

WHITE, JOE.

INTERVIEW

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LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Theodore R. Hamilton.

This report made on (date) March 14, 15. 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Joe White,

Address Blanco, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story Handed down from early

Spaniards that came into the country.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

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Theodore Hamilton,  
Investigator,  
March 14, 15, 1938.

Information secured from Joe White,  
Blanch, Oklahoma.

Legend of an early day gold mine,  
Operated by Spaniards, and located  
In Southern Pittsburg County,  
Oklahoma.

Joe White, the man who lives on the bluff above what he claims is the location of an early day Spanish mine, is an interesting character to converse with. He has absolute faith in what he says concerning this mine and goes far to prove it. There has been a good bit of digging on the premises in an endeavor to break through into some of the large chambers of the mine where it is said that much gold is stored. One horizontal shaft has been constructed along with several vertical shafts. Because of limited resources it has been a hard battle for Mr. White but he refuses to give up and when a small stake is accumulated he sets to work again.

The mine is located underneath a limestone bluff that overlooks a hairpin turn in Brushy Creek, about four and

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one-half miles south of the town of Blanco. One entrance comes out near the waterline of Brushy Creek and is so well hidden that it is unnoticed from across the creek. A hundred feet down the creek, the profile of a man's face, that may have been carved out by hand, looks toward this entrance.

According to the legend, it was about one hundred and fifty years ago that two Spanish prospectors came into the vicinity of the location of the mine. One of the men became ill and died but the other made his way back to his family in Mexico with a large amount of gold. He told his family in Mexico of the mine and of seeing a large amount of gold and silver that was still stored in the mine. His sons searched vainly for the place but were never able to find it, though the father had told them that waters from the creek that flowed by this mine emptied into Gaines Creek, then into the South Canadian River and from there into the Arkansas River, which passes Fort Smith.

White has constructed a nice two-room cabin on the bluff and has accumulated a collection of odd rocks and objects that he claims are parts of prehistoric animals

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that once roamed this part of the country. Also in his possession is an early Spanish type of rifle and a Spanish Bible.