

MEERS, OKLAHOMA

Trip of 1939, Dec. 9-11.

At the Meers store and P. O., S. J. Huddleston is P.M., and there I met _____ Rhodes and _____ Gaines (?) in a car. The latter thought Bruce had died recently, and said the meteorites had been found on Tarbone Mt., which lies just W or SW of there. Rhodes recommended I see his f-in-law, Dr. Rowell, $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. N., just across from schoolhouse, where Rhodes teaches. They also said I should see Lucius Long, 1 N and 1 W, on whose cattle ranch they seemed to think Bruce had perhaps lived for a while--remains of shack or camp might still be there. Finally, the recommended Joe Sherrill, a prospector who lived to the south, but I was to see Charlie Morrison, 4 sections E, 1 S and $\frac{1}{4}$ E across bridge, (1st house N of road, white), who could take me to Sherrill's. Baker's Peak is far away, near the Kiowa County line.

Mrs. Long knew all about Bruce and thought her husband would know little. She thought he was still alive, and Ben Ferguson at Cache confirmed this by phone. He is in Lawton, on relief, well dressed; try Salvation Army or City Hall, or poor farm. Mrs. Long recommended Mrs. W. A. Penick, E of Medicine Park on S. side highway, stone house (an entirely shingled house is just W of it); this location bt. country road from the N and the store. Also try Anna L. Kirk, boarding house prop. at Rush Springs, who was prob. postmistress in 1913 at Meers. Bruce never lived on the Long place.

Rowell recommended Charlie McDaniel or brother Homer, who live on farm of Inks about 6 miles out of Lawton on S side of military reservation. From Inks at Lawton I found directions to be W 3 on Cache road, N 2 to reservation, E $\frac{1}{2}$ (Homer McD.). Rowell said Bruce lived on the road from Meers towards Cache: go S. from Meers across Blue Beaver Creek, thru a strip of the Forest Reserve then out of it, and then about where you cross a cattle guard is the place where Bruce lived, to the west, for some time, and probably in 1913. This location is S. of Mt. Sheridan.

Bruce lived within the Forest or Biological Reserve, on Sulphur Flats according to _____ Dean and Ernest J. Greenwalt, Supt. of Park Hdqrs., who said his old shack had been cleaned up and Bruce put out of the reservation. They offered to take me to site of old shack but said any rocks there probably scattered.

At Cache Mr. S. B. (?) Ray in ffd store recalled Bruce bringing in several very heavy pieces (one 15 lbs., one 9 lbs.?) 1 or $1\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. ago; they were so heavy they won bets on them with a truckdriver, and Bruce was very solicitous about them while they were left at the store, returning frequently to check them. They were weighed on the scales there.

At Lawton a Mr. Bruce whose daughter lives in Neely's Gro. Apts., 1008 4th, is the wrong man, tho I didn't see him. My man had lived in the very poor quarters in the SW part of town last spring, where, with the aid of R. W. "Rich" Plummer of 306 Summit, ph. 2579, we found several people who knew all about him at that time; but he left there when he went to visit in New Mexico several months ago. Relief files show he visited a lawyer in Roswell. Since returning, just this past week, he has apparently stayed in the east part of town, near a very poor "tourist camp" on about C St., or more probably at Santa Fe camps E of town, where I found a little boy who said Bruce had stayed at "Mother's". This turned out to be Mary Bias (Mary C. Bias), who claimed to have nursed Bruce back to health once, in a very dirty shack in an alley just S of C. St. (?). At times Bruce stayed at Evans' Rooming House, in this neighborhood.

Mary said Bruce had just returned Thursday and had gone to Cache to a funeral of _____ Keith, but no such funeral was known there and we did not find him at Craterville Park nor at a pal of his near the S entrance gate to the forest reserve; P. M. at Cache hadnot seen him.

Next morning I phoned Indiahoma and Bruce had been there Sat. but could not be located, not even at _____ Isom's, a sort of rock collector or prospector in the edge of the hills near there. He used to be at the Townsend Club in Lawton, and _____ Spencer of 505 B St. said Bruce hangs around AB Drug Co., 4th and D. Terminal Cafe man recommended asking Harry Miller and Jim Stevens.

I sent a letter to Bruce, Gen. Del, Lawton.