

WEST; M. V.

INTERVIEW

#7198

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WEST, M. V. INTERVIEW 7198  
Dawes Fife, Interviewer  
July 2, 1937.

Biographic Sketch

Interview with M. V. West

Age 56; living on 708 E. Grove street.

Mr. M. V. West came to Skiatook, Indian Territory, with his parents in May, 1890, in a covered wagon. Mr. West's father, W. R. West, a blacksmith and sawmill man by trade, ran a blacksmith shop in Skiatook. Their first home there was a two-roomed log cabin near his father's shop.

His parents traded at Bill Rogers store in Skiatook, where the post office was also located with Bill Rogers as postmaster. The Wests later moved on Bird Creek on the farm of Bob Frye, a Cherokee Indian.

Later they moved to Cedar Island, five miles north of Tulsa toward Sand Springs.

His father ran a sawmill at Bob Frye's place and at Cedar Island.

The logs were hauled to Tulsa from the sawmill with teams of four or six oxen owned by a Mr. Moody.

Tulsa was then a stopping place for the ranchers. Tulsa then had only a few frame buildings. His father traded at Brady's store in Tulsa.

In 1897 they again moved, going to Sapulpa. The buildings in Sapulpa were the Ripley Hotel, W. C. Hall store,

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Menifee store, John Eagon store, Tonys' stockade and the Frisco Railroad Depot on North Main Street. Mr. West's first home in Sapulpa was in the old Kennett house on Jackson street.

Mr. West first started working for Mr. Abbott and later worked at the first pump station in Sapulpa, located on Rock Creek, south of South Oak Street, where he pumped water for the Frisco Railroad round house. Later he had charge of the station and then was transferred to a pump station near Snyder, Oklahoma, in 1910. He was working there when a cyclone hit the town on May 5, 1900, killing one hundred and five people.

Mr. West visited Geronimo, the Apache Chief, at Ft. Sill, when he was guarded by soldiers.

While there he saw the scalps that Geronimo kept in his house. Moreover Geronimo went the soldiers guarded him always.

The Comanche and Apache Indians were restless at that time.

Mr. West also knew Quannah Parker, the Comanche Chief. When the chief put on a show called "Stage Robbery" at

Cache, Oklahoma Territory, on the fourth of July, 1905. Mr. West played the role of a clown. The cast was mostly Indians.

White settlers near Snyder raised corn, wheat and alfalfa.

The Comanche and Apache Indians did not farm as they were drawing payments from the government.

The best horses then could be bought for \$10.00 each, and hogs were sold for one dollar per hundred pounds.

Mr. West moved back to Sapulpa in 1907, where he now resides.