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Interview with C. E. (Ed) Lindley,  
17<sup>th</sup> & Meacham, Henryetta, Oklahoma,  
Born March 15, 1890.

Hugh Henry and my father were friends before my birth and ever after. Mr. Henry got into some trouble with some Mexicans and one of them shot him in the hand, leaving it crippled. I think three fingers were shot. They were going to kill him (I don't know why) and father advised him to come to the Creek Nation and prove his rights. He came and located where Henryetta is now. I guess he must have been lonesome for he kept writing to my father, trying to get him to come up to him. Mother didn't want to come but they gradually drifted North.

#### Arkansas and Texas Trail

In October, 1895, we came to Fort Gibson, ferried the Arkansas River to Muskogee where there were four or five houses went South to Webber Falls, West to Porum, then Canadian, McAlester, West to George Scales Old store which is Allen.

#### Canadian

The oldest town in the Indian Territory is Canadian. When people were going North and the rivers would be up, they would camp on the banks until it went down enough for them to cross. Some of them stayed and built houses,

starting the town.

In October, 1893, we came to Atwood, close to Calvin. Father was clearing the right of way working on the Fort Smith and Western Railroad Bridge. That railroad was called the Choctaw then.

His teamster, Chess Atwood, married an Indian girl and that gave us a hunting right. A lot of white men married Indian girls. Father was a Piling Contractor on that bridge.

In 1895, I was the Water-boy for the Scott Brothers who were the Railroad contractors up at Holdenville. We camped at Rabbit Spring, three miles South of Holdenville on the mouth of Little River. It was named for an old Indian named Rabbit who had a Stomp Ground there. The Scott Brothers had a Commissary store there at Rabbit Spring.

Father freighted from McAlester to Calvin and Holdenville. The M. D. & T.'s closest shipping point was Eufaula on the East, but the rivers couldn't be crossed when they were up; Purcell and Lexington on the West, where they would have to go when the streams were up. He

had teams which were faster than cattle, but even then it would take him several days or sometimes as long as two weeks to go for matches and groceries. The matches, I believe, were the more important.

Lumbee Settlement.

In 1896 we moved on a farm on John Marks' place, 6 miles east of Holdenville. For one month our mail was sent to McAlester in care of John Marks. There was a cotton gin, corn mill and store.

Holdenville.

Holdenville was built about two years after the railroad came through. It is on the allotments of John Jacop and Charlie Grayson. The first Post Master was George Roderick. John Marks was the first to move his store there, then George Roderick and J. W. McShan put in the first Hardware store.

Calvin was named for Calvin Perry who had an Indian wife. We received our mail in care of him when we were there. The first Post Master was Smite. I don't remember his initials.

McDermott Ranch.

McDermott married an Indian woman and had the control of her relatives land which was around his. He didn't own it all himself. There were six square miles fenced for the saddle horses but the rest was open range. In 1900 I leased the ranch for three years.

Okemah

J. C. Stones and Crawford moved the McDermott store into what is now Okemah. They were going to establish a town there. The Indian Okemah lived in a sod house. The west part of Okemah was his or his wife's allotment. The East part is her brother, Peter McNac's allotment.

Sold my lease of McDermott Ranch to Dug Sharp. McDermott died and his widow married Dug Sharp. I wanted to sell out but couldn't find a buyer. Dug was a fancy dresser, wore thirty dollar boots and everything else matched. I asked him to buy the ranch back but he didn't have the money. He said he would like to have it but was broke. The place needed a lot of work done on it and he was a hard worker and energetic. He said if I could get Peter McNac to loan him the money, he would buy it but he knew

he couldn't get the money himself. Peter, who the brother of Dug's wife, had plenty of money in the bank. I got Peter to come and stay with me a while and got him in the proper friendly mood and told him that I wanted to sell the old place back to the family but Dug didn't have the money and would like to borrow the money from him. He said that would be all right but he would have to go to town and "put his thumb on it", which meant sign a check with his thumb print. I sold to Dug and he went to work fixing the place up. Later his wife died of old age and he married an Indian girl she had raised, and she died of T. B. and he has remarried. He still has the place.

