

PAYNE COUNTY

HISTORICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 2	NUMBER 1
Early Day Stillwater in a Nutshell <i>by Ward Hays</i>	1
Madeline Webb Story <i>by Micki Van Deventer</i>	11
Marking a Washington Irving Campsite <i>by B. B. Chapman</i>	16
Historic Properties of the Cushing Oil Field <i>by George Carney</i>	20
A Glimpse of the Past <i>Jardot Opera House</i>	26
Many Memories in Pleasant Valley Building <i>by Leon J. York</i>	27
News and Notes	32
Members of Payne County Historical Society	36

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Editor

Ann Carlson

Production

Marc Strand

Distribution

Lynette Kilpatrick

Early Day Stillwater in a Nutshell

by Ward Hays

I have many fond memories of early day Stillwater, it's board sidewalks and dirt streets. I am probably one of the very few who is still around that walked and played on Stillwater's board sidewalks before 1900. When Stillwater was but a few years old, it was a nice place to trade and to live--friendly people, beautiful flower and vegetable gardens. Nearly every family that lived in Stillwater had a few chickens and a cow. Many had driving horses.

Stillwater was never the small town that a lot of people might think. One could ask Bill Posey, who, with his broom, rake, shovel, and two-wheel cart, removed the horse droppings from the main street. Bill would tell you that Stillwater was no one-horse town.

Stillwater had four good hotels before the railroad came to town; all did a thriving business. The Nichols Hotel at 1002 South Main Street was one of the better hotels and was well known for the good food they served. The John Yost Hotel, located at 723 South Main Street was a nice hotel; the Linden Hotel at 9th and Lewis Streets, and the Commerical Hotel at 9th and Husband Streets. All hotels had dining rooms as well as show rooms so the salesmen could display their wares. Most salesmen would stay in town a week to give the outlying stores a chance to

Ward Hays is a life time resident of Stillwater and a charter member of the Payne County Historical Society. At 86, he is a feature writer for the Perkins Journal.

come to town to order their needs. The goods then would be shipped to the railroad station nearest their towns and the store owners, like those from Yates and Marena, would drive there and haul their groceries and whatever they had ordered to their stores. Shoe salesmen would have the left shoe of whatever kind and brand he sold. Sometimes several dozen shoes would be displayed as well as boots and overshoes. One night one of the showrooms was broken into and two boots and two shoes were missing; neither of the two boots nor shoes were the same size and brand. The shoe salesman went to all the shoe stores in town and told them about the theft of the shoes and to be on the lookout for anyone trying to trade a left boot or shoe for a right boot or shoe because the ones that were stolen were for the left foot.

During the noon hour that same day a young man walked into a shoe store and told the owner he had bought a pair of boots the day before and when the clerk had put them in the box he had two boots for the left foot and he wanted to exchange for the boot for the right foot. The owner said, "The clerk that sold you the boots is out to lunch right now. We will have to wait until he comes back." But the man said he was in a hurry and why couldn't the owner make the change. "Sorry", the owner said, "that is not our policy." The man walked out and across the street to where his brother was trying to trade for a right shoe. The owner of the first store called the police and the two men were arrested.

Each hotel room had a big white water pitcher and bowl. The pitcher would hold two gallons of water. Also, under the bed was a two-gallon jug with a lid on it. This jug had many names. Some called it "Betsy," some "the thunder mug" and some just "the thing." Whatever it was called it was very popular. The women that took care of "the thing" were called chamber maids. Each hotel had one bathroom and for

25¢ you could get a tub bath. The water had to be heated on the cook stove. For 10¢ the porter would carry the water for you and scrub your back.

Stillwater's main street was three blocks long then, but there were several vacant places with no building on them in those three blocks. All of the grocery stores were in the 900 block on Main Street: O.M. Eyler and a man by the name of Gosh on the east side of the street, and a man by the name of W. H. Audler and Fred Eyler on the west side of the street. Fred Eyler was O. M. Eyler's brother. Groceryman Gosh had the name of the most honest merchant; he would break a cracker in two to give you the right weight.

On the west side of the street was Fred Eyler Grocery on the corner just across the street north of the Nichols Hotel. In the middle of the 900 block was W. H. Audler's grocery store. Mr. Audler was running a grocery store in Cimarron City when it blew away.

The grocery stores did not handle any fresh meat, milk or bread; to buy those items you went to the butcher shop. George Pullman's shop was located at 905 South Main Street while Frank Knoles shop was located at 813 South Main Street. Both Pullman and Knoles killed their own meat. The slaughter house was on South Husband Street just south of the bridge on Stillwater Creek. It was a toss up on which had the strongest odor, the slaughter house or Fred Stallard's mash barrels and his whiskey still just north of the Stillwater Creek on Husband Street.

My father, Harvey J. Hays, sold Fred Stallard corn to make whiskey. In turn, father bought mash from Stallard for hog feed after he had gotten all the alcohol out of it. Father sold the corn to Stallard for 15 cents a bushel and paid Stallard 50¢ for a

50-gallon barrel of mash. The mash was sure good hog feed but the hogs would be a bit tipsy on the mash. Fred Stallard also had a saloon in the 800 block on Main Street. It was in Stallard's Saloon the first telephone was installed in Stillwater.

Soon after 1900, things really began to happen around Stillwater. As soon as the trains started running, many new faces were on Stillwater's main street. Many of those faces were saddening as there were many cripples and blind people begging on the street. The nickles and dimes that I and my brothers had been spending for ice cream went into the blind or crippled men and women's cups.

