

MEASURE SUBJECT MATTER

DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

- 08 Born 7 miles from Newton, Iowa - father was hog-raiser.
- 10 One of earliest experiences was to haul hogs to Newton, Iowa. He met a Mr. Maytag, a blacksmith. He tightened the tires on my wagon.
- 14 When my sister graduated from high school, Mother talked father into moving near a university so she could educate her children. We moved 1½ miles east of Norman, Oklahoma. 2 went through college, the other son joined the army.
- 17 I graduated from O.U. As soon as I moved into O.U. (see also 119) I was made asst. professor in charge of a lab. (This section is not clear:) I was in charge of handling foreigners. In those days they were hard to handle and rough.
- 24 Before I graduated from O.U. Charlie Burk came to Norman looking for a young engineer to help him in a big lawsuit. (See 197) Standard Oil of New Jersey was suing everyone enforcing the Sibble patent for extracting of gasoline from gas by the absorption process. The next several years I spent a lot of time and I always thought I had a lot to do with breaking the patent which was a great thing for the oil business.
33. I was 14 when we moved to Norman. Oklahoma was just made a state. On the north side of Main Streets were saloons and houses of prostitution. Theoretically, they had been closed up but the cowboys still came to town on Saturday and would leave shooting. As it is today, we had the asylum on one end, the university on the other end of Main.
- 43 All my life, one of my sayings has been I would have been really rich if I had been willing to work since I had so many people help me over the years.
- 45 One of my first acquaintances in Norman was Mr. Beeson, president of a bank. He introduced me to making money, Wall Street, and the stock market, which I always appreciated. I bought some cotton with him and I always watched over his cotton to see it didn't catch on fire. He bought a lot more but I only had a few dollars to spend. He was always showing me his bank books and how much money he made.
- 51 I knew Mr. Hale. Hardware stores back then were the big things in town, some of the largest.
- 55 Berry & McGinley were the two big grocers in town. Spent most of my time on Sat, with them. They usually hired me. Most groceries came in barrels and the slept in the barrels.

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59	Screens were just introduced, people didn't pay much attention to them though and there were usually holes in them. Flies were everywhere inside. Ceilings in all the houses, especially in bedrooms, were black with fly specks.	
63	OU then was 3 small buildings, 1 burned down when I arrived in Norman at age 14. The library and old science building I believe are still there.	
68	One famous professor was Uncle Buck Buchanan who taught history. "I'm one of the few college graduates who learned something in college. (laugh) I learned the difference between a sprinkle and a rain, which is quite important when you're betting." (laugh) The present administration building was built and it had a long parapet. Apparently we had plenty of time because we used to sit out there on the parapet, especially the tobacco chewers. I didn't chew tobacco. We'd always bet whether it was going to rain or not. If it sprinkled we'd get into some terrible discussions. We called in Uncle Buck to decide for us. He decided as long as you could count the drops on the pavement it was a sprinkle.	
79	Guy Y. Williams, another college professor, used to be a circus clown. In those days, he announced any time he came through the door transom there would be an examination. He was a small wiry fella. It always surprised me that you could have your books and talk to anyone during his quizzes. He came through the transom quite often.	
	Sometimes he brought his bird dog. One of his tricks was he'd call up a student and ask the bird dog what he thought of that person. The bird dog would howl. (This sounds really cute on tape. He enjoys making the dog sound)	
91	Another professor, Haseman (sp?) had been at Seismograph. I helped him run the early explosions out on our farm 1½ miles east. All seismograph explorations were run out there until not many years ago. Gave it up because the town came out there.	
	Haseman taught Physics I and to get by Physics was one of the great hazards at the university. He also let you have your books and talk to everybody. By the time the students had all looked at their books and talked to everyone else they were so confused they'd fail.	
	One time out of 90, I was the only student to make a perfect pass. I always admired how I did it. One of the questions was: you've been out of college three years and your boss says give me the area of this segment of a circle. People drove themselves wild with all the figuring. I wrote down "I'd look in the handbook" and I was the only one he passed.	

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107	In the group of us who graduated from Norman High School everyone was fairly successful. I can think of the chief engineer of American Locomotive and chief engineer of Sun, Paul Barton.	
112	In my talking I always make a lot of fun and I always say we had to walk through the high weeds and it was the odor off of those weeds that shined our braids. (braids)	
116	In summer I used to work with the university yard crew, transplanting trees and things.	
119	Of course, I grew up around there. Dr. Debarr was head of chemical engineering. As soon as I started there, he put me to a job where they were making their gas from casing head which was wild stuff. And they'd have to call the police and it would burn our hands.	
	Being young and cocky I told him I could unload the casing head by myself. He said, brother if you can I'll make you an assistant professor at \$65.00 a month. So from then on I ran the artificial gas pump (my first introduction to combustion and burners).	
127	This thing consisted of a big drum in the ground which of all places it shouldn't have been. It was actuated by a two ton weight I wound up every morning. It had a carburetor and it would suck in air and then propane. The drum turned all the time. I couldn't make the gas have uniform heat so I immediately started working all the bunsen burners and invented a changed oriface so I could keep a blue flame. That was my first experience with burners and I went on from there.	
137	I think successful people that pass through a young man's life are the greatest single force in his life by watching and observing their experiences. Judging by myself, I think every outstanding man in America is looking for someone to take his place and he encourages the young man when he sees the slightest unusual development in the man. The top is not very broad but everybody up there is looking for someone to take his place. He's an old man, including myself. There's been a lot of men, many smaller ones, in my life, but there have been about 12 big pillars in my life.	
163	My first school was a country school in Iowa, a mile each way, I cut across because I ran a trap line. I still trap. Gophers were 10 cents a pair for their front feet. I used to get all of the money I needed catching gophers. During winter, I caught rabbits to keep meat in the family.	
172	Another little trick I had, I believe I'm the only one in the world to do it, and I don't know where I got it, was a humbly bird eradicator from the patches. Bunsen	

