

TOWNSEND, G. B. INTERVIEW.

8636

Eunice M. Mayer,  
Interviewer  
September 14, 1937.

Interview with G. B. Townsend  
Mangum, Oklahoma

G. B. Townsend of Mangum made two trips to Greer County, the first with his parents in 1888, as a prospector and the second in 1892, to remain as a citizen of the new country. The first trip was made from Kaufman County, Texas, in a spring wagon.

Mr. Townsend's parents were so impressed with the new region that they decided to remain. When they returned to Kaufman County, they chartered a railway box-car to bring their stock to the region.

Having learned that timber was scarce in the new region the family filled at least a quarter of the car with bois d' arc posts, while the rest of the space was occupied by cattle. The railway car was especially designed for settlers moving to the new region and was called an emigrant car.

After locating two miles southwest of Hollis in March, 1892, the newcomers proceeded to the business of earning a living in the new country. R. B. Wilson, brother-in-law of Mr. Townsend, took up a quarter section, while his father took the remaining quarter of the tract.

TOWNSEND, G. B.

INTERVIEW.

8636

2

Cattlemen then "ran" the country and there was no such thing as land titles until 1890; this section was an exclusive cow country with "nesters" as the farmers were called, scattered in level sections.

Cattlemen sought rough sections, which provided wood and water for their operations, while nesters located in smooth valleys such as existed in and around Eldorado and Martha.

Entry of the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad through Quanah, in 1890, did much to open up this section. The Townsend family remained at Hollis until March 1, 1895, when Mr. Townsend came to Mangum to buy the Mangum Star, with James Scarobaugh as a business associate.

This early newspaper was then owned by G. H. Eubank and Charles M. Thacker. The new partners purchased Eubank's half interest in the plant and building site. In 1896, Mr. Townsend purchased his partner's interest in the paper.

Later in the year he made a deal with Mr. Thacker, exchanging his interest in the building site for the newspaper plant. The plant was then moved to the site

now occupied by the Mangum Drug store. Mr. Townsend sold a half-interest in the plant to R. C. Echols, in 1902.

Mr. Townsend continued his newspaper connection until January 1, 1905, when he sold his interest to Mr. Echols, the first mayor of Mangum. In December, Mr. Townsend purchased the abstract business of E. E. McCallister, and remained in the business until 1909, when he leased the firm to Frank Meadows, Lon McKinney, and A. C. Cravey.

In 1914, Mr. Townsend and Frank Overton consolidated the firm with another concern, and have operated the business to the present time.

The Mangum Star, in the good old days of tramp printers and personal journalism, boasted a railroad press, which was unique in this section.

In fact I believe that two-thirds of the tramp printers who came to the office had never seen one, Mr. Townsend commented.

The press operated similar to a proof press, but the cylinder, about four feet long, was filled with sand and operating the device required the services of a

TOWNSHIP, Ct.

6676

husk...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

Since the practice of such an announcement in the press

was controlled by the party in power at Washington,

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

that the legislature passed the law that...

vided that if a cowman's stock damaged a farmer's crop...

more than twice, the farmer could impound the cattle until the owner called for the animals and paid the damage done to his crop.

Much annoyance was caused by the introduction of sheep in this section. As a result of this

sheep and cattle could not be grazed together.

Results were as follows:

Political exercises of the county, however, were paid almost entirely by the cattlemen in the form of taxes. The nesters had a tax, and the cows had a about double, and the sheep had a tax of about half of cattle.

Farmers often took advantage of the law in this country, by milking the stockmen's cows. At least the situation was explained by the shift of stockmen from the N. V. Ranch near DeSesse, to Frank Matthews, County Attorney, that cattlemen were tired of supporting politicians, and would move their stock to another region if they did not receive certain concessions.

Well, if you won't pay your taxes we want you to move, the official reported.

TOWNSEND, C. B.

INTERVIEW.

8876

7

School buildings served at community and social centers in the early 1900s. An annual Teacher's Institute was held in 1908 with 400 attendance, since the general school system was in operation.

WISCONSIN