Even after the trains began to run, several stage coaches went to Perry every day. The stage line was owned by Lewis Myers and a man named Butterfield. When college began in the fall of the year, many of the stages could not haul all the students that wanted to come to Stillwater. Sometimes the students would start to walk and get lost. My father's farm was just south of Stillwater Creek on what is now Washington Street. Several times students have wandered in at our house after they had been out all night, tired and hungry. My folks would give them a good meal and then take them to the college campus.

All the people in the country as well as in town were at the depot when the first train arrive in Stillwater. My father had brought the covered wagon in the evening before and set it on a high spot overlooking the railroad. Next day, we came to town in the surrey, put our team in Lewis Myer's feed barn, climbed into the wagon and waited. It must have been about noon when that big black monster came rolling down the track from the north, black smoke billowing from the smoke stack. Then, when the train got to about where 6th street is now, the train men started pulling the whistle. I will admit I was a bit scared

in case the train might jump the track and come in crosswise and kill a bunch of people. I was sure glad that our horses were in the feed barn because when that train started to whistle, horses broke loose and upset wagons and surreys. Some horses never stopped until they got home; by that time, all they were hitched to was the tongue of whatever they had been hitched to. Many horses had to be destroyed because of broken legs or because they were mangled so in the fences.

Not long after the first train came to town, Stillwater built its first tower and fire station on 9th and Lewis Streets. While the water tower was being built, Lewis J. Jardot built the Opera House on east 9th just west of the fire station. At the same time they were building the water tower and opera house, I and my two older brothers would climb up on our barn and watch the men work. From a mile away, the men looked like dwarfs. We would sit atop the barn hours at a time.

The first opera that came to town soon after the opera house was finished was a play called "East Lynn." The hero in the play was Leroy Perpoint. The play lasted a week and my folks bought a family ticket for the entire show week. I think father paid \$3.50 for the six nights of opera for father, mother and their five sons. The opera lasted about two and a half hours. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery on the drop curtains as well as the opera. But most of all, we kids enjoyed the hamburgers that we bought at Charley Nichols' cafe after the show each night--a burger nearly as big as a plate for 5¢. Father and mother would also both have a cup of coffee. Then father would have a piece of pie and then toss Mr. Nichols a half dollar for the seven hamburgers, two coffees and one pie. I remember one time Mr. Nichols said, "Mr. Hays, I sure wish I had more family customers like yours. I would buy myself one of those horse-

less buggies." The opera house soon became well known throughout the county. Such notables as William Jennings Bryan, Carry Nation, Al Jennings (the bank and train robber who ran for governor after he came out of prison and was very narrowly defeated) and Governor Haskell, Oklahoma's first elected governor all spoke at the opera house from the speaker's platform. I heard them all.

When Stillwater was a young lady she was sure a good entertainer--something on all the time for both the young and old. Great animal and wildwest circuses came to Stillwater two or three times a year. In 1904, Buffalo Bill Cody and Pawnee Bill were here with their wildwest show. They had hundreds of buffalo, lots of Indians and pretty horses. Pawnee Bill would shoot marbles out from between his wife's fingers with a six gun. Later that fall while Pawnee Bill was doing this trick shooting, his wife moved a fraction of an inch and Pawnee Bill shot two of his wife's fingers off. Bill never did that trick again. Zack Mulhall and his daughter Lucille did many roping and horseback riding tricks.

The biggest thrill I ever had in my life, Buffalo Bill Cody asked me to ride in the parade behind him on his big white horse. Bill with his long white hair and beard, hip boots, seated in a silver rimmed saddle on a great white horse made a beautiful picture. I was 8½ years old, cotton headed, seated back of the saddle behind Buffalo Bill. I was standing looking at Bill's horse when Buffalo Bill said, "Kid, how would you like to ride in the parade with me?" Then he reached down with his big strong hand and pulled me up behind the saddle before I had time to say a word.

It was in the fall of 1904 at the Payne County Fair which was held on Stillwater Main Street in those days. That year, the first car came to Stillwater to take people for rides during the fair. The car had

high wheels like buggy wheels, a rather flimsy type of car. The car had two seats and would ride you around the block for a dime. The car was full from morning until night, that is, until it broke down on the second day. My two older brothers and I took our ride on the morning of the first day.

Many street carnivals came to town with all kinds of rides and games. Men would go up in gas-filled balloons; some ride the loop to loop enclosed in a large ball rolling down a long ramp. It was also the fall of 1904 that the girl was killed sliding down a cable fastened between the bottom of the water tower and a post near where city hall is now. The young lady passed in a few feet of where I and my folks were standing; she was crying and said, "I don't want to do it." The young man with her said, "Please, just this one more time." The young man climbed up to the bottom of the water tower with the young lady and fastened the pulley in her hair then came back down to the ground. Then everyone's attention was called to watch the young lady make the slide. She had not gone over ten feet when the pulley broke loose from her hair and the young lady fell 50 feet to the ground. My 100-year-old cousin who is living in Stillwater Rest Home ran to the girl and carried her to a grassy mound. She tried to find out the girl's name and where she lived, but the girl could not tell her. My cousin sat up with the girl after the doctor had done what he could. She died at 4 a.m. When a search was made for the young man that was with her, he could not be found. None of the carnival people seemed to know the young lady, said she had only been with them a couple of days and the act was a new one. Rumors were the young man had some reason to want the girl dead and fixed the fall on purpose. If the young man was ever found, I never heard of it. After the young lady lay in the morgue for several days, ads were put in news-

papers, but no one ever came to claim her body. She just seemed to have come from nowhere.

