

KAHL, HARRY

INTERVIEW

#9139

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

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) November 2, 1937

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1. Name Harry L. Kahl
2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) Rural Route
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 1 Year 61 years
5. Place of birth Indiana

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 .

Interview with Harry Kahl
Lawton, Oklahoma

Investigator - Ophelia D. Vestal
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
November 2, 1937

When I heard this country was to be settled I was very anxious to come here for the opening, so I came to Oklahoma City, staying a while trying to hear all I could about the wonderful chances people might have in this new land.

I wrote to my father and brother to meet me at El Reno, where we would register for the drawing. We met and registered there but only my father drew a claim. As soon as we heard of his luck we came to Rush Springs on the train, then went on to Lawton by stage.

We brought with us a camping outfit, tents, bedding and a few cooking utensils and camped on Squaw Creek. For about one week we looked the country over, being taken around by a locator. My father's claim was located five miles south of town.

I found work with the railroad crew putting in the Rock Island Railroad from the Red Store to Lawton, then I returned to our home, disposing of our things there,

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to move here on my father's claim. No one can imagine how rapidly a new country can be settled.

It was in November and raining. I was to put up the tent and live on the claim alone. Though the people were settling close I grew very lonesome.

As soon as I could start to work in the Spring I started farming. I had met some of the neighbors and was beginning to feel much at home. One of my neighbors was a big Indian, called Big Crow. He liked to come over and talk often.

In planting my crop very early I never thought of a drought. Soon we needed rain and the drought became very serious; it seemed that it never would rain. I asked Big Crow, "Doesn't it ever rain here?" He answered by laughing at me and saying "Maybeso rain by Summer, maybeso won't rain." It was June before we had any rain but when it started I never saw such heavy rains and the creeks overflowed, so we began to think how on the extremes this country was.

We worked and worked hard, harvesting some good crops. We have learned not to depend entirely on crops. We milk cows, raise turkeys and have tried to keep cattle

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to sell.

Now that our children, a girl and boy, are grown, we have bought land in south Texas in the new country where we plan to spend our Winters.