

INDEX CARDS:

Early Ranches in the
Creek, Cherokee and Osage Nations
Cattle Drives
Tulsa
Blizzard - 1886
Grazing Permits

Effie S. Jackson
Field Worker
May 27, 1937

Indian-Pioneer History
S - 149
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

28

EARLY DAY AND LATER DAY RANCHES

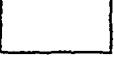
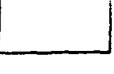
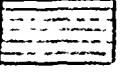
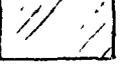
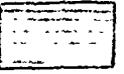
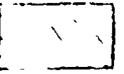
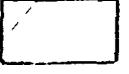
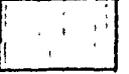
(In the vicinity of Tulsa)

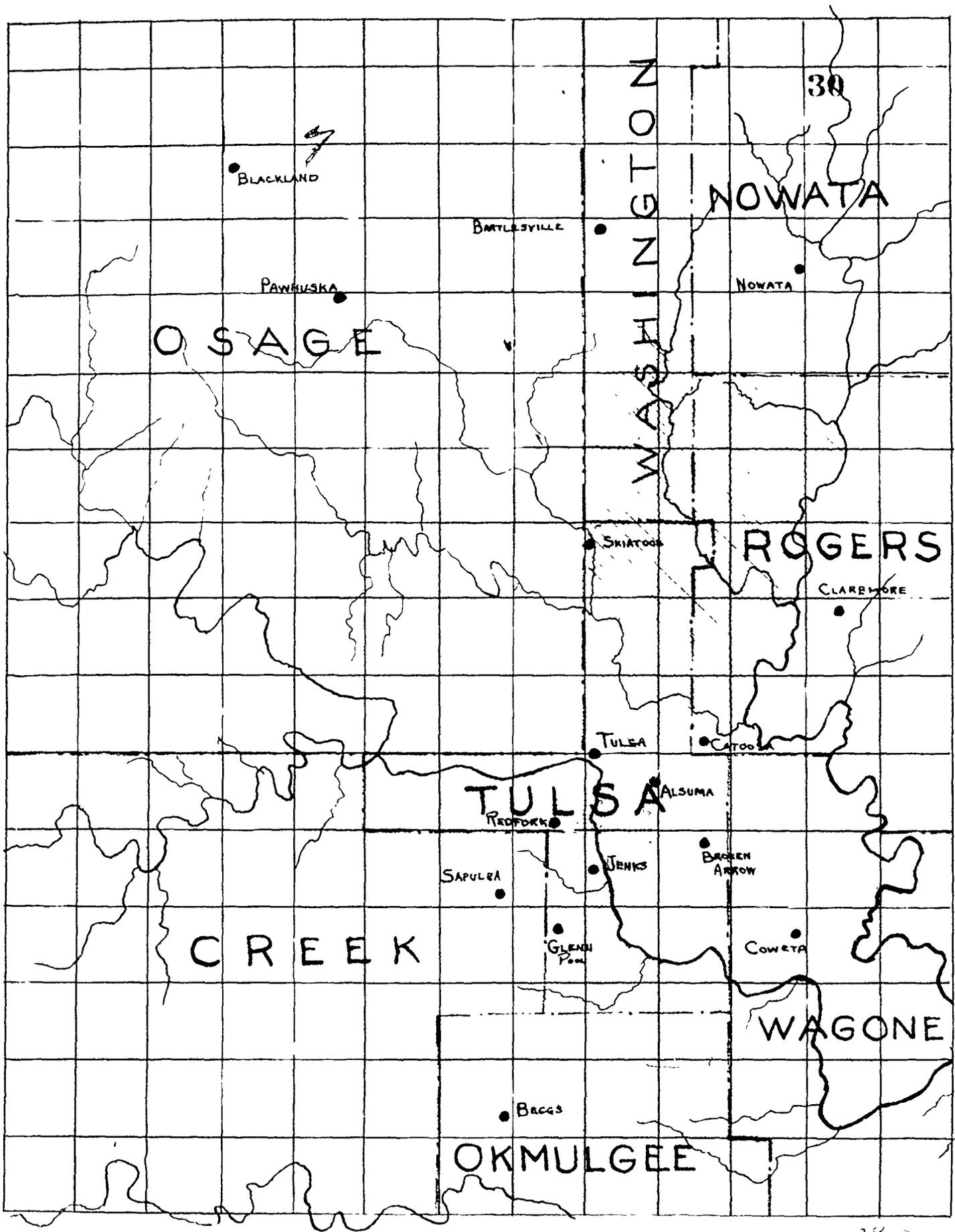
Interviews with the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
(A). Lon Stansberry -----	423 East St.
(B). Lee Clinton -----	714 McBirney Bldg.
(C). Dr. Fred S. Clinton----	2146 South Cinn.
(D). R. H. (Bob) Hughes-----	706 Thompson Bldg.
(E). W. M. (Rusty) Thompson-	1504 Thompson Bldg.
(F). Ray B. Thompson -----	1502 Thompson Bldg.
(G). Bill McCullough -----	1748 W. 37th St.
(H). W. Frank Jones -----	225 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Rosedale
(I). Mrs. R. M. Hoots -----	1738 South Wheeling
(J). Arthur Antle -----	1628 North Cheyenne
(K). Arthur C. Perryman ----	407 East 14th Place
(L). Daisy Perryman -----	407 East 14th Place
(M). Mrs. Jay Forsythe -----	4 South Victor
(N). Carrie Forsythe Brown--	4 South Victor
(O). Mrs. H. C. Calhoun ----	724 S. Denver
(P). Ernest Archer -----	2704 N. Boston