The City of Stillwater and town people chipped in for a casket. The girl was buried in the potters field in Fairlawn Cemetary here in Stillwater. As I write these notes, I can see that beautiful blond young lady falling and see her hit the ground with a thud. I will never be able to get that picture out of my mind.

A young minister who we called Happy Jack ran the carnival out of town. Everytime the squakers would start to yell, "Right this way, folks" the young minister would also yell, "Right this way, folks, we are going to kill another girl." Two days later, with no business, the carnival left town. As far as I know nothing was ever learned about who the young lady was or where she came from.

On two or three 4th of Julys a man by the name of Roundtree who was a short, fat, chubby man, went up in a gas filled balloon and jumped out in a parachute. After he jumped, the balloon would turn upside down, exhaust the air and come to earth. The last time Roundtree went from Stillwater to Pawnee, he was killed when his parachute failed to open.

One time a hypnotist came to the opera house. The hypnotist offered a dollar to anyone he could not hypnotize. My 14-year-old brother and his 14-year-old friend thought that would be an easy way to make a dollar. The two went up on the stage. The hypnotist told the boys that bees were after them. The boys started fighting the bees, first pulling off their shirts, then their trousers, and if the hypnotist had not brought them out of it they would have undressed right there on the stage. The whole house was laughing so much it shook the whole house. My brother and his friend were so mad they wanted to kill the hyp-

notist.

Several times there would be a woman who was hypnotized and slept in a bed in the window of Stillwater's best furniture store all day and night with hundreds of people looking at her and pounding on the window glass, but she would never bat an eye. People would crowd the store but they were not allowed to touch the sleeping lady. One time there was a lady put to sleep and buried in a grave three feet deep in a pine box with a half-inch pipe in the box for air. This grave was on West 9th Street about 50 feet west of Main Street. Why this was done I don't remember as I was a small child.

Living just across the creek from Stillwater, I spent lots of time on Stillwater board sidewalks as I did not start to school until we moved further from town. I learned more on Stillwater streets than I ever learned in school. I spent much time in the courthouse as my father, Harvey J. Hays, was on the jury a lot. The two main lawyers in those days were Jim Springer, Sr., and Robert A. Lowry, and later his son, Chester A. Lowry, joined his father in law practice.

Robert A. Lowry was Stillwater's first postmaster. Stillwater's political wizard's name was George Gardenhire. Payne County's first courthouse was named after Gardenhire. Gardenhire had much to do with getting the A & M College located here at Stillwater. The county jail sat on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. The jail house was sheet iron with a sheet iron roof with a high barbed fence around it. When T. J. Hoyt was sheriff, I would go up to the jail to visit Hoyt's oldest son Raymond. Bill Dove was jailer at that time. Sometimes I would go with Raymond to get the prisoner's food which was ser-

ved in a tin loaf pan like you made light bread in. The Hoyts were a nice family and I think Gene Hoyt was the best Chief of Police Stillwater ever had.

Thank all of you who took the time to read my story.

I wish to dedicate this story to a very charming, beautiful and talented young lady who has lived the last twenty-two years in an iron lung. The lady in mention is an artist and teacher of art, a writer and poet. The young lady is known as a "mouth artist" and writer as her neck muscles are all she can move. The young lady has written a 30,000 word book by punching an overhead typewriter with a pencil eraser. The young lady in mention is the lovely Lynn Campbell of Boswell, Oklahoma. Anyone wishing to write Miss Campbell should address her P. O. Box G, Boswell, OK 74727.

We love you, Lynn.

Ward & Viola

Anyone publishing this article without the writer, Ward Hays' permission is liable for damage.

Madeline Webb Story

by Micki Van Deventer

In 1942, Madeline Webb's name was splashed across the nation's newspapers for her alleged role in the robbery and murder of a wealthy Polish woman, Susan Reich.

The former Stillwater beauty queen, who had moved to New York in quest of an acting career, was accused of making the ill-fated phone call that led to the theft of a \$1,500 ring and death in the afternoon in a sleazy New York City hotel.

In the courtroom, Madeline pleaded with the judge, "I didn't do it, honest, I didn't do it."

Her tearful ploy did not work.

The tragedy ended her dream to become an actress.

She was convicted as a murder-accomplice and sentenced to life in prison at the Westfield State Farm for Women in Westchester County, N. Y.: the first female college graduate in the United States to be sentenced to life in prison.

By the time Madeline Webb died in February, 1980, she had taken the ill fates of her life, worked

About the author: Micki Van Deventer is the Family Living Editor for the Stillwater Newspress. She is currently writing a book about Miss Webb and several of her articles about her have won state and national awards from the Oklahoma and National Federation of Press Women.

through the trauma of realization that prison would change forever the free spirited lifestyle she had loved and turned the cold isolation of prison life into something positive and beautiful.

People never forgot her prison record. She knew that.

And even though she sometimes tried to camouflage the ugly notoriety it had given her, she always alluded to the lessons she learned there.

The prison record had made her a public curiosity. But it did more for Madeline Webb than hang a number around her neck and put her in the drab, unbecoming garb of a women's prison.

Eventually, prison gave her a purpose in living.

Cloistered behind bars and forced to live by the monotony of the prison routine, she learned to guard her actions. She struggled to fit into uncomfortable and foreign surroundings.

