

SOUTHERN, JOE

HUNTING & FISHING TRIP IN 1904. 1

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NARRATIVE.

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Joe Southern,
Investigator,
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A HUNTING AND FISHING TRIP IN
INDIAN TERRITORY IN 1904.

A brief sketch of a hunting and fishing party of Atoka, Indian Territory, in year 1904 in which I, Joe Southern, was employed as hunter and guide for same.

This party was sponsored by C. Curtis, who lived in Kansas at that time. This party consisted of twenty-two persons with myself, Mr. Curtis, his wife and children and a colored maid, another man, his wife and daughter, whose name I can not recall from Colorado, three young ladies and one young man from Oklahoma City. The name of one of the young ladies was Idabelle Donahan; the other names I do not recall, but they were from different eastern parts.

Mr. Curtis was the director or salesmanager of the Hoover Cabinet Business of the United States and Cuba and the rest of the party was composed of his salesmen from different states.

Mr. Curtis invited these persons to join him in a hunting and fishing trip in Eastern Indian Territory with expenses paid by him.

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This party met at Oklahoma City and bought their tents and supplies and shipped them to Atoka, and employed four teams, wagons and drivers, one hack and team for the ladies and children.

On the morning of June 27, we left Atoka for our campsite which was located in Section 36, Township 2 South Range 13 East, at the noted place which is named Hole-in-the-Wall, on Potapo Creek a mile and a half up stream from the mouth of Potapo Creek. This part of the country is very mountainous and rough, covered with native pine and oak timber with Potapo and McGee Creeks flowing through; wild game was plentiful and so were fish in the streams.

On this trip we killed twenty turkeys, five deer, seventy five squirrels and we caught plenty of fish.

On the road out to this campsite a man lived near where Lane is now located by the name of McIninch who at that time had plenty of frying chickens and vegetables and we made a contract with him to furnish and deliver to our camp, chickens and vegetables twice a week at a price agreed upon.

I recall two incidents that happened on this trip. While preparing camp there was a large diamond rattlesnake killed

near our campsite that had twenty-two rattles and was six feet long.

After we had been in camp for several days there was a screaming noise on top of the mountain east of camp located between Potapo and McGee Creeks.

We all decided that it was a panther or bob cat, as there were a few of both in this region, so one evening about sundown Mr. Curtis and I were on top of this mountain when this screaming began and we located it in the top of a large pine tree with very thick foliage. We circled that tree for several minutes with guns ready thinking that we were going to get to kill a panther and we discovered to our surprise that it was a Mexican parrot which had gotten out of a cage in Atoka and had flown East to this point.

We remained in camp for sixty-two days.