LEGEND FOR "EARLY AND LATER DAY RANCHES" STORY

#5951 by Effie S. Jackson

	Chapman-Barnard
	Daugherty
	Crane-Laimer
	Thompson Bros.
	Mashed O (O)
	Spike S (S)
	Appleby
	Clinton (Red Fork)
	Three D (3-D)
	Geo. Perryman
	Yeargin
	Mose Perryman
	Pierce Forsythe
	Miller IX
	Clinton (S) (S)



EARLY AND LATER DAY RANCHES

(In Vicinity of Tulsa).

EARLY DAY RANCHES

(In the Tulsa Area)

MASHED -O RANCH

(A) (G) (J) (P)

In 1880 the late W. R. Halsell, then a young man of 31 years, who had married a Cherokee citizen, started the Mashed-O ranch - that was its brand. This became one of the largest ranches in the Indian Territory - and is today the oldest ranch in klahoma, handling large herds of cattle. Those were the days of open range and exact locations cannot be given- possession nine points of the law. This ranch lay 8 miles northeast of Tulsa- its southern line was Bird Creek (including part of what is Mohawk Park today); eastern line, the Verdigris river; as far north as Bartlesville (in fact his heras ranged to the Kansas line) and west to the Osage line.

In 1880 Mr. Halsell drove the first herd of cattle from Texas, 4500 head. Crossed the Arkansas at Muskogee, came north by Coweta - Creek settlement. Here he met some tribal difficulty, thousands of lanky long-horn cattle were an innovation not welcomed by the easy going Creek settlement. Only through the personal ap-

-2-

pearance and influence of George Perryman, a leading Creek citizen, was permission granted to take the cattle to their new range, the Mashed - ranch. In years to come as many as 30,000 head of cattle roamed this range. Forty-five hundred cattle rounded up and brought (1891) to Tulsa for shipment marked the greatest bunch ever shipped at one time from a ranch in Oklahoma. Ranch headquarters were just across Bird creek from the present site of Mohawk Park, with side camps at various places. Jim Crutchfield, a Cherokee, was range boss during the 90's with 55 men under him - 600 head of horses used on this ranch - two men kept busy breaking bronchoes for cow ponies. Burney Richardson was ranch foreman for 20 years. Six hundred tons of hay per year put up.