She wrote, soon after her conviction, that prison made her feel lost as she battled with the trial and error method of being understood and making a place for herself in a chained environment she hated.

By 1963, she had become a model prisoner, a success behind bars whose record was so outstanding that a drive began to secure her freedom.

She had made a successful transition from the morass of self-pity to being one of Westfield's most valuable prisoners.

For seven years, she submerged herself into teaching illiterates, continually championing the need for educational programs for women prisoners. Today, as

a result of Madeline's insistence and foresight, Westfield, which is now known as the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, offers high school and college degree programs.

For the last 17 years of her sentence, Madeline ran the prison library. And it was there she acquired a true love for history and heritage that she didn't forget when she returned to the town of her birth.

Her sentence was commuted in a Christmas action in 1966 by Nelson Rockefeller, who was then governor of New York. She was paroled in January, 1967 and received a full pardon seven years later.

When she returned to Stillwater that year, she was still a strikingly beautiful woman, although time had erased the naivete of her eyes and given her instead the wrinkles and hard lines of experience.

She still wore her clothes with the air of the beauty queen she had been in college. And although the dreams of a theatrical career she had once harbored were smashed the day Susan Reich was murdered, her optimistic nature, her enchantment with the value of heritage and her zest for living had not been dulled by the stark routine of prison life.

She had found a warmth there. And she had managed to give her life a purpose behind bars. She had clutched a quotation from Cardinal Francis Spellman.. "every kind and good deed is in itself a press agent for God"...and made that her credo for living.

When Madeline came home from prison, she embraced Stillwater and the delicious freedom it offered her in the same way a child relishes a new toy...only the fascination was lasting.

There was no time in her life for the bitterness of years lost. Instead, she submerged herself into

community affairs, particularly those that fostered her interest in history.

Confinement had robbed her of her youth. But it had not taken away her strong need to help others.

The Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council drew her attention first. And she cracked that element of small town society in the same way she had approached every aspect of her life...with a directness that was refreshing.

Her interest in Payne County's history and heritage triggered a number of worthwhile projects for the Arts Council.

She did the painstaking compilation for a heritage trail of Stillwater historical houses that is still used as a reference work.

She took great delight in the Arts Council scrapbook she compiled for several years, doing the thankless and tedious work of clipping pictures and articles...the written tributes to people who believed enough in the value of arts and heritage to devote their time and talents to the Council's endeavors.

She started a heritage days celebration in 1971 that continues now each year in a revamped form called "Run For The Arts."

And she would have been proud, I think, to know how enthusiastic a number of Stillwater high school students were about entering the first "Madeline Webb Heritage Essay Contest" that was initiated this year by her long-time companion, Jo Nita Milligan, to honor the heritage aspect of "Run For The Arts."

A bronze plaque engraved with the winner's names will hang now in the Sheerar Cultural and Heritage Center Museum, a building that Madeline loved.



Madeline Webb intrigued us. We knew about her past. We had read it all through the morgue files of the Stillwater Newspress.

But more than that innate curiosity, we respected the paradox her life represented when she came back home. She loved her privacy. Yet, her need to be a part of this community's life propelled her constantly into the spotlight of service.

She could have come home to a reclusive lifestyle.

No one would have blamed her.

Instead, she gave unceasingly of her time and the talents that she had found within herself and nurtured while in prison.

In the end, Madeline Webb gave a lot to this community.

Marking a Washington Irving Campsite

by B. B. Chapman

In the January issue of the Review is a well-written summary by Mary Jane Warde of Washington Irving's tour on the prairies, quoting books, and she takes notice of Cliff Castle on the east side of Payne County. The society conducted a tour there. To that extent it followed advice of scholar Edward A. Freeman: "Beyond doubt, the finished historian must be a traveler.

Space in the Review did not permit the half to be told--the half that concerns the west side of Payne County, and the role the county historical society had as the central unit in popularizing events on Irving's tour. The society can render no greater service than to make available to all concerned the history of one spot, Payne County. Special reference is to historic sites, such as are on the Irving tour. If a site is designated with a half-acre (such as the battlefield 16 miles east of Stillwater), by a roadside marker or by a monument on a Irving campsite, those who live in the vicinity have full responsibility to keep the site in good condition. While on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society I heard the policy emphasized that if neighbors

Dr. B. B. Chapman, a charter member of the Payne County Historical Society and President of the previous society, is Professor of History, Emeritus, Oklahoma State University.

let weeds grow around a monument or permit same to be defaced, it is futile for the state to try to compensate for indifference. A county historical society has a duty to preserve and popularize its historical markers.

Since space prevented Warde from giving recognition to the Burton family for caring 18 years for a monument on an Irving campsite, and omitted a sentence describing the site, it is proper that this segment of history be published. Of the campsite the Tulsa Tribune on April 8, 1963 carried a headline: "2,000 Attend Marker's Unveiling." Warde quotes paragraphs about a wild horse, and notes that the campsite was on a stream "now known as Wild Horse Creek." Irving's description is as follows: "Our encampment was in a spacious grove of lofty oaks and walnuts, free from under wood, on the border of a brook." In other words in 1963 it was on a farm owned by Andrew Burton on Wild Horse Creek, a mile north of State Highway 33. It is six miles northwest of Perkins.

