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Membership in the Payne County Historical Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Payne County history.

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From the President

This publication constitutes the first issue of the Payne County Historical Review. It represents the attainment of one of the major goals set by the Payne County Historical Society upon its organization in January, 1980. By such a publication we hope to preserve and communicate the history of our region.

The Review has been made possible primarily because of the selfless labor of Mrs. Mary Jane Warde. She has edited and typed the entire issue. Of course, we are also indebted to our authors who prepared the articles, and to our membership who provided the encouragement.

Finally, the future success of the Review depends upon two factors. First, we need a constant flow of articles relating to the county's history. Second, we need a growing membership whose dues will help pay publication costs. In each of these two areas, each of you can help.

W. David Baird
President

Pandemonium in Ingalls

by Jim Smallwood

On September 1, 1893, in Ingalls, Payne County, an epic struggle took place between the forces of law, order, and decency and the forces of outlawry. The event was covered by contemporary newspapers such as the Guthrie Daily Leader, the Daily Oklahoma State Capital, the Perkins Journal, and the Stillwater Gazette. Lon R. Stansberg added "Cops and Robbers: Famous Battle of Ingalls in 1893," a piece for the Tulsa World in 1937. However, historian Glenn Shirley gave perhaps the best coverage of the incident in two volumes, Six-gun and Silver Star (1955) and West of Hell's Fringe (1978).[1] Yet many residents of of Oklahoma, and particularly of Payne County, know little of the struggle. Thus it seems fitting that in this first volume of the Payne County Historical Review an attempt be made to highlight the story of the famous gun battle at Ingalls wherein the forces of law confronted the infamous Bill Doolin and his terrorizing gang known as the Wild Bunch. Moreover, such a story may stand as a case study of how peace officers tried to bring law to a lawless frontier.

Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory of the 1890s were wild, sometimes lawless lands. Too few officers of the law had to patrol far too much area. Such a setting was perfect for criminal elements to roam and attack at will. Then they could escape into the area along the boundary between Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory, an area which became so infested with outlaws that it became known as "Hell's Fringe."

Close to "Hell's Fringe" was the small town of Ingalls, with a population of 150 in the early 1890s.

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Approximately eleven miles east of Stillwater, not near a railroad nor a major highway, little Ingalls seemed to have little reason to be; yet by 1893 it was a thriving trading center for nearby farmers. It boasted twenty-two businesses including a general store, a dry goods store, a blacksmith shop, a drug store, an undertaking parlor, a hardware and implement store, a grocery, a boot and harness sotre, and, of course, several saloons. Other thriving establishments included two restaurants, a barbershop, several doctors' offices, a livery, and the O.K. Hotel, the town's only two story building. Then, too, a local widow kept a small parlor in her home for three or four comely lasses to prcvide "diversions" for local menfolk.[2]

Because it was located in close proximity to "Hell's Fringe," Ingalls in the early 1890s was frequented by all sorts of banditti, from petty, common horse thieves to more dangerous cutthroats who could rob and kill without any pangs of conscience. For example, the notorious Daltons--before their disaster at Coffeyville, Kansas--frequented Ingalls often and then returned to one of their hideouts, either near the town or to their other havens of safety in the Creek Nation.

After the Dalton gang was broken up, the most dangerous villain left in the Stillwater-Ingalls area was Bill Doolin who was a member of the Dalton gang but who did not participate in the Coffeyville raid. Bill Doolin was born in 1858 in Arkansas, the son of a sharecropper who eventually acquired his own small farm. Doolin thus grew up doing farm work. He also became an expert rifleman, for as he grew older it was he who usually did the hunting for game. By the time he reached his maturity, Doolin was an imposing figure. He was six feet two and lanky. Blue eyes, red hair, and a down-turned mustache highlighted an average, relatively handsome face. He talked little but those who came to know him learned to listen when he did speak.[3]

In 1881 when Doolin was twenty-three he left his father's farm and headed west, where opportunity supposedly abounded. He moved around, held several odd-jobs, and eventually hired on as a cowboy for Oscar D. Halsell, a Texan who had established a ranch in Oklahoma Territory. For the next ten years he worked on and off as a rider for various outfits until ultimately he ran afoul of the law. Working in Guthrie in 1891 --again laboring for Halsell who had both a livery and a grocery store in town--Doolin travelled to a point near Coffeyville to attend a July 4 celebration. Beer flowed like water at that celebration--but Kansas was a dry state. Officers appeared at the party and started to confiscate the beer whereupon a gunfight errupted. Alledgedly, Doolin was one of the rowdy bunch who opened fire on and badly wounded the two officers. Thus began Doolin's career in crime that ultimately took him to the Ingalls shootout.[4]

After the Coffeyville affair Doolin sought out and joined the famous Dalton gang in time to participate in a train robbery at Leliaetta which netted the gang $3,000. And there were other train robberies--at Red Rock on the Otoe reserve; at Adair in the Cherokee Nation; and there may or may not have been other crimes --depending on the authority cited.[5] But the biggest Dalton scheme of all was to rob two Coffeyville, Kansas, banks simultaneously. Although the gang hoped to make a quick fortune and then retire at least temporarily, plans went awry, and there was a virtual war in Coffeyville. Killed by citizens of the town were Bill Powers, Dick Broadwell, Bob Dalton, and Grat Dalton. Emmett Dalton survived but was captured and faced a lengthy prison term. After the Coffeyville carnage, law officers proclaimed that the gang had been exterminated. They were wrong, however. Bill Doolin and several other gang members had been left behind because they failed to make a rendezvous.[6] Soon, Doolin would be leading a new gang known as the Wild Bunch.

Doolin formed a new gang out of some of the most vicious outlaws ever to roam Oklahoma. One was Bill

Dalton, who had not ridden with his brothers but who on hearing of his brothers' deaths, sought out Doolin --probably driven onward by a desire for revenge. Other individuals who joined Doolin were George Newcomb, known as Bitter Creek, a train and bank robber; Ol Yantis, who was killed before the Ingalls battle; Bill Raidler, known as Little Bill; Dick West, called Little Dick; and Tom Daugherty, known as Arkansas Tom. Later three others joined the gang: Bill Blake, called Tulsa Jack; Charles Clifton, known as Dynamite Dick; and George Waightman, called Red Buck.[7]

Doolin, once he had formed his new gang, began planning new raids. To one of the citizens of Coffeyville who had fought the Daltons, the outlaw mailed a threatening note promising revenge. Then, while the community's attention was thus distracted, the Doolin Wild Bunch robbed a train at Caney, some twenty miles west of Coffeyville.[8] That action began a crime spree. In November of 1892, the outlaws hit a train at Wharton, and later that month they looted a bank in Spearville, Kansas, about fifteen miles east of Dodge City. The outlaws then split up, planning to meet later at their Creek Nation hideout. After the holdup, while escaping, one of the gang killed a farmer in cold blood to secure a fresh mount. That last deed spurred into action law officers in Ford County, Kansas, where the murder had occurred, and officers in Guthrie--to which area the outlaw was headed. Ultimately, the officers tracked down the gunman, Ol Yantis, and killed him after a short, but furious, gun battle.[9]

For months after Yantis' death, the Doolin Wild Bunch remained unusually quiet. Apparently, the money taken from previous raids sated them for some time. Moreover, lawmen from Oklahoma Territory were ever vigilant. On June 11 of 1893, Doolin's silence was broken. His gang attacked a train just west of Cimarron, Kansas, took at least $1,000 in silver, and made a safe escape. Then, returning across the Cherokee Outlet, at Wharton they robbed two trains simultaneously--one southbound and one northbound. Pursued by

officers, the gang split up, and at some point in a running fight Doolin was shot in the left foot. Although wounded he escaped and later rejoined his band in the hideout near Ingalls. Then several nights a week they came into the town to celebrate by drinking, by playing poker, by general carousing, and perhaps by visiting the widow's "parlor."[10]

