

BIOGRAPHY FORM 4291
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford,

This report made on (date) May 31, 1937

1. Name Mr. Harve Dean.

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Okla.

3. Residence address (or location) Cordell

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

Ida Lankford.
Field Worker.

4291

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An Interview With Harve Dean.
Cordell, Oklahoma.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation opened for settlement April 19, 1892. We camped, before the opening, near where Mountain View is now. Hundreds of people were there, ready to make the run when the soldiers would fire the gun for them to go. When finally the gun was fired, people went wild-running from every side of Washita County, afoot, in carts, with ox, mule and horse wagons, and on horse back.

My crowd of four made the run from the east side of the county. There were no roads, only Indian Trails. We had run about five miles when we came to a deep creek. We heard some one popping a whip, and using some very strong language and when we got down to where he was, found a man with a pair of bulls and a wagon stuck in the creek. He had his family on top of the furniture. He had out-run us or soonered in. We tied ropes onto his wagon and pulled him out. The last we saw of him, he was still using the same kind of language and whipping his little bulls.

We picked some land three miles east of Taceola, the county seat to be. The townsite opened at one o'clock, and we attended it. The people made a run for lots like they were valuable, and by night, you could get dry goods, and groceries, anything to drink you wanted. Gambling tents were everywhere. Something like five thousand people camped

on the townsite, and up or down the river. One man and myself stayed and the others went back to get our wagon with bedding and food, but they didn't get back till the next day. We killed a big fat deer that evening and feasted that night.

In August my wife, baby girl, and I moved into our first house - a covered wagon and wagon sheets fixed among some China Berry trees-and we began to plan how to build a house without any money. I got a log house from an Indian for \$2.50. It had been built by the U. U. (Two U) cattle ranch people and deserted. It was covered with dirt. We tore down this structure and hauled logs from across the river, and built a cabin 14 x 14 feet. This we built by ourselves and we felt well fixed, having the only house in our part of the country. It was chinked, daubed and covered with a fine roof for dry weather but when it came a blowing rain or snow, the snow would be deeper inside our house than outside. But we could cover our bed with a wagon sheet and put our clothes in bed with us; next morning put our clothes on under the sheet; then get out and with broom and spade shovel the snow out.

I freighted from Minco to Cloud Chief (the name given to the County Seat). There were no roads, no bridges; but the people began to talk schools and good roads and bridges.

My wife and I took our baby and rode horse back to where they were organizing a school district, about ten miles away, and the Hon. Thomas S. Edwards made a speech, among his first in Washita County.

There were plenty of wild turkeys, deer, quail, and fish. But like all other places settled by the white man, he soon destroyed the game and the fishing.

The county seat was changed to Cordell in 1900. We first built a wood courthouse, but later built a good one of stone and brick.