



EARLY-DAY SHOWPLACE — The home of the J. T. Douthitt family was one of Enid's first grand homes and was built around 1900. It stood until it burned in the 1920s. The house was in the 300 block of West Market. As the Douthitt farm was developed, the home slowly became closer to Enid. The family kept a city block and it had a large lily pond, oldtimers recall.

The Legend of Dollie Douthitt

Compiled by Gary L. Brown, 2004
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Who was Dollie Douthitt?

Every town's folklore has its "interesting characters." One of Enid's most interesting and "bazar" characters was Dollie Douthitt. The legend of Dollie Douthitt was immortalized by publication in *The Garfield County History* (1981) of the "Douthitt Chronicle."

Dollie was basically "nuts." She shot her husband, slashed a boyfriend and shot up a court room full of lawyers before being committed to a mental facility in the early 1930's.

Early on she and her husband J. T. Douthitt were two of Enid's most prominent citizens. She and JT staked a claim abutting the original townsite of Enid to the south. Their homestead now bordered by Van Buren, Frantz, Washington and Garriott, includes the area where Enid High School is located. They built an attractive home (where the Police Station now stands), planted an orchard and otherwise improved their claim into one of the nicest farms in the area. J. T. was also a prime mover in organizing the first Garfield County Fair Association and boosted the building of the Enid's first fairgrounds in the general vicinity of his farm. The fairgrounds had a horse race track which was very popular in Enid's early days. In 1904 the Douthitt family fortune took a turn for the worse. Their story is told in the following "Douthitt Chronicle."

Special Points of Interest

- Who was Dollie Douthitt.
- The "Douthitt Chronicle".
- More about the Douthitt Family.
- The Last Will and Testament of Mona Loma Thelma Pearl Douthitt Hourahan.
- Dollie's Final Chapter.

The “Douthitt Chronicle”

by Dennis Porter

“YOU FIENDS, YOU SONS OF BITCHES, I will get you all,” shrieked the small woman as she fired her pistol in the courtroom. This was Dolly Douthitt’s last protest against courts and lawyers who settled disputes with strange words and bizarre rituals.

Gone was the open prairie she and her husband had homesteaded in 1893. Their farm abutted the original townsite of Enid. In 1904 Dollie surprised her husband in the barn romancing the hired girl. He lived long enough after she shot him to make a Will leaving his wife a child’s share provided that she never remarried, and requested the authorities not to prosecute her for killing him.

Sentenced to perpetual widowhood at age 31 with 4 children under 10, she became involved with an Enid man, suffering from an immoral itch. His conduct displeased her. She carefully sharpened a straight razor and as he lay sleeping, she slashed him in the area of her discontent.

He awoke screaming with pain, stared at his gory groin, and rushed from the house. His caponized course crossed Boggy Bottom, over to Maine Street where he groaned a greeting to a paperboy making his early morning rounds. The red route ended at the University Hospital where Dr. S. N. Mayberry and Nurse Daryl Church spent the rest of the night keeping him from bleeding to death.

“Life and men are such disappointments,” proclaimed Dolly’s daughter, Mona Loma Thelma Pearl Douthitt Hourahan, in her suicide note. “Jack cares naught for me or he would not lie to me and chase women.” She had to go to six drugstores before they would sell her cyanide. She killed her husband, finished the note, which included disposition of debts and personal property, and took the cyanide. The Judge admitted the suicide note as a Will and is included in many of the abstracts around the high school.

In the early fall of 1931, Dolly, acting as her own attorney, was in court in Enid to answer numerous collection suits. H.Z. Wedgewood represented the Northwest Roofing Company in the first case to called against Dolly, for an unpaid barn roof debt. Dolly arose and addressed the court with investives and a pistol. Her first shot hit the empty jury box. She aimed her second shot at her favorite target, the male groin. The soft nosed lead slug perforated the intestines of Attorney Wedgewood 13 times. He slipped out of his chair to the floor clutching a law book to his chest, but handed it to Attorney George Howard Wilson with the request “Please return this to Horace Greely McKeever.” Attorney Lou E. Roseboom ran out the door, down the steps of the courthouse, tripped over a watering trough and rolled across the street to come to rest against the curb. Attorney Maurice Priebe scrambled under the table with Attorney Harry C. Kirkendall. The third shot was direct point blank at Judge Arthur G. Sutton, Alva, whose beautiful tweed left coat arm was creased. Turning to the left, Dolly fired a fourth bullet directly at attorney Roy E. Elam, who had the presence of mind to throw his open file into the face of Dolly, the bullet whistled past attorney Wilson who had been standing beside Elam, but Wilson passed the bullet on his way out. Judge Sutton, dignity intact, descended from the bench and put his arm around Dolly’s neck from the back. Her tongue protruded as the pistol was chocked from her hand.

