkins, and tobacco.

~~Mr. Kelso did not take part in the Cherokee Strip~~

"Run", although he witnessed it. Neither did he take part in the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Indian Reservation Run on August 6, 1901, but he bought one hundred sixty acres of land from a settler and moved from that farm, after selling it, to Oklahoma City.

He made the Sac and Fox Run on horseback.