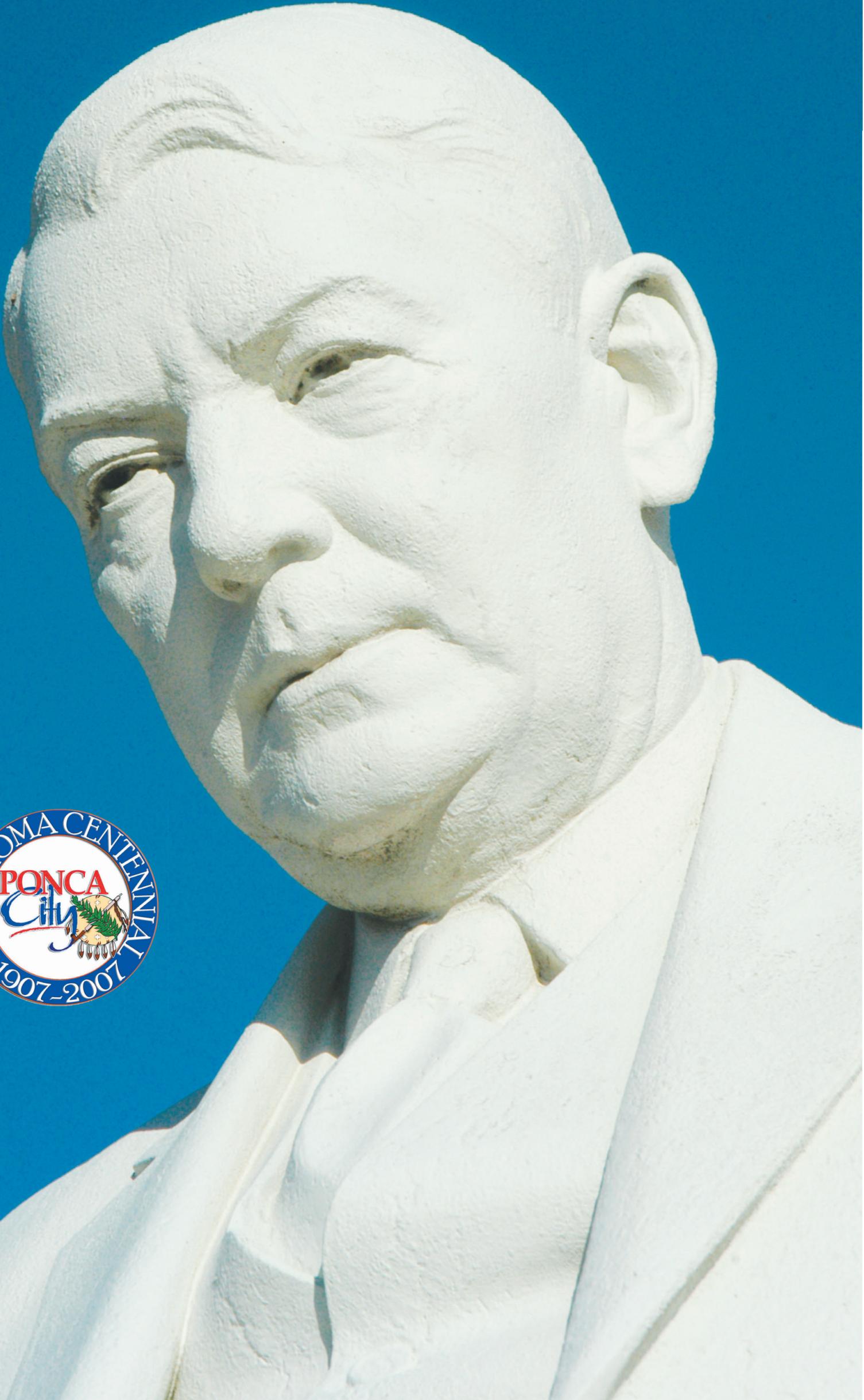


Oklahoma CENTENNIAL 1907 & 2007



Town's Heritage Rode on 'Big Wheels of Fortune'

Editor's Note: This story features two men who were "wheels of fortune" in the shaping of Ponca City and Oklahoma beginning shortly after statehood. The men were E.W. Marland and Lew Wentz. Both were philanthropists, oil men, politicians, financial moguls and dedicated to Ponca City.

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Staff Writer

The rich heritage of Ponca City and Oklahoma would have been less colorful, had it not been for Ernest Whitworth Marland, whose discovery of oil put Oklahoma and Ponca City on the world map.

Marland's indelible imprint on the town is visible in a number of ways first and foremost he founded of Marland Oil, which became Continental Oil, Conoco and now ConocoPhillips.

