

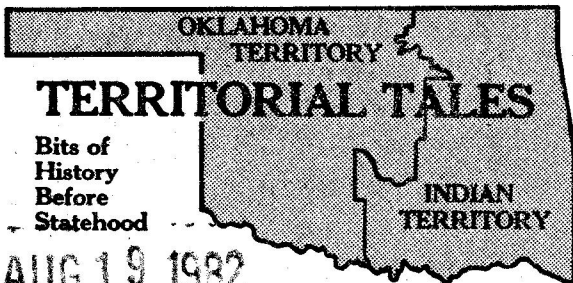
# *It Sure Didn't Take Much To Start Cattle Stampede*

Long after trail driving to move Texas longhorn herds to Kansas railroad shipping points ended, arguments persisted as to whether Indians taught cattle the art of stampeding.

Movies show cattle being stampeded by lightning, by rustlers firing guns and other causes, and perhaps some have shown herds being spooked by Indians just for the fun of watching the cowboys try to get the animals back together.

Whatever the causes, the coming of barbed wire fences to the Plains pretty well brought cattle stampedes to an end.

An instance in which a cattle herd was precipitated into bovine riot without evidence



of natural provocation was related by Joe C. Gunter in J.B. Thorburn's "History of Oklahoma." Gunter was a prominent cattle dealer in the Chickasaw country northeast of Tishomingo in territorial days.

A few years before statehood, Gunter was in charge of a herd of 1,500 steers being driven from the TjN ranch near Durant to a ranch a few miles west of Duncan in Comanche Indian country.

The herd was resting

for the night on the banks of Wild Horse Creek. The weather was calm and the cattle were peaceful. Toward midnight, an Indian came out of the timber with a red blanket and threw it into the midst of the herd.

The cattle were seized with panic, ran madly in various directions and scattered over a territory so large it took Gunther and his men nine days to recover them and get them ready for the rest of the drive.