Spring always brought the "round-up". Word was sent out to the other nearby ranches that the Mashed- would start out on a general round-up day 1. Saddle horses were brought in from the pasture where they had been all winter. The camp cook would scrub out the old chuck box, which was on the hind end of the wagon, a barrel was located on the side for drinking water. The old Dutch oven was scoured up, knives, forks and spoons rubbed in the

-3-

sand, pigeon holes in the old chuck box given a new supply of salt, soda and pepper. The wagon loaded with large sides of bacon, flour, potatoes, beans, coffee, sugar, molasses and a few air-tights.

Cowboys came from all the other large ranches. Each ranch sent a man with a wagon: the Three-D, Appleby, Yeargin, Crane and Laimer men from the west; the Daugherty, Forsythe, Ferryman and Kahler men from the south. Each man with from 8 to 10 horses in his string, which in turn was handed over to the horse wrangler and thrown in with the remuda. The camp bed for each man was rolled up and put in the wagon. Four mules hitched to each wagon, remuda brought up and each man roped his horse for the day. The cook mounted the high seat on the chuck wagon, the range boss called "let's go", and the Washed-O wagon was off on another one of its annual round-ups.

First camp was always made on the head of Lingo creek, where Miller's lake is now located (about 10 miles southeast of Pulse). The chuck wagon went ahead, made camp and had supper ready for the hungry bunch of cowboys. A fresh beef had been killed and they were given their first meal of real old "son-of-a-gun" fried steak,

-4-

"frijole" beans and dutch-oven biscuits. After supper bed rolls were brought out and spread on the ground where the boys slept under the open sky. The chuck wagon and ground became the home of the cowboys for the next two or three months. Cowboys of those days worked hard, played hard and when they made a town spent all their summer wages in one night and did not bat an eye.

Some of the boys who worked on the Mashed-O forty years ago were; James Crutchfield, range boss; Bob Thornton, Wilford Frost, George Houston and Burt Swift, as Lon Stansberry remembers him "so long and slim he looked like a dried herring, but could rope and ride the 'salty one'." Col. C. B. Lynch was book-keeper. Halsell's son, Ewing, who has been manager of the ranch for the last 30 years and is now owner, received his training years ago as a cowboy with 10 horses on his string- a member of the round-up- a full ranch hand. Any fellow who could ride a broncho, shoot straight, rope and brand a steer, it was not long until he had a nickname and was a regular cow-hand.

January 1886, the year of the blizzard, the worst the Indian Territory ever knew, marked the greatest

calamity ever felt by ranch-owners. The losses put many of them out of business. The Mashed-O lost 3,000 head.

-5-

The next greatest loss was the Crane and Laimor ranches on Delaware creek- 1500 left of a herd of 4,000.

Land allotment to the Indians, barb wire and fences, and the open range was gone. Hard for old cowmen who were used to open range. Halsell saw what was going to happen and started buying land all around his own ranch and soon had 7,000 acres in his own name and leases on all the restricted land he could not buy. This left him with a large enough range to handle a big bunch of cattle each year. Halsell spent a great deal of his time out on the ranch, although his house was in Vinita, but he was from Texas and liked the out-door life. Mr. Stansberry recalls him as he would ride over the ranch in his big Hynes, side-spring ranch buggy. In later years he turned the ranch over to his son, Ewing, who has made a success of the cattle business and has kept the Mashed-O brand on the same ranch for 57 years. It is Tulsa's only ranch of the early day that is still handling cattle on a sarge scale.

THE THREE - D RANCH

(A) (G) (H) (J)

In 1888 it was decided the surplus lands assigned to the U. S. by the Creeks and Seminoles, known as the Oklahoma country, would be opened for settlement in the spring

-6-

of 1889. The cattlemen located in this territory were therefore ordered off and had to find other ranges. The Cherokee strip was over-crowded. The Osage seemed the best outlet.

Tom Wagoner of Texas, who had cattle in both the Cherokee strip and the lands to be opened for settlement, made a deal with A.W. Hoots, an inter-married Osage, for grazing rights on 60,000 acres of grass land. In the spring of 1889, he drove 15,000 head of cattle from the Otoe reservation, swimming them across the Arkansas river near Cleveland to his new lease -the Three-D ranch (brand-3-D).

