

MOODY, R. E.

INTERVIEW

9686

**148**

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Frontier History Project for Oklahoma

MOODY, R. E.

INTERVIEW

9686

Field Worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) January 10 1938

1. Name R. E. Moody

2. Post Office Address Blanchard, Route #2, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 9 Year 1872

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father Eli R. Moody Place of birth Texas

Other information about father Ranchman

7. Name of Mother Margrette Moody Place of birth Texas

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 4

MOODY, R. E.

INTERVIEW

9686

Robert H. Boatman,  
Investigator,  
January 10, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. R. E. Moody,  
R. 2, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born in Texas, September 9, 1872. When only a lad of eighteen I came to the Indian Territory. We traveled in a group of wagons, first, for protection against Indians and second, for our own convenience. As there were over a dozen wagons in this group we were not involved in any surprise raid that other groups had been bothered with. Traveling was slow but game and water were plentiful.

On arrival we first settled on Washita River, near Oakland in the Chickasaw Nation. Oakland has been discontinued and is now Madill. At this time there were no railroads at Madill but the Rock Island Road was built through there two years later, in 1892.

I went to work for Cranshaw and Bolden as a cowpuncher, worked for five years. Being a keen observer of nature, I became educated to plant and animal life as well

MOODY, R. E.

INTERVIEW

9686

- 2 -

as ranch life. Along the fertile banks of the Washita and among the wooded slopes grew almost every variety of grass and plants imaginable. Birds, it seemed, as well as small animals, liked to seek these exclusive spots for elusion from stalking quarries.

My home was a one room log house, painted with lime, chinked and caubed with mud. Our principal food was corn bread and beef. All our beef was killed on the range. Our trading post was Nocona, Texas, about ninety miles away. Nocona was then a small cow town and is still in existence.

The Indian people were a very peculiar race. They never ate bread, nor used forks or knives. Instead of eating at the table they ate sitting up in the middle of their beds.

Indians measured their riches in accordance with their number of ponies. The greater number of ponies one owned, the wealthier he was. If one Indian owned enough ponies his family didn't have to work, but if one did not have very many ponies, his wife and children worked in the

MOODY, R. E.

INTERVIEW

9686

- 3 -

fields, raising corn, and he rode and hunted meat for his family. The Indians lived very well during hunting seasons and starved through seasons when wild fruit, plants and game were not plentiful. They have been known in some cases to eat terrapins and grasshoppers. Most of the people lived in dugouts.

Of all the Indians the Comanches were probably the most treacherous. The people were continually on their guard against them. Each morning and evening at six o'clock there was a cannon fired at old Fort Sill. The Comanches would kill beef and quarter it before taking it into camp. They would strip the entrails from the carcass and eat and chew on them. Fisher and Black Crow were chiefs of the Comanche Squad. Fisher was one-half Indian and one-half Mexican. The Comanche Indians lived in squads, anywhere from 100 to 200 in a squad. They were very hostile to each other. Fisher and a young boy of the tribe were personal friends of mine. Night after night this boy and I have kept watch so as to warn the tribe of an attack from other Indians. The young Indian tried to teach me their language

MOODY, R. E.

INTERVIEW

9686

- 4 -

but somehow was never successful.

I now live in McClain County, some seven miles south-east of Blanchard.