

MAUK, ZORA ELLA WATSON.

INTERVIEW.

10306

Louise S. Barnes
Investigator
March 15, 1938

Interview with Zora Ella Watson Mauk,
Dover, Oklahoma.

I was born in Michigan, November 26, 1875, and came to Oklahoma Territory with my parents April 22, 1889, in a covered wagon. We lived on a homestead close to Dover in a house 24x26 feet and used curtains for partitions for several years, to separate the rooms.

I was raised in Western Colorado where my father used to take care of stage horses and as I was very active on horses myself, I always took part in all the cowboys' sports. After I came to Oklahoma I was still just as much a cowboy as ever and I liked to ride and would not stay home when I thought there was going to be any excitement going on any place.

I shall never forget the day of the Cherokee Strip Opening, the boy I was going to marry was not old enough to make the run so we decided to get married so he could file claim. This we did. He made the run on horseback and his younger brother and I were to bring the spring wagon drawn by a team of mules and meet him about where Waukomis is

MAUK, ZORA ELLA WATSON.

INTERVIEW.

10306

2

located. He told us not to try to keep up with the race but when the gun was fired and all the horses began to run our team of mules started, too, at the same rate of speed as the rest in the race. We tried to hold them back because we were afraid they would give out, but they went right on and when we got close to the place where we were to meet my husband we began to slow up and look to see if we could locate him. As we did, I shall never forget, we came very close to a man on horseback and he thought we were trying to stake some land, I guess, so he waved his six-shooter in the air and told us to move on. At first it scared us a little and then I realized what he thought and we got a good laugh out of that.

When I met my husband, he had located and then we went to live on the farm. When we added an addition of eight feet to our one-room home we thought we had a large home. The night after the Opening we went to Enid and slept under a tent right on the ground; there were seven of us under the same tent and we all had to sleep on the ground in one huddle. I remember a woman whom we called Grandma Cole who filed claim on some lots in Enid and she had given one

MAUK, ZORA ELLA WATSON.

INTERVIEW.

10306

3

hundred dollars to one man to move off, but when the town was surveyed her lot was in the alley. Many such instances occurred in the runs.

We had two teams, one a pair of mules and the other a small pony team, and we would cut posts from our homestead and haul them to Enid. In the two loads we would have two hundred and fifty posts. After cutting and hauling them to Enid, which took us two days to make the trip and back, we received \$2.50 for the two loads, and it was a trying trip. In this way we first made our living on the new homestead.

I now help to operate a variety store in Dover which is owned by my husband.