Known simply as E.W., Marland was the first president of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce and was a moving force in a number of other community and state-wide organizations.

His 100th birthday celebration in 1974 recognized him as the founder of Security Bank in 1917. Marland died in 1941.

Marland, who made his fortune by discovering oil and shaping the Marland Oil Company, had the misfortune to become involved with New York bankers. He made eastern financial connections through the House of Morgan and gradually their control began to appear on his boards. He became heavily in their debt. Then his loans were called and Marland's Oil Company was foreclosed and merged out of existence.

Only a short time before his business crash, Marland married Lydie M. Roberts his adopted ward. She was the daughter of his first wife Mary Virginia's sister. Mary Virginia died in 1926. To marry Lydie he had to have the adoption annulled.

After he lost his oil fortune, Marland ran for 73rd United States Congress in the Eighth district, a Republican stronghold, and beat the Republican incumbent. Next he ran for governor serving from 1934 to 1939.

A native of Pittsburgh, Penn., Marland was educated at Park Institute in Pittsburgh and received his law degree from the University of Michigan. Although his degree was in law, Marland was a student of geology and used this interest to hunt for oil. He entered the oil business in Pennsylvania before coming to Ponca



Lew Wentz



E.W. Marland

City and establishing the Marland Oil Company.

During his tenure as Oklahoma governor, Marland provided leadership for establishing the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Interstate Oil Compact. Before he left office 90,000 Oklahomans were working on 1,300 WPA projects. Marland had gone to Washington, D.C. during his governorship to secure funding for these projects to help Oklahomans during the Great Depression.

At the national level he was also instrumental in securing banking regulations to make ensure against financial take overs.

Marland's influence on the Ponca City lingers to this day with his perchance for art, music and landscaping. The Marland Mansion, 901 Monument, which had the distinction as being named the number one tourist attraction in Oklahoma, and Marland's Grand home, 1000 East Grand, are testaments to the grandiose lifestyle that he enjoyed before his fortune evaporated.

The citizen's of Ponca City wanted to preserve the Marland heritage enough that they voted a cent sales tax on themselves to buy the Marland Mansion in 1975.

Marland desired to expose Ponca Citizens to these amenities. He built a public nine-hole golf course in the downtown area, held fox hunts, polo competitions, and hosted youngsters at the grand swimming pool at the Marland Mansion.

For his company lieutenants he constructed the buildings known as the Marland Institution and the Quah-ta-See-Da Club, which later became the Ponca Military Academy and is currently the Academy Hills housing subdivision.

Marland was the first to introduce employee fringe benefits. He donated to churches, orphanages and youth groups.

Perhaps the best memorial to Marland's love for his adopted city is the world renowned Bryant Baker heroic size Pioneer Woman Statue at Fourteenth and Lake Road.

Will Rogers, Oklahoma's global humorist, was one of the dedication speakers on April 22, 1930, while President Herbert Hoover spoke by radio from the White House.

Lew Wentz carried on the rich oil tradition and continued to build a community that was accustomed to seeing oil barons walking on the street. His business and political aplomb made him a player on the national scene as the leader of the Republican party. He also had a world presence because of his wealth.

Although Wentz's fortune began in the petroleum field his diverse business holdings were an important part of his wealth portfolio.

His lifestyle, although rich, was more private to than Marland's. Wentz lived in rented quarters for many years at the Arcade Hotel, First Street and Grand Avenue.

Democratic Gov. Alfalfa Bill Murray.

Youth of Ponca City was the focus of much of Lew Wentz's generosity. He built the Olympic size Wentz swimming pool, Wentz Camp and bequeathed the land that became Wentz Golf Course to the City. Annually a Miss Ponca City Contest was held for young girls at Wentz Pool, with Wentz providing the prizes.

A number of Ponca City churches received generous donations from the oil man. Though not a church goer, Wentz adhered to the Methodist beliefs of his mother.

He built Lincoln Swimming pool and youths swim free. Another recreational deed of Wentz was to provide free movies for youths.

Well recognized as a Shetland Pony breeder, Wentz also shared the ponies for young riders in the area of the Wentz Game preserve.

Another statewide organization that Wentz founded was the Oklahoma Society for Cripple Children, which is still in existence today.

Concerned about school children, who didn't have shoes when school started, Wentz provided the shoes and for many years and financed Christmas gifts for the underprivileged. He was known as "Daddy Longlegs."

Although Wentz never attended college, his generosity continues to be a meaningful influence across Oklahoma in the education field today, nearly six decades after his death.

Lew Wentz Foundation at both of the state's leading institutions of higher educa-

tion, Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma University, made student loans to students to continue their education.