In 1963 Payne County with its many vigorous organizations was a historian's paradise in the marking of its sites, famous in the development of the state. On Sunday, April 7, 1963, a monument on the campsite was dedicated. The program was sponsored by the Payne County Historical Society with assistance of individuals and organizations including the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 129; Coyle City Schools; Daughters of the American Colonists; Daughters of the American Revolution, Cimarron Chapter; Davis-Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Department of Defense, Oklahoma State University; Girl Scouts of America; History Students of Stillwater Junior High School; Oklahoma National Guard; Oklahoma Pioneer Club of Cushing; Stillwater Chamber of Commerce; Stillwater Civil Defense Rescue Service; Washington Irving Home Demonstration

Club of Perkins; Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic.

While people were assembling on camp grounds, the Perkins High School Band played, and the U. S. Army Reserve exhibited and demonstrated military weapons. Skydivers of OSU opened the program, the Pershing Rifles fired a salute, Boy Scouts of America led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Pete Weaver, Chaplain of the American Legion, gave the invocation.

Students of OSU sang "America" and one, Gwendolyn Fisher, reviewed Irving's book. Jim Wells spoke on "Pierre Beatte on Wild Horse Creek." Dr Angie Debo told of "The Indians Washington Irving Met." Early Day Settlers of Guthrie and the Gingham Girls of Abel performed in costume. Andrew Burton topped the program with "Sixty Years at the Campsite." He was assisted by Leonard Parks of Coyle, pioneer and historian. Pawnees supplied music and dances. Major Whorten M. Hathaway directed an exhibit of "Uniforms Worn in the Service of Our Country."

There was Drill Team Performance by Army ROTC, Scabbard and Blade Society; and by Pershing Rifles, Co. C, 7th Regiment. The monument was unveiled by Elmer L. Fraker, Administrative-Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and author of the inscription:

WASHINGTON IRVING CAMPSITE

October 21, 1832

During a Tour on the Prairies, Famous Author and Party made Trip with Company of U. S. Army Rangers. While in This Camp Pierre Beatte, Attendant to Irving, Caught a Wild Horse Nearby.

Oklahoma Historical Society, 1963

Manuscript volumes were prepared about the Irving tour and the program concerning it, one for the Oklahoma Historical Society and the other for the library of OSU. Newspapers helped acquaint the public with the history of Irving's tour. Articles in the Stillwater News-Press, February 24 and April 7, 1963, illustrate this matter. KSPI carried the program. Andrew Burton and his son, Ira, kept flowers growing about the monument all their days, and Mrs. Ira Burton and family continue to keep the site attractive. They deserve not only commendation of the Payne County Historical Society but of all who are interested in the Irving tour.

* * * * *

If you missed Mary Jane Warde's article on Washington Irving's tour entitled "The 'Civilized Tourist' Washington Irving on the Prairie," which appeared in volume 1, number 3, January, 1981, of the Payne County Historical Review, a few copies are still available.

Back issues of the Review may be obtained at a cost of \$2.00 each by sending money and request to Payne County Historical Society, P. O. Box 194, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074.

Historic Properties of the Cushing Oil Field

by George Carney

-20-
In 1980 and 1981 a historic preservation survey of the Cushing Oil Field was conducted under the direction of George Carney, Professor, Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University. The survey included areas in Quay, Yale, Oilton, Drumright, Shamrock, Markham, Pemeta, and Cushing. In volume 1, number 4, (April, 1981) of the Payne County Historical Review was the summary of that survey.

Now as a sequel to that earlier summary follows a list of the historic properties that were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The list includes the name, both historic and common, location, and classification.

Name	Location	Classification
Lawson Home/Root Hotel (Hap Fielding Residence)	Corner of Main and A Avenue, Quay, Oklahoma	Building

Santa Fe and Katy RR Gauntlet Bridge	Approx. 1½ miles south of Yale - spans Cimarron River, SE¼, SW¼, Sec. 30, T19N, R6E	Structure
Drumright Gasoline Plant No. 2 (ARCO Gas Plant)	On Highway 99, approx. 2 miles N. of Drumright NW¼, SE¼, Sec. 28 T18N, R7E	Structure
Oilton Gas Building	104-108 South C St., Oilton, OK	Building
Meacham Building (Economy Supply Co.)	102 East Main. Oilton. OK	Building
Phil Hall Building	128 West Main, Oilton, OK	Building
Wheeler No. 1 Oil Well	1 mile north of downtown Drumright approx. ½ mile west of North Smather St.	Site
Norfolk Bridge	2 miles South of Yale on Section Line Road dividing Secs. 25 & 30 - spans Cimarron River	Structure

-22-	Name	Location	Classification
	Canfield House	223 North B Street, Yale, OK	Building
	Yale First Baptist Church	202 East Boston, Yale, OK	Building
	Sun Oil Camp	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Yale, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T19N, R6E	Buildings
	Texaco Tank Farm (Phillips Tank Farm)	3/4 mile south of Yale, S $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 25, T19N, R5E and SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 25, T19N, R5e	Structure
	Yale Refinery	approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Highway 51 along Santa Fe tracks	Structure
	Vida M. Way Oil Lease	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 17, R7E, Lots 2, 3, and 4	Site
	Markham School and Teacherage (Alva Speers Farm)	2 miles east, 2 miles south, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Yale on south side of dirt road - SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 6, T18N, R7E	Buildings

