

CHAMBERLIN, J. R.

INTERVIEW

#8147

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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INTERVIEW.

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Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) August 3, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mr. J. R. Chamberlin

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story This story is about the

first restaurant in Kingfisher.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

An Interview with Mr. J. R. Chamberlin, Kingfisher.
By - Louise S. Barnes - Field Worker.
August 3, 1937.

AN EARLY DAY RESTAURANT.

Mr. J. R. Chamberlin came to Oklahoma on April 22, 1889, from Greensberg, Kansas, when he was twenty-six years old. He came down on the train as far as Pond Creek, then took a coach on into Kingfisher, arriving at noon.

He said, "I opened a restaurant in a tent on the second day after I got to Kingfisher. It was located beside the land office building that stood where the post office now stands. We only remained there three weeks but this is an idea of what it was like.

" I had a large tent, but the equipment was very little and we only had straight counters. What I mean by straight counters is just a board about one foot wide and an inch thick, around two sides of the tent. These were held up by 2X4s and were called counters. There were no stools. Everyone stood up around the counters and we served large crowds at that time.

" The dust was terrible. We sometimes wondered what

we were serving, but there was little that could be done so that everyone who was hungry understood just like we who sold the food.

" Most of the orders were pie and the general things that were served were eggs, meat and pie. We did not bake our own pies, they were baked in a tent bakery.

" It was decided that they did not want any business houses around the land offices so I quit the restaurant business for several months. I then located in a building next to the old post office. I owned that for several years."

Comment:

Mr. Chamberlin is now employed as oil inspector and has his home in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Field Worker.