In a four-page spread in the Dec. 18, 1948, Saturday Evening Post Wentz was featured as "Oklahoma's Godfather."

A number of citizens in Ponca City contributed to a statue, sculpted by Jo Saylor, to be placed at Centennial Plaza of City Hall to honor Wentz in 2004.

Louis Haines Wentz was one of seven children of a Pittsburgh blacksmith and tool-maker. When he graduated from high school he played on and managed high school teams in Pittsburgh.

That is where his name became "Lew," so tagged by sports writers.

It was through John McCaskey, who made a fortune in sauerkraut and had invested in E.W. Marland's wildcat oil venture on the 101 Ranch, that Wentz came to Ponca City. Wentz was to go to Ponca City as McCaskey's personal representative, and the two became partners with Marland.

Wentz then split off from Marland and began cornering leases on his own and formed Wentz Oil Corp. Wentz retained his interest in baseball and at one time buying a major league team. He was credited with developing the umpire call signals on strikes and balls during his coaching career.

Two men, one a lawyer and another a baseball coach, born in Pittsburgh, "went west to seek their fortunes," and came to Ponca City, which still enjoys the fruits of their generosity.

1931 Marked End of an Era For Traveling Wild West Show

The Terrapin Derby continued in but the 101 Wild West Show finally came to the end of its road in 1931.

1931 — "Pebblestone" was the winning turtle in the Terrapin Derby at the 101 Ranch. He won \$3,501 for his owner, Thomas F. Boettcher of Hollis. Boettcher's sister, Katherine of Ponca City, collected the money and was also awarded a large silver loving cup.

The Post Office Department determined that the derby constituted a lottery and banned any advertisement of the event, so this was the last year for the event.

This year also marked the last great show to carry the 101 Ranch banner across the U.S.

The Miller Brothers closed their Wild West Show due to financial difficulties.

Clifford Wetzel opened the Wetzel Insurance Agency. The first office was on East Grand, on the second floor, with its neighbor being the Murray Theater.

Herman Smith purchased the Hammon Clothing Store at 119 East Grand, and it became Smitty's Boys' and Men's Wear with the slogan, "Where the Boy is King."

Monsour's Super Market opened at Third Street and Central.

Oklahomans observed their 25th anniversary of statehood on Nov. 16. It was a fairly subdued celebration because of the Great Depression. The all-day celebration began with a parade led by Gov. William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray through downtown Oklahoma City and ended with a banquet and dance that evening.

E.W. Marland was not able to pay the mortgage on his mansion, so the mortgage company foreclosed. A sheriff's sale was held in August and W.H. McFadden, Marland's good friend and former business associate, made the high bid. He then transferred the deed to Marland.

1932 — Dan Kygar was elected mayor in April. On his first day in office, he named a new chief of police, city attorney,

city judge, and street and sanitary commissioner. He also abolished the city park board.

Al Capone, notorious Chicago gangster, seriously considered buying 2,000 acres of the 101 Ranch after the property had been placed in receivership. A statement issued by the Exchange National Bank in Tulsa declared that no transfer of ranch property could be made without first clearing a part of the ranch's \$600,000 indebtedness. Apparently Capone lost interest in the deal.

Bill Pickett, a cowboy with the 101 Ranch, died. He had invented the sport of bulldogging near the end of the 1800s, and introduced it to the world as a part of his act in the 101 Ranch Wild West Show in 1905. His version of the sport was performed on longhorn steers. He jumped from his horse to a steer's back, bit its upper lip to subdue it, and threw it to the ground by twisting its horns.

Spray's Jewelry opened downtown at 210 East Grand Avenue.

Members of the Kay County Democratic Party endorsed E. W. Marland for the Oklahoma Eighth District congressional seat. Marland campaigned against big government and big money, aligning himself with Presidential candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt. Marland won the election with 61 percent of the votes, the first Democrat elected in the Eighth District.

Continental Oil added 119 new service stations and 43 bulk plants.

The owner of the Arcade Hotel, Mrs. Annie Rhodes, died. Lew Wentz took over the ownership.

George Marland sold his part of an auto dealership to Forrest Jennings.

1933 — Dan Kygar resigned as mayor in January, after serving only eight months. He felt that the city charter had several fundamental defects and needed to be amended.

Tom W. Prentice was elected mayor. He was "swept into office" by a large majority

over his four opponents. Prentice was the vice president and treasurer of the Wentz Oil Corporation.

L.D. Edgington purchased the First National Bank. He also owned the First National Bank of Tenneco and the Shidler National Bank.

At the height of the Great Depression, the Chamber of Commerce requested Congress to allow the Public Works Administration to build a lake east of town as a water supply. The PWA was part of the first "New Deal" agency that made contracts with private firms for construction of public works.

