



Grace Kelly, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History S-149  
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J. P. MONTGOMERY INTERVIEW  
(Continued)

MAIL ROUTE 1897

After the railroad came to Pauls Valley, George Lauflan delivered the mail from Pauls Valley to Whitebead, Beefcreek (later named Maysville) then Eram Springs, sixty-five miles the round trip. He was the first carrier on that trip, had a hack or surrey, a two seated buggy, and I've seen it loaded down with passengers. He made the trip every day and it would be ten or eleven o'clock at night when he would get back to Garvin's store in Whitebead on the return trip.

One day he was branding a colt with an iron which didn't have a handle but had a sharp point on the end, on the rod between the brand and the handle. The colt kicked the branding iron and drove the point through his head killing him.

Hunting

I didn't go hunting but I killed lots of deer and turkey for the country was full of them. We were requested to carry a pistol and rifle by our boss. The cow thieves would make short work of a herd that wasn't protected by guns. If I'd run onto a deer I'd kill it some-

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times with a pistol and other times with the rifle.

#### COOKS AND COOKING

I had the buying of the groceries part of the time and we had trouble keeping cooks. The most of them used a lot of baking powder in their biscuits. I kept track track of the flour and baking powder that I bought and I paid more for the powder than for the flour.

We got one cook that wouldn't have baking powder at all. I would sure like to have some of his biscuits now for they were the best I ever ate before or since. He used sour dough and cooked them in the open with dutch ovens which are about six inches high. I've seen him prop the lid up to keep from burning them on top and they would be light and cooked clear through, and good.

We always had plenty to eat, steak and beans and dried fruit. Sometimes we would get several slabs of bacon which was used in this way.

#### COWBOY LIGHTING SYSTEM

When the boys wanted to set up and play poker, they would cut off a chunk of the bacon, put it in a pan and light it, using it for a candle. That is how the most of our bacon was used.

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## INDIAN PONIES

The country was full of them. They really belonged to the Indians but were allowed to raise themselves on the open pastures.

I saw Legus Ferryman, the Governor of the Creek Nation, sell six hundred ponies at four dollars a head.

## TIMBER AND PRAIRIE FLIES

In the hot weather I've seen great bunches of ponies as close together as they could get, on the prairie. They would stand there and stamp and swish their tails fighting the Green Headed fly. When it got cool in the evening they would scatter out and graze and in the early morning they could graze, but not in the middle of the day.

By the time I'd ride across the prairie, the horse would be covered with blood where these flies had covered him and bit him.

The flies in the timber were black ones and they were so fierce that they would drive the stock out of the timber, it couldn't stand to stay in there to graze at all.

## THE SEMINOLE BROWNS

Then I went to work on Governor Brown's ranch in

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the Creek Nation, on Graves Creek twenty miles from Wewoka. Tobe Alexander ran this ranch for him. That winter the pastures were built and the next spring he hired a bunch of boys to round the cattle up and put them in the pasture. The cattle got used to the fences pretty easy but I've seen the wild ponies cut up real bad; they would get to running and run right into the wire before they knew it.

At one time Governor Brown bought 45,000 head of cattle in Texas, brought them up and turned them loose to go wherever they wanted to. So you see it was quite a job gathering them up and separating them out from the cattle of other ranches that were running everywhere too.

He was the Governor of the Seminoles for twenty-five or thirty years and his brother, Jackson, was the Treasurer and an Indian Preacher, so you see they had their own way for a long time.

#### ONLY TWO STORES IN SEMINOLE NATION

Gov. Brown had a store three miles west of Sasakwa, Jackson Brown had one at Wewoka and there was a Post Office in each of them. I'm not sure but I think the mail came from the Pottawatomie country.

#### BROWNS' SCRIPT OR DUE BILLS

They both issued script or due bills that were good

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only at their stores, so when the Indians made the draw, they had spent it all before they got it and the Browns got the most of it.

## ROBERTSON'S STORE

One of the oldest stores was Robertson's which was thirty-five miles southwest of Whitebead. After that or a little later there were so many stores that you couldn't keep up with them. Robertson's was in the Chickasaw Nation.

## OIL SPRING

There was a spring five or six miles south of Sulphur Springs, that had a scum of crude oil on top of it all the time. People from all around came and brushed the oil back so they could drink the water for their health, I have often wondered if it was good or bad for their health.

## GRIST MILL BY WATER POWER

Zack Gardener had a flour and grist mill two miles east of Pauls Valley on the Washita river. It was still there the last time I was through there.

## DEPUTY SHERIFF, U. S. MARSHAL

I was Deputy Sheriff from 1910 to 1912, arrested the man Joe Jones, who stabbed Lee Pounds, constable, when he was trying to arrest Jones' drunk son at a Christmas Tree Program at Salt Creek.

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When Wilson was made President he had the United States Marshals reestablished or straightened out, for they had never been well organized since Statehood. B. A. Enloe of McAlester was made Chief Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. I worked under him from 1912 until 1915.

KUSA, BOOM TOWN, NOW GHOST TOWN

In 1915 when I was Marshal, the Kusa Spelter Company had just started. All around the smelter was pasture and the smelter was fenced in with a big gate in front. Some of the workers went on a strike but some were in the plant. The plant furnished ice water for its workers. The strikers put a big padlock on the gate and wouldn't let the ice truck in with the ice.

George E. Nicholson, one of the owners, was scared to death and didn't know what to do so he came to me. I went down and broke the padlock with a big hammer and stayed around there in case anything happened, but nothing did happen

George Nicholson offered me a good job and I took it and worked for him for twenty-one years. He was a good man but died April 9, 1937, in Birmingham, Alabama, where he had a cement plant.

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He bought all the ground around the smelter and had it surveyed out into lots. Some of them were sold but he built a hundred and fifty or sixty houses which he rented and sold on terms to his workers.

There were between four and five thousand population from 1916 to 1921 or 1922. After the War the business was all shot to pieces and a few people moved away and the rest followed until it is now almost as it started, a pasture.

#### PASTURE GRASS

In the early day the grass was high, I don't remember seeing it over waist high, and it didn't have as much weeds as now. As the good grass dies an inferior kind takes its place. The Indians said that grass wouldn't grow where a white man walked, that he never made a path as he put his feet down differently each time he walked over a trail and he hardly ever went the same way. I think it was over-pastured.

#### MOUNDS, OKLA.

I had a farm near Mounds in 1901 when it was two years old, and a better town than it is now.