

KUNZA, FRED HERMAN. INTERVIEW.

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Interview with Fred Herman Kunze.

By Raymond C. Jantz
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I came to this state with my parents in 1898 from Travis County, Texas. We first settled at Okarche, and lived there two years.

My father registered at El Reno for the 1901 Opening which opened the Caddo, Comanche and Kiowa Reservation for settlement. We came from Okarche in covered wagons in a bunch of sixteen wagons. We landed in Anadarko and rested there a few days. My father drew a place one mile south of where the School Braxton now stands or eight miles south and two east of Fort Cobb.

We left Anadarko and went out to the claim. We were there but a few days when my father sold out. We then moved eight miles south of Fort Cobb on an Indian lease.

When we first came into this Territory there were lots of wild horses. Once our work horses got loose and mixed with the wild ones and it took three days to round them up and, in order to do this, we had to round up some

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of the wild ones also.

We hauled our supplies from Anadarko, both building materials and food.

There were no houses here to speak of, only three houses and one dugout between home and Apache. The country was all in prairie grass and as high as a man's shoulders. We broke out the Indian lease and built a house on it. The old house is still in use.

The first cotton crop was pretty good. We had to haul it to Mountain View to get it ginned. We usually picked three or four bales before going to the gin. It took three and four days on the road.

The first school was held in a dwelling house about seven miles southeast of Fort Cobb. This place and house belonged to Mr. Adolph Hetzke. We also had Church and Sunday School in his house.

The Indians were somewhat settled at this time. Some of the Indians were friendly and told me some of their habits and customs. One time I remember one Indian was coming across the prairie and we could see that he was looking for something and every so often he would

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stop and pick up something. He came on to the house, then he told us that he was catching turtles or terrapins to eat. He said that they would put them in a fire alive and roast them. After the terrapin was done it was just eaten out of the shell.