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	<p>were serious for mowing machines. They'd sting your horses, making them run away. I had a bunch of half gallon and gallon jugs. I'd fill half full of water and I'd go out in the clover just before sunrise, while foggy. Bumblebees live in holes in the ground. I'd watch them come out and then set a jug of water by the hole, and when they came back they'd go in the jug instead of their holes. In a day or two, I'd have all the bumblebees out of the patch. I charged the farmers for it.</p>	
184	<p>In Iowa, one place I crossed was Skunk Creek and indians would sometimes be camped out there and I'd eat. They ate "collary" hogs. Whites thought the "collary" was bad. I always figured if the indians could eat it, I could. Of course, people can't get hog "collary."</p>	
190	<p>I was on good terms with several of the indian tribes that camped up and down the river.</p>	
192	<p>Came to Oklahoma by chair car - sold possessions before we moved - brought a milk cow, favorite team of horses.</p>	
197	<p>Jobs were scarce. Senior year in college everyone began writing letters hunting for jobs to anyone they could think of. Dr. Debarr called me in his office to see Charlie Burk, who had been a professional revolutionist. He was just back from Mexico with a bandaged forehead. They'd mistaken his forehead for his throat. Starting revolutions in Mexico right after Diaz was common. Diaz had been a dictator for many years.</p> <p>Burk was looking for a young engineer who could use a pipe wrench. Dr. Debarr said he had trouble with me not littering up the "damn place." Burk put me on at \$90.00 a month and we started fighting the Sibble lawsuit. Practically all labs were using the Sibble and they are still used.</p>	
214	<p>Glen Braden, who started ONG, had been superintendent out of Pittsburg and drip gas was terrible. It would go through the lines to people's houses and burn them up. Glen, a very resourceful man, made a drip that worked, took the drip outta there and found a market for the wild gasoline. They would throw it on hogs to kill the lice, and put it in hen houses.</p>	
219	<p>Standard Oil, always on the alert for a dollar, had just imported this Sibble from London who was familiar with the straw gas process for cleaning artificial gas. They sent him down to help Glen invent his drip. The two invented the absorption process. Then Sibble went back to New York City and applied for the patent. Then Glen Braden came out and started Oklahoma Natural Gas.</p>	

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226	In due time, Standard Oil started suing everybody out here for infringement on its patent. Glen decided to fight them and that's where I came in.	
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228	I always thought I had a great deal to do with breaking the patent. For seven years we built plants around the country and interviewed everybody and I discovered my contrary mind was as bright as any of them on earth. I met the brightest everywhere. We built plants in Ohio, California. We'd take depositions here and there from learned engineers.	
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232	One day in Pittsburg, I said to our lawyer where are we going to try this case (this was after five or six years). He said down at that courthouse (you could see it out the window) with Judge Murphy. So I dashed down, asked Judge Murphy "say you've got a big trial coming up." The Judge said "Oh, don't mention that thing. I hate these scientific trials. I don't know who's going to win this thing." I said "Well who <u>IS</u> going to win it?" He said, "whoever shows up with the most experts."	
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238	I called on every institution of learning in the United States, except the christian university. I learned to brag on people and that you can't possibly overdo bragging on people. I'd call on a university and the wind would be blowing rocks as big as your head and I'd say "this is fine, this is nice." I'd finally get down to an old professor of chemistry or mechanics of some kind. It's almost impossible to find something an old professor doesn't know. They know everything. They just aren't much good in applying it. I'd tell him I'd give him \$100.00 a day in expenses (like \$500.00 to \$600.00 now). The money was piling up. We didn't know what to do with it. Everybody was donating to this trial.	
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249	When the case opened, I had 66 experts. Judge Murphy was appalled. He thought they'd mistaken his courtroom for the trial down the street of a woman who murdered her husband. He looked at me and said "you mean those are all your experts?" I said "well that's what you told me." He looked over to Standard Oil and said "well, where are all your experts?" And 3 or 4 drab-looking individuals stood up and he said "well, really, there's no use going on with this trial."	
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255	The trial dragged out for 7 years. We weren't in any hurry you know. We were having a good time.	
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INTERVIEWER: I would ask you what some of the problems were for ONG in the early days but you told me there are no such things as problems, only challenges. So I'd like to ask you what were the challenges of ONG in the early days.

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261	Well I never paid that much attention to my job (laugh). I got laid off every once in a while. Then I'd go up and tell the fella what a mistake he was making and he'd put me back on.	
264	Mr. Braden was a practical man who'd come up along with Standard Oil back around Pittsburg. He laid the first 12" line between Tulsa and Oklahoma City, most of it is still in there.	
270	INTERVIEWER: Did he say why he came to Oklahoma?	
	(laugh) I don't want to put it on tape. He was, what shall I say about him, poor but crooked (laugh).	
273	I'd been at ONG for two weeks, went to Bixby where they were building a small booster plant, picking up gas to pump it in line, on the next Monday. I called on the tele.operator (in those days a very important person in many ways to the boss).	
279	I said to Betty, "I wanta see Glen Braden, the President." She: "Do you work for ONG?" Me: "I'm an old employee, been here two weeks." She: "I doubt if Glen would want to see an employee who'd just been here 2 weeks." Me: "He should, they're making a mistake." She: (startled) "You mean ONG doesn't know how to run their business and you do?" Me: "Well that's the sad thing but that's the way it is." She: "I'm not too sure that Glen shouldn't see you if you know they're making a mistake." Me: "Well I wouldn't be here if they wasn't." She looked at me a long time, made a few remarks, went on in and pretty soon I heard this big booming voice say "send him on in."	
287	I got in, Glen said, "I understand ONG isn't being run to suit you." Me: "It not only don't suit me, it ain't being run right." I told him they were hooking the compressor station up wrong. He said in a big old voice, "send Red Meyers in." Glen says "this young fella tells me you're making a mistake in Bixby." Red, very annoyed, said "What am I doing wrong?" I explained. Everyone could see I was right. Red Meyers came to a terrible end. He lost his job right there. He went and started the negro whorehouse and one of his customers shot him because he wouldn't give her a share.	

