

WOODS, ROSE H. INTERVIEW

12722

207

WOODS, ROSE H. INTERVIEW. 12722.

James Russell Gray,
Investigator.
January 17, 1938.

Mine No. 1
Hartshorne, Oklahoma
(For sources see narrative)

Interview with Rose H. Woods
Hartshorne, Oklahoma
601 North Ninth

I came to Hartshorne in 1890 right after old Mine No. 1 was first put in, and I can tell you the town certainly didn't look anything like it does now. The shaft at No. 1 had been sunk in 1889 and Hartshorne was only a year old. The population consisted of miners and their families, a few merchants--and the Indians. I came here from Pennsylvania, and I thought all Indians were savages and killers, but I found them to be better than most white people. The only trouble I remember was caused by whites, except an election about 1894 when the Choctaws fought among themselves.

My maiden name was Katigan; my brother Jim helped to put in old No. 1. He was assistant superintendent. The superintendent was a man named

WOODS, ROSE H.

INTERVIEW.

12722.

- 2 -

Edmond Ludlow. He was a white man, but his wife was an Indian. Soon after I came to the town he built a big house in the northwest part of town, back in a field where Sixth Street crosses Cherokee Avenue. You can see the big, rambling building there now; Jim Hardin, who sold the place in 1937, lived there for over twenty years. Mr. Ludlow had a board walk from his house down to the mine; it was over three blocks long and was the only sidewalk in town.

Besides Jim, I had two more brothers working at No. 1. Mike was a boilermaker, and Willie was a machinist.

Owen McHugh was hoisting engineer at the mine; he was the first man to pull a car of coal out of the shaft.

Father was dead, buried in Pennsylvania. Mother and my sister Aggie and I put in a hotel in Harts-horne, the Katigan Hotel and ran it for eighteen years. It stood where the Morgan Grocery does now,

WOODS, ROSE H.

INTERVIEW.

12722.

- 3 -

on the corner of Ninth and Pennsylvania streets.

In 1890 we were boarding forty miners. Wages were low then, but there was steady work and everyone had money. Times were good.

Besides our hotel, there was a hotel run by the coal company, and there was the Grady Trading Company's general store.