

DARNER, W. E. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

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Fife Dawes  
Interviewer  
July 14, 1937

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Interview with  
Mrs. W. E. Darner  
1121 East McKinley St.  
Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Darner was born in Oregon, Missouri, Holt County, on September 1, 1887. She came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Menifee, to Sapulpa in 1893. They came by train in the fall immediately after the Cherokee Strip opening. Her father came to Sapulpa to put up a building for a store since he had a license to trade with the Indians.

The license he had had to be hung up in the store for the public to see. This permit was given by the Secretary of Treasurer.

The Menifee Store was the second large store in Sapulpa. It was located about twenty feet east on Hobson street from North Main Street. The building had four rooms, three being used as living quarters.

In the store every thing was sold that the people needed, buggies, groceries, clothing and other articles needed by the people then.

Mrs. Darner's father later did wholesale business

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with the smaller stores that were out of town in the country. She said the Indians would come to trade their Sofka corn, beef, cow hides and other hides, also nuts. They traded these for groceries and clothing. She said once they brought a wagon load of acorns, which her father, Jim Menifee, refused to trade. She said the Indians rarely asked for cash, they usually traded.

The Sac and Fox Indians came to their store in wagons from the Sac and Fox Agency. Some of the women stole things and the head man of the tribe tapped them on the head with a stick and made them return the articles. They traded blankets and furs for supplies.

Most of the Sac and Fox Indians came to Sapulpa to board the train for trips north.

Mrs. Darner's father owned land about a block square. Her brother, Jewel Menifee, had two pet deer. Her father's friends from Boston wrote asking if there was plenty of game around Sapulpa. He told them there was, so they came to Sapulpa to hunt game. Mr. Menifee warned the hunters he had two pet deer, Mrs. Menifee tied red cloths on the

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deer, but the hunters probably became excited and killed the two pets. They also killed wild turkey and other game.

At a picnic, on August the fourth, on Duck Creek, Mrs. Menifee saw Legus Perryman and Chief Isparhechar fight, which was very comical as Chief Isparhechar was fat and old and Legus Perryman was slim and younger.

To get our supplies for the store we rode on the Ferry across the Arkansas River to Tulsa. The supplies were usually shipped by train.

When a child Mrs. Darner attended school in Smith's Livery barn in Sapulpa. Her teacher was Cassie Meadows. She also went to school four and one-half miles north-east of Sapulpa at the William Eufaula School, which was also used as a church.

When she first came here the white settlers then were Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Smith; Mrs. Hattie McKellop, who worked in the H. C. Hall store; Dr. John Ellwick, who had a small drug store and Mr. and Mrs. Tony Antone. Mr. Antone was Indian.

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The W. A. Smiths ran a livery barn and hotel on North Main street.

Mrs. Darner knew Curtis Deason who was Chief of Police in Sapulpa and later joined the Bill Cook gang. He was later caught and sent to the penitentiary..

Mrs. Darner said when she was a child her parents tied money on her, under her clothes and in her hose, and would send her to Tulsa on the train to put the money in a bank. When the train returned to Sapulpa it had to remain there thirty six hours before returning to Tulsa. On the trip to Sapulpa, Mrs. Darner said, the engineer would, upon spying wild game, stop the train and let the passengers shoot the game.

In 1903, Arkansas River Ferry rates were as follows:

Wagon and carriage one way .....	35¢.
Extra wagon .....	15¢
Foot passengers .....	05¢
Bicycles .....	05¢
Horse and rider .....	10¢
Horse led, per head .....	10¢
Cattle led or driven, per head .....	10¢

Swine or sheep, per head .....	05¢
Threshing machine .....	\$2.00
Portable engine .....	\$3.00