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300	We got things straightened out. Had Glen Braden lived, I always thought we'd have owned all the gas companies in the world.	
301	We immediately moved somebody out next door and put me in, put up maps of the United States and we started running lines like we were going to have.	
304	We had a 60" line from Houston to Chicago. No welding in those days. They say, oh you couldn't have done that without welding and I say of course we could have. We riveted. We knew where to get the people. We sent to Bulgaria, could get any number of workers we wanted. No lines were laid though because Glen Braden died.	
312	I worked in every department, became very learned (laughed) because the superintendent would always go to the president. They couldn't lay me off because I knew the president. They'd say now John is smart, but he doesn't fit my department. For one thing, I'd generally suggest we'd lay that fella off (laugh). The Superintendent of the division doesn't particularly like the suggestion of laying him off (laugh).	
320	22 Crawfords in Pittsburg owned ONG. They didn't know what to do with a brother-in-law, so they sent him here. He ran it so poorly, soon we weren't making expenses.	
326	Soon had me going around to convince people to use gas (they'd been going back to oil). So I started making burners on the side.	
328	Started out with the ONG machine shop making them for me but he stopped that. Then had them made around town somewhere - conversion burners for the downtown boilers.	
330	I'd call on the building owner who was using oil and say we'd sell them gas cheaper. They'd say they didn't want anything to do with that gas company" and I'd say, hell we laid off all of those S.O.B. that were bad. I'd guarantee that we were a different company. He'd believe me and say where's the burners and I'd say here they are. In 20 min., they'd be put in.	
	Started making them of cast iron shortly after that and every once in a while we still run into one.	
344	The brother-in-law from Pittsburg would lay me off every once in a while. I'd go up and make a dire prediction and he'd put me back on. He also had a bad liver and I'd get to talking about his liver and he'd be in a better mood and put me back on.	
349	One day he laid me off, went back to New York and was gone for a long time. I was making more on the side than I was working for the company, so I went ahead and got rich.	

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355	There's the story about the PHD professor who came by with his family. An old farmer was standing under the apple tree with a sow and 6 pigs. Just as he came by the farmer started lifting the six pigs up, one by one, to get an apple off the tree. With the professor watching him all the time. The professor hadn't heard of anything like that. The farmer finally, with much grunting and effort, lifted the sow up to get her apple. The professor said that sure is a slow way to feed apples to the hogs and the worn out farmer said "what the hell does time mean to a hog anyway?"	
369	Business grew faster than I could keep up. Old Besom the banker told me sell only to corporations because individuals are poor customers, you just get sold, call on them, and they're dead. I've pretty well stuck to corporations, the bigger they are the better I get along with them.	
377	First major burner - the Bi-Mix. Those days, the gas lines were full of dirt, the burners stopped up a lot. I started just pulling all the burners at ONG, the back of my truck was full of burners to pick or trade - main trouble was dirt. I invented the bi-mix burner, got patent.	
	I now have over 200 "pyramid" patents. We seldom fool around with people breaking patents. When they find out we have over 200 they are scared off because even if they went to the expense of breaking one patent the next would catch them as bad.	
	We never apply for a patent covering all of something new, just part. Then the next year we apply for an improvement and patents are expensive. We spend about \$30,000 a year on them, always have. It keeps people from copying us.	
398	The bi-mix burners fired the chemical plants and refineries of the world for years. No controls in those days. They make a very throaty roar.	
406	Texaco always a progressive refinery and the first to take off with us. First to build a cracking furnace. Tulsa Texaco has some Zink burners.	
412	Seminole field was a great development in history. Started 100 drilling rigs at a signal. I'd sell 15-20 burners per rig. During the boom, people lived in weeds, tents, buildings, and the drilling rigs from fence to fence were beaten down tracks. If you didn't tear a Buick up in a week they'd lay you off. In drilling a well that runs 3-4000 barrels, they'd throw it wide open and every two weeks Prairie Oil and Gas would send you \$3.00 a barrel for every barrel you'd produce.	

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430	During heavy rains, you'd have to pay shotgun toting farmers 30-35¢ to drive your Buick through his fields. We had trucks and horses and wagons. The loaded pipe went down Seminole's main street. There'd be mud holes a block long and curb to curb, 2-3' deep. People standing there would carry you piggy back across the street for 30-35¢ to save your good clothes. Sometimes a horse pulling wagon would die. They'd unhitch him, put on a new horse over him, and go on and pretty soon you couldn't see the dead horse, he'd be trampled down in the mud.	
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450	Seminole was the last boom town. 40 acres full of dance halls and things. Every little bit a building 50' wide, 100' long, full of sewing machines and women making silk shirts for the roughnecks in red or yellow, with their emblems, a nude woman or a mule kicking. 100 women in each building. Their (the roughnecks) "Saturday night uniforms."	
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479	One time at a little gas plant in Oklahoma City I felt the air move, looked up and there was a derrick disappearing about 1/4 a mile away. Men were scurrying away. Every well in Oklahoma City had a master valve about 10' in ground and a stem running off to a hole in the ground 300' away. It burst in flames and the derrick just melted over, like a wilting thing. My watch stopped because the radiant heat wave went through my coat, it also melted the paint on this building.	
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491	Josh Cosdon drilled 22 wells over the present Oklahoma City well with a cable tool. Couldn't get deep enough to hit paysand. On the nice Sundays everyone in Norman came to see what was going on at the well site. The old driller told the college professor that he had been drilling at 2200 feet and drilled into a skeleton. Did he want to see the bones? Pretty soon he came over with a bucket of bones. Headlines all over the world carried the story of the skeleton bones found in Oklahoma City.	
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Time passed, I moved to Norman. I thought I recognized the driller, Charlie Blair. For one thing he shook. (Some of those fellers had been too close to nitroglycerin explosions and they'd shake a little). I said to him, "didn't I see you in Oklahoma City when you found the bones at 2200 feet?" Old Charlie laughed so hard and said "that was a hell of a damn joke I played on them wasn't it?" Today a fella would get thrown in jail for doing something like that.