H. C. McCroskey No. 1 Oil Well	approx. 1½ miles north of Yale (Lots 1 and 2) E½, NW½, Sec 7, T19N, R6E	Site
O. C. Dale House	316 South C Street, Yale, OK	Building
J. W. Fulkerson House	508 East Broadway, Drumright, OK	Building
Drumright Methodist Church (First United Methodist Church)	115 N. Pennsylvania, Drumright, Oklahoma	Building
Washington School (Drumright Senior Citizen and Nutrition Center)	214 West Federal, Drumright, Oklahoma	Building
Tidal School	2 miles south of Drumright - west side of Highway 99, SE¼, SE¼, Sec. 8, T17N, R7E	Building
Jackson Barnett No. 11 Oil Well	1 mile south of Highway 99 on west side - SE¼, SE¼, Sec. 5, T17N, R7E	Site

Name	Location	Classification
Ku Klux Klan Building	110-116 South C Street, Oilton, OK	Building
First Baptist Church	109 East Main, Oilton, OK	Building
Wooden Pumper on Miller No. 6 Oil Well	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 7, T18N, R7E	Object
Territorial Days Half Dugout (Alvy Speers Farm)	2 miles east, 2 miles south, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Yale on south side of dirt road - SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 6, T18N, R7E	Building
Drumright Santa Fe Depot (Drumright Oil Field Museum)	Broadway and Harley Streets Drumright, Oklahoma	Building
Dunkin Theatre	207 East Broadway, Cushing, OK	Building
R. C. Jones Mansion (Valley Hope Alcoholic Treatment Center)	100 Jones Avenue, Cushing, OK	Building

Broadway Street Historic District	100 Block of East Broadway, Drumright, Oklahoma	District
White Way Historic District	Intersection of Main and Broadway Streets, Yale, Oklahoma	District
Oil Boom Ghost Town Historic District (Shamrock)	Tipperary Road and Cork Avenue - approx ½ mile east of Highway 99 in Shamrock	District
Cushing "New Jerusalem" Historic District	100 Block of West Broadway, Cushing, Oklahoma	District
Cushing "Old Jericho" Historic District	Near Intersection of Main and Depot Streets	District
Shotgun Houses in Cushing	517-519 Noble 308-310-312 East Cherry 502-504 East Cherry 417 North Cleveland 429 South Central	Thematic

A Glimpse of the Past

Jardot Opera House



This picture shows the Jardot Opera House, Odd Fellows, and Fire House with the water tower in the background.

Carol Bormann and Doris Dellinger are planning to construct a 1/24 scale miniature of the Jardot Opera House built in 1900. Any pictures, floor plans, colors of the exterior and interior or information would be greatly appreciated. Send to Carol, 2911 Crescent Drive, Stillwater, OK 74074, 372-4147.

Many Memories in Pleasant Valley Building

by Leon J. York

In February, 1910, Dr. John Smith, County Health officer, drove his horse and buggy down the dusty road leading to the Pleasant Valley School House.

The heavy dark clouds dumped sheets of fine snow and sleet on the ground, but the bitter cold north wind mixed and mingled snow and red dust from the road and swept the reddish mess into the weeds along the borrow ditch and fence rows where it froze.

The doctor tied his horse to the hitching post and hurried into the warm school house.

"Good morning, Mrs. Swartz," the doctor greeted the teacher.

"Good morning to you, Doctor. What brings you here on this kind of day?"

"Well, I have sad news for you and your pupils. When was the last time Jane Himes attended school?"

"I believe it was day before yesterday -- I'll

Leon J. York, prominent attorney and Judge in Stillwater, is known for his activities in many civic projects and deep interest in the history of the area.

look at the attendance records," replied Mrs. Swartz.

"It was three days ago," volunteered one of the older girls. "She had a sore throat and was running a high fever. I know -- I felt her forehead and helped her home."

"She died this morning from diphtheria," announced the doctor sadly in slow measured tones. "All of you will be sent home and quarantined for two weeks. All schools, churches and public gathering places will receive the same treatment. I'll spread the alarm. Your parents or someone will come and get you in the next hour or so," concluded the doctor as he departed.

This was not the first time the school was closed on account of communicable diseases common to children. Records show because of measles, mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria, and small pox, it was closed many times from the time it was built in 1900 until it was abandoned in 1949.

Located four miles southwest of the village of Stillwater and about the same distance from the Oklahoma A & M College, (now 19th and Sangre) it was more than a school. It was a community center. Non-denominational church services were held there each Sunday, and quite often the services lasted all day. The morning hours were devoted to reading the Bible, Sunday School, and a sermon by the local preacher.

Dinner was served by the ladies. Fried chicken, cakes, pies, fruits and vegetables, but not a morsel was touched until a prayer of thanksgiving was offered by the minister, or sometimes one of the leading farmers. The afternoon was devoted to singing religious songs and tunes and

folk ballads.

"I'll always remember that old pump organ played by Margaret James. Boy, she was some musician," one of the former female students reminisced. "Quite often she was accompanied by Jeb Long, who played the guitar. That pair could get music out of any crowd, and if they couldn't, they hummed."

"What about the leader?" the former student was asked.

"Oh yes, I almost forgot him. His name was Hank Lemons -- the most comical man you ever saw. He was a farmer, well over six feet tall. His glasses were always hanging down on the end of his nose, and the first, second, and third fingers on his right hand were missing. He had lost them in an accident, But when he would start leading songs he'd raise that right arm with the thumb and little finger sticking out. Sometimes he would point them right at you if you didn't sing. 'Wagon Wheel' and 'Tumbling Weed' were his favorite folk songs, and when the music got hot and everybody was singing at his best he would imitate the wheel in slow motion with his right arm. When it came to 'Tumbling Weed' he would show the movement of the round weed, bouncing, jumping, and it was pushed along with the wind until it lodged in a fence row where it came to rest.

