

OKLAHOMA  
TERRITORY

## TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of  
History  
Before  
Statehood

INDIAN  
TERRITORY

SEP 18 1982

# '89ers Land Rush Very Flowery Tale

Writers of the past seemed to have an exceptional command of flowery language and a willingness to use it. Witness this reminiscent item by Dr. Delos Walker published in The Daily Oklahoman on April 22, 1909, commemorating the Land Rush of 1889:

"It was a great day to commence the building of an empire. The sky was as blue as in June. A tonic air, as exhilarating as wine, was fanning down from the north with just force enough to make exertion of beast effective and pleasant.

"Mighty possibilities, sightly lands, fertility equalling the fabled Nile, the garden of the gods, were fenced in by an anxious human wall on that immortal 22nd of April, 1889. No region has been so thoroughly advertised, so favorably advertised. ...

"The very name Oklahoma was a poem, an inspiration, an invitation irresistible, impossible to ignore or refuse — Oklahoma! A slogan for conquering and conquest! Oh, yes, Oklahoma was advertised. The denizens of all civilizations came; came from the hills, from the valleys, from the prairie and forest; came from the caves of the earth, from the isles of the sea, and, seemingly, from the clouds in the air. They were here in all tongues, in all colors, in all garbs, with all kinds of profanity, and every imaginable odor.

"Well, I should guess Old Time must have been knocked crazy on that 22nd of April '89 at high noon. In that legion of '89ers there was not one Joshua who could have forced the sun to stand still, but every devil of them would have forced their watches ahead, and they did it. Then, a moment of bated breath, a hush till hearts could be heard to beat, a final signal and the human flood deluged the land.

"And so we are here. The result is an open book which pales into significance the most extravagant romance."