

HOUNKER, CHARLES L. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 5882

273

HOUNKER, CHARLES L. (MRS.) INTERVIEW. #5882.

Lawrence D. Hibbs,  
Field Worker.  
May 21, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Charles L. Hounker,  
1318 South Carson Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

My husband, Charles L. Hounker, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in April, 1875. His father, Charles L. Hounker, Sr., was born in Wuttemberg, Germany, and came to the United States when he was eighteen years old and settled in St. Louis where he was in the plumbing business for forty-seven years. Charles Hounker, Jr., learned the plumbing trade under his father.

My husband enlisted in the Spanish American War at its outbreak from Missouri and went as First Lieutenant of "E" Company, known as the "Rainwater Rifles", First Regiment, National Guard and served at Chickamauga Park. He first joined the Missouri National Guard as a boy of seventeen and worked up to be a lieutenant. He was active in military circles up to 1904.

Mr. Hounker came to Tulsa, Indian Territory, in March, 1904, and we were married on March 24th of that same year just shortly after he came here. I was visiting some relatives here; I am the daughter of H. C. Hall.

HOUNKER, CHARLES L. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

#5882.

2

I was visiting my uncles, W. P. Hall and J. M. Hall, in Tulsa. My home at that time was in Oswego, Kansas, as my father H. C. Hall had moved to Oswego from Tulsa.

When my husband came here he organized the National Plumbing Company, the first plumbing business in Tulsa. He was later appointed Gas and Electrical Inspector of Tulsa under Dr. C. L. Reeder and served in the same office under Mayor John O. Mitchell.

He next became Secretary and Treasurer of the Hawley Engineering Company who were construction engineers and while engaged in that business he organized the West Tulsa Belt Railroad of which he became Secretary and Treasurer. This line connected the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad with the Midland Valley Railroad; these roads later took over the West Tulsa Belt Line.

The Hawley Engineering Company also operated a sand plant which furnished the sand used in the first paving in Tulsa.

In 1918 Mr. Hounker became Secretary and Treasurer of the Tulsa Portland Cement Company.

HOUNKER, CHARLES L. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

#5882.

3

My husband was one of five people who organized the Trinity Episcopal Church of Tulsa in 1905 when this city had a population of 3700. Six Episcopal families banded together under the leadership of Reverend H. D. Baldwin of Vinita to start an Episcopal Church. The first services were held in a music studio on the second floor of a building at 210 South Main Street. The first senior warden of this church was Mr. Lyle Dickey, and Mr. Hounker was the first secretary of the first vestry. The first church of the Trinity Episcopal congregation was situated at Fifth and Cincinnati Streets; this church was the first church in Indian Territory to have a pipe organ which was presented to the church by William H. Rosier.

My husband during the later part of his life at Christmas time would build a Christmas tree and would have electric railroads, tunnels and all the things to go with it; he would invite in all the children in Tulsa to play with them. One year six hundred and eighty-seven people came to see this tree.

My husband died in 1933 in Tulsa and was buried at Springfield, Missouri. After his death I gave this Christmas tree to the Children's Masonic Home at Guthrie as this was carrying out his wishes.