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Sapulpa  
Growth of Tulsa

EAGEN, MRS. JAMES.

INTERVIEW.

5906.

Lawrence D. Hibbs,  
Interviewer,  
May 24, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. James Eagen,  
904 South Guthrie, Tulsa, Okla.

I was born in Waucoma, Iowa, in 1864 and my husband was born in El Dorado, Iowa, in 1861, and we were married in 1885 in Waucoma, Iowa.

My husband before coming to Vinita, Indian Territory, was a grocery salesman and after coming to Vinita he traveled for a grocery company out of Kansas City, Missouri. He came to Vinita, Indian Territory, in 1888 and I followed in 1890. We lived at Vinita for five years before moving to Tulsa.


My husband and his brother, John Eagan, came to Tulsa in 1893 and opened a general mercantile store. This store was located at the corner of Second Street and Main Street. A little later they opened their second store at Sapulpa, Indian Territory. About 1896 or 1897 this store burned down so my husband built some small buildings on this lot and rented them for

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two or three years. About this time the town of Tulsa was beginning to flourish and the Vandever Brothers came up from Arkansas and were looking for a place to locate. My husband told them he would build a building on this lot for them so Vandevers made a lease with my husband to rent the building when it was completed. My husband borrowed eight thousand dollars and built a two story building at the corner of Second and Main Streets and this building is still standing. Vandevers opened the first drygoods store in Tulsa. My husband built a roof garden on top of this building. It was the first roof garden ever to be built in Tulsa.

After my husband came here in 1893 I moved down from Vinita in 1895 and moved into a house that set where Renberg's Men Clothing Store now stands. This is between Third and Fourth Streets on Main and on the east side of Main Street. My husband



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gave one thousand dollars for this house and lot and we lived in it for ten years and sold it for five thousand dollars.

After my husband had leased the building at Second and Main Street to Vanderers for a number of years he sold it in 1910 for \$32,500.00, which shows how property values were beginning to skyrocket in Tulsa.

After we sold our home we came out in the southwest part of what is now Tulsa but at that time was known as the Perryman pasture and bought a lot on which to build. At this time the Perrymans were unable to hold all the land they had, so Mrs. Lilah D. Lindsey took forty acres of this pasture as her allotment and then she divided it up into town lots, and that is where we bought. Before we could get our house completed they came one morning to move the house we were living in uptown so I told my husband to get a tent and we would move into it until we could get

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the barn finished. As soon as the barn was finished we moved into it and lived until the house was completed, which was in 1905. The people started to build out there so fast that you couldn't keep up with the new houses and who was building them. People would build their barns first and live in them until they could get their houses done. It finally became a joke in the neighborhood which took the name of Barnyard addition.

We have lived in this same house ever since that time, which has been about thirty-two years.

My husband, after selling his building at Second and Main Street, entered the oil business. First he brokered leases and later went into the producing end of the industry, and it was never any trouble for him to make money in those days. He died in 1930.