

TEST, DOLBY.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

WEST, DOLBY

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Margaret McGuire

This report made on (date) September 28, 1937

1. Name Miss Dolby West

2. Post Office Address Eufaula, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father Dr. G. W. West Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Hattie Ellis Ballard West Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Margaret McGuire
Interviewer
September 28, 1937

Interview with Miss Dolby West
Eufaula, Oklahoma

Mrs. Hattie Ellis Ballard,

My mother was a widow with one child, a small son, when she went to Tulsa. There were only three business houses in Tulsa when she went into business there. Mr. J. M. Hall owned one of them and R. N Bynum owned the other and Mother bought the third one. She was the first one to put in a milliner and dressmaking shop there. In Tulsa she rented a little business house where the Lyric Theatre now stands and paid \$5.00 a month rent for the building.

Mother had a fine trade, people came from all around near Tulsa to buy goods from her. Tulsa was rather wild then and Indians would come to her store and buy beads and feathers and they would buy big plumes and have her sew them on their hats. She could not understand the Indian language but the Indians were able to make her understand what they wanted and she sold them shawls too.

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One night the people got rough and were shooting and fighting so that she was frightened. The next time a traveling salesman came along she asked him where she might find a quiet town to move her stock of goods to, and he suggested Eufaula which was not much larger than Tulsa then; that was about 1887. Mother packed up and moved over to Eufaula and put in the same merchandise she had while in Tulsa. She had a wonderful business in Eufaula and had a lot of Indian trade here.

After a few years in Eufaula Mother met G. W. West, a doctor of medicine, and they were married but she still ran her store and he practiced medicine, driving a horse to a buggy and riding horseback over roads that he could not go over with a buggy. Dr. West was about the first doctor here. Mother's store in Eufaula was called the "Madam West's Millinery and Ready-to Wear Shoppe". My mother was a very shrewd business woman; she loved her work and put her whole soul into it and she sold high class merchandise.

After Mother's marriage to Dr. West she became the mother of a son and daughter, my brother and myself.

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The elder, the son, having grown into a man went into the meat market business and was a merchant for a number of years, but died in 1918. Mother and I ran this same business until 1934, when she passed away. My mother, who was known as Madam West, was in business in Eufaula for fifty years.