Meanwhile, law officers began plotting the end of the Doolin gang. A key man involved was Evett D. Nix, newly appointed United States marshal at Guthrie. Also important were several of his deputies, some of whom won prominence in their own right: John M. Hale; Bill Tilghman; Chris Madsen; Heck Thomas; Charles F. Colcord; John Hixon; Ed Kelley; Jim Masterson, brother of the more famous Bat; Tom Hueston; Lafe Shadley; Dick Speed; and others. And their first duty was to track down the Doolin gang.[11]

It was no secret that Doolin and his Wild Bunch spent several days and nights each week at Ingalls. And some in the town apparently appreciated their patronage. Their stolen money helped the community's economy. They purchased whiskey, other provisions, and ammunition, and they also spent their coins in saloons, in games of chance, and in other diversions. And while in town they boarded at the O.K. Hotel. However, most people in the town were honest and law-abiding, but in their terror they kept silent about the Wild Bunch's activities. However, several deputies riding out from Guthrie and Stillwater had done some investigating, learning the habits of the gang while in Ingalls.[12]

Then apparently it was Deputy Marshal John Hixon who formulated a bold plan to raid Ingalls and capture the outlaws.[13] Since homeseekers were crossing the twin territories looking for land, Hixon reasoned that if a posse could enter Ingalls in covered wagons, they would attract no attention. As he finally concocted his plan, there were two covered wagons filled with officers, one leaving Stillwater, the other leaving Guthrie, on the night of August 31. The Stillwater

wagon, with Dick Speed driving and six other deputies concealed inside, reached a rendezvous point southwest of Ingalls near midnight. The original plan was to join the Guthrie wagon and attack the O.K. Hotel, but the second wagon was delayed and did not reach the rendezvous until morning. Thus, already the lawmen's plans went awry. That was a portent of things to come. Hixon must have thought about Heck Thomas' warning that the Ingalls affair would ba a "fool's errand." Yet Hixon pushed ahead after he sent a messenger back to Stillwater with a request for reinforcements. Once he recevied the message, Deputy John Hale gathered a posse and started for Ingalls.[14]

While awaiting help, Hixon next decided to approach the town and scatter his men so as to prevent all avenues of escape. Along the main streets of town, the wagons maneuvered, and deputies dropped off one by one taking up strategic locations, primarily points which focused on the hotel and on the livery where the outlaws' horses were kept. As the lawmen took positions, several of the bandits, including Doolin, were in Ransom's Saloon for early hours poker and drinking.[15]

The outlaws noticed the movement of both wagons. They paid no heed to the first which disappeared into a camping grove often frequented by travelers. But the second, driven by Dick Speed, stopped near the saloon. Speed then entered a barn, told its two occupants of the deputies' mission, and ordered the two to remain silent. Meanwhile, Bitter Creek Newcomb was sent out to investigate Speed's wagon. The outlaw mounted his horse which he then walked toward the wagon. Just then Speed saw a youth near the barn and asked him to identify the rider. The boy pointed to Newcomb and said that it was Bitter Creek. Newcomb noticed the boy pointing and saw Speed in the barn doorway. He needed no other evidence; he knew the law had come for the Wild Bunch; and he did not intend to be taken. Bitter Creek reached for his rifle, but before he could fire, Speed shot first; thus began the Battle of Ingalls.[16]

Speed's bullet hit the magazine of the outlaw's rifle, and part of the magazine flew downward and lodged in Newcomb's right leg. The outlaw got off one wild shot, but his shattered rifle would not work for another. He wheeled his horse beginning an escape, but Speed stepped from the barn doorway, taking aim, intending to end Bitter Creek's days. Unknown to the officer, however, was that Arkansas Tom Daugherty remained in his room on the second floor of the O.K. Hotel. From various windows he could command the street below. And when the first shots were fired, Tom quickly grabbed his rifle, ran to a window, and spotted Speed who was about to fire again on Newcomb. Arkansas Tom shot quickly and hit Speed in the shoulder. The deputy spun around and tried to take cover behind a wagon, but before he could react, Tom fired again; this time it was a fatal round which instantly killed the deputy.[17]

Then hellish pandemonium broke loose. The outlaws in the saloon were alerted, and the other deputies were forced into action before they were ready. Bitter Creek, still astride his mount, spurred onward trying to escape. Doolin and his men in the saloon fired round after round trying to kill the deputies and to cover Newcomb's getaway. The deputies meanwhile returned a withering fire which tore through the saloon from three sides. Two unfortunate citizens of Ingalls, one a mere youth, were shot down in the crossfire as was one horse. In all the confusion, Bitter Creek made his escape, and there was a lull in the firing.[18]

But the barrage of bullets soon continued. Both of the saloon's co-owners were wounded, one in an apparent attempt to aid the outlaws by creating a diversion. Then in all the furor, Doolin and his men made a mad dash for their horses at the livery. As the outlaws successfully reached their horses, Deputy Hueston shifted his position for a better angle, but in doing so he exposed himself to Arkansas Tom who was still at the hotel but who had moved to the attic and punched a hole in the roof to gain an advantage

over the officers. The outlaw saw Hueston and quickly pumped two bullets into his mid-section. Meanwhile, the outlaws in the barn continued to hold the officers at bay and also saddled their horses for a getaway.[19]

In the escape attempt, Doolin and Charles Clifton (Dynamite Dick) rode out the rear door while the others, including Dalton, bolted out the front. As Dalton spurred his mount down the street the deputies shot his horse out from under him. Dalton at first moved away from his horse but saw that a wire fence was stopping his cohorts' escape. Since he had the only pair of cutters, he returned to his horse and retrieved them. Meanwhile, Deputy Shadley was moving about for position while firing on Dalton without effect. At one point, Shadley had to crawl under a yard fence, and while he was in a partially immobile, helpless condition, Arkansas Tom fired from the hotel, wounding Shadley. The deputy then apparently took cover in a private home, but then came out and rounded a corner looking for his foes. He was then shot several more times--by either Dalton or Arkansas Tom--before he fell to the ground grievously wounded.[20]

Next, Dalton ran to the fence and cut through it, thus allowing the Wild Bunch to escape. The deputies kept firing--at long range now--and saw Dynamite Dick fall off his horse. He had been struck in the neck by one of the lawmen's bullets, but his cohorts lifted him up, and the band rode away, still returning the officers' fire. Another civilian was wounded before the outlaws rode on.[21]

The deputies still had a problem, however; they finally discovered that one bandit (Arkansas Tom) was in the attic of the hotel; so, all officers converged on the building and took cover. Hixon ordered all occupants out of the hotel, and the officers began a barrage. But the outlaw survived and continued to return the fire. Hale arrived bringing reinforcements from Stillwater. His party then began a futile chase of Doolin and his men.[22]

Meanwhile, the officers surrounding the hotel demanded Tom Daugherty's surrender. Arkansas Tom said that if he came out he would come out shooting. While myths and legends abound about what happened next, the deputies continued to lay seige to the hotel while several Ingalls residents went one at a time to talk to Arkansas Tom. At first refusing to surrender because he feared he might be lynched or chained like an animal, he received assurances from the officers that he would receive justice. According to the best sources, Tom finally surrendered to a local preacher at two o'clock. The Ingalls gun battle was finally over: Deputies took Arkansas Tom to the Stillwater jail and then transferred him to Guthrie.[23] But a grim affair it had been. The outlaws killed Dick Speed and wounded Hueston and Shadley and yet lived to make their escape.