Oklahoma City had to wait for the rotary rig.

515	We still lived 1½ miles east/when the Mary Sudek (SP?) came in. There came a norther as they called it. It came in and we lived 8 miles away and it got all over our buildings. You could rub your hand on the building and it would be greasy. Also saw Josh Cosden's dry holes in Oklahoma City, also when larger pipes got to Oklahoma City.	
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- 524 Soon after I went with ONG, Glen Braden gave me two twenty dollar bills, sent me to Amarillo to test two gas wells, the only things there. Burt Burnett #1 and Masoden #1. They were thinking about laying a line from there to Chicago. The field had much less pressure than it should according to their rock pressure or water table. Burt Burnett had a man meet me. He was already rich and had taken a wing of Amarillo Hotel, re-done it to suit himself and he lay up there dying.
- Glen Braden had seen these wells open. They all distrusted it due to the low gas pressure. He told me to run the well a week, let it flow open and test it every day. Pressure, gas content, amount of rocks coming out. It was the dead of winter, very, very cold. I'd open it up, go out the next day and some old cowhand had closed it in.
- I bought a piano box, lined with blankets. Got a gas stove, plenty of groceries, moved out to the well. I entertained these cowboys. After they found me, they all came by. Free candy, coffee and cookies. Test it a week, went to show it to Burt Burnett.
- Got off at the 4th floor of the hotel, nurses all in white running around all over, they said Mr. Burnett has been asking about you every day. The cowhands come in and say you've got the well open. He's been worrying about that well blowing open all the time. They tell him you wouldn't let them close it.
- 561 Burt Burnett was laying in bed, first time I'd ever seen a real old fella or pink sheets. His false teeth were out, he was swearing, carrying on, he sure looked wicked to me.
- 567 Another old fella came in. Burnett said to him "when I die, the First National Bank is going to go to hell." This old man never cracked a smile, just looked at Mr. Burnett and said, "well, Burt, you still can be president of it."
- 574 I first had a foundry in Sand Springs make burners and machine them. Then rented the ex-post office where the police station was till recently. (Interviewer: in Sand Springs? No reply) Then bought on South Peoria.
- I could see I was going to grow. I bought this 10 acres w/fence around it. I put a 9' wall around it so the neighbors wouldn't object to me. Barney McEwen owned it. Exchange National Bank gave it to him in lieu of \$10,000 they couldn't pay back in the depression. Exchange was bankrupt. I had accumulated cash.
- One thing I used to do was stand on the streets and buy up teachers checks for 50 to 60¢ on the dollar. They wanted to go back to Arkansas because they thought the shortage of money that was keeping the schools from running would not be for me. The banks were all closed. You could

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go kick on the door and they'd let you in the vault. I had all my money in cash in the vault.

On this 10 acres, a little scabby circus run by McEwen's friend as a hobby. McEwen, in the Brown-Dunkin building in a typical driller office: a beautiful huge desk, with his feet up on it, muddy boots and a big expensive spittoon. He was sitting there, looking as gloomy as hell. The depression was on. I asked him if he wanted to sell. He hollered and said do I ever want to sell! My drillers are about to whip me for not paying them. I'm afraid to go out of my office. They'd beat me to death. Then real quick he hollers CASH!

I paid \$7000, gave me the deed and abstract right there. There was an old scabby lion running loose. Everybody was afraid to catch him. Finally shot him. 72 little ponys, hauled off 22 loads of manure out of the basement, jacked the building up where it had begun to fail.

630 Fella named Fox had started a tree nursery out there. They thought Tulsa would be the size of Chicago in a few days.. We really had the spirit in those days.

633 Barney became fascinated with me. He drove a car as big as my Cadillac now. He'd come by and say "I should never have sold you this for money. I should have taken an interest in your business. I knew all the time I was making a mistake, I just didn't know what it was."

638 Then he tried to sell me 30 acres at 41st and Peoria for \$30,000. I didn't want more land, then or now. My son speaks to me about owning 10,000 acres when I'm against owning land. I don't consider this land.

643 Barney, as anyone with money then, didn't like Roosevelt and their favorite pasttime was tearing him down. Barney said he'd gotten his last free meal when his mother weaned him. He said Roosevelt, that S.O.B, was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, diamonds dripping out of his ears. He never made an honest dime in his life.

654 I rode Socks or Smokey, my favorite horses, a mile to work. It was all unsettled north.

662 I always felt that a manufacturer should have enough money that if the politicians start picking on him he could move. I still do today and could move in a minute. Even with this place here.

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| 667 | I was going to build a 2x4 frame with canvas top. It would have been cool. First put up a building without a roof. Then 10' walls, flat roof w/tar. Leaked quite a bit - sand floors w/cottonwood boards. Men knew where to stand to avoid drips. First had 4 or 5 employees in the basement. | |
| 681 | Then put up a long building north but tore it down. Paid \$22.00 a thousand for knot free #2 lumber. Magnificent building but not fireproof. I kept seeing bad things happen about the building that could burn so I tore it down and put all fireproof buildings up. We now have 5½ acres there and 2½ acres in Skiatook - under a roof. | |
| 688 | I would never put up another magnesium roof - aluminum roof. (He first says magnesium, then aluminum). Where they paint they get tar on the floor, sediment of some kind. They pour gas there and burn it. One day they got a little bit too much (high) of a flame and the roof disappeared. The black smoke was terrible because of the hot tar. We've always been pretty careful about fires since then. | |
| 697 | We now own 27 houses around there from complaining neighbors we bought out. We moved employees in. I used to start rumors if they didn't want to sell to me at a reasonable price that I was moving "niggers" in. | |
| 709 | Company doubles every few years. We sold \$18 million last year, made 2M after taxes. We expect it to double again. | |
| 715 | We manufacture everything we sell in the U.S. here. We do more or less complicated machine work for Europe here. We use lots of chromium and machining chromium is tricky. Lot's of people can't do it. | |
| 720 | We sell all over the world, wherever there is oil. We can't sell to Russia, but our German subsidiary has to sell to Russia because it's operated by the German government and they tell them to. | |
| 729 | Before WWI I had to have a New York office. I got Arthur Moore, still have him, he sells at least half of our burners, then as now. | |
| 733 | The New York office is very important. With airplanes now, he comes back and forth to Tulsa like a street car, as everyone does. We have guests now who fly in from New York in the morning and are home for supper. | |
| 741 | Plant in England with approx 100 people. | |