Dolly was committed to the Western State Hospital for the insane and released by Governor Bill Murray on "exile" parole. Only after death did she return to rest beneath the finest monument in the Enid Cemetery... a winged angel on a pedestal. If the angel has a cynical smile it is because *Dolly set the limits of permissive behavior in Enid... you can kill your husband, castrate your boyfriend, but if you shoot a lawyer you must leave forever.*

More about the Douthitt Family

Another bazar twist in the Douthitt family legend centers around the tragic death by suicide in 1929 of Mona Loma Douthitt Hourahan, Dollie's daughter. Her suicide note was later admitted as her Last Will and Testament in Garfield County where she still owned property south of the High School. When this property was later developed her Will/Suicide note appeared in every abstract of title of property around the High School, thus further perpetuating the infamous legend of the Douthitt Family. Her will is transcribed below.

The Last Will and Testament of Mona Loma Thelma Pearl Douthitt Hourahan

When Dollie's daughter, Loma Hourahan, committed suicide in 1929, the following letter was found in her possession. It was admitted as a holographic Will in her estate proceeding filed August 23, 1929. It is included in all of the title abstract of real estate located near Enid High School.

Filed August 23, 1929.

Thurs. July 11, '29.

San Angelo, Tex.

Dearest Tookie:

Please don't be said, or grieve when you get this-Just be glad for me- "cause I'll be out of my misery- no more pain or disappointments- and you know, Tookie, I'd have to die sometime and now is so much better than later. Life & man are such bitter disappointments- and Jack cares naught for me or he would not lie to me & chase women. I really feel at times as tho I were losing my mind and the thots of being like Dorthy (and my health together) is more than I

can stand- so that's the reason I'm taking the easy short route out.

I'm sorry for all the trouble I've been to you but surely do appreciate all you've done for me- which has been an awful lots. Wish I could have repaid a part of your goodness to me. You've always been my best friend as well as sister and mother to me.

I got the cynaide this A. M. Had the duece of a time too-went to 6 drug stores, before I could get it.

Im sadly regret all the money I wasted in the past 3 years. He wasn't worth a nickel of it-either. Took-I want you to have everything thats left. There's a balance of \$153. Due on the car, 3 payments of \$45.00. One of the payments past due. Gen. Motors Accept. Corp. Detroit, Mich. The receipts for the car are in the brown grip. The life ins. Policies were never paid up but don't suppose you could collect on them if they were.

I don't want any extra expense on the funeral- just the cheapest possible-please-my blue dress is what I want to be put away in (and my wedding ring and blue bears)- and Jack has plenty of clothes. His gray suit looks nice on him- Please see that he wears that, will you please? And bury us together. Give Leedee the balance of his clothes- that Jake can't use. Oh yes, Jacks chest & about \$30 or \$40. of tools are at the Baker Hemphill job. Ask Supt. Snodgrass or the lather Dick Rogers for them.

My wardrobe trunk (nothing due on it) is at Mrs. Ora Lindsay- 704 N. St. Paul St., Dallas, Texas. (The keys to both trunks are in the little cedar chest. Almost everything is in the car.) Give Mrs. Lindsay my last regards. (She called us "Her Kids'.) We owe \$4.20 to Mrs. Kruse 701 N. Ervay St., Dallas for 12 meals. Our rent is paid in advance. Well, this is all I can think of now. Oh yes, mama has a policy on me that will cover all expenses, doesn't she? Don't cry- just be glad I'm happy & out of all pain and disappointments. Goodbye- Love- your 'onery little sis.

Loma.

(Jakeita- I want you to have the piano & tolls and the diamond when you're 18.)

Jakeita- Dearest Little Sweetheart:

Forgive me for not sending your red shoes & dress for your birthday- but Dearie, I just didn't have the money. Tell Tookie to

make over these dresses for you- (the ones she & your grandmother can't wear). Well, Dear Heart, be a good girl & don't cry for your auntie- 'cause she will be happy- not sick any more.

Love,

Your Aunt Loma.

Mon. 1-10 P. M.

Jack has \$24.00 due him and \$10.25 R. R. fare and owes Dick Rogers \$15.00 borrowed money- thats all- I wanted to wait until the end of the week but the misery is more than I can endure.

Goodbye- Loma.

The above was enclosed in an envelope which bears the following endorsement:

*"Mrs. J. J. Hourahan,
San Angelo, Tex.*

Dollie's Final Chapter

After Dollie was released from the Hospital in May of 1935, She was paroled and went to California to live. In 1938 she was fully restored to competency by the Court. She lived in California the rest of her life. She died in San Bernardino January 1, 1955 at the age of 82. Her body was returned to Enid where she is buried in the family lot at Enid Cemetery.