Contemporary news reports of the battle spurred rumors and great excitement throughout Payne County and over in Guthrie. Several posses formed and began roaming the countryside, looking for the bandits. Hale's group picked up the wounded Bitter Creek's trail but could not find him. Then they tracked Doolin and the rest of the Wild Bunch to the Cimarron but lost that trail, too. Meanwhile, the Ingalls' tragedy was intensified when Hueston and Shadley both died of their wounds.[24]

Heck Thomas had characterized the lawmen's proposed Ingalls raid as a fool's errand. Events appeared to bear him out: three deputies killed but only one outlaw captured. The early delay of the Guthrie wagon, Bitter Creek's early detection of the officers, and Arkansas Tom's strategic location in the attic of the O.K. Hotel--these three factors spelled defeat for the lawmen. Their effort was valiant, but Doolin and the Wild Bunch remained free. However, the continuing efforts of the law would eventually bring a degree of stability and order to a lawless frontier. Ultimately, the Wild Bunch was hunted down. Doolin himself was finally tracked and killed in August of 1896 by Heck Thomas and his pos-

se.[25] The Ingalls battle did not stop the Wild Bunch, but later law enforcement efforts were finally successful.

Editor's Note: The O.K. Hotel was moved to Stillwater in 1937 and currently stands at 812 S. Hester where it is occupied as an apartment house. Many alterations have been made outside, but the basic floor plan and most of the interior woodwork remain. The building has been nominated for the National Register.

NOTES

[1]Glenn Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1955) and Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978).

[2]Leslie McRill, "Old Ingalls: The Story of a Town That Will Not Die," Chronicles of Oklahoma, 26:4 (Winter, 1958-1959), pp. 429-445; Oklahoma Hawk, March 1, 1893; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 149-151.

[3]Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star, pp. 59-60.

[4]Interview with Jim Williams, August 20, 1937, Grant Foremen (comp.), Indian-Pioneer History, vol. 49, p. 519, Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 115-117.

[5]Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star, pp. 39-43.

[6]David Stewart Elliott, Last Raid of the Daltons (Coffeyville, Kansas: Coffeyville Daily Journal, 1892), passim; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 83-105.

[7]Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star, pp. 60-62; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, p. 139.

[8]Coffeyville Journal, October 14, 1892; Stillwater Gazette, October 21, 1892.

[9]Stillwater Gazette, November 11, 1892; and see Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star, pp. 66-68.

[10]Daily Oklahoma State Capital, June 12, 1893; Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star, pp. 82, 84; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 139-141.

[11]Guthrie Daily News, May 29, June 6, 1893; Shirley, Six-gun and Silver Star, pp. 74-81.

[12]Guthrie Daily Leader, September 5, 1893.

[13]The best indepth study of the Ingalls raid is told by Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 149-170.

[14]Daily Oklahoma State Capital, September 2, 1893; Guthrie Daily Leader, September 2, 5, 1893; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, p. 156.

[15]Daily Oklahoma State Capital, September 2, 1893; Guthrie Daily Leader, September 2, 5, 1893.

[16]Tulsa World, March 21, 1937.

[17]Ibid; Perkins Journal, September 7, 1893.

[18]Guthrie Daily Leader, September 5, 1893; also see for coverage of the entire battle, McRill, "Old Ingalls," pp. 429-445. McRill quotes extensively from a diary left by D. R. Pickering who gave an eye-witness account.

[19]Guthrie Daily Leader, September 2, 1893; Stillwater Gazette, June 9, 1904, and April 10, 1908.

[20]Stillwater Gazette, September 1, 1893; Daily Oklahoma State Capital, September 2, 4, 1893.

[21]Kansas City Times, November 15, 1893.

[22]Daily Oklahoma State Capital, September 2, 1893.

[23]Perkins Journal, September 7, 1893; Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 162-163.

[24]Guthrie Daily Leader, September 2, 5, 1893; Stillwater Gazette, September 8, 1893.

[25]Shirley, West of Hell's Fringe, pp. 364-369.

Stillwater's Lustron Homes Still Shine

by Ray H. Burley

Not all Payne County history is old. Some of the history dates back only thirty years, as in the case of Stillwater's two all-steel "Lustron" homes, located at 915 West Eighth and 2119 Sherwood. They are products of an ill-fated and (for American taxpayers) expensive attempt to mass-produce houses for the post-World War II housing shortage. They also elicit enthusiastic, favorable comments. "The Lustron house was at least thirty years ahead of its time," says W. G. Chamberlain, professor in the School of Architecture, OSU College of Engineering.

Those are almost exactly the words used by Bill and Rhonda McLearen, 116 Melrose, who lived at 2119 Sherwood during three of the approximately four and one-half years they owned the property. Cleo and Margaret Kerns, 3023 Fox Ledge Lane, bought the Sherwood Street Lustron home in 1978 and now rent it to Mrs. Constance Stephens. Rollin and Carol Richardson, who live about four miles south of Stillwater on Highway 177, have owned 915 West Eighth since May, 1977; and Mrs. Anna Shepard rents it from them.

Stillwater's two Lustron homes are among the approximately two thousand five hundred that were manufactured by the Lustron Corporation, Columbus, Ohio, between mid-August, 1949, and July, 1951. The plant, about eight by ten city blocks, or one and one-quarter million square feet in size, was a Curtiss-Wright aviation industry plant during World War II. John Haning, now a retired OSU employee, watched from his home across the street as the Sherwood Street Lustron home went up in about three days, assembled by a crew of several men who brought both homes in by truck from Wichita. He says he once saw several Lustron all-steel homes in Omaha while visiting in that city. Some people remember having heard that several are located in Tulsa; and a Lustron dealer was in busi-

ness in Wichita, Kansas, so that city probably has a number of them.

Whatever the location of a Lustron home, the general description is the same: They are a ranch-style home, 35 feet square, on a concrete base topped with asphalt tile with 2 bedrooms, a bath, a living room-dinette, kitchen, utility room, sliding interior doors, and so many storage closets and other built-ins as to be nearly "all-furnished." Built of 3,300 pieces of steel, totaling 10,000 pounds, they are gray with green porcelain enamel finish inside and out, including the roof. Exterior walls are 24-inch squares of this material, joined at the edges with a strip of neoprene plastic in each joint for weather-proofing. Walls and roof are thickly insulated. Heat from the gas furnace is conducted to the interior walls and the ceiling in each room. At strategic spots in the utility room and elsewhere, a small wall panel can be removed for easy access to plumbing and wiring.

The Sherwood Street home has a 15 by 24-foot garage to match the house. Unlike the house, which has only a very small amount of wood in it (and that is in the kitchen), the garage has a wood frame. Apparently a garage was not a product of the Lustron factory, and perhaps the Wichita dealer just provided enough extra porcelain enamel wall squares and other parts to be fastened to a hand-built wood frame. Whatever the origin of the garage, it too is attractive.

The history of the Stillwater Lustron homes is a bit hard to come by. Apparently they were brought to Stillwater by the late Arthur Scroggs, who is remembered as owner of the now-disappeared Grand Hotel at Sixth and Main. Mr. Scroggs owned three adjoining lots, including the one where 915 West Eighth is located, during 1945-1960. Sometime in 1950 he ordered the two Lustron homes from the Wichita dealer. One was assembled on his Eighth Street property; and the other was sold to Josephine Reifsnyder, who in

1949 had acquired two adjoining lots on Sherwood Street. "Arthur said that the manufactured, all-steel, quickly-assembed house was the house of the future. He was enthusiastic," remembers his brother, J. H. Scroggs, now retired and living at 11 North Pecan Drive.