This ranch was located thirty miles north and west from the present city of Tulsa. Its eastern boundary was Wild Cat Hill- west of Sperry (17 miles north of Tulsa), the north line began on the Lewis Rogers' pasture near Avant and ran west to Hominy (an old trading post at that time), the south and west line to the Arkansas river.

The Osage tribe received three cents per acre for grazing land and it was paid to the Indian Agent at Pawhuska by the Indians or inter-married Osages who had the right to fence grass land in the Osage Nation. A. W. Hoots paid three cents per acre for the 60,000 acres he had fenced (known as the 3-D ranch), then subleased it. Other ranches located on Hominy creek were the Lew Appleby at Hominy Falls, north of the Green

-7-

Yeargin ranch, which had its headquarters at what is today Sperry. A. W. Hoots and Green Yeargin had married Lew Appleby's daughters, Osages. These ranches covered about 50,000 acres and employed 20 cowboys. Salt licks every mile or so, half barrel of salt, replenished by the "salt boy" of each ranch. Ranch house - double log type - center opening.

Some of the cowboys of 3-D ranch were: Bill Blade, alias Tulsa Jack, Jim Stone, Lee Youngblood and Bill Doolin (before he became an outlaw). Some of the cowboys who made the round-up were: A. F. Antle, range boss, Henry Price, Joe Price, from the Crane and Laimer pasture; Tuck Penalty from the Halsell ranch; Bill McCullough and Taneha Brown for Jay Forsythe; Jim Wooley for Shanghai Pierce and Jim Fouts for the Daugherty ranch.

About 1900 this ranch was broken up into smaller grazing areas and later the advent of oil left only scattered areas fit for grazing.

C R A N E A N D L A I M E R R A N C H

(A) (B) (H) (J) (O)

In 1883 Crane and Laimer, who lived at Independence, Kansas, had thousands of cattle on the open range to fatten and ship to market. Homesteaders and farmers were fast encroaching and cattlemen had to seek greener lands. Since the

-8-

Frisco railroad had been built into Tulsa (1882)- and therefore provided shipping facilities, Crane and Laimer went to Pawhuska and made a lease with the Osage Chief and Council for 100,000 acres of grazing land. The lease was approved by the Secretary of the Interior and called for a rental of three cents per acre.

Their land started at the corner of the Creek, Osage and Cherokee Nations. It ran west along the Creek Nation line to about three miles beyond the present Sand Springs, north through the Osage, joining the 3-D ranch on the west at Wild Cat Hill (west of Sperry), east along the Green Yeargin pasture to the Cherokee line and along the Osage and Cherokee line to point of beginning.

They fenced the big tract of land which they called the Crane and Laimer pasture and built their two-story ranch house and headquarters on Flat Rock creek three miles north of Tulsa. (Fieldworker visited this ranch house 5-24-37, and found it in an excellent state of preservation. It is two-stories high, frontage about 30ft., main body of the house about 20 ft. in depth with the additional long combination kitchen and dining room 15 by 30 ft. and one story high. The lower floor has one large living room, a bedroom, and kitchen, already described. All rooms are plastered.

-9-

The upstairs is one long large room, originally a bunk room. House fronts the south, a strong but worn porch across the entire front offers protection. Rough weatherbeaten 9 in. boards, sealed, enclose the building. Flat rocks compactly placed, no mortar offer a good foundation. It is unpainted. (Dr. Sam G. Kennedy owns the 160 acres and subleases it).

Line riders would leave the headquarters ranch every morning, ride the south line and then go west until he met the boy from the side camp who would be riding the west line, then back by the ranch house. Then ride the north, and east line until they met again, miles from their morning meeting place. It was their duty to repair breaks in the fences and be on the lookout for cattle rustlers. For many years after the fences were taken down these line riders' trails were plainly visible. They were always about six or eight feet from the fence, and worn deep from the daily rides throughout the years.

Crane and Laimer seldom put up hay on this ranch but wintered their cattle on Delaware creek, This creek has two prongs and the canyons made a well sheltered place to keep cattle during cold weather.