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	In Paris, we pay \$20,000 a year for the right to rent. They have rent-control. \$200,000 an acre for land on edge of Paris is what the price is for purchase.	
	Frankfort, Germany - we have an assembly plant.	
753	Had Russia for a customer before WWI. Amcord (sp?) Trading Co., which they still have in New York City. Used to sell burners. Sold burners for a boiler in the Kremlin. They ran out of money, as most everyone we deal with runs out of money all over the world. They had just raided China, had trainloads of objects d'art. I don't know that the Russians had actually raided China, but they'd at least made a deal with the factions who did.	
	I offered to take oriental rugs for a car load of burners. Always had a woman interpreter. A Russian never speaks English even if he can because it's considered beneath him. We wouldn't speak Russian either. He flew off the handle, began to scream and rave. The woman interpreter said he was accusing me of trying to bribe him because of the rugs. They are very unpredictable, very emotional, very bright and very capable.	
778	Haven't been to any of my foreign operations and don't want to go.	
786	YMCA INCIDENT: When I first came to Tulsa, roomed at YMCA at 4th near Cincinnati. A wild place, most thieves and young politicians lived there. Walter Reed never could live off his meager pay at ONG. So I loaned him money to buy sandwiches all the time.	YMCA INCIDENT RUNS FROM 786 through 933
	At the Kellyville plant, we loaded casing head gas in ordinary flat black cars. Put asbestos gasket around the top, knocked down with sledge hammer (the lid). As long as it didn't run a stream out of the valve underneath, we could ship it. We'd sell it to P&R, who used it to even up their straight run gas.	
	One day, P&R called, said to send 2 loads of this wild gas to Memphis, their jobbing center. People's cars wouldn't start on the straight-run gas. I told them to send me a letter, not just a phone call, giving me instructions and that they would send a man who knew how to unload it to meet the cars. They sent the letter and two cars arrived in Memphis on Saturday.	
	The loaded cars sat there Saturday and over Sunday into Monday morning. Nearby was a pump station running the overflow of rain water into the river. Also 4 rows of neat, nice-looking negro houses.	

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	On Monday morning, the superintendent of the jobbing center and his negro (everyone had a negro in those days) came down and the car was popping off at 25 lbs. Natives were watching the rainbows of color the gas made. This negro built a coal fire 50' from the cars. He got up on the car, started loosening the manhole. He was having a hard time and everyone insisted there was a lot of hissing. It blew off. Some people said it guysed 200' or at least 25' in the air. All admired the rainbows. It was quiet. Then the biggest explosion in the sky Memphis ever heard. Flattened a block of these negro houses, didn't blow em down, left chimneys standing.	
845	Killed 27 negroes, 5 whites. There was a lawsuit against ONG, all the RR that hauled it, the insurance companies. The directors room at P&R was covered with red plush like a gambling room when I went in. They cross-examined me about the car. There were very few loading rules. It was 0° when I loaded it and then it turned warm in Memphis.	
864	Went to Memphis in a RR car w/woman chaser for entertainment. He'd take a woman from one town to another, drop her off, and pick out another one. He lived in Oklahoma City but I've forgotten his name. I understand his grandson is chasing women now. Everyone rode in special cars then.	
	No one claimed the dead negroes. They were laid out in an upstairs room and covered with canvas sheets. They were mashed flat something terrible.	
	The whites were killed in a bizarre manner. One man at the pumping station was up on a catwalk oiling the flywheel. The big window behind him caved in, threw him over the flywheel. Some fella downtown three miles away was admiring a new suit in a window. The plate glass cracked so much it fell on him and he bled to death. Another fella was opening up a grocery store about a block or two away. It was a store with the door in the corner and a cupola overhead with a bell in it. It fell and mashed him.	
	We had to settle for \$25,000.	
901	The Bureau of Standards in Washington D.C. called and wanted new rules for unloading. I'd used a standard vapor tension ball. Sent Kirk Logan and we had a nice time riding around with the oil companies putting up our expenses. We wrote all the rules for unloading the cars, most of which are still used today. Kirk Logan was pretty high up with the Bureau of Standards.	
918	T. K. Smith in Glenpool loaded a car that blew up in Ardmore, killing 50-60 people. It blew a whole hotel down. So we had added incentive to do our work.	

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| 923 | Finally got down to how to take vapor pressure. 10 people could get and would get 10 different readings. We called someone from Stanford. They didn't do any better. So we offered \$500 to anyone who would invent a vapor tension ball that you could check. | |
| 933 | And this Walter Reed, laying there at the YMCA getting fat eating chocolates owed me \$90.00. I said, "you're so smart, get busy and invent me a vapor tension ball. He gave me a list of some foreign books to buy. He then translated them from German to English. I half way forgot about him because he just laid on that bed day and night eating chocolate. He finally says I've got it. So we went out to the machine shop and we made the Reed Vapor Tension Ball and took it to Kellyville.