For at least 25 years this writer has thought that Stillwater's two Lustron homes are something special, certainly timeless in their outward appearance and probably extremely ingenious in their interior arrangements. After recent visits to both homes and talks with some of the owners and residents past and present, the ideas mentioned above seem to have considerable truth. The writer also has thought that perhaps he was the only one around who had taken any special note of the houses. That idea proved to be mistaken. A good many people have taken note of them and know that they are something special, without having delved much into their history.

"What, if anything, would you have changed?" was one question asked of a number of people who have lived in one or the other house.

"Well, I think I would have liked a little more storage and counter space in the kitchen" was a remark that cropped up a couple of times. One man said he sometimes felt a bit frustrated because the house design was such that it was impossible to add on one or more rooms. However, he admitted that this also was a measure of insurance against spoiling the functional, harmonious design of the house. The Lustron house was "as handy as a pocket on a shirt," he indicated.

One lady said, "Well, living there seemed a little confining at times"; but in the next breath she spoke about such things as fabulous space for storage, ease of cleaning the house, and the fact that there was no expense whatever for painting or papering the interior. Washing renewed the appearance.

Lustron Home at 915 West Eighth, Stillwater, OK.

Bill and Rhonda McLearen remember 2119 Sherwood for ease in heating and cooling. "That house has insulation 6 to 12 inches thick. In 1977 our highest monthly heating bill was $32," Bill said. Cooling was done with an air conditioner which was installed in a special opening in one outside wall of the living room. The roof never leaked, but on one occasion the porcelain enamel roof showed a bit of scuffing, and Bill gave it a coat of paint.

"What would you have changed?"

Rhonda said, "Well, maybe I would have added a bit more window space." Then she got to talking about the large bedrooms--"Fantastic!" she said.

For Donald and Linda Boyd, 2119 Sherwood was an "in-between address." Back in August, 1971, they had sold their home before completion of their present home on RFD 3. "Our children were Donna, age 11; Bart, 9; Brad, 8; and Darla, 7. Can you imagine any property owner being willing to rent a house for a few months to a couple with four children?" Linda asked. So, they bought 2119 Sherwood and owned and lived in it just six months before moving to their newly completed home. "We were crowded, but the children loved living there and said it was like living on a ship," their mother remarked. "The house had such a feeling of cleanliness. And in winter it was cozy," she concluded.

Thirty years after construction the walls in these houses glow from occasional washing and polishing. Mr. Haning mentioned an idea that none of the other folks who were contacted seemed to have heard of. He said that in a Lustron house, the prevailing color in a room can be changed simply by putting in light bulbs of the desired color. The new color is reflected off the walls.

Thirty years have brought a few service stripes, of course. The concrete base of one house settled a bit, which required some corrective work; and now the

floor is as level as ever. One sliding door has been replaced by a hinged door. One or both houses have stronger door locks. There have been a few other changes, but the Lustron houses look almost unchanged from what they must have been in 1950.

When the Lustron concept of house design and manufacturing seemed to have so much going for it, what went wrong? Why were Lustron Corporation's assets, including the huge plant full of very special machinery, sold under federal court order in July, 1951?

The corporation was organized by Carl Gunnard Strandlund, 50 years old, the go-getting vice-president and general manager of Chicago Vitreous Enamel Company. Because of the urgency of the housing shortage, Lustron was financed mostly by huge U.S. government loans. Magazines of the years 1946-51 gave occasional attention to the plans and progress, the tribulations and the set-backs, of Lustron Corporation. The magazine reports say that not until August, 1949, was the first complete, mass-produced house of the specified type turned out by the Lustron factory. The quality of the materials and workmanship was unquestioned; never was there a suggestion that the factory's product was "a lemon." But the plant never attained the desired production rate--turned our enough houses per month--to reach the break-even financial point and then exceed it.

Originally, the intention was to sell the Lustron house at $6,500; but it became necessary to raise the price and most of the plant's output was retailed at $10,500, not including the cost of the building lot and other extras. Today, that price would be a bargain; but in the housing market of the late 1940s and early 1950s it was a bit steep for many people. Furthermore, the Lustron Corporation asked that a dealer pay cash when taking delivery of a house. Many dealers did not have the capital to operate long on this basis. When the financial crunch came, the Lustron Corporation was declared in default on $22 million of the $37.5 million owed to the U.S. government.

Professor Chamberlain, who has incorporated numerous innovative ideas of his own into his home at 2408 West Eighth, says, "The Lustron house was on the right track. It represented very efficient use of materials. And, square proportions in a house design, as in the Lustron, are very efficient in heating and cooling." Apparently the potential is still there, despite Lustron Corporation's misfortunes.

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The Railroad Reaches Stillwater

by Lawrence Gibbs

"Last Saturday night, the track layers reached Boomer Creek and early Sunday morning the pile driver began driving piles for the bridge. Early as the hour was, 800 or more men, women and children were there to watch the proceedings. As the day progressed, everybody in the city walked or drove out to watch the work.

"By Monday morning the bridge was built and track laying was in progress towards the city. At 1:30 p.m., the track was laid to Tenth Ave. and by 6 o'clock p.m. the track was laid through the corporate limits of the city headed towards Pawnee.

"The yards in this city are being rapidly put in and will be completed before the close of the week."

The Payne County Populist
Thursday, March 29, 1900

* * *

And so, thrity years after the first tracks were put down on Oklahoma soil, Stillwater had its railroad.[1] It wasn't much of an article to announce rails had reached the county seat, but it was right in the middle of the front page and had the edition's biggest headline. The arrival of the rails, progress of the work, and rumors about wat was happening were on everyone's mind.

Eighty years ago, towns were fighting to get a railroad, and it was the topic of much conversation. The newspaper was just printing what everybody already knew. Arrival of the railroad meant Stillwater was connected with the rest of the U.S. through passenger service, the means to ship merchandise in and farm products out, a way for the A & M experiment

station to spread the word to remote areas and show off its work--a link with the world.

The Eastern Oklahoma Railway Company was incorporated under the general laws of the Territory of Oklahoma July 24, 1899. This was the construction company that built the 47.9 miles of railroad along the south bank of the Cimarron River from Eastern Oklahoma Junction at Guthrie through Pleasant Valley, Coyle, Goodnight, Cottingham and Ripley to Cushing between 1900 and 1902. At Ripley the line branched up to Mehan, Stillwater, Yost, Glencoe, Pawnee and Skedee to Esau Junction, a distance of some 40.4 miles. Eastern Oklahoma Railway Company was operated under lease by the Santa Fe Railroad from January 1, 1900, the date when the first section of road was opened for operation, until June 20, 1907, when it was sold to the Santa Fe.[2]

The coming of the railroad to Payne County also brought something else: Yost Lake. Now a country club-like facility, it was built by the railroad as a source of water for steam engines. Except for track, railroad facilities are gone from the lake area now. But at one time there was a siding, water tower, depot and platform. Santa Fe abandoned the station in 1964.

The story of passenger trains in north central Oklahoma is also the story of "The 400 and Fogarty." John Fogarty was a conductor for the Santa Fe and is an ancestor of the Fogartys who still reside in Guthrie. It was for him Fogarty Junior High School was named. Fogarty's train was shown officially on AT & SF timetables as No. 410, but passengers knew it as "The 400 and Fogarty." Fogarty's run left Guthrie eastbound for Coyle, Goodnight, and Ripley, then turned north through Stillwater, Glencoe and Pawnee, to Skedee (Esau Junction) and finally went south through Maramec and Yale to Cushing. It tied up there for the night and retraced the route the next day back to Guthrie. (Much of the abandoned right-of-way followed by Fogarty and the 410 can be

seen today--especially from the many bridges along the Cimarron. Just look along the south side of the river and there it is.)

