

CLYBURN, J. E.

INTERVIEW

10079

384

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

385

#10079

CLYBURN, J. E.

INTERVIEW.

Field worker's name Bessie L. Thomas

This report made on (date) February 23, 1938

This legend was secured from (name) J. E. Clyburn

Address Lawton, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe _____

1. Origin and history of legend or story The happenings in this sotry began in 1901.

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

An Interview with J. E. Clyburn, Lawton, Oklahoma.
By - Bessie L. Thomas, Investigator.
February 23, 1938.

I registered at El Reno, arriving at Lawton, August 5th, 1901, with my wife and one son, who was six months old. We moved from Kansas and have not been out of Comanche County six weeks at any one time since. I went into the livery business with an uncle, William Neal, who had shipped in a carload of horses to sell; they were used by claim - ants in hunting up claims and after this claim hunting was over the horses were sold. We homesteaded three miles north of Cache where we lived for over twenty years.

Quannah Parker was my neighbor and friend. When he came home sick from Cheyenne County, he sent his son Baldwin to tell me he wanted to see me and for me to hurry. I went over just as soon as I could get there on horseback, but he was dead when I got there. Quannah always liked me and I have always felt like he had some secret he wanted to disclose it to me before he died.

The 1901 restaurants in Lawton were in tents. Coffee was made in large iron kettles, food cooked mostly in open pans with flies swarming near. I could not "go" the stuff so we got some cook vessels and did our own cooking. I knew

my wife was clean about getting meals. Among the first men I met in Lawton were Al Calloway and Hub Crawford.

One close friend we had after moving to Cache was H. E. Bice who was an early settler too, and had a claim southwest of Cache, having bought a relinquishment from Mr. T. A. Jones. Then he had gone back to Krienlin and worked until September running a mill and elevator, coming back to Cache, September 9th, 1901, where he established his home on the farm. Mr. Bice built the first big building in Cache, a store building, which he owned and used to store flour in, having shipped in the first carload of flour to come into Cache over the Frisco. The town then was all new buildings and begun to look like a second Pueblo, Colorado, with lots of mining excitement at the time in the mountains. Mr. Bice lived on a farm and came in each morning to open up his store. In the Winter of 1902 there came an awful snowstorm one night. Mr. Bice, thinking there would be no trade in town the next day, decided to go hunting and kill some rabbits. He walked and hunted most of the day, going south to the township line, then started home about 3:00 O'clock in the afternoon. He

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3

passed the home of Jones Holland, another bachelor farmer, who invited Mr. Bice to stay all night, and then Mr. Bice stayed the next day, and the next with Mr. Holland. When he did not open his store the second day his friends became alarmed and the population of Cache, (not too many) started out to look for him, going of course to his home first. Not finding him there they started to look for him, soon picking up his tracks in the snow, which they followed all day thinking maybe he had been frozen to death. They finally tracked him to Mr. Holland's place where he was safe. But did they punish him! He was snowballed and rolled in the snow until he promised on bended knees that he would never again do such a trick without letting his friends know where he had gone. After going home Mr. Bice found that his friends had gone into his cabin and waited for him, thinking at first that he would return soon. While in the house they had eaten most of his pecans he had gathered for the winter. Mr. Bice now lives in Lawton too, where he owns and operates a Photo Supply house on "C" Street.