A volunteer group organized a petition drive to apply for a government PWA loan of \$100,000 for construction of a new library. On Dec. 8, the group of women, representing every active civic group in Ponca City, walked down Grand Avenue to City Hall. Both excited and determined, they were headed for the City Commission meeting. One month later, the government loan was granted. The Chamber of Commerce formed a Library Committee and planning for the new library began.

A state beauty contest was held at the Wentz Pool to select Oklahoma's candidate for the "Miss America Beauty Pageant" in Atlantic City.

Two pavilions and 12 camper cabins were built at the Wentz Camp.

They are octagonal in shape and built of native limestone. Each cabin sleeps 12 people on sturdy wood three-decked bunk beds.

Big Salt Sale One of a Kind For Merchant

Frank Foutz, who came to Ponca City in 1893 to be a partner of Jim Hitchins in the Ponca Cash store, claimed the distinction of being the only man ever to have sold a train-load of salt here.

The sale occurred years ago when this was a new country with thousands of head of cattle in the Osage. At that time Foutz was proprietor of the Ponca Cash Grocery, and the salt, which he shipped here from Hutchinson, Kan., was sold to cattlemen for their cattle.

There was not a great margin of profit in the deal, Foutz said. The salt came in barrels and sold for \$1.35 a barrel. This purchase price included delivery of the commodity wherever the ranchers desired.

Foutz's salt train consisted of about 25 freight cars. Figuring 75 barrels of salt to a car there were about 1,875 barrels sold in Ponca City from one shipment.

"In those days it was nothing uncommon," Foutz said, "to see 50 wagonloads of hogs driven into town about dusk. The drivers of the wagons would unload their hogs and then do their shopping. Many are the times I worked in that grocery store until 2:30 and 3 o'clock in the morning."

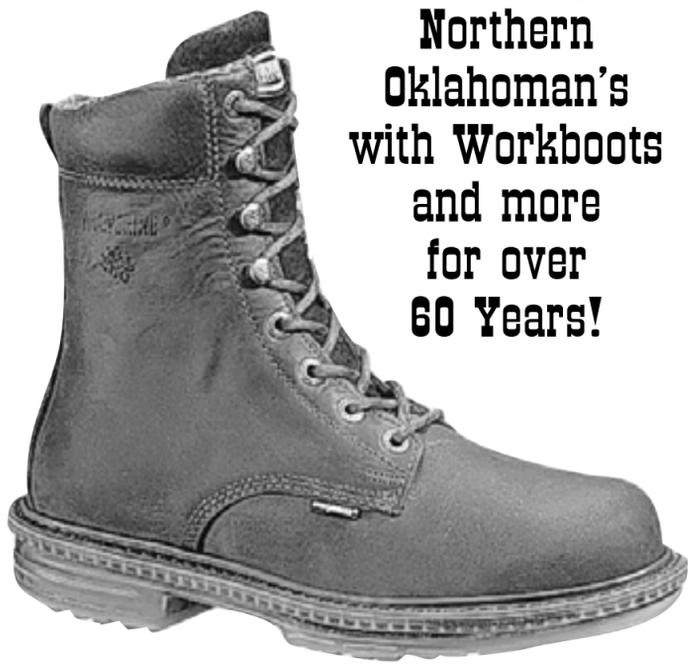
Foutz and Hitchins both came to this vicinity from Kingman, Kan., where their parents had lived. In later years Foutz owned a novelty store here.

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Marland Elected Governor of Oklahoma in 1934

E.W. Marland turned his attention to politics in 1934 and was elected governor of Oklahoma while the Little Rascals of "Our Gang" filmed an episode in Ponca City as the Centennial Countdown continues.

1934 — E.W. Marland campaigned for governor, promising to bring President Roosevelt's "New Deal" to Oklahoma. In the primary, there were 14 other Democrats on the ballot; he received more than 50,000 votes over his closest competitor. In November, he was elected the tenth governor of the state of Oklahoma, outpolling his opponent by more than 120,000 votes.

Charles Duffy, a Ponca City attorney, won election to the Oklahoma Senate, where he served until 1946. Sen. Duffy had aspirations of becoming governor of Oklahoma, but power king Robert S. Kerr said, "No, he is too honest a man."

During the Depression, Smitty's Boys' and Men's Wear sponsored an annual style show at the Poncan Theatre. Admission was a lead pencil from each patron that Smitty donated to the public schools. The program included film strips of "Our Gang," "The Three Stooges," and cartoons. The highlight of the show was the "Pie Eating Contest."

Voters passed a special bond issue by a 2 to 1 margin, approving a PWA project to build Lake Ponca, and a new library building.