According to an article by Editor Bill Burchardt in a 1963 edition of Oklahoma Today magazine, Fogarty joined the Santa Fe in 1880 as a section hand, progressing through the ranks of engine wiper, fireman, and brakeman until 1905 when he took charge of the 410 as conductor. He had the train for the rest of his life. While Oklahoma was growing up Fogarty's train made its daily journey through the area that housed Bill Doolin's gang and spawned an oil boom. Fogarty's train had the well-known passengers--E. W. Marland; C. B. Shaffer, who opened the Cushing Field in 1912; Josh Cosden; Maj. Gordon "Pawnee Bill" Lilly; and Harry Sinclair. "Though it was not these," Burchardt notes, "but little known folk whom time has forgotten, that made John Fogarty's name legend."

For the family at the crossing near Glencoe, Fogarty would always toss off an evening paper from the train. Youngsters would give a wave and run for home. For farmers along the route who lived a long way from station stops, Fogarty would stop the train anywhere out in the country when there were few passengers on board to let them off at the spot nearest their home. Mothers would put a child on the train saying, "Please put my boy off at Guthrie, Mr. Fogarty," and go their way securely knowing the lad would be safely watched. Old timers along the route met the train daily just to say hello to Fogarty and set their watches by the train's punctual arrival.

Late in life Fogarty became ill and was hospitalized, according to a tale related to Burchardt by Uncle Dick Dickson, engineer for the 410. Word spread quickly along the route of The 400 and Fogarty. The train crew kept folks up to date on Fogarty's progress. And finally he was able to return. Crowds packed the platform at each depot along the line. Men shook his hand and women gave him flowers. Per-

sons in the back of the crowd shouted their greetings. In Stillwater the band was out. During the fifteen minutes it took to transfer baggage, mail, and express, the band played and folks yelled to Fogarty, "Glad you're back." He was almost weighted down with bouquets. Fogarty went to the big roundhouse in the sky on July 23, 1923.

Yes, Stillwater got its railroad. But, if one was good, a second railroad would surely be even better.

About two years after the first rails reached Stillwater, rumor circulated about another line that was going to build through the city, The Oklahoma Central & St. Louis. This line was projected from El Reno to Guthrie, Stillwater, Joplin, Jefferson City and on to St. Louis. The Stillwater Democrat announced construction would begin by early 1903. The newspaper said the railroad would form a connecting link between the Clover Leaf and Colorado Southern.

But, alas, it was yet another of the "paper railroads" that flourished soon after the turn of the century, like the Oklahoma Public Service and Interurban Company. Promoters of this project even raised several thousands of dollars for their never-built railroad. Residents of Jennings put up $10,000 and farmers living in the Cimarron and Wild Horse valleys pledged $13,000 for the interurban that would link Jennings with Morrison, Glencoe, Stillwater, and Perkins.

While many Payne County communities were served by rails at one time, few still are. A Santa Fe line east out of Cushing to Frey was abandoned in 1964. The route south of Cushing has just about all been pulled to Shawnee. And ATSF has announced it is considering a similar fate for the line north out of Cushing.

The Katy has pulled out its line from Oklahoma City to Bartlesville through Cushing and Yale, but both towns are still served by the Santa Fe. This

led to the construction of a unique railroading feature. (It is said there are only one or two others like it.) When the Katy line was in operation, it shared a single-lane bridge over the Cimarron River just south of Yale--not a single-track bridge, but a single-lane bridge. Both railroads ran their own tracks over the bridge just inches apart. Now just the Santa Fe uses it.

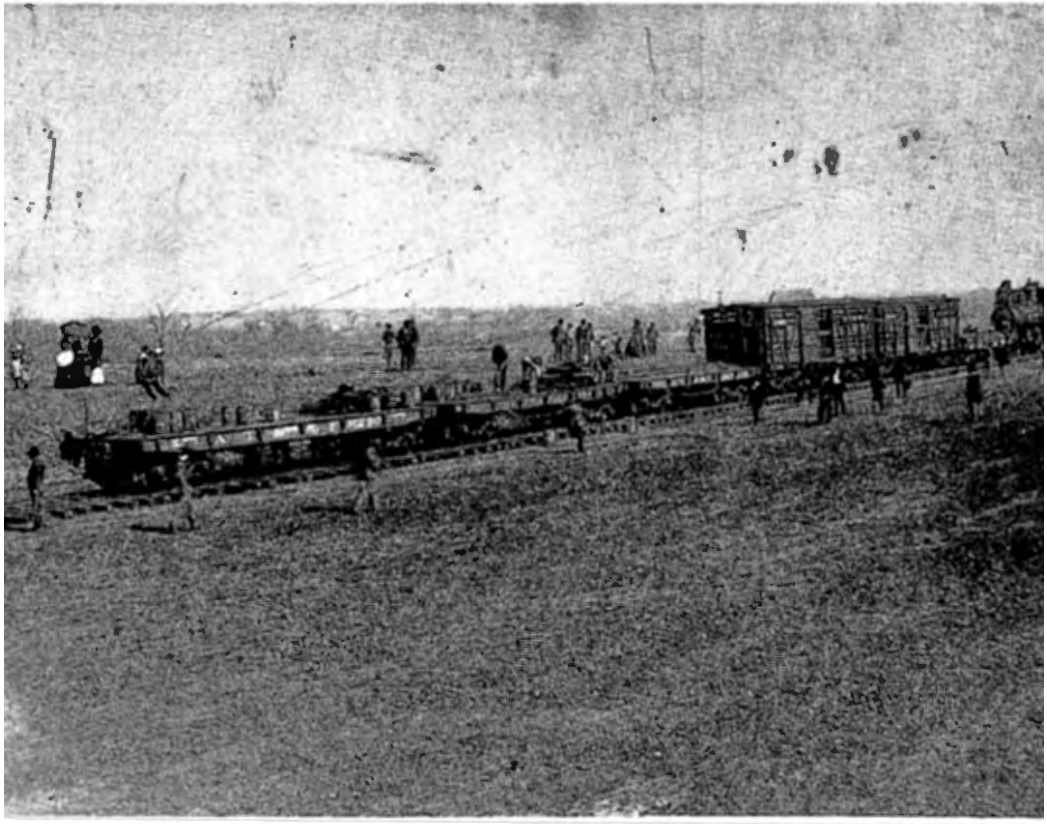
It was the floods of 1957 that caused the end of through service in Stillwater. When the bridge at Ripley was destroyed, the Santa Fe ended service between Guthrie and Cushing and from Ripley up to Stillwater. The Santa Fe deadends in Stillwater now. A single freight train daily comes south from Pawnee and returns.

The Stillwater station, built in 1914, is still in use. Eighty years since the line caused so much excitement entering town, there is talk the Santa Fe would like to lease it or sell it to the city and move into a small structure close to one of its biggest customers--Stillwater Milling Company. But in the heyday of railroads, Stillwater residents could board a train at the Ninth Street station and head for connections to just about anywhere in America.

NOTES

[1]It wasn't until June 6, 1870, that the first railroad built into Oklahoma. The Missouri-Kansas-Texas (Katy) grabbed the honor when it crossed into the state north of Vinita as it built its main line south through Muskogee and McAlester to Denison.

[2]Corporate and construction information comes from The Railroads of Oklahoma, Bulletin No. 60 of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. The bulletin was researched and written by the late Sylvan R. Wood, who was a chemistry professor at OSU, and Preston George, known as the "dean of Oklahoma rail photographers," retired from the Department of the Interior, now residing in Edmond. The bulletin was published in 1943.



