

NAVE, JOHN CALVIN. SECOND INTERVIEW.

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James S. Buchanan,  
Investigator.  
February 12, 1938.

Interview with John Calvin Nave.  
212 South Main Street.  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Grass Root Silver Mine.

As I stated in my original story, I went to work at the Grass Root Silver Mine when I was about seventeen years of age and due to the fact that pay day was about all I looked forward to in those days, many of the details I have forgotten. These works were located about one mile southeast of the little town of Paola, Oklahoma, then Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory.

The operator of the Grass Root Silver Mine was a white man, but I am unable to recall his name. He established a camp at the place, consisting of one large tent which was used as a mess tent and several smaller tents to accommodate workmen employed at the works. The works were operated as a strip pit, as the vein or sheet of ore varied from the surface to about twelve feet below the surface of the earth as it extended back into the hill. Much of the ore was in small pieces on the surface and in the grass sod, hence the name Grass Root Silver Mine.

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During my time at the mine I was assigned to what was termed pecking ore, for which we used an ordinary hatchet to chip the rock formation from the ore after it was shot loose and broken into pieces. The vein was about one inch to three inches in thickness in a solid sheet, was of a bright steel gray in color and very heavy, and the formation that we would peck from the ore was of a dark color, not very hard and appeared as though it had been burned.

We were paid twenty cents per hundred pounds for cleaning the ore and a half bushel of the clean ore would weigh about 125 pounds.

For some reason I never knew, this mine ceased operation soon after I worked there and was never worked again.

I am sure the old location could be easily located as there were strip pit excavations made which most certainly are yet visible on the south slope of a hill, at that time near a timber glade in the little valley one mile southeast of Paola.