The blizzard (already referred to in the story of the Mashed-O ranch) cut so deeply into the herds of this ranch that the size of the ranch became smaller and the herds fewer.

-10-

Crane and Laimer went out of the ranching business. Like the 3-D ranch, scattered grazing areas gave way to oil development. Pumping wells dot this vast area today. The southeast corner is an exclusive residence district of Tulsa with out-lying well-developed suburban additions.

G E O R G E P E R R Y M A N R A N C H

(A) (B) (D) (G) (K) (L) (N)

In 1882 George Perryman, brother of Legus Perryman, (one of the leaders of the Creek Nation, later a chief), got permission from the Creek Council to fence in a certain described area, paying three cents per acre rental. This was to be a strip ten miles wide (east and west), starting at the Osage, Cherokee, Creek corner, to follow the Cherokee line ten miles east, then about 12 miles south (where Broken Arrow is today), then west to the Arkansas river, north to point of beginning. The fence skipped the corner where the village of Tulsa was, starting from the stock-yards (then at Lewis and Frisco tracks). Later Perryman extended his holdings east to the Verdigris.

Perryman subleased the major part of his holdings, to J. M. Daugherty and Pierce and Forsythe. He retained the area south of Tulsa, from what is now 21st St. to about what is 81st street west to the Arkansas river, east to Lewis Avenue (today).

-11-

On 34th street (today), about half way between Lewis and Peoria Ave. was the "Old Log House", old type big double log, center opening, ranch headquarters, easily housed 15 cowboys. This was built in the 70's and has been torn down. This was the location of the Tulsa's first postoffice, when the Star Mail route from Muskogee was established in 1878, at George Perryman's home.

"The White House", famous as the most pretentious home in this part of the country in early days, was built in 1884. It is located on 41st street about half way between Lewis and Peoria Avenues (a special report to be made). George Perryman's daughter, Ella Horner, still lives there. The lumber to build this was hauled overland from Coffeyville Kansas. Later Perryman built another pretentious home, uptown in the center of the block where the Tulsa County Court house now stands.

This Perryman ranch was later divided into allotments for respective members of the family and today these grants have become most exclusive residence sections and small landed estates.

MOSE PERRYMAN RANCH

(B) (D)

In 1883 George Perryman leased the land across the Arkansas river lying between what is today Jenks and Glen Pool.

-12-

This was very fine bottom land. His headquarters were on Coal creek. This later became the allotment of his son, Mose Perryman, and was known by his brand as the Figure 5 ranch (5). The widow of Mose Perryman still lives there today in the old ranch house. Lon Stansberry told me that it had one of the finest springs in the country and that many a time he cooked craw-dad legs in his oatmeal on that spot.

PIERCE - FORSYTHE RANCH

(B) (G) (M) (N)

In 1893 Jay Forsythe (a Texas cattle man) leaded the Hogan pasture of about 10,000 acres (in the bend of the Arkansas, southeast of Bixby), and from George Perryman all pastures between what is today 81st St. on the north to the Arkansas river on the south and west, on the east to the Daugherty ranch. As Bill McCullough (who was their foreman) says, "the Pierce and Forsythe ranch included the Mingo pastures, Hogan pasture, U pasture and Two Circle Bar, practically all the land lying between 81st St. (today) on the north and Broken Arrow on the south.

Shanghai Pierce was a noted Texas cattleman from Galveston and later formed a partnership with Forsythe. Headquarters for this ranch was on Mingo creek, one mile

-13-

east of what is today Alsuma. Jim Wooley was one of the well known foremen of this ranch. They grazed and shipped about 17,000 cattle annually. These all had their road brands. The brand used by Forsythe was the Bar-S-Bar (-S-), he retained the Hogan brand when he leased the Hogan ranch, Bar-H-Bar (-H-). These ranches lasted until allotment of land converted them into rich agricultural districts. Later oil areas and flourishing rural towns changed completely the ranch picture.

CHARLIE CLINTON RANCH

(B) (C) (D) (G)

This ranch known as the Half Circle S (S), was located about one and one-half miles east of the present town of Mounds, extending from about where Kiefer is today to Beggs. The headquarters on Duck Creek. The old ranch house is still there, an old type double log house.

