

CHEDESTER, SALLIE

INTERVIEW

#4903

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

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Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) July 20 1937

1. Name Sallie Chedester

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 112 S Linwood St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 27 Year 1937

5. Place of birth McKinney

6. Name of Father J. M. Lemons Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father Blacksmith

7. Name of Mother Polly Cook Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about mother Housekeeper

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 1.

Ida B. Lankford, Interviewer  
July 20, 1937.

Sallie Chedester

I was born at McKinney Texas, September 27, 1888, and came with my father and mother to Cordell in 1898. My father was a blacksmith. We had to live in a tent when we first came to Cordell, could not get a house as there were very few houses in those days. I saw the first train that came through Cordell.

The Court house was moved here from Cloud-Chief. It was a wooden frame building. For a jail we had a run-around on the street and had lumber set up to shade the prisoners, until they could get a jail fixed for them.

In 1909, the court house was burned. Doctor and I were coming in from a call north of town, when we came up a hill and we could see a man standing up in a buggy whipping his horse as hard as he could; the horse was running as fast as he could; just before he got to us he turned off the street and headed west. We thought the man must be drunk. We came on to town down the north side of the square and I could see through the Court house hall to the south side door. As we passed, we could smell something burning like feathers, Doctor said it was watermelon rinds burning. We had had very few

melons that year. We came two blocks East and one half block South to where we lived and are still living. We have lived in the same location twenty-eight years. I got out of the buggy, went into the house to lay the baby down so I could help the Doctor unhitch the team and when I got to the west door the Court house was all in flames and it wasn't anytime until it was burned down to the ground. I always wished I could have caught the man who was whipping the grey horse.

In a year the new court house was built, and we soon had water and electric light system. Later the business streets were paved, then the residential districts, and now we have natural gas to burn.