A "Little Rascals" movie episode was filmed in Ponca City at the George Niemann house on South Eighth Street. Several local children were in the film as extras.

The Dionne quintuplets

were born in Ontario, Canada, on May 28. The event was publicized worldwide, and the babies became the "talk of the town" everywhere.

Oscar Keck, one of Ponca City's earliest citizens, added some new Christmas decorations to his home on North Sixth Street. Atop the front porch roof, he spelled out Cecile, Annette, Emilie, Marie, Yvonne ... the quintuplets names.

1935 — E.W. Marland was inaugurated as governor on Jan. 15. His good friend, William McFadden, served as grand marshal of the inaugural parade, riding a horse from the 101 Ranch. Lydie Marland wore a borrowed dress to the Inaugural Ball.

As governor, he promoted the development of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and also created the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission.

Oil was discovered beneath the State Capitol. Many protested the oil production on state property, so Marland called in the National Guard to protect drilling operations. Henry Hatashita, Marland's gardener, landscaped the grounds around the governor's mansion and the state capital building.

In August, Will Rogers died in a plane crash with his pilot friend, Wiley Post.

Dr. C.E. Northcutt was elected mayor. He appointed a full time doctor and nurse to serve indigent persons in need of help. He also furnished a fully equipped office.

It was through the influence of Mayor Northcutt that Lester A. Cann accepted the position of city manager. Cann had been a Kay County Commissioner from 1911 to 1935.

Homer S. Anderson was named principal of Ponca City High School, a position he held for 30 years. His nickname was "Bird Dog," because when he caught a student breaking a rule, he followed him to his next classroom or to his locker, and then had a discussion. He was also known to attend every athletic event at the school.

Conoco reported its greatest volume of business ever, even though it was the Depression.

Lake Ponca was completed. The lake not only provided a water supply for Ponca City, it also became the recreational center for northern Oklahoma. The lake held approximately four billion gallons of water. The labor costs for the project were \$130,000, and as many as 375 men were employed to do the work. The city celebrated by holding a boating regatta. They also christened the Police Department's new patrol boat, "Miss Ponca City."

Frank Lucas died. He had been Marland's private secretary since 1918, and also served as Ponca City's Postmaster.

The new Federal Building and Post Office opened at Fourth Street and Grand Avenue.

On April 17, Ponca City experienced a terrible storm, with hailstones the size of golf balls.

The storm seriously damaged the clay tile roof at the Marland Mansion, and a number of the estate's water fowl were killed.

On Dec. 18, Ponca City formally dedicated its new library as a "silver jubilee" occasion. It had been 25 years since the opening of the first

public library. The exterior was buff brick with cream colored terra cotta trim, and it was the first library in Oklahoma to be air conditioned. The structure received national attention, and several cities requested copies of the architectural plans.

1936 — Empire Oil and Refining changed its name to Cities Service Oil Company.

The WPA began construction of Blaine Stadium and the Fieldhouse.

Ponca City could boast of four motion picture theaters, a municipal auditorium that seated 1,000 people, two golf courses, 13 parks, two open-air swimming pools, five playgrounds, and two recreational camps.

The public library had 16,994 books, with 6,832 card holders.

The school district comprised 32 square miles. Public school students totaled 4,469, with 158 teachers, in eight elementary schools, one junior high, one senior high, one parochial and two special schools.

Citizens of Ponca City owned 4,487 cars and 570 trucks.

There were 316 babies born, a rate of 16.1 per 1,000 population.

There were 226 deaths, a rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population.

The city issued 246 building permits with a total value of \$359,996. New house construction was a part of the total, at \$182,095. Total homes in the city limits were 4,344.

Ponca City had three bus lines.

The Police Department employed 15 men.

Ponca City's population was estimated at 18,000. Of that number, 9,562 were registered voters.

The city had 106 miles of streets, with 30 miles paved, 67 miles of water mains and 64 miles of sewers.

There were 24 churches, representing all leading denominations.

The census stated that 4,589 families lived in 4,344 dwellings, with an average spendable income of \$2,573.

Visitors in town could choose from four hotels, with 300 first class rooms.

Residents with telephones numbered 4,634. They paid

\$2.50 per month for a single line, or \$2 for a two-party line.

PWA — The Public Works Administration was created in 1933. It was part of the first New Deal agency that made contracts with private firms for the construction of public works.

About 75 percent of the dollars went to public facilities. Communities had to apply for a grant from PWA.

Hence — Ponca City's new library and Lake Ponca.

WPA — The Works Progress Administration was established in 1935. It provided jobs and income to the unemployed who were on relief during the depression.