About 1868 Charles Clinton had come as a young man from Georgia to seek his fortune in the land of the west. He went to work for Fred Severs in his store in Okmulgee. Later he married Louise Atkins, a Creek citizen; this gave him the right to take up as much land as he could use. So he took possession of the above described area and started a ranch famed for its blooded stock. Fred Severs was his partner in the undertaking (stocking the ranch), Severs had already established one of the largest ranches in the Okmulgee area.

-14-

The ranch was open range. In the summer the cattle grazed on the prairie between what is now Beggs and Kiefer and in the winter from the Deep Fork on the south to the Arkansas river on the northeast. Lee Clinton says that due emphasis should be given to this fine type of prairie grass-native blue stem, very luxuriant in growth.

Charlie Clinton stocked his ranch with the best breed of cattle and hogs. He was a stock raiser as well as a rancher. He brought in the best Short-horn breed from Missouri, choice Durham bulls, Berkshire and Poland China hogs from Illinois. High grade cattle from this ranch weighed 1300 to 1400 pounds ^{and} topped the market at St. Louis and Chicago. Not only energetic and far-seeing white farmers but progressive Indian and negro farmers benefitted by the importation of this blooded stock. The large ranchers brought in thousands of cattle annually for grazing, fattened these for the market and kept up the routine. But Clinton added the permanent value of stock-breeding to his ranch activities. He also bought fine grades of seed corn from Iowa, raised seed corn and sold it in surrounding territory, adding to agricultural development.

In 1884 Clinton sold his interest to Severs and

-15-

moved into the area east of Red Fork. Red Fork had become a trade center for cattlemen, buying supplies for all the nearby ranches. As the husband of a Creek citizen, Mr. Clinton took what land he could use, about 1,000 acres, a strip running west of the Arkansas river two and one-half miles and about one and one-half miles in width, due east from Red Fork to the Arkansas river. There he built a big ten room house, a show place in its day. In recent years it was used as a school house until it was torn down to make way for the present Celia Clinton High School which stands on the spot.

The above described area was fenced in. Lee Clinton gives a good description of the method of enclosing it. The tract abounded in large oak trees and plenty of cedars near the river.

The cedars furnished the posts. Oak logs were taken to a nearby saw mill and converted into planks about 16 ft. long, 8 inches wide and one inch thick. Holes were bored through the posts, then the planks were well bound to these posts with heavy wire. The planks soon became as hard as rocks. These planks were in turn combined with rails and heavy wire to make a "rock-of-ages" fence.

-16-

Charlie Clinton died in 1888. His widow and three sons, Fred (now Dr. Fred S.), Lee and Paul carried on his agricultural and stockraising plan on the Red Fork ranch. They made a specialty of raising and selling high-grade seed corn. In 1899, the respective members of the Clinton and Atkins families took their allotments from that strip and kept it intact. Some of it is still in possession of the Clinton family but most of it has become valuable townsite and suburban additions. Dr. Fred Clinton and Dr. Bland brought in the first oil well in the Indian Territory (1901) on a lease adjoining the Clinton holdings on the northwest. This oil well is still pumping, a shallow and small producer.

SPIKE S RANCH

(B) (D) (G) (H)

The Spike S Ranch, known by its brand (S), lay between what is today Bixby and Beggs. Ranch headquarters were about three miles south of Bixby. This ranch was founded by George Sanger in the 80's. The old ranch house burned down in the 90's and was not rebuilt. Allotments did away with its existence as a ranch. Information about the early history of this ranch seems rather hazy. It is always identified with the Al Jennings fight. Al

-17-

Jennings and his gang after their attempted Chickasha train robbery, fleeing from Ledbetter and his posse took possession of the Spike S ranch house. It was the scene of the fight with Ledbetter.

Sanger made a specialty of breeding fine horses. The Spike S ranch lay southeast of the Clinton ranch and north of the Miller ranch.

