

INDEX CARDS:

Cherokee Strip
Enid
Garber
Rock Island Railroad
Wild Game

LAFFERTY, LAWSON A.

INTERVIEW.

4724/

Merrill A. Nelson, Interviewer.

June 21, 1937.

Interview with Lawson A. Lafferty.

Route 1, Garber.

Born Nov. 3, 1876, Pike County, Mo.

Father-Enoch M. Lafferty

Mother-Mary Moore.

My parents lived near Vandalia, Missouri, at the time of the opening of the Cherokee Strip. When I was about eighteen years of age my father came to this country. He came in November, 1893, and bought the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ section 35, Twp 23, Range 4, which became Dad's old homestead. He gave one hundred and twenty-five dollars for the quarter. The rest of the family came on the 22nd of March, 1894.

They came as far as Enid on the train. There were no roads here then so they struck out across the prairie. My two younger brothers came with me.

Father had chartered a car; included in the load was a team and wagon. He took the team out and hitched the horses to the wagon. Then he piled that as full as he could and brought a load out to the house and then returned for another.

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The country looked desolate. There were only two houses between Enid and this place of my father's near Garber. It had all been burnt off. There were no grass and no trees.

The house we came to was a box house, sixteen by sixteen feet. The house was fairly well built. We dug a well, but for fuel we had to go fifteen miles. Later, father built a wash room. Before it turned cold we had constructed a sod barn. Our food was beans and sow belly and plenty of syrup.

Old Garber, one mile east and one mile south of the present site of Garber, contained a blacksmith shop, a church, and a store.

At first, the Garber family had erected a sod building which had housed the entire Garber family. Later this was used as a church, a dance hall, a debating society meeting place in short, a community hall.

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When the Rock Island built at the present site of Garber, the Garber family bought the townsite. They first tried to get the railroad to build to the old site, but when this failed they bought property on the present site.

They put up elevators in 1899. I put my wheat in bins, waiting for the elevator to be completed. We raised almost nothing but kaffir corn in 1894, and '95 and '96 were bad years also. In '97 we had a wheat crop. Before the Barber elevators were built, we had to haul the wheat to Enid. We bought some of our supplies there and some at old Garber.

We shot some quail and ducks. There were also antelope in this country. One morning an antelope came in front of the house. I did not have a gun so was unable to try to shoot it. The first jack rabbit I saw, I thought was an antelope.

I used to work for seventy five cents a day in the harvest field. One day I was working for a Scotchman.

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He would cut a day and let me work the next. I got
tired of two days work in one and quit him.