They built many public roads and buildings plus seven percent of their budget established and operated a large arts project. The WPA was the largest employer in the U.S. Congress closed it in 1943. Some of the WPA projects in Ponca City, in addition to the library and Lake Ponca, would have been the limestone walls, shelter houses, and bridges in the parks.

Marland Oil Company Thrived During Oil Boom

Editor's Note: The following information on Marland Oil Company was published in the Conoco Magazine in July 1929 inaugural issue.

An inserted paragraph of Marland Oil History reads, "Successful search for oil brought need for refinery and market outlets and created over-night leader in the industry."

While the early days of the Continental Oil Company are replete with the tales of a struggle to market petroleum products on a western frontier, equally as interesting is the story of the founders of the Marland Oil Company in their early search for crude petroleum on the plains of northern Oklahoma.

Strangely enough, the later history of Continental points to efforts concentrated on marketing, although there was necessity for a later search for raw material, while the life of the Marland Company has been primarily devoted to the production of raw material, with the marketing phase coming later as a natural result of success in the field of production.

The first oil in Oklahoma was found near Tulsa, and the later discovery of oil and gas near Bartlesville, Okla., attracted the attention of oil men to the possibility of developing oil in Kay County, near the center of which now stands the Ponca City refinery.

Most oil men at that time scoffed at geology. They drilled for oil in a hit or miss fashion, spending money to drill test wells on or off an anticline as their luck happened to be, and abandoning the entire section if the first well proved to be dry.

Nearly all the experienced oil men were skeptical about the possibilities of the Ponca City area.

In December 1908, E. W. Marland, a Pennsylvania lawyer and oil operator, in company with Lieutenant, now Col. F. R. Kenney, of the United States Army, made a visit to the Ponca City territory to

study the possibilities for oil. Marland had made a study of geology for years, back in the West Virginia and Pennsylvania fields. He had already come to the conclusion that practical oil geology would revolutionize the producing end of the petroleum industry.

Marland found that a prominent outcropping in the earth's surface showed the way to a perfect anticline in the region just south of what was then the small trading town of Ponca City. He mapped the anticline carefully, and then secured a lease from Miller Brothers, of the famous 101 ranch, which contained this anticline and which was still the largest ranch in Oklahoma.

Many Adverse Conditions
Additional leases were obtained from the Indians who owned the land in the vicinity, and in February, 1909, the location was made for a well which was not only the first one drilled for oil in Kay County, but also the first one drilled west of the Osage Indian reservation.

This well was drilled under the most adverse conditions. There were no heavy draft teams in the country, nothing but light horses and ranch ponies. Lumbering teams of oxen with their wooden yokes had to be used to haul rig timbers, tools, boilers and casing from the railroad to the well location on the Ponca Indian reservation. Marland, himself drove the oxen.

Few wells have been drilled under more difficult conditions. Owing to repeated delays in obtaining proper tools, this well was not drilled down to the depth of the producing sand.

First Gas in 1910
After abandoning the first well, a location was made for a second one on the 101 ranch, about five miles from the first location and well up on the anticline. The conditions under which this well was drilled were almost as bad as those for the first. In the spring of 1910, a large gas well was brought in at this location.

At about this time, in order to carry on operations on a large scale and develop the oil which geological indications made him certain was present, Marland organized the 101 Ranch Oil Company. Associated with him in this company were W. H. McFadden, J. C. McCaskey, a number of other friends of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Colonel Kenney. This company continued in operation in the South Ponca oil field until 1917, when it was absorbed by the newly organized Marland Refining Company.

The Marland interests proceeded to drill other wells in the vicinity of the first one, always making their locations on the anticline. Of the first eight wells drilled, seven were producing gas wells. The ninth was a producing oil well. This was the first real proof of the oil geologist's theory in the Mid-Continent field.

New Fields Opened
The drilling of the ninth well in June, 1911, which was on the allotment of an Indian named Willie Cries-For-War, opened the oil era not only for Kay County, but for that vast region of Oklahoma from the beginning of the red beds west, including what is now known as the Garber, Mervine, Billings and Blackwell fields. It also proved to oil operators the existence of oil in the western part of the Osage Indian reservation.

The next 10 years saw rapid development of the oil industry in northern Oklahoma, with the Marland interests assuming leadership in the activity. New companies were organized to control the various phases of the production business. And then, in 1918, the Marland refinery was built at Ponca City, and the growth and expansion of this huge manufactory has been one of the outstanding achievements of all development in the Oklahoma oil territory. With completion of the refinery naturally came the necessity for market expansion, and Marland entered the retail field, although wholesale distribution has handled the major output of the refinery.