Railroad Building into Stillwater.

The Formative Years of a University

by Russell M. Lawson

In January, 1895 the Governor of Oklahoma Territory said of the young Oklahoma A. and M. College, "The depressing features which marked the founding and subsequent career of this institution of practical education are being overcome as time progresses and the influence of the college will be more and more apparent."[1] Spoken by W. C. Renfrow, these observant words were prophetic of the growth and importance that Oklahoma A. and M. would assume. The first five years of the college's existence were characterized by maladministration and instability. But, as the governor correctly assumed, the institution was to break out of its infertile bonds to grow in strength and prestige. This paper will deal with the formative years at Oklahoma A. and M. College by tracing the origins, problems, and development of the college in the late nineteenth century.

Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College began officially on December 25, 1890, as a result of a decision by the First Legislative Assembly for the Oklahoma Territory. The foundation of the college was made possible because of the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862 and the Second Morrill Act of 1890. According to the original Morrill Act, a land-grant college's "leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts...in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life." The fifth president of Oklahoma A. and M., Angelo C. Scott, interpreted this act to mean that emphasis was to be placed on "agriculture and the mechanic arts and the sciences contributory to them, and, after that, to provide as large an area of

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cultural pursuits as possible." Apparently other administrators involved with the beginnings of Oklahoma A. and M. felt the same way. The college was established in an agricultural area where the land was of prime importance. It was to aid the surrounding population with the research and instruction of, primarily, agriculture and related subjects. But, as Philip R. Rulon wrote, "The nation was in the process of shifting from an agrarian to an urban economic base and training...was needed to aid in the transition." Thus the college also provided industrial and liberal art education, although agriculture remained of utmost importance.[2]

The first professor of agriculture on the Oklahoma A. and M. campus, Dr. J. C. Neal, described the political battle for the establishment of the college in Stillwater by stating, "the members of the stormy first session of the territorial legislature, especially of Payne County, builded much wiser than they knew when they asked for the agricultural college, and through thick and thin worked, schemed, intrigued, and nobody knows what else they did to get it." The center of attention was George W. Gardenshire, a Populist representing Payne County. In the first legislature a political deal resulted in the election of Gardenshire as president of the Senate. His influence and further political dealings allowed for the passage of a bill locating the land-grant college in Payne County at a location which would "furnish at least eighty acres of land and $10,000 of its bonds as a condition precedent to its location there." Although other towns in Payne County vied for the opportunity, Stillwater collected two hundred acres of land and set up a program to sell the bonds. A legislative commission approved the location and Stillwater became the home of the Oklahoma A. and M. College.[3]

An integral part of the new college was the experiment station, which was provided for under the provisions of the Hatch Act of 1887. In an agrarian territory like Oklahoma, such a research station had valuable prospects for aiding surrounding farmers and pro-

moting better relations between the college and the rural areas. The station also reinforced the agricultural dominance at Oklahoma A. and M. by influencing the types of courses used and research studied.[4]

The new college and agricultural experiment station seemed to present the prospect of bringing beneficial results to the people of Stillwater. Like the others who had competed for the college, they felt that certain economic advantages would accrue from their new possession. The provisions of the Morrill and Hatch acts included federal appropriations to the land-grant college and experiment station. F. E. Miller wrote that these moneys were happily accepted by Stillwater residents. "They wanted to exercise in the delightful pastime of spending that thirty thousand dollars...." Robert E. Cunningham claimed that the college would result in less taxes to pay. Another author wrote that the college "was viewed simply as a means whereby federal funds could be brought to an underdeveloped region." Obviously the Stillwater inhabitants realized their town would grow in importance as a result of the college. Their desire was real and justified. But the reasons were not only economic. These people were pioneers in a wild land of little education and intellectualism. Perhaps the modern objective to "educate and enlighten" the people of Oklahoma first began in 1890.[5]

For the first decade of its existence, Oklahoma A. and M. College had a precarious home in Stillwater. The threat of the college being moved to another location hung in the air constantly. "Our liabilities were a fair chance of being moved to a railroad town the next time the legislature met", wrote a pioneer professor George L. Holter. There were intense rivalries and jealousies in the legislature and the surrounding towns. Many believed that the Stillwater soil used by the experiment station was of poor quality. Others insisted that the town was inaccessible. Without a railroad connection the aid promised to surrounding farmers was difficult to achieve. Finally, though, in 1900 a railroad connection was estab-

lished, "silencing all complaints that the school was a waste of money." A necessary prerequisite for the college to stay in Stillwater was the sale of bonds. After much trouble and the possibility of failing to sell them, the problem was alleviated in a manner not totally honest. Therefore the origin of Oklahoma A. and M. was bitterly fought, complicated, and emotional. Stillwater finally proved victorious over her opponents, and the college was permanently established in that town.[6]

A member of the first graduating class at Oklahoma A. and M., J. H. Adams, wrote concerning the first year at the college, "We did take the same studies, and under the same teacher, as in the public school. Yet...we had a 'president,' and a faculty, and all the instructors were called 'professors,' which helped to make it seem more real." The college had a very meager beginning, with about forty-five students and eight faculty members. The first president of the college was Board of Regents president Robert A. Barker, politics possibly having played a role in his selection as president of Oklahoma A. and M. He was a man dedicated to shaping the morals of the students. He had little teaching experience or sophistocation. Often he was away from the college, being a man who desired his homelife in Crescent City. Unfortunately though, his frequent absences and his philosophy as president resulted in "relegating Oklahoma A. and M. to the status of a simple agricultural academy." Of course, a beginning college would have many difficulties to cope with; but President Barker appears to have been either unconcerned or ignorant of the problems until his third year when it was too late, his termination already having been decided.[7]

During Barker's presidency the college had no permanent campus but instead used various rented buildings for classes and meetings. The first classes were held in the Congregational Church. Other buildings used were the First Presbyterian Church; the Methodist Episcopal, South, Church; the District Court Room of the Payne County Court House;

and finally Old Central, dedicated in 1894 by President Barker. Although most of these buildings were inadequate for college classes, they did have one importance. According to Philip Rulon, "this wedding of church and state left a lasting imprint on Oklahoma A. and M. The public came to expect that the institution would instill the Judeo-Christian tradition in its students." Commencement ceremonies were also held in the various buildings at the end of each term. Although the first class to graduate was in 1896, commencements previous to that time were still celebrated. "Of course we had nothing to commence with," said student George Holter, "but we thought best to keep in practice."[8]

The three presidents who succeeded Barker were Henry E. Alvord, E. D. Murdaugh, and George E. Morrow. Alvord was an experienced agricultural specialist in both education and administration. He came to the school before the fourth session began and decided to re-organize it by stressing agricultural studies. He liked to compare Oklahoma A. and M. to West Point because he "believed that the cadet image would be more glamorous than an agricultural one." He attempted to restructure the departments to conform to his ideas of what a strict, agricultural school should be. Although he was president for only a short time, Alvord still was able to make the school "more closely approximate a real center of higher learning." His successor, E. D. Murdaugh, joined the school at mid-term in 1895. Murdaugh had little experience in higher eduction but was still "in the vanguard of the movement to professionalize public school administration and teaching." The third president disliked agriculture, placing more emphasis on the industrial and technical aspects of the school. This approach proved unfortunate, for it caused a disagreement between him and the faculty members and led to his dismissal. The fourth president of the college, George E. Morrow, was a leading authority in agricultural studies. Under his leadership the college expanded its curriculum and research and began extension courses. After four ad-

ministratively unstable years at Oklahoma A. and M., the calm presidency of G. E. Morrow permitted the college to accomplish its goals of research, extension, and instruction.[9]

