

HARDESTY, W. E.

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W. T. Holland,
Investigator,
April 18, 1938.

Interview With W. E. Hardesty,
Garden City, Oklahoma.

It was on the last day of January, 1899, that W. E. Hardesty arrived in the little town of Tulsa from his old Kentucky home. From the little station in Tulsa he headed south over the timbered hills where now stands Tulsa's skyscrapers. All up town Tulsa, and what is now the main business section, was then a wooded section, studded with native oaks.

Mr. Hardesty struck the Arkansas River on the way south, about where the 21st street bridge now crosses it. Here he crossed the river on the ice. He leased his first farming land from Anna Martin, a freedwoman of the Creek Nation, who had an allotment. This land, an "80", was east of what is now South Quannah Street, the main business street of Tulsa, West, but was then all unsettled or open farming land. Here he was later joined by his family and here he lived and farmed for twelve years. His first permanent home was on a

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"40" about two miles south of his first lease. This was timbered land and was purchased from Lee Clinton, a Tulsa pioneer. Mr. Hardesty bought this land in 1911. A few years later, he bought some more land adjoining his first tract, from the allotment of Fred Clinton. He was a hard worker and fine manager and prospered, and from time to time as the years passed, he added to his land holdings until he had ^{three} hundred and seventy acres of good farming land.

As West Tulsa grew and industries established themselves here, the Texas Company built a refinery in West Tulsa. This was not far from the Hardesty farm. Soon additional homes were needed for the Texas Company men, so Mr. Hardesty sold sixty acres off of the northern end of his tract to be divided into town lots. This addition was and now is known as Garden City.

He soon began making improvements on his farm, building barns, fences and finally built an eight room two story frame home which is a nice and modern home. The home he built about the middle of his tract. During his nearly forty years of residence near Tulsa, or as a farmer, his chief reliance has been upon wheat which is his greatest source of

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income. Growing wheat through these years has raised him from tenant farmer to be the owner of three hundred and seventy acres of fine Arkansas River bottom land. Wheat has averaged twenty bushels per acre through these years. Mr. Hardesty grows other crops too. Oats, corn and hay, as well as some cattle and hogs. He has kept up the good Kentucky habit of killing and curing his own meat, each year. This with his fine orchard and vegetables which are raised and canned enables them to live at home and mighty well too.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardesty have four children and a number of grandchildren. Their home has always dispensed true Southern hospitality. They are now enjoying a well earned rest, although Mr. Hardesty still manages his affairs and keeps abreast of the times.