(See HISTORY, Page 11G)



THE NIEMANN HOUSE, 417 South Eighth Street, was built in 1913 by Dr. George Niemann. The house was converted from the frame home to Spanish decor in the late 1930s. The home is currently owned by Vonda and Barney Barnwell. An episode of the "Our Gang" comedies was filmed here in 1934.



This year, Central Baptist Church celebrated the groundbreaking of their new property with construction manager Rick Scott and approximately 200 of its members. A 30,000-square-foot facility will be built on the southeast corner of Highway 77 and Coleman Road. It will consist of a Sanctuary with a 600-seating capacity, multiple classrooms, administrative offices, kitchen and gymnasium.

Until the new facility is complete, we are meeting at the Poncan Theatre. Service times are:

Sunday School — 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening — 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening — 6:00 p.m.

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Agrarian Club Still Active After 64 Years in Existence

The Agrarian Club is celebrating its 64th year as an active club.

It was organized in 1943 with the help of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, the Ponca City merchants and the local farmers around Ponca City. The idea of the club was to get the businessmen and the farmers to "get more acquainted and have fellowship with one another."

They published in The Ponca City News that they planned to organize a club for the merchant and farmers. Their response was very good; there were around 150 in attendance. The meeting was called to order in the Ponca City Civic Center.

With the help of Bob Parker, a local lumber dealer who had helped start one at Stillwater, the meeting was called to order and the club formed.

They elected officers that night and, far as Leroy Williams recalled, the president was Jim O'Neill; vice president, J. B. Harden; and secretary was Cleo Eaton, a job he held for many years. The group decided dues for a year would be \$10 and they would have a meeting on the second Thursday of every month with the exception of July and August. The meeting place would be in a back room of the Civic Center.

The president would appoint several members

each month to prepare and take care of the evening meal. After the meal would be a program. At that time, Herb Schall was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and he helped to find different kinds of programs. The group had speakers from Oklahoma State University, local attorneys, and county agent W.R. Hutchinson.

Membership included farmers from the east of Ponca City, west of town, south and north along with the local Ponca City businessmen. Those attending from the Osage were Ray Lessert, George Crane, Ernest O'Neill, Jim O'Neill, Marvin Anderson, Raymond Klufa, Joe Colby, Walter Colby, Riley Hargraves, Bob Donaldson and Cirvillo Marchsoni.

Those from the west side of Ponca were Mike Schiltz, Joe Schiltz, J.B. Hardin, Sherd Carmichael, Leroy Williams, Clem Ogg, Louis Bellinghausen, Oscar Bellinghausen, Bill Jeans, Ernest Rowan, Ned Conaway; from the south of town, Bud Keathley, Cleve Dixon, Irvin Kelley, Louis Knief, Wayne Armstrong, and Joe Otto from the north.

Some of the businessmen that attended were Herb Schall, Bee Crawford, Frank Overstreet, Walt Holder, Jay Paris, Glen Paris, Flavel Perry, Herman Smith, Cleo Eaton, Chester Porter and Ray Baird.

Members went to the Colby Ranch for a Hereford Cattle show and sale; to a ranch south of Shidler where they had an artificial cattle breeding program; to the Phillips Ranch east of Pawhuska, and Drummond Ranch near Burbank.

As time went by, members decided to change the meeting place and buy supper. They would take turns meeting at the Jens Marie and the Quo Vadis and another place on South Fourth.

They would have several banquets each year that would be "Ladies night." Members took on several projects, such as helping with the 4-H and FFA Livestock shows at Newkirk.

These shows were held every year in February.

The Agrarian club would sponsor the showmanship contest and give out trophies to the winners of each class. They helped with the 4-H and FFA Soil Judging contest held each spring and gave out trophies to the winner of each class.

In 1984, the group admitted women to membership. Bonnie Porter, was the new secretary and first woman officer, followed by Dorothy Jeans, Arlene Carriger and Irene Harden. At one time Velma Powelson served as president.

(See CLUB, Page 10G)



HAVING THE distinction of being the first and oldest bank in Kay County and the Cherokee Strip, Eastman National Bank has weathered every financial storm and crisis during the past 75 years. It was operated as the Bank of Santa Fe until 1908 when a national charter was obtained and it became the Eastman National Bank.

Eastman Bank Holds Honor As Being First Bank in 'Strip'

NEWKIRK —The first bank to be chartered in the townsite of Santa Fe was the Bank of Santa Fe. The bank opened its doors on Oct. 9, 1893, and was founded by E. B. Eastman of Minneapolis, Kan.

Eastman was president, F. L. Flint, vice president, and R. G. Bracken, cashier. The first location of the bank was across the street south from the present high school building on West Ninth Street.

