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Hennessey, Pat
Hennessey Family
Opénings--Cherokee Strip
Enid

Field Worker: Merrill A. Nelson
April 6, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Dr. Paul B. Champlin (White)
1910 West Cherokee
Enid, Oklahoma

BORN Canton, Kansas
September 4, 1896

PARENTS Father, Joel B. Champlin, Illinois
Mother, Lena Hennessey, Illinois
Died 1897

DR. PAUL CHAMPLIN'S STORY

Pat Hennessey and my maternal grandfather were first cousins. When they were about 18 years of age, they ran away from Ireland and come to American together. They landed in Rhode Island and worked in a rubber factory.

Both moved to Illinois and my grandfather settled down and married. Pat Hennessey came out to Wichita. He started in the freighting business from Wichita to Fort Sill. (Further details can be found in the Cherokee Strip, George Rainey, page 143-154) There is some dispute as to whether Pat was killed before he was burned, I do not know which is the correct view.

I have never been closely associated with my mother's relative. They had a large family. Some of the members became quite prominent.

Ben Hennessey became secretary of the State Board of Agriculture under Governor Haskell. He owned the townsite of Ferguson, northwest of Hitchcock. When he died, his picture was in the front page of the Daily Oklahoman. There were other sons and

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Jim, Dan, Ben, John and Albert.

Jim Hennessey made the run. He settled on a farm near Breckinridge. He left this claim in an estate. I bought the farm. Ed Hennessey was a lawyer in Norman, he contracted tuberculosis and died. Dan Hennessey of Wichita is still living. John stayed in McPherson, Kansas. There are about 48 Hennessey heirs. Among these are Johnsons of John; Clarence who lives in Newton, Kansas; Lea, who lives in Emporia, Marion, who lives in Sioux City, Iowa, and Ernest who lives in Chicago.

My father Joe Champlin made the run to Pond Creek. He never proved up on his claim. He only stayed a couple of days, then went back.

I came to settle in Enid in 1923 but I first saw the town much earlier. There used to be a fire station on the west side of Grand Avenue, where the new street through the square now goes. They had a horse draw fire wagon. When I was a boy the draw back of the Baptist church had water in it. I can remember fishing in it.

In 1908, there were no houses west of the Catholic Church. The town was fairly well built up on the south side. I am a nephew of Mr. H. H. Champlin, head of the Champlin Refinery. I do not claim to know much about the Hennessey family or of early Enid. One reason I know so little is because my mother died when I was very young.
