# Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Mauzey Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Mauzey, 1437 South Seventh street, are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary today. This afternoon, and again this evening from 7 to 9 o'clock, they are receiving their friends at the home of their son, A. Cecil Mauzey, at Cummings. The Cecil Mauzey home is south of the Cummings Christian church.

The Mauzeys are splendid people and are the parents of fine men and women. Besides Cecil, who is the rural mail carrier out of Cummings, there is Mrs. Ray (Gertie Bell) Boyer of Locke, N. Y., who was in Atchison at Christmas time to spend the holidays; Joe Howard Mauzey of Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Harold (Clara) Hull of Omaha, Nebr.; and Hillary G. Mauzey of Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Mauzey was the fourth child in a family of 13. As Addie Isaacs, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Isaacs, she, with her four brothers and sisters and their parents, crossed the Missouri river, below the location of the present bridge, on the ice. This was the winter of 1866, and she was five years of age In two wagons the family moved from their place in the Walnut Creek neighborhood, on the Pat Dierking farm, to Atchison. Here they had dinner at Poehler's restaurant, then continued on their trip to the Missouri bank, across the river and on to their future home near DeKalb. The children were blanketed in one wagon, which was bottomed with a thick layer of straw for warmth, and the Isaacs household goods were loaded in the other. This was in February, and according to Mrs. Mauzey, the winter continued severely cold for several weeks. She resided in DeKalb with her parents until her marriage to Mr. Mauzey.

In these years, and in the few previous to these, if a Kansan favored slavery it was best that he move into Missouri, or into another pro-slavery state; in like manner, if a Missourian looked upon slavery with disfavor, it was to his good that he move into an anti-slavery state. It was for this reason that Amos Isaacs moved his family from Kansas into Missouri, and that Layfayette Mauzey, father of Oscar Mauzey, moved his wife and children from Missouri into Kansas, a free state.

Oscar Mauzey was raised in the midst of slavery. His father lived on a farm, or plantation, in Newmarket, Platte county, Mo. The boy, until he was five years of age, was surrounded with dreadful sights. He saw Negroes whipped and driven to the direst work. On one especially cold morning a group of slaves were told to break hemp. The colored men, large and brawny, took the hemp and struck it across rocks. One man left his work several times to warm his hands by the fire. His master forbade him to leave his duties again, and to emphasize his authority, tied the worker to a post. At noon, when the dinner bell sounded, this one Negro was the only one who failed to respond. The master went to him and found his charge frozen to death. Good slave blacksmiths sold on the auction block for as high as $2,500, while small, undernourished fellows brought a $500 price.

When the Mauzey family, mother, father and nine children (Oscar was the oldest) came to Kansas in September, 1864, they crossed at Leavenworth on a ferry. They moved to their Grandmother Dean's farm in the Tom Cline neighborhood, in Locust Grove, and lived there two months. From there they crossed the Jefferson county line, into Atchison county, and lived in a cabin on the bank of a creek, just two miles from Mrs. Dean's home. Mrs. Dean had come to Kansas from Indiana with her husband who left his wife and two daughters later to take advantage of the '49 California gold rush. Months after his leaving word was brought back to the family that he had been massacred by Indians before he ever reached the golden state. One of these daughters is the mother of Ambrose Locker, clerk at the Atchison post office.

Quail was the only meat delicacy eaten by the Mauzeys in the winter of '64-'65. Mr. Mauzey was at war, and the wild birds were shot by Mrs. Mauzey for her young family. The children attended the Cline school, which was taught by the late N. P. Peas. Mr. Mauzey remembers how the wild turkeys were attracted to his bright knit tippet, which he wore to school. The turkeys were so thick in the timber they gathered around Mr. Mauzey as so many pets.

At the age of seven Oscar Mauzey saw his first cake; at nine he saw, for the first time, a cook stove, and not until he was eight did he know what a coal oil lamp looked like. Corn bread, huge stone fireplaces built for kettles and bread ovens, and candles were more familiar objects to this family.

Immediately after the Civil war Lafayette Mauzey crossed the county line back into Jefferson county, with his family, and made an attempt at raising cotton. This was a new venture in Kansas, but one of note as he was the only one from among a crowd who did nothing more than wonder whether the plant could be raised, to actually set out the plant. His experiment proved a failure, however, in this cold climate.

A monthly income of $13 and his board was doubled when Oscar Mauzey married charming little Addie Isaacs. Addie, in her blue velvet hat and tight basque gown, and Oscar in his snug fitting suit drove from the Baptist parsonage to the home of her sister for the reception, over rail fences and snow-drifted rutty roads. Thermometers registered 28 degrees below zero.

A year at the Cummings store where he clerked and drew his $26 monthly salary, and Mr. Mauzey and his wife took up housekeeping in Atchison. Another year and they returned to Cummings. In 1899 rumors were spread like wildfire throughout the county of the possible establishment of free rural mail delivery. When the routes were established definitely, in 1900, Oscar Mauzey was one of the two Cummings carriers. In 1919 he was transferred from Cummings to Route 2 Atchison. Five years on this route and he retired from service.

During the 24 years of his government service, Oscar Mauzey was elected president of the Atchison County Rural Carriers association, to head the organization for ten years. In this decade he attended 23 state rural carriers' conventions, and once attended a similar session in Buffalo, N. Y.

Raising flowers is a distinct hobby with the Mauzeys. They have several hundred varieties in their yard, and each is a prize in its class. Since Mr. Mauzey's retirement he and his wife, still small and more charming than ever, have made two trips to New York and have traveled a great deal in southern states. They enjoy life to the fullest and are, as they describe it, "ideally happy."

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