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Field worker: Gertie Goodfox
April 27, 1937

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nelson
Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Mr. Nelson. I was born March 25, 1871. . We left Pittsburg, Kansas, and came to Oklahoma. We came through Pawhuska. There were just the government buildings, the school house, agency and the one store. The first Indian that I saw was there at Pawhuska. I ran back to the wagon as fast as I could go. We came on to Ingalls and reached Ingalls the 25th day of May, 1894, the day of the big shooting. Some outlaws were killed there the day before we got there. I stayed there with some of my folks, then in 1896 I got married. You can talk to my wife, she can tell you more than I can, as she came before the "Strip" was open.

Mrs. Nelson. My father and mother and four of us children left Missouri, before the "Strip" was opened, and came to Old Oklahoma and stayed at Stillwater two years. We farmed the two years we stayed in Stillwater, a place they called Boomer Creek Bottom, one mile east and a mile south of Stillwater. My father, James E Sneed, made the run when the "Strip" was opened. He got his claim, a 160 acre tract. In the spring following the open-

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ing, we moved on the place and lived in a sod house. The first year on the place was pretty fair as we had brought our meat and a few food supplies. We had to break in new ground and didn't raise anything the first year. The second year was pretty hard; we had hard times then as we had no luck with our crops and we just got by.

The fall of '94 I attended school in a tent. The tent school was south of our place on Charley Foreman's place. Our teacher was Agnes Olson. The spring of '95 they built a log school house, and I attended there one term. The floor was made of sod, and the boys used to kick their feet in the dirt and raise a lot of dust in the school room.

We hardly ever went to town, I don't remember of us coming to town. My father did all the buying for us, and then he went to Perry to do all his trading. Pawnee wasn't much of a town, so he always went to Perry.

In 1896 Sam and I were married. Brother Sapp, a preacher who used to preach out there in the country, married us at his house. We lived with Sam's folks one year and then we moved to ourselves and started in farming. Later moved to town and have been living here in Pawnee since.

Mr. Nelson said that his father made the run here in

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town and got him a lot. He staked a lot where the Masonic Temple now stands, but was dissatisfied with it, so he left the next morning after camping there just the one night. He went on to Texas, and gave up his lot.

Mrs. Nelson was born, Ada Sneed February 24, 1880, she married Mr. Sam Nelson in 1896. They have lived here in Pawnee, and Mrs. Nelson has been doing Family washing for the Indians and whites. They, the Sneeds still own the place that their father got in the run.