"Religious songs were led by him with as much fervor. 'In the Garden,' 'At the Cross,' 'The Little Church in the Wildwood,' and many others.

Farmers in the district used mules and horses as work animals. Production of food for the table received first priority. Wives and young girls devoted their time to canning fruits and vegetables, and enough had to be preserved for a year because

there were no grocery stores in the community.

Hospitals were not available. When someone took to their bed with a serious illness, kindly neighbors provided nursing services on a 24-hour basis.

Their function was to see medicine was given at the time prescribed by the doctor, take the patient's temperature, change bed clothing and notify the doctor in case the patient took a "turn for the worse." This was known as "sitting with the sick."

The greatest importance attached to the school was its educational value. Teaching was on a group basis, among 25 or 30 students, from the first through the sixth grades. There was only one teacher, but the older children helped teach the beginners. Reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, elementary history and geography were the subjects commonly taught. Sex education was left to the parents, family doctor or minister.

Discipline was enforced. The children would form two lines at the entrance of the building and marched in to the clapping of a small bell in the hand of the teacher. They stood at attention at their desks while the monitor took up their coats and wraps and hung them on a peg in clothes closet. Then they were offered a short prayer, then followed the flag salute.

All this was swept away by social legislation passed by Congress in the 1930's, and the rapid progress made by the health services and new discoveries made by the medical profession. Childhood diseases are now controlled by vaccinations, and the school need not be closed. Food, milk, and water supplies are now inspected by the

health department, area hospitals have been built, and the people live longer and enjoy a better standard of living.

The Pleasant Valley district was annexed in 1949 to the Stillwater School district and the school house was closed and pupils transferred to the Stillwater school.

Today this old school house, which for half a century served the residents of the area so well, is now within the city limits of Stillwater, surrounded by many housing developments.

It stands abandoned, alone, unloved and unwanted.

But many residents of the Stillwater area have paintings of this old building on display in their homes in memory of the kindly virtues it reflected in years gone by.

The above article was reprinted from the Stillwater (Oklahoma) News-Press, Sunday, April 23, 1978.

News and Notes

RUN FOR THE ARTS

The Payne County Historical Society sponsored a booth at the Run for the Arts Festival which was held April 25th. At the booth membership applications were available, copies of the Payne County Historical Review were sold, and tickets for the Looking Glass Houses Tour were sold. The three houses on the tour included the Stillwater Psychiatric Clinic (the Beeson house) at 305 S. Duck, Gilliam's Interiors (the Berry house) at 502 S. Duck, and Bill and Dol Lambert's house at 800 West Harned. Members of the Payne County Historical Society served as volunteers at the booth and as tour guides and ticket takers for the house tour. A profit of \$180.83 was made from the day's activities. A note of appreciation is due to the following members for their assistance.

Mary Sylvester, Carmen Lehnert, H. F. Donnelley, and Doris Scott worked in the PCHS booth at the festival.

Kathleen Bird, Lora Cacy, Alice McCullers, Lota Jeffrey, Edda Bilger, Paula Waldowski, Syrena Weilmuenster, Phyllis and Monroe Kriegel, Gayle Robinson, Alvena Hartman, Jacqueline Adair, Carolyn Simank, Ann Carlson, and Julie Couch helped with the tour of the houses.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

March 16, 1981

An event of national importance concerning results of the Civil War occurred on the campus of Oklahoma State University on December 10, 1959. The statement stands unchallenged since that day. To know how good relations developed after the Civil War is as important as to understand how hostile conditions led to war.

It is said that on December 10, 1959 for the FIRST time a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and one of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, held a joint meeting for a cause. They united efforts (1) to help college students to understand the Civil War, (2) to sponsor a book for them, and (3) to plan commemoration of the centennial of the War Between the States.

Should any person know of precedents, or of one precedent, for this joint program (anywhere in the United States), let him speak and cite the source. Until he does, let the honor rest on Oklahoma. The site was the Classroom Building and the Stillwater News-Press recorded the event on the day it occurred. Illustrated accounts appeared in national magazines of the UDC and the Woman's Relief Corps.

Letters of presidents of the chapters concerning their joint effort are in the library of OSU and in the Oklahoma Historical Society. Has this event too long lacked deserved recognition in American history?

It should further be noted that Oklahoma was among the first states, perhaps the first state, to have both a Confederate hall and a Union hall in its historical society. If there is precedent for the incident in Classroom Building, may the History Department of OSU locate and explain it, and may the Payne County Historical Society for posterity note such findings in the "Review." History demands only truth.

B. B. Chapman
Professor of History,
Emeritus

STILLWATER HOSPITAL

Mrs. Muriel Grooms, 2105 West Fifth, Stillwater, 372-8640, is researching the history of the Stillwater hospitals. Any information or pictures would be greatly appreciated.

WANT AN EDUCATION

Come to Stillwater for an inexpensive education. Prices range as follows:

Board & rooms private, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week.

Rooms furnished, \$1.50 to \$5.00 per month.

Table board, \$2 to \$2.50 per week

Board in clubs, \$1.50 to \$2 per week

Books: An outlay of from \$6 to \$10 per year will be sufficient for textbooks and many may avail themselves of purchasing second-hand books at a much smaller figure. It is hoped that in the near future arrangements will be made to supply all students with textbooks free of cost.

"...Situated in one of the most beautiful and healthful locations in the Territory...Stillwater contains about 2,500 inhabitants and society is of the best. There are Epworth League and Christian Endeavor societies, also a permanent temperance organization. The college may be reached by taking stage at either Orlando or Perry."

