

Oral History  
"Goda Ferguson"

Jonie R. Furman  
Wyo. History  
Chris Plank.

Zoda Ferguson is one of our active women residing here in Rock Springs. She is the Clerk of Courts in Sweetwater County, working for Judge Soule. A very busy woman and ever busier now with the growth of the county and state.

Zoda was born on November 27, 1939, in Greeley, Colorado. Living there only one month, her family moved to Cheyenne, residing two blocks away for the capital building. Being an only child, she had a good childhood. Her parents were Charles N. Suits and Mildred Hobbs Suits.

Zoda's father worked on the Union Pacific, which made it very hard to spend time with his family. He was a supervisor, which made it that he was on call twenty-four hours a day. In fact, Zoda and her mother saw so little of him; it was like having company when he could sit down and eat dinner with them.

Mrs. Suits was a very devoted mother, also concerning herself with her daughters' needs. Mildred Suits was thirty-eight when her daughter was born. Being set

in her ways, put a generation gap between Zoda and her. She had few friends, keeping very much to herself and her daughter. Mildred was a woman devoted truly to her family.

As a young child, Zoda remembers her parents giving up their car for the sake of the war. It was one of <sup>the</sup> requests the government made, in which the Swits could sacrifice. She also remembers having to do the wash with a wringer and line drying everything. They had no washer; when they did get one, it was quite a while before they got a dryer. Another luxury item they didn't have was a television, instead they listened to the radio. Zoda was twelve years old before they got their first television.

As a child, Zoda spent time by dressing up her dog and pushing it around in a buggy; as kids do to dolls today. At the age of four, she started playing the piano, playing until the age of nine. She then started playing the violin at nine and played well into college.

Zoda started kindergarten

at the age of six, attending Hubson Clark Elementary School. Zoda always wore a dress to school, it was not acceptable for a young lady to wear slacks, in fact when on trips to Denver, Zoda had to wear hat and gloves. Zoda also attended Micromis Jr. High and Cheyenne High. While in junior and senior high, Zoda belong to a couple of organizations; the Junior Choir, State Youth Group, and Jobe's Daughters. As most girls did, Zoda had a steady boyfriend through high school. They're Senior Prom ~~at~~ was similar to those of today, Zoda attended her's with a blind date.

Zoda attended Colorado State University on a full scholarship for "Applied Vailin." In December of her freshman year, Zoda married her blind date for Senior Prom, Max Kaser. They both finished out the year; then Max got a job and Zoda became pregnant. Zoda has two children, Ada born December 23, 1959, and her son Charlie was born June 1, 1962. After twelve years of marriage to Max, it dissolved by divorce.

Zoda and her children continued to live in Cheyenne until

she married her second husband, Jerry Ferguson. Zoda and Jerry had known each other briefly in High School, and then started to get to know each other fourteen years later. They were married in Cheyenne, December 16, 1973.

Her new husband and children later moved to Rust, Wyoming, where Jerry was Chief of Police. They lived there for four years, then moving here to Rock Springs in 1980. Zoda's daughter Ada is now married and expecting her first child; Ada and her husband Chris are residing in Worland. Her son Charlie is going to college and is transferring to the Wyoming University in the fall.

Zoda is a very active member of the community, besides being Clerk of Courts, she also belongs to the following organizations: The Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, Wyoming Federated Past State Music Club, and the Federated Women's Club. Zoda Ferguson is a very pleasant and friendly person, whom I'm very happy to have as a friend and boss.

NAME: Zoda Ferguson

PRESENT ADDRESS: 307 Tyler R.S.

1. Present profession or occupation: Clerk of Courts
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates):  
Executive Sect. Field Rep for March of Dimes.
3. Date of birth: 11-27-39 Place of birth: Greely, Colo.
4. Date of moving to Wyoming: 12-39
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)  
Charles N. Suits  
Mildred Hobbs Suits.
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):  
None.
7. Schools attended (give dates):  
Cheyenne High School '58  
Colo. State University '59.
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):  
Cheyenne '39-'76 Rock Springs  
Lusk '76-'80
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):
10. Political offices held (give dates):
11. Political affiliation: Republican.
12. Religious affiliation: Episcopalian
13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):  
& Jerry H. Ferguson  
12-16-73 Cheyenne.
14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):  
Ada 12-23-59  
Charles 6-1-62.
15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member:
  - 1) Eastern Star.
  - 2) Daughters of the Nile
  - 3) Wyo Federated Past State Music Club.
  - 4) Federated Women's Club.