Prior to the stable years under George Morrow, the college had to endure corruption and mismanagement. The administration of the college began miserably "because most of the regents were inexperienced in the field of higher education; possessed inadequate funds and physical facilities with which to promote teaching, extenion, and research; and had to shape academic policy for students who were not prepared for collegiate work." Philip Rulon accused the first Board of Regents of using the agricultural experiment station as a "subsidiary of the college, a place where a profit could be made to increase the instructional budget." The regents often determined college policy according to politics. Faculty members were dismissed for political reasons, as for example when W. W. Hutto was fired in 1894 because his brother was a Republican rather than a Democrat like members of the Board of Regents. This same board of regents attempted to stop the construction of Old Central because of political reasons.[10]

Another instance of the corruption and mismanagement of these early years led to the decision of Henry Alvord to resign as president. In January of 1895 The Eagle Gazette published the charges written by Henry Alvord against the Board of Regents. He objected to "the payment of large salaries to positions at this College and Station, which are unnecessary and where the duties performed do not justify the expenditure. The result is nothing less than the diversion of public funds from the objects for which they are specifically provided." Moreover, he said, "the members of the board have since adopted an equally pernicious practice of putting friends and adherents into college vacancies or creating offices for them." Alvord's accusations were later investigated by a legislative committee. They confirmed the fact that they regents "seemed to have had their

own interests at heart more than to establish an institution of learning."[11]

In the midst of the administrative turmoil, the educational processes at Oklahoma A. and M. had their beginning. At first in the churches or county offices, then later in Old Central, the lecturing, testing, and military drills occurred. Rules and regulations were adopted and literary societies were established. A preparatory school and an advanced, collegiate school worked alongside each other. Therefore, as the college grew to stability among many problems, young men and women were being educated in order to provide the needs of the future.

According to J. H. Adams the first semester at Oklahoma A. and M. College consisted mostly of public school courses before regular lectures on more advanced subjects occurred in the spring. Robert Cunningham claimed that this was because "The territory had graduated few high school classes, and to get pupils the college offered enough high school subjects to qualify non-graduates for college." Therefore by offering a preparatory department, the college offered the ill-prepared student a chance to develop his knowledge and skills in order to continue to collegiate level classes. President Barker announced the opening of a preparatory department in 1894, which had two-thirds of the college enrollment in 1895. Although many of the preparatory students did not proceed to collegiate work, those who did obviously were better prepared, which allowed the college to provide higher standards for students of college level.[12]

Although the academic levels of the first classes were low, as time progressed they became better. J. H. Adams wrote that in the second year of the school, "The studies pursued...began to take on the character of college work. They were algebra, English structure, agriculture, botany, and physics." Adams went on to document further improvements in the curriculum. The third year developed the writ-

ing and rhetorical talents of the student, as he had to "write two orations...which were delivered one... at a time." The fourth year brought forth field trips and classes such as horticulture, history, trigonometry, surveying, agricultural chemistry, and zoology. The classes of Adams' year of graduation were even more advanced: meterology, analytical geometry, logic, political economy, and geology. One need only examine H. M. Trimble's study of the development of chemistry instruction at Oklahoma A. and M., entitled Fifty Years of Chemistry at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, to discover the advances made during the first years of the school.[13]

In addition to classes, the Oklahoma A. and M. students were "organized under military discipline" which was supposedly "invaluable." George Holter wrote that the military training provided by the college was a mistake in the interpretation of the Second Morrill Act of 1890. Moreover, Philip Rulon claimed that the "Military instruction in land-grant colleges... was patterned after southern collegiate practices." Apparently during the Civil War the Union envied the Confederate emphasis on military training. Thus students were to be taught military knowledge to "provide the bases for a system of discipline in the sub-collegiate school." Oklahoma A. and M. placed much emphasis on this military training, which was written into the rules regarding student behavior. It read, "No student shall have the privilege of withdrawing from the Military Department and continuing as a student of the Agricultural and Mechanical College." In September of 1895 this rule was tested by two students, who requested a temporary absense from the military drill because of "conscienscious scruples against engaging in such Drills." Although allowed to miss it temporarily, the two students apparently were requested to attend the training again and upon refusing withdrew from the college one week later.[14]

The college had a variety of rules and regulations concerning the behavior of pupils

and examination procedures. Before a student officially was a part of Oklahoma A. and M. he had to pronounce the "Matricultural Pledge". The student promised not to carry deadly weapons on campus (except those provided by the Military department), not to harass new students on the college campus, not to join in any secret organizations or fraternities, and not to bring liquor on campus or visit saloons in Stillwater. One regulation required daily attendance to chapel, while another rule demanded complete "obedience and subordination" to the college president and faculty. Apparently the college dominated most facets of the student's lifestyle. For example, the student could not be "absent from home any evening except Friday, Saturday, or Sunday without the written permission of the President... In order to completely watch the student's behavior, "Immorality and disobedience are punishable by demerit marks, which shall be considered a part of the student's record." After a certain number of demerits were earned a student could be dismissed from school. On one occasion student A. L. Suthard tried to deviate from the prescribed rule concerning religious worship by contending the "The founders of our government intended that religious freedom should always be enjoyed by all." His request was refused. In order to be admitted to the college, the applicant had to pass an examination which generally included geography, arithmetic, reading, penmanship, English grammar, and U. S. history. Once admitted, the student had to score a seventy percent on his course grades to adequately pass the particular course. The final grades of the student were to be sent to the parents or guardians of the student. Obviously, the Oklahoma A. and M. College was a restrictive school where a student had to abide by the ordained beliefs and customs of the college. A belief in another religion or in a certain personal conviction, such as pacificism, was not acceptable to the college administration. This was a conservation agricultural school which preferred conservative students. One who was different would either conform or withdraw; there was no middle ground.[15]

Although the "Matericultural pledge" dealt with the prohibition of organizations and societies, "the students felt a great need for some kind of organization that would be educational and still afford entertainment and social contacts." Such needs were in part provided by the literary societies at Oklahoma A. and M. in the 1890s. The first literary society organized was the Star Crescent Literary Society, which was begun in 1892 but had a short existence. In October of 1893 the Webster Literary Society was founded, primarily "as a men's debating group." This society held meetings approximately once every week and debated questions such as, "Resolve that there is more pleasure in pursuit than in possession." Soon after its establishment, another literary society was formed, the Sigma Literary Society. According to Elsie Parker, one of the founders of the group, instead of wanting the society because of "a burning desire for culture and a high minded literary goal" they desired the society for "entertainment and social contacts." The Sigma Literary Society was primarily composed of girls. The Sigmas were very similar to the Websters, debating such questions as, "Resolve that iron is more useful than wood." Besides such intellectual goals, the societies were a good excuse for a party once per week consisting of song, laughter, and conversation. Often after a meeting, "a large group would go serenading." At first there were good relations between the two societies but this soon deteriorated. In March of 1896 the Websters accused the Sigmas of an insult, which began a feud ending in a fist fight in December of 1896. The two societies were dissolved as a result. In 1897 the Omega Literary Society was formed, consisting primarily of former members of the Sigma and Webster literary societies. The Omegas were to last for more than twenty-five years. These liberary societies of the early years at the college were not only to improve literary skills but also to provide some fun on a restrictive college campus. The simple joys of singing and talking were very important to the students; and thus so were the

literary societies. One can appreciate the emotions felt by one of the original members of a literary society by reading, The Sigma Literary Society, by Willa Adams Dusch.

