AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
OKLAHOMA COUNTY) SS:

Elmer F. Rogers, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, on his oath deposes and says:

That I came to Oklahoma City in 1904; and have lived continuously in Oklahoma City ever since that date; that some time after my arrival in Oklahoma City I became friendly with Mr. W. D. Gault, who was in the real estate and rental business. Mr. Gault was considerably older than was I, but he took an interest in me, and as a young lad in Oklahoma City he would often take his time to show me things about Oklahoma City and to stand behind and encourage me.

Mr. Gault was the son of William J. Gault, the first elected Mayor of Oklahoma City, who was elected Mayor on August 9, 1890. His father in addition to being Mayor had been President of the Oklahoma City Board of Trade, now the Chamber of Commerce and had been President of the School Board. He was a great leader and Mayor Gault was a close business associate of Mr. C. G. "Gristmill" Jones.

Mayor Gault died before I came to Oklahoma City and I did not know him personally, but when I first came here his name was very well known and his son, W. D. Gault was very prominent in local affairs.

In later years, perhaps as early as the beginning of World War I, Mr. W. D. Gault maintained his real estate and investment office at 207 West California Street. One day, probably about 1918 or 1919, I happened upon Mr. Gault in the 100 block of West California Street. He was standing by a building near the fire station. He saw me and we stopped and had a friendly visit, of the type we so often had together. I was always interested in early-day Oklahoma City events and I would usually try to quiz him about things that his father, Mayor Gault, had told him.

On that particular instance I asked him about the stone curbings. In that area of Oklahoma City, the curbs are all of limestone. These stones are about six or seven feet long and were dressed so that they could be installed in upright position, and all of this was before the days of concrete curbs. He told me that the property owners, and often the City, would install these curbs before the street was paved, so as to make a distinction between the sidewalk and the thoroughfare, particularly as the street would get very muddy when it rained and the curb helped separate the sidewalk, which was usually of brick, with the street. He said the principal reason the stone was used was that it was cheaper and easier to install. He pointed out that for one building, on South Broadway just across from the fire station, they used sandstone rather than limestone, and I believe the sandstone curb is still there.

At the conclusion of this discussion about the curbing he said to me, "Walk down here to the corner with me and let me show you something very interesting." We went to the northeast corner of Broadway and California; and there in the sidewalk was a round limestone piece, about six feet in diameter. He asked me if I knew what this was and I told him no. He said, "Well, this is the millstone from Gristmill Jones' old mill, which was down on Canal Street at the south end or foot of Broadway."

He then explained to me in detail how the City leaders had built a canal during the first year of Oklahoma City history in an effort to provide employment and to bring industry. The canal started several miles west of town and ended just east of the Santa Fe tracks at the south end of Broadway. He explained how after the mill fell into disuse he and other civic leaders saw to it that this millstone was not destroyed, and as a place to put it where everyone could see, they put it into the sidewalk in one of the most prominent and busy corners in Oklahoma City. It remains there today. I know all these facts of my personal knowledge.

Elmer F. Rogers
Elmer F. Rogers

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14 day of February, 1967.

Mabel Kranke