

TROXEL, J. M.

INTERVIEW

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Robert H. Boatman,  
Investigator,  
April 27, 1938.

Interview with J. M. Troxel,  
Rt. #1, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I am a native of the Indian Territory, having been born April 10, 1886, in a log cabin located near the bank of old Mud Creek, some twelve miles from the town of Ardmore, in what was then the Chickasaw Nation.

In the days of my childhood a log house was considered an ideal home in the Indian Territory, for most people then lived in dugouts or sod shanties, and the Indians lived principally in tents or tepees for the reason that they were continually moving from one section to another.

It was a general custom practiced among the Indian tribes that as the game ranged from different sections the Indians would then pull down their tents, tie the stakes to either side of their horses and carry their few possessions which consisted of a few blankets and hides, the men on horseback, with the squaws and kids following along on foot.

The principal foods of my childhood days were corn bread, beef and wild meats. There was an abundance of

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game in this country- turkey, deer and a few antelopes and in the mountains south a good many black bear lived. The smaller game such as squirrels, rabbits, coons, quail and prairie chickens were plentiful and all the streams were full of fish, so people just spent most of their time fishing or hunting.

People knew little of farming, which occupation was then considered useless for there were no markets for the product except a few very small towns and they kept only the more necessary things in stock such as coffee, sugar and tobacco.

As I grew up more people came. When quite young I developed an ambition to earn some money so I secured a horse and saddle from my father and I set out to find some kind of employment. Soon I was hired by a Mr. Waddy, a famous ranchman who had come here in the very early days and inexperienced as I was my first wages were agreed and I began to work at \$25.00 per month with my board and a horse furnished.

This was my first job of my own and I determined to make good though at first much of this routine of a cowboy's life

for a mere pad was very discouraging. When the days of branding began it was a task for a youth who was unaccustomed to hard work, for this I learned required some skill and practice. The cattle were corralled and then just bulldozged on the ground while the branding was being done.

I worked hard and saved my earnings. I guess the reason I saved was that there was no cause for spending the money as only a small town was anywhere near and this did not offer much entertainment to me. The town nearest to where I worked was old Coatney Creek Town located near the Red River which was discontinued in 1898.

The country was becoming more settled and the development of agriculture was becoming more popular so I left the range and entered into the business of farming and have since been engaged in this business. Farming, however, was done on a small scale then for no conveniences were offered on the earlier farms till after 1907, when the country just seemed to develop overnight into one of the leading farming states of our union.

I now live three-fourths of a mile west and five and one-half miles north of Blanchard.