MILLER RANCH

(B) (D) (E) (F)

Another early day ranch was the Miller ranch, 15 miles south of the Spike S, between what is now Mounds and Okmulgee. It was known as the IX ranch because of its brand. This ranch was founded in the 80's by old Bluford Miller, a Creek Indian. His daughter, Agnes, married one of the Miller foremen, Eb Hart. This ranch, comprising about 15,000 acres, is well-known today. A modern ranch house has been built about one mile south and slightly west of Bald Hill. Young Bluford Miller and Eb Hart own it. They make a specialty of raising Hereford cattle. This ranch lay south of the old Half Circle S (Clinton) ranch.

-18-

DAUGHERTY RANCH

(A) (B) (E) (G) '

The old J. M. Daugherty ranch played an important role in the early history of Catoosa. It was leased from Legus Perryman, chief of the Creeks, through his brother, George Perryman. The holdings extended from the George Perryman and Forsythe ranches on the west north to the Cherokee line, east to the Verdigris river, south to the Blue Springs ranch near Coweta. The ranch house and headquarters were located about two miles south of Catoosa, near the present intersection of highways 66 and 33. The old ranch house, built in 1890, is still standing (back of the Gallo farm house, present owner of the land).

Part of the Jay Forsythe ranch near Broken Arrow was subleased from Daugherty. In 1894 Daugherty pastured 22,000 head of cattle having 367 different road brands. Allocation of land grants did away with this large ranch. A portion of it later became the Bilby ranch. After statehood Bilby bought up about 15,000 acres from negro allottees, paying ten dollars an acre. This ranch lies in the northwest corner of Wagoner county today, its headquarters five miles southeast of Catoosa. It is owned at the present time by a man named Roberson of Claremore.

-19-

Chief Pleasant Porter had a ranch south of the Arkansas river in the bend near Leonard. He made a specialty of fine horses, even went to Kentucky and brought back good horses for breeding purposes. His son, Bilby Porter, is living in Tulsa (interview later.)

Henry Anderson had an early day ranch in the Osage on Shell creek. The old ranch house was located near where the Shell creek dam is today. This was called the Six-Shooter ranch. It was the Half-way station between Cleveland and Tulsa on the old mail route (1892-3). It is still in the hands of the Anderson family.

PRESENT DAY RANCHES

Chapman - Barnard Ranch

(A) (D) (E) (G)

One of the largest and best known ranches in Oklahoma today is the Chapman-Barnard ranch, 17 miles north of Pawhuska, in Osage county. It contains 100,000 acres and has its own shipping pens, located on the ranch, at Blackland on the Midland Valley railroad.

The ranch is divided up into different pastures and has 16 miles of fence, starting at the south line and running east and west. From these fences the smaller

-20-

pastures are made and they have 250 miles of barbed wire fence, all the posts the same height and on a straight line.

There are the north and south Blackland pastures, the west Redland, the 107, Lehi, East and West Home, John Lee, east Daily and other pastures. Even these smaller pastures will carry 4,000 head of cattle during the summer and send them off to the market sleek and fat when shipping time comes.

This is one ranch the drought doesn't bother as far as water is concerned, as they have Sand, Dog and Buck creeks; and Bird creek also heads on their property. And to keep the cattle from having to walk very far when they get thirsty the owners have built many concrete tanks or ponds, some of them covering from 12 to 14 acres, and from 15 to 30 feet deep. They have their own steam shovel, the kind used for stripping coal, and it doesn't take long to dig out a pond any place they want it. They also have several good springs which never go dry.

There are other good ranches joining the Chapman-Barnard. On the west is the Lowman of 25,000 acres, the Doc Monday with 16,000 acres and the J. L. Borrum with 20,000 acres, where they specialize in purebred Brahma cattle.

-21-

THOMPSON BROTHERS RANCH

(B) (E)

Another large present day ranch in the vicinity of bygone ranches is the Thompson Rancho owned by W. M. and Roy Thompson, Tulsa. Located in the northeast corner of Okmulgee county it comprises 15,000 acres. They specialize in white face cattle, raising 2,500 to 3,000 per year. This ranch was established in 1904. Brand is the Half circle U (U).