We were just about to throw it away. It read 30 lbs. instead of 15 lbs. But it turned out to be the finest vapor tension ball in the world. He paid me my \$90.00 back. I had kept a record of what he owed me written on the wallpaper. He got the \$500.00 for inventing it, no other remuneration. | |
| 957 | One summer when I was going to school in Norman I worked at the Johnson Ranch at Chickasha. Ran cattle. Drove them to OC. Got \$12.00 for a cow and calf. Chuckwagon went with us. We rode mustangs. Just about like riding a barrel. If we didn't break the wind every few days on a mustang we were laid off. Foreman only one permitted to carry a gun. We carried hunting knives. Every night by the chuckwagon fire, we'd run up the fattest calf, shoot it, rip its back and tear out two beef tenders. Sliced thick, laid on fire in coals. It was so thick it would put out the coals next to it. After it got warm, with the blood still dripping out, it was laid on a board by the wagon and we'd all eat with our knives. Ate between 5-6 lbs. of meat a day apiece, largely uncooked. Beans, beans with molasses, or burned beans were also eaten. | |
| 996 | One summer worked with an independent hay baling crew out west of Norman. One fella got bango out every night, sang old cowboy songs. He said everybody that knew me predicted I'd get rich. Years later, this old cowboy, then a Sand Springs plumber, came in to see how much his prophecy had come true. | |
| 1010 | Used to run hay baling crew for asylum. One patient was a politician. Every so many minutes, they gave me little sacks of tobacco, chewing gum, candy. Three sacks for each person. I had to rest them every so many min. He would ask me every rest period if he could speak. He'd get on a bale of hay and make a speech. I used to really watch a huge negro named Blue Gum (their gums were blue for some reason then) out of the corner of my eye. He usually had a pitchfork. I wasn't allowed to carry a gun but I had a club with nails in it. I used to see people with pitchforks. | |

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1035	They had a gate where they searched us every day we came in. Us civilian workers. Every once in a while a woman would get pregnant down in the wild end and we'd get gossiped about and investigated. Gov. Alfalfa Bill came down. I volunteered to take him down to the violent end. I was always volunteering for things. You could get into a lot of excitement volunteering. They seldom let them out of their cages and we interviewed them. The first in a cage said "I'm Geo. Washington." Alfalfa Bill said "I'm glad to meet you Mr. Washington." The second man in the next cage said "I'm Jesus Christ." One down 3 or 4 aisles hollered out, "don't believe that S.O.B., I'm Jesus Christ!" The next guy was making gestures with his hands. Alfalfa said what are you doing? He said I'm throwing bugs off. Alfalfa jumped back and said don't throw 'em on me.	
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1071	We used to eat at Deluxe Restaurant here in Tulsa where I always claimed the cockroaches were so big they'd step on the end of your saucer and upset it. I was exaggerating a little, but not much.	
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1074	I saw the flu in which everything in town was shut down. Only one restaurant was open to eat at, with the shades completely drawn. If anyone died you had to bury them yourself in the cemetery.	
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1084	Nell Gwin, the greatest Protestant whore for Charles V that ever lived. She used to practice with other men before taking on Charles V. She wanted to be perfect. She always drove the finest set of horses in the city of London. If anyone got in her way, she'd stand up, crack the whip, and say make way for Nell Gwin, the finest whore that ever lived. She caught syphilis, was dying, and the head of the church of England didn't want her to go to hell. She was never converted. She said she'd never sinned, just brought pleasure to man. She didn't see any harm in making people happy. Just as she died he (the minister) poured on the graces and she was saved.	
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	I thought that was a joke but I had a similar experience during the flu. Leo Gordon had a machine shop sales room on 1st. His wife ran it, good businesswoman. Salesmen, all the people, were dying right and left. One day a fella came in the room and said I want to be a salesman. She told him all right, go to Drumright and call on this customer. In the afternoon, he came in clutching his throat, staggering, and fell to the floor, dying. Bobby Gordon, the wife, said I didn't want him to die and I didn't know if he was a Christian. She was a fine Christian lady. She took him to St. Johns Hospital. Asked the head nurse if he could be saved. The nurse said no, he was dying. Then she asked for the priest, who was in the basement working on the boiler. Brought the priest up, he took one look at the fella, set up candles and did some mumbling. The fella died. Bobby says did we save him? The priest pulled up his eye lids, looked, and said yes, we saved him. So I guess it can be done (laugh).	
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MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)
1149	<p>RACE RIOT - I lived at the YMCA, kept a company car in front which was against the law but I didn't pay any attention. I figured they were for other people (laws). I had a few run ins with the police that taught me that their regulations weren't just for other people. But in general the police didn't bother me. I knew them all and gave them presents.</p> <p>I always slept nude in front of the window during the winter. Walter Reed carried on bets about me all winter and won some money about me not having to pull up the covers.</p> <p>Once we heard shooting, screaming, shouts of kill the god damn whites. Bullets were coming in windows, cars were dashing by. We jumped in our car and saw several cars of negroes in open top cars. Nobody had hard top cars. It was almost considered immoral. It would have been for a man of consequence to drive anything but an open top car. The negroes were riding around shooting wild, not hitting anyone, and shouting. The whites started driving around in their cars, chased them back to the street east of the Hotel Tulsa. Got back to the box cars, stood their ground, and the fighting started.</p> <p>A fella came in from Kansas City, might have been a PhD, he heard all the shooting, ran out and a bullet hit him and killed him.</p> <p>The old trusted janitor at Skelly Oil finished at midnight, walked outside to go home to his loving wife, and when he stepped out on 4th Street a bullet hit him and killed him.</p> <p>When daylight was breaking, the machinists down there had rifles, they drove the negroes back to negro town and set it afire. 1/2 of negro town was on fire, whites were down there looting. A bunch of young blacks holed up in a church, with rifles. No whites wanted to go near. Called out the national guard. Got there about 9:00 am, they unloaded their machine guns 1-2 blocks away. I remember the wooden church flying to splinters from shots. All the negroes ran out unhurt. I never understood how it didn't kill them. I was riding around town turning off meters and once in a while bullets would whiz by.</p>	<p>Machinists always carried rifles by their machines. Some still do.</p>
1230	<p>In front of 1 burning negro house, a white haired negro woman, very old was sitting on a truck shouting "oh lordy, oh lordy, oh lordy." When she quieted, I asked if she was hurt. She said no, she didn't intend to be and shouted again, over and over, oh lordy, oh hordy, oh lordy.</p>	