#### Henryetta

I moved to the Central Mines camp, which was of tents and larger than Henryetta, and put in a store. Sandy Patterson's father ran the first mine out there for the Central Coal and Coke Co. where the Henryetta Incinerating plant is.

Father had the contract for the K. O. G. for clearing the right of way between Dewar and Henryetta and getting piling timber from the creeks and around Henryetta.

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Kenefick and Hoffman were contractors; Hoffman was named for the latter.

There were thirty or forty men working for one contractor. Some with plows, some on slips and others clearing the trees and brush. Thirty-five cents was paid for a yard of dirt, seventy-five for mixed dirt and rock, and a dollar and a half for solid rock which would have to be blasted. It would take six months to get through a mountain.

Spring Hill or Pharaoh.

I owned a store in Henryette from 1904 until statehood. In 1909 I built the first store in Pharaoh and later sold out. Pharaoh is an oil town. There was a subscription school on top of the bluff north of Bryant before statehood, one dollar a head. After statehood bonds were voted and the County helped to pay the expenses of the school. Old man Hill was the Justice of Peace, and he and John Likoshi and I were on the school Board and I suggested naming the town after the Justice of the Peace, so you might say that I named Spring Hill.

U. S. Deputy Marshal.

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Perry, W. P. Pound was either a Light-horseman or under Grant Cowan and I can't remember which. He was going with Calvin Perry's daughter and I knew him well. (W. P. Pound was my daddy, Grace Kelley).

Okmulgee 1900.

The first time I was at Okmulgee, it was the Cap Severs Ranch. There was a rail or what we called a Stake and Rider fence where the Council House is now. There wasn't a Council House there at that time. It was West of Okmulgee.

Hog Hunting in the Choctaw Nation.

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If the white people were caught hunting without having an Indian with them it was just too bad. The Whites were called Intruders because the country had been given to the Indians "as long as water flowed and grass grew". Chess Atwood married an Indian girl and that gave the right to hunt to him.

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The hogs were wild and thick but they belonged to the Indians because the country belonged to them. We had hounds called Heelers and we would go hog hunting like wolf hunting, that is several men on horsebacks with a lot of "heelers".

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They would chase the hogs up in a canyon and bay them to hold them. We would pick them off with our guns, being careful to make every shot get a hog, for ammunition was scarce. When they were killed, we would pass a strong stick through their teeth and tie a rop to both ends, get on our horse and drag the hog out of the canyon and maybe around a mountain to a wagon and place where they would cleaned. (Now, a hog is <sup>dragged</sup> drug by his hand legs; but by his head then). Then they were hauled to Kiowa where there was a Railroad and sent to the packing houses in Kansas City. That was one way we had of making money.

#### Mekusukey Mission.

This Mission was six miles west of Holdenville on the allotment of Frank Jacob (Creek) and his brother-in-law, Gov. John Brown. They married sisters. John Brown was the Governor of the Seminoles. G. L. Long was his book-keeper. There was a mission every hundred miles for Indians only.

#### The First Check I ever Saw

Mace Harrington and I made hay on Gov. Brown's place and he had his Secretary write me a check to pay for it.

It was written on the Tecumseh bank and I didn't know what to do with it until they told me to go to Wewoka to the bank and exchange it for money.

Gin and Mill at Allen.

The first Gin and Mill were owned by F. L. Ball and Bud Donnegan.

Indian Pay Day .

Everybody knew when the Indians got their pay and crooked whites would camp around Wewoka and wait for them to get their money so that they could cheat them out of it. Some of the Seminoles didn't know the value of money and would give either bill the trader wanted to get a certain horse that took the Indian's fancy. A one dollar bill <sup>wasn't</sup> worth any more than a twenty dollar bill to him.