

CARROLL, R. C.

INTERVIEW

#8450

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt

This report made on (date) August 31 1937

1. Name Mr. R. C. Carroll

2. Post Office Address Lone Wolf, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Route 4

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

State Ranger

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____.

Ethel Tackett
Interviewer.
August 31.

Interview with R. C. Carroll
Lone Wolf, Okla.

There is much misunderstanding about the cattle trails through Oklahoma as the trails used for different purposes were located in different sections of the country.

The cattle-shipping trail used by the cow outfits of old Greer County and by many of the ranchmen along the Texas border followed a line north from the general round-up grounds in the vicinity of Boggy and Sandy Creeks in the southern part of what is now Harmon and Jackson Counties, crossing the Salt Fork of Red River west of Mangum and crossing White Flat, south of Reed, where there was another well known round-up ground. Elm was often crossed at the Jay Buckle Spring which took its name from the Jay Buckle camp which was located there in an early day.

The cattle shipping trail continued north crossing Haystack Creek south of the present Delhi community and crossed the North Fork at one of several different points. Herds of cattle might cross Red River near the mouth of Sweetwater Creek or they could cross Starvation Creek, Long Creek or Timber Creek. These places were

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well known, and used by the cow outfits on account of the abundance of grass, wood and water at these crossings.

From there the trail followed a general northerly direction to Cheyenne in what is now Roger Mills County and continued north, crossing the South Canadian River near the Pack-Saddle Bridge, and on north to Gage in Ellis County. Gage is located on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and this is where the cattle were loaded in stock cars and shipped to Kansas City, St. Louis or Chicago for beef.

Two, three and four year old steers, were usually shipped and occasionally an old cow was shipped but the young cows and calves were kept on the range in the days of the big ranches.

Each ranch had a trail boss who took the herds to market, a wagon boss who looked after the round-up wagon and the ranch boss who was one of the owners or who carried out the orders of the owners.

The chuck-wagon cook was an important person in the march of a trail herd, for he fed the men and helped much in keeping the outfit in a good humor. Almost all

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cow outfits fed their men well with canned corn, tomatoes, potatoes, beef, coffee, sugar, molasses and sour dough biscuit, dried apples, peaches, prunes and onions.

Jack Reno was one of these chuck-wagon cooks and he was hard to beat and Sam Taylor was chuck-wagon cook for the Mill Irons outfit and I believe he was the best cook I ever saw. Bob Richman and Will Wright were two mighty fine trail bosses.

Sam Doxey was bossing a trail herd through to Gage one time and he had hired a tenderfoot and they had gotten as far as Cheyenne and it had rained a lot. This young fellow had a good tarpaulin and was covered up and there was a ditch around his bed to keep him dry.

It was his hour to go on night guard and Sam Doxey came in off guard and went to the would-be cowboy's bed, shook the tarpaulin and said, "It's your time to go on guard". The tenderfoot raised up and found that it was raining hard and crawled back under the tarpaulin and said, "Mr. Doxey, I believe I'll quit until morning." Sam Doxey said, "If you quit until morning you quit for good" so the young man crawled out and stood his guard and the whole outfit had fun at his expense for months

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but he made a fine cowhand later. I give you the names of these cowboys for many have gone on and they should be remembered in the history of Oklahoma.