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- 1238 I drove to Santa Fe and Peoria - saw from street to street black columns of negroes. The National Guard started rounding them up for some reason. Put them in McNutty Ball Park at 11th and Midland Valley RR. There's a store there now. If they had good clothes on they made them take them off and give to the whites. The ball park was full of negroes, dressed, half dressed, and undressed. I tell you people are queer lookn if you've ever seen them undressed. They don't look like God's special animal.
- 1256 27 negroes, 5 whites died finally. Riot didn't start from anything important. Just a bunch of wild people. A negro man was carrying a box on his shoulder in the elevator of the Mayo Building. The elevator started and he lurched into a white woman and she screamed. I don't think anyone knows for sure what started it.
- 1279 When I was new to Tulsa, I thought every young man should know important men. I made a list of 23 or 24 most important men in Tulsa, a town of 40,000 then. I'd go visit each one on Sunday in his office. One of the most unusual things I ever did I think. Every important man in the world will see a young fella who calls on him showing an interest. Every single one offered me a job.
- 1289 Charles Page - I called on him, the owner of Sand Springs, a terrible rich man. He fascinated me. Had colony of widows in houses down in the valley. On Saturday I'd go with Charlie. He owned everything, bank, paper, etc. He had big table, had feet up, big hat and big cigar. Looked the politician. 20 chairs around the table, people to see him. $\frac{1}{2}$ of them were widows. Any widow could see him any time if she had a need, even for \$1 or \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$ for groceries, etc.
- Some fella from Cleveland wanted to build a 2200 barrel refinery with Charlie, it was built, they got in an argument, and Charlie tore it down.
- Charlie came to work at 11 on Sat., home at 3 to eat, married his mistress. (Red, my nickname, a good asset, easy to remember). He says, Red, what are you doing here? I said, I just came over to see you Mr. Page. I consider you a very wonderful man. He said "Oh, come go to lunch with me. I haven't had anything pleasant happen to me in weeks." On the way home he says to me "now say these nice things to me all through lunch." I did.

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DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

- 1347 Every other Saturday, I'd eat with him. He hired me. He had Jitney Oil Co. Everyone that worked for him was rich. His bookkeeper named Satan (because he cussed and swore a lot, a common nickname in those days). He used to take me home to eat to see about my visit with Charlie. He said he'd had 5 wives. Caught the first with the iceman (common in those days), the second would go out in the hog pen and she got heavy with child and the hogs ate her. He finally got a faithful one at the 5th time.
- He had an interurban running to Tulsa. Pierce Pelett refinery in Sand Springs made him \$1000 a day, had an oil company that made 3-4000 barrels a day at \$3.00 a barrel.
- Various department heads met on Saturday to tell him how much he'd made that week. They'd total it and then go home for lunch.
- 1396 Remember Chestnut of Chestnut and Smith, plumbers. Smith had scabs all over him. We had 2 drinking dippers for 1000 men and if he drank out of the dipper, someone would catch it and throw it away. No one questioned him since he was rich. Chestnut was elegant from the East - all of the oil men were from the east back then.
- 1453 Mr. Bill Skelly was a queer character - in 4-5 endeavors he made a success and any one of them would have made him famous. He died without a will almost.
- I shot a picture show with Mr. Skelly, Fern King, Mrs. Smith from Ada. The fourth fella had backed out. The show was already filming. I stepped in. Done on Gene Mullendore's land. Skelly wanted a nice sweet family love and kisses show. Lady from Ada had nightclub and a special pistol made for under her left bosom. She always whipped it out to show how fast she could draw - producer was trying to have an affair with her daughter. She was pushing her daughter into picture shows. We had indians so wild Fred Carroll could handle them and he was the only one who could. My truck was available and Fred would gather them up and lash them inside the truck.

End of Side 1 Right, Tape 1

BEGINNING OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2 Right

- 01 Always whisky floating around. Gene Mullendore had 500 plus wild horses he'd bought off the government that the government decided not to take in WWII. We had a scene with 10,000 cows. We couldn't get these horses to run over the covered wagon for the movie. We put a hero (Buck Jones) in the wagon. Then we ran the movie across

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in front of the wagon, sent horses through again, tripping them over the rope, and into wagon. A mule in the middle of the horses fell end over end, going right by me and 2 visitors from New York. Every night at 4:00 PM we'd knock off, go to the ranch and get drunk.

Johnny Lee Wills and band were there, went to Oklahoma City every night to play at a dance hall or something and I'd have to pass on whether he was too drunk to drive or not. I was the only one he'd trust.

Mrs. Smith and Skelly got to fighting so much they couldn't get along. Came here to shoot at my old cabins. Put a not quite sober Johnny Lee Wills in a cabin, soaked with kerosene, set a fire, told him not to come out until filming finished. He'd holler he wanted out, they'd throw rocks at him. We didn't know there was a small shack in the high weeds behind the cabin. It exploded, showered burning asphalt all over the building and tall tree. Johnny ended up with a little hair burned off.

40 That was one of the wonder pictures of the world. Always wondered what happened to it (laugh). Smith and Skelly fought so I could see the picture wasn't going to be finished. I started charging for my truck to haul the indians and got most of my money back. We had less than \$60,000 in it. They wouldn't sell the picture to me.

