

T-313

Index side R.

Recording time: 30 minutes

September 27, 1968

Informant: Edith Dunham Thomas, 74 years old, of Cherokee extraction, Adair, Oklahoma.

Subject: Mrs. Thomas came to Adair community in 1894 when she was two years old, and has lived in and around Adair all of her life. Her family were farmers during her early girlhood, and later her father operated a hardware store in Adair.

The town of Adair has seen prosperous times, especially around the turn of the century. At one time the town had two banks (Adair Bank, and The Farmers Union Bank), two drug stores, three general mercantile stores, a hardware store, a lumber yard, two doctors, and other business establishments. The Katy railroad had a nice depot and siding tracks, and done a nice business in passenger and freight service. Much hay and grain were shipped out of Adair.

Rebuilt and modernized now, a portion of the house Mrs. Thomas lives in was once one of the stores in Adair. It fronts on the busy U. S. Highway 69. In earlier days this Federal Highway passed Adair a mile to the west. At one time the main street of Adair ran north and south on what is now Highway 69, with a few places of business on the present main street. A two story hotel (Adair Hotel) and some business places were at one time on the east side of the railroad, but these are gone now.

Mrs. Thomas recalls that about 1898 the Dalton Gang held up and robbed the passenger train at the depot there. She remembers there was much excitement and shooting. The town's two doctors were sitting on the board sidewalk across from the depot at the time of the robbery. They were a Dr. Goss and a Dr. Youngblood, and both got shot by the bandits. By the time the train and crew got reorganized and on their way north Dr. Youngblood's leg wound got worse and he died to death before reaching Vinita. Dr. Goss was shot in the foot but recovered. There were no local law officials in those days, and law and order was kept by the U. S. Marshalls and Territorial Sheriff's.