From the Oklahoma A & M catalogue for the school year 1894-95, quoted in the Stillwater News-Press, July 16, 1939.

1981 Members of Payne County Historical Society

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Kathleen Bird*

Ms. Edna Couch

Mr. Robert Donaldson*

Mr. LeRoy Fischer*

Mr. Bill Simank*

Mr. Bob Simon*

* Charter Member

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Mr. Everett Berry*
Ms. Alvena Bieri*
Mr. Claude Bradshaw*
Mr. Gerald Bradshaw
Dr. Lawrence Erwin*
Mr. J. Conner Fitzgerald
Mrs. Lynette Kilpatrick
Mr. Leonard E. Sheerar
Mr. Ron Walker

MEMBERS

Dr. David Baird*	Mr. Jack Bayles*
Mrs. Jane Baird*	Mrs. Della Bennett
Mrs. Doreen Baker	Mr. William Bernhardt*
Mr. William J. Baker*	Mr. George M. Berry
Mr. Welden Barnes*	Mrs. Gerald Bilyeu
Mrs. Welden Barnes*	Mrs. Carol J. Borman
* Charter Member	Mrs. Janice Braswell

Mr. Ray Burley*
Mrs. Ray Burley*
Mr. King Cacy*
Dr. James Carley*
Mrs. Ann Carlson*
Dr. George Carney
Dr. Berlin B. Chapman*
Mr. R. D. Cocanougher
Mrs. Julie Couch*
Mrs. Helen Daugherty*
Mrs. Dan Davis
Mr. H. F. Donnelley*
Mrs. Ione Donnelley*
Mr. Glen Douglas*
Mrs. William Evans
Mrs. Diane Everman
Mr. Michael Everman
Mrs. Rubylea Farmer
Mr. John Fowler
Mr. Jack Fox*

Mr. James Goodwin*
Mr. Lemuel D. Grooms*
Mrs. Muriel Grooms*
Mrs. Hal Hackleman*
Miss Dorothea Hail*
Mrs. Shelley Hartman
Mr. Ward Hays*
Mrs. Jana Howell*
Dr. Eugene Hoyt
Mr. Theodore Humphrey
Ms. Rose I. Jarvis
Mrs. D. B. Jeffrey*
Mr. Monroe Kriegel*
Mr. Dale Langley*
Mrs. Ellen Langley*
Mrs. Gloria Lawson*
Ms. Carmen D. Lehnert
Mr. Harold Mace
Mrs. Vyolet Mahan*
Mrs. Helen Matoy*

Mrs. Martha Maynard*	Mr. James Showalter
Mrs. Alice McCullers*	Mrs. Helen Simon*
Mrs. Juliana Moomaw	Mr. Asa Skaggs*
Mrs. Ruth Orr*	Mrs. Joan Skaggs*
Mr. William Pinkstaff	Dr. Haskell Smith
Mr. Charles Platt, Sr.	Mr. Hobart Stocking
Mr. Charles Platt	Ms. Jerome Sykora
Mr. N. L. Reinsch, Jr.	Mr. David Sylvester*
Mrs. Laura Rice	Mrs. Mary Sylvester*
Mr. Elmo Ricker	Mr. C. W. Thomas*
Mr. Ken Ricker	Mrs. Marsha Townley
Mr. Cecil Roberts*	Mr. D. L. Vaughn
Mr. Issac Ross	Mr. R. R. Vaughn
Mrs. Marjorie Schweitzer*	Mrs. Mary Jane Warde*
Mrs. Doris Scott*	Mr. W. D. Warde*
Sen. Bernice Shedrick	Mr. Buster Williams

1981 Institutional Members

East Central Oklahoma
State University

MINUTES

June 4, 1981

General meeting was held on above date in Stillwater Council Chamber with 21 persons in attendance.

Treasurer's report indicated \$575.00 (11 life memberships) deposited in certificate yielding 11 3/4% interest. Checking account balance is \$581.36.

Letter was read from B. B. Chapman regarding the Perry Land Office and REVIEW. President reported Pleasant Valley School under consideration; office space in the Citizen's Bank did not look too promising; and Run for the Arts earned the Society about \$180.00.

Officers were elected: W. David Baird, President; Dorris Scott, Vice-President; Ann Carlson, Secretary; Ray Burley, Treasurer; and Robert Donaldson, Board of Directors.

Mrs. Joan Skaggs will begin keeping a scrapbook about the Society. Mrs. Bilyeu reported progress in the renovation of the Cottonwood Community Center.

In the absence of Miss Edna Couch, Dr. David Baird reported on the history of William L. Couch.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Carlson, Secretary

Payne County Historical Society

Payne County Historical Society is organized in order to bring together people interested in history, and especially in the history of Payne County, Oklahoma. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any materials which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area.

Membership in the Payne County Historical Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Payne County history. Dues are payable on a calendar basis, and are \$5.00.

All members receive copies of the REVIEW free. In addition, the Society sponsors informative meetings four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. Two outings, one in the fall and the other in the spring, are taken to historical sites in the area.

OFFICERS

President	W. David Baird
Vice-President	Dorris Scott
Secretary	Alvena Bieri
Treasurer	Ray H. Burley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Couch, Mrs. Gerald Bilyeu	until 1982
Jana Howell, Bob Simon	until 1983
Robert H. Donaldson	until 1984

**Payne County Historical Society
P.O. Box 194
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074**