59 Supreme Court Judge (Douglas) here. First National entertained him. John Zink could entertain him they decided and they'd pay 1/2. In those days, I'd shut up the doors, let a coon loose with my hounds and have a fight among the people. The judge acted pretty dignified during all this with the dogs and coon running around and between his legs.

74 Used to entertain my customers that had been to Paris and Shanghai so I'd have to really act up. They were building a road up the limestone cliff and the sign said don't shoot dynamite. So it gave me the idea to set dynamite up at the pond and shoot at it with a high powered rifle.

79 GE contracted with the government to build a research lab across from Cincinnati. They were running tests on jets to pull a 2000 mile plane and we provided some burners, still are. GE picked sharp engineers over there. Cockey bunch, select group. They wanted 3000⁰ air at 900 lb. pressure. We answered the bid, the only ones. We bid \$45,000. They came to see us. After they had seen the atomic explosion in New Mexico.

96 Getting back to the pond it wasn't full yet. We used to play chicken with the dynamite in the cans. We'd see how close we could get the cans to us and shoot at them. One fellow had stood up in New Mexico at the blast and gotten blown in a ditch. They said don't tell

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- Dick what's in the can. So he shot at it, right at his feet. There was a lot of discussion how high he went. Everyone agreed he turned around and ran in mid-air saying what a gun, what a gun.
- 111 1943 - finished orders. Government wouldn't let me run my plant. I had \$80,000 and remembered rough land I'd experimented on in 1917. Squatters, oilfield trash. I got telephone directories of every town within 100 miles of Tulsa. Sent cards to every real estate agent saying I wanted to buy any land that would sell for \$3.00. A fella in Skiatook offered me 1800 acres up on a hill. I recognized him from leases in oil wells. I bought it from Joe Taylor. I made 68 deals in the next few years. I have 10,400 acres now.
- In 1945 "I heard the Lord speaking to me, which I do quite often" and he said you should get in the cattle business. You've got all that grass."
- In 1943 Fred Carroll and I slept out every night during the winter in sleeping bags and ran wolves. Pretty soon a preacher nearby decided to move to Oklahoma City. He sold me his pack of wolfhounds - 41. I bought me a bob tail and hired Crip and Fred and I would drive up in the Cadillac and Crip would follow in the bob tail with the wolfhounds. We used to run hounds with a rich man but he died. Fred explained to me his wife had died, he married a young wife, and it killed him. I wouldn't have understood if Fred hadn't told me (laugh).
- 143 Went up to north of Bartlesville one afternoon to see a rich man. He brought out a gallon of moonshine. He, Fred, Crip and I discussed the various dogs, breeding, voice, etc, drank whiskey all afternoon. That night we ate on his blow way (porch between 2 parts of the house) drank more and swapped wolf stories.
- 165 One time we let the hounds loose on Highway 20, a dirt road then, and they took off after a school teacher's chow. She and the chow were up on the table fighting them off with a broom when we got there.
- 173 The rich fella told of his dogs running to a grocery store, tearing it up.
- 176 Another time a man was painting the schoolhouse basement floor. He had both doors open for air at night. A wolf and 41 hounds went trooping through. We had a hard time making up with him.
- 185 By supper and leave taking, we had gone through a 2nd gallon of whiskey. Fred and I took a shortcut. (and as the Lord said through wolf I needed a raffle. I both tried to act normal and dignified, instead of drunk and crazy. We were afraid we

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	were seeing things that weren't there. It turned out to be the burial ground for Woolaroc. This was the third giraffe they had lost. The man let us slit the giraffe's stomach and feed our dogs their breakfast. There was a terrible racket, fighting, tearing the meat.	
211	During all of this, we came across 3 men from Arkansas in the bushes. They got lost coon hunting around Barnsdall and had been wandering around all night. They asked what country they were in and after they saw the giraffe, they were thinking they had wandered to Africa, not Oklahoma. They said this was the most god forsaken country they had ever seen.	
225	Don't know Mullendores very well. I just know old Mr. Mullendore and Mr. Berry started 17 banks in all these little towns around here.	
234	Skiatook - how it got its name - Bird Creek comes down and touches the northeast corner of Skiatook. Used to be an indian settlement. One time all the young people had gone deer hunting, left one old fella there to watch the camp. When they got back, this old fella was propped up against a tree looking dazzled, everything was gone. The hunters said "where'd it go, where'd it go?" The old man said "sky took", "sky took." They'd had a big storm.	
245	In Iowa my grandfather lived with us. As a young child, I used to help them make soap but I helped my grandfather make canes out of hickory. We'd hang all our weight on it, have hot steam coming up around it, and in a day or two we'd have a cane.	
269	Our original patents have run out. Present important patents are for thermal oxidizers or waste disposers. We're really the only people in the world that know what to do with toxic gases and liquids.	
274	I consider my whole company to be research.	
275	Standard Oil of Calif. had a cat cracker with white catalyst, smog. The governor gave them one week to get rid of this plume or shut this \$10 - 20 million cat cracker down. We built a stack furnace, assembled it on the way to calif. in the truck.	
	After I shipped it I had one little misgiving. I discovered down the pipe bringing the flue and stuff down through a blower was 60" in diameter, a fair size diameter. Then I discovered they had a big blower there that they originally used on the burners on the cat cracker but they didn't need them any more so on Friday we started it up, cleared up the cat cracker. - (so they hooked the blower to their equipment)	

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DRAMATIC QUOTES (Key by Number)

So our Los Angeles man, Gregory, came flying back and said what are we going to charge? We took a big chance. If it hadn't worked they wouldn't pay us a damn dime. If we don't charge enough, they'll think we're a fool. If we charge too much they'll get mad and they don't know what the amount is now.

It's easy to write figures down but they don't mean anything when they start coming to thousands of dollars. It's tough.

Gregory said I'd be satisfied with \$1000 a call for m6 three calls. We figured it cost \$6,000 so wrote down \$7000. So we multiplied 3 x 7 and made bill for \$21,000. They were well pleased.