Oklahoma A. and M. College began as an island of knowledge in a sea of turbulence. The college was unstable and inept at first, but as the final decade of the nineteenth century terminated, the problems of administration became less troublesome and the educational process accelerated. The course variety grew as the college expanded. Literary societies were formed partially to exercise the mind but mostly to entertain and socialize. Throughout this decade the college remained strict and traditional, incorporating the beliefs of the rural agricultural and largely conservative people that surrounded it. Albeit the college had problems in the early years and was often over-restrictive, as the nineteenth century ended and the twentieth began, the college was beginning to fully realize it's original goals; that of research, instruction, and extension. These goals continue to be admirably accomplished at Oklahoma state University.[16]

NOTES

[1]Stillwater Messenger, 11 January 1895.

[2]A. C. Scott, The Story of an Administration of the Oklahoma A. and M. College (Stillwater), p. 12; P. R. Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890 (Stillwater: O.S.U. Press, 1975), p. 15.

[3]Tulsa Daily World, 9 December 1928, p. 13; Freeman E. Miller, The Founding of Oklahoma A. and M. College (Stillwater: Hinkel and Sons, 1928), pp. 4, 5, & 7.

[4]Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, p. 25.

[5]Miller, The Founding of Oklahoma A. and M. College, pp. 10-11; Robert E. Cunningham, Stillwater, Where Where Oklahoma Began (Stillwater: Arts and Humanities Council of Stillwater, Oklahoma, Inc., 1969), p. 38; Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, p. 15; Prospectus (Stillwater: Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1894-95), p. 1.

[6]Daily O'Collegian, 14 December 1928; Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, p. 15; Cunningham, Stillwater, Where Oklahoma Began, p. 70; Miller, The Founding of Oklahoma A. and M. College, p. 19.

[7]Daily O'Collegian, 9 December 1928, p. 4; Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, pp. 19, 22-23, 24; B. B. Chapman, ed. Minutes of the First Faculty, 1892-1899, Oklahoma State University Library Archives, p. 119.

[8]Miller, The Founding of Oklahoma A. and M. College, p. 12; Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, p. 37; Houston Overby, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Yesterday and Today (Guthrie: Co-operative Publishing Co., n.d.), p. 7; John H. Kephart, "A Pictorial Story of Oklahoma A. and M. College 1891-1942," (Ph.D. dissertation, O.S.U., 1942), p. 9; O'Collegian, 14 December 1928.

[9]Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, pp. 55, 64, 68, 69, 75; Daily O'Collegian, 9 December 1928, p. 4; Prospectus, p. 6.

[10]Rulon, Oklahoma State University Since 1890, pp. 17, 19, 48-49.

[11]The Eagle-Gazette, 17 January 1895, p. 1; "Clipping and Letter Collection," B. B. Chapman Papers, Oklahoma State University Library Archives, p. 7.

[12]Cunningham, Stillwater, Where Oklahoma Began, p. 57; Daily O'Collegian, 9 and 12 December 1928.

[13]Daily O'Collegian, 9 December 1928, p. 4.

[14]Prospectus, p. 5; Daily O'Collegian, 14 December 1928; Rulon Oklahoma State University Since 1890, p. 39; Minutes of the First Faculty 1892-1899, pp. 102, 207, 218.

[15]Ibid., pp. 102, 103, 129, 235, 105, 221

[16]Willa Adams Dusch, The Sigma Literary Society, 1893-1897 (Stillwater: The Research Foundation Oklahoma A. and M. College, 1951), pp. 3, 4, 17, 21, 25, 30-31; Tulsa Daily World, 9 December 1928, p. 13; "Minute Book of the Webster Literary Society," Oklahoma State University Library Archives, pp. 4 & 5.

News and Notes

The Payne County Historical Review welcomes readers' comments, news, or requests for information from other readers. Address letters to the Review in care of the History Department, 502 Math Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74074.

The Payne County Historical Society was organized in January 1980, adopting its constitution and by-laws on the 31st. The Society has as its purposes the preservation of documentary materials, historical sites, and published materials that relate to the history of the region. It also seeks to promote interest in the past by, among other things, publishing a quarterly historical journal.

The constitution calls for quarterly meetings of the membership in March, June, September, and December. Convening in the chambers of the Stillwater City Commission, the society in March heard a program presented by Dr. Annetta Cheek on "Historical Preservation and the National Register of Historic Sites" and in June, under the guidance of Herb Gottfried and Jan Jennings, toured the old City Bank building and learned via an illustrated lecture of the architectural history of the region. The programs have been particularly informative.

The executive board of the society meets on the second Monday of those months when a general membership meeting is not scheduled. It meets at noon at the Tradition II restaurant in Stillwater. Members of the society are invited to attend.

The September quarterly meeting will hear Dr. George Carney of the OSU Geography Department present an illustrated lecture on the history of the Cushing Oil Field.

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Ann Carlson is interested in any information concerning early brickmaking in Stillwater or Payne County, specifically that of the Stillwater Pressed Brick Company. If you have any information on this subject, please contact Ann at 811 E. Tyler, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074, or call 377-3750.

Membership in the Payne County Historical Society as of June 1, 1980

Life Members

Mrs. Kathleen Bird
Mr. LeRoy Fischer
Mr. Bill Simank
Mr. Bob Simon

Institutional Members

Cottonwood Community Center
Mr. John Dearinger
Mr. Lawrence Erwin
Stillwater National Bank
University Abstract

Contributing Members

Mr. Everett Berry
Mr. Claude Bradshaw
Mr. R. D. Eikenbary
Mr. Leonard Sheerar
Mrs. Syrene Weilmuenster

Members

Mrs. Jacqueline Adair
Mr. Ashley Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. David Baird
Mr. William J. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Weldon Barnes
Mr. Jack Bayless
Mr. William F. Bernhardt
Mrs. Alvena Bieri
Mrs. Gerald Bilyeu
Mr. & Mrs. Ray H. Burley
Mr. & Mrs. King Cacy
Mr. & Mrs. Crawford Cameron
Mr. James Carley
Mrs. Elizabeth Carlson
Mr. Harold Casey
Mr. Berlin B. Chapman
Mrs. Annetta L. Cheek
Mr. Warren B. Cooke
Mrs. Julie Couch
Mrs. A. J. Delay
Mr. George M. Dinsmore
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Donnelley
Mr. Glen Douglas
Mrs. Frances Escue
Mr. Robert Farmer
Mr. LeRoy Folks
Mr. Jack Fox
Mr. Brad Gambill
Mr. Lawrence Gibbs
Mr. Jerry Gill

Mr. James A. Goodwin
Mr. & Mrs. Lemuel Groom
Mrs. Howell Hackleman
Miss Doretha Hail
Mr. Neil Ham
Mrs. Loeva Holesko
Mr. & Mrs. Elvis Howell
Mrs. D. B. Jeffrey
Mrs. Leila M. Ireland
Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Kriegel
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Langley
Mrs. Gloria V. Lawson
Mrs. Vyolet Mahan
Mrs. Helen L. Matoy
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Maynard
Mrs. Helen Mayo
Mrs. Alice McCullers
Mr. Edgar McVicker
Mr. Ken McWherter
Mr. Larry Miller
Mrs. H. W. Orr
Mr. Gene Ragsdale
Mr. Cecil Roberts
Mrs. Gayle Robinson
Mr. Rick Rohrs
Mrs. Marjorie Schweitzer
Mrs. Doris Scott
Mrs. Helen Simon
Mr. & Mrs. Asa Skaggs
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Stout
Dr. Frances Stromberg
Mr. & Mrs. David Sylvester
Mr. C. W. Thomas
Mr. Winston Trench
Mrs. Micki VanDeventer
Mrs. Paula Waldowski
Ms. Doris Walton
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Warde
Mr. Glenn Webster
Mr. James R. Williams