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Field Worker: Lenna W. Rushing
May 12, '37

Interview with G. K. Laughlin (White)
E. Moses,
Cushing, Oklahoma.

Born 1877,
Missouri.

My father ran for land in the opening of the Sac and Fox Territory from the Creek County line. He established a homestead three miles north, two east, and one north of the present town of Cushing on the Cimarron River bottom.

My mother and we children followed him with the household goods. She did not know where he was, and it is a wonder to me how she ever found him so quickly. We did some inquiring of the various homesteaders, but did not get much information from them about his location. It must have been the "trial and error" method.

We built a log cabin and also a log granary. Since the farm was open, we fenced it in order to raise hogs and other livestock.

When we had become established and had got a good start in everything, we began to sell hogs to the Indians. We also did quite a bit of butchering so as to have fresh meat to sell. We would kill several hogs, prepare the meat, and load it into the wagon. Then we would make a tour of the neighborhood in a fifteen mile radius of our home, selling the meat to the Indians and white settlers. Often we made as much as thirty miles in one trip.

I was a pretty small boy, and I used to go swimming in the river with a bunch of Indian girls. They made me mad lots of times

by throwing mud on me.

I came to know the Indians well, and frequently spent the night with my Indian boy chums. I learned their Indian ways of cooking, eating, and sleeping. They always had bountiful meals, plenty of variety, and plenty of each dish. Their table was a canvas spread on the floor, and they sat around it cross-legged on the floor. The Indians could sit that way for hours at a time, but it always cramped me in just a little while.

In the beginning of our farming and trading days, we were rather poor, but gradually became more prosperous until we were in comfortable circumstances.

While we were still struggling up, we did not have very many horses. One time the Indian, Na-mo-we, gave us an old plug that turned out to be a fine breeding animal.

Na-mo-we was one of the leaders in the Sac and Fox tribe. He was a fine old man who had high ideals and was liberal in everything.

Later I moved to Cushing during the oil boom and built me a hardware store. The old Cushing was located over near the Katy depot. Mr. Foster and Jake Puckett were two of the business men then, but I cannot recall the names of any of the others even though I knew them well at that time.

When the site was moved five blocks southwest, I was able to build a good hardware store. I also did quite a bit of business

with the Indians, selling them harness, buggies, and farm implements. The Indians did not do much farming themselves, but always hired farm hands to till their land.

I loaned money to the Indians, too, and got quite a bit of Indian land by foreclosing on their notes. Then I took up real estate. Later I sold cars when they first came out. Since then I have sold cattle, real estate, and Ford cars at various times. At present I am selling Fords.

(End)