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# **Settler's 1889 Land Run Quick Sprint From Depot**

On the day of the Run of 1889, there were many cases where two men landed on the same quarter section. Sometimes the coincidence was amicably adjusted, in others there was extended litigation and in a number of instances personal altercations and violence followed.

A dispute reported in the Oklahoma City Times on Nov. 15, 1890, described a novel way of determining the winner. It seems ~~a~~ Mr. Ashinger and Miss Katie Woodruff claimed the same quarter section and the land office had been trying to settle it for 10 days.

In support of his claim, Mr. Ashinger testified that he had arrived in Oklahoma City from Purcell by train at 2:10 p.m. in afternoon of

April 22, 1889, and about 3½ minutes later he was upon the contested tract, which lay about three-fourths of a mile from the depot.

The attorney for Miss Woodruff ridiculed the claim and argued that the distance couldn't be covered in that time. So court officials, attorneys, litigants and about 100 spectators gathered at the Sante Fe depot to witness a test run to prove the case.

Ashinger proved himself to be "an experienced pedestrian." The reporter wrote: "Running like a deer, he accomplished the feat in three minutes and 20 seconds. Mr. Ashinger, besides being a sprinter of almost worldwide fame, is a gentleman of highest social standing and business ability."