The lot had been claimed and held for the Eastmans by George Midgley, also from Minneapolis, Kan., on the day of the run. The bank later moved to the west side of the square where the H. M. Stagers home is now located, and then moved to the corner of Seventh and Main where it exists today as the Eastman National Bank.

An industrial brochure published in 1900 described the bank as "doing a general banking and collection business with capital stock of \$10,000, deposits \$60,000, surplus and profits \$8,000, cash and sight exchange \$4,500."

Having the distinction of being the first and oldest bank in Kay County and the Cherokee Strip, Eastman National Bank has weathered every financial storm and crisis during the past 75 years. It was operated as the Bank of Santa Fe until 1908 when a national charter was obtained and it became the Eastman National Bank.

The quarried limestone building in which the bank is still located was built in early

1900s. The tower and second story were removed in 1954 and in 1963 the building was entirely remodeled by incorporating the building to the south. It seems a fitting ending for the old drug store which stood as a neighbor to the bank for so many years.

Bank of Santa Fe —1894

Eastman National stands as a strong and secure monument to the strength and progress of the community and its trade area. Through the years it has been guided by men such as G. K. Richardson, Harry Roberts, W. C. Liermann, and Frank Midgley.

Today, with a capital structure exceeding \$450,000 and deposits of \$3.5 million, the Eastman National Bank continues to provide funds for stable growth and development of the area under the leadership of Frank Midgley Jr.

Many other banks have contributed to this financial history of Newkirk. The State Guaranty Bank was established in 1909 with J. S. Eastman as president and P. S. Mason as cashier. This bank was located on West Main in what was known as the telephone building and records indicate that in 1910 its deposits were \$100,000. It was taken over by the Eastman National in 1911.

The original building was nearly completed in November 1901, when a major fire wiped out the business block to the north.

During the fire large sheets of canvas were hung over the north windows of the building

and buckets of salt water were thrown on them to keep the window glass from breaking.

First remodeling of the stone structure was in April 1916 with the installation of a metal ceiling and a new floor. The bank's minutes of Sept. 19, 1919, mention that the bank was again remodeled and refurbished at a cost of \$9,800. Remodeling of the bank was accomplished again in 1953 with the removal of the old wrought iron ceiling fixtures, and in 1954 the second story of bank building was removed. Removal of the second floor, and the third floor towers, to a point at the bottom the second story windows and rebuilding to a height of 25 feet gives the appearance of a story and again.

Again 1963 the bank expanded and absorbed the old drug store building directly to the south.

Continuing to change with the times, another expansion was undertaken in 1981 and completed in 1982. That remodeling involved a new motor bank, four private executive offices, enlarged directors room, expanded bookkeeping department and enlarged lobby.

According to old records, the Kay County State Bank was established Oct. 12, 1893, by P. W. Smith of Udall, Kan. This became the First National Bank in 1900. Mr. Smith served as its president and among its directors were Duval Jackson, C. A. Johnson and J. S. Brown.

(See EASTMAN, Page 11G)



ROYAL AIR FORCE Flying Training Schools were established and operated both in Ponca City and Miami, Okla., between the years 1941-1945. At both schools, it was not long until some American cadets from the U.S. Army Air Corps also joined the training program, and those who graduated, had the distinctive honor of being able to wear both the wings of the USAAC and of the RAF.

Many British Pilots Learned To Fly at Darr During WWII

Editor's Note: The following story for the Centennial edition of The Ponca City News was submitted by Paula Denson, author of "The Royal Air Force in Oklahoma during World War II."

Two Royal Air Force Flying Training Schools were established and operated both in Ponca City and Miami, Okla. between the years 1941-1945. These "secret" schools came out of the need the British government faced as they searched for secure locations where their pilots could train without the constant fear of being attacked by German bombers.

In England, it was all that the Royal Air Force could do to keep all existing air bases pumping out a barrage of fighter pilots who constantly flew their missions in retaliation of the bombings which bombarded many parts of their homeland.

Oklahoma seemed an appropriate place to set up two of the six schools which operated in the United States before and during World War II. Because of its mild weather and good flying conditions, it seemed only natural to locate flying schools here. Fueled by the growing need for more bomber pilots, these "all-through" schools could operate around the clock with part of a course flying in the morning while the other half of the class flew at night. Every other day the process was reversed. Those who remained on the ground found themselves snowed under with a host of technical ground school classes, leaving very little time for social activities.

And so it was that citizens of these two small cities, located in the northern and northeastern parts of Oklahoma, found themselves watching the skies above them as a variety of training aircraft including Stearman PT17s, Harvard AT6 trainers, Cornell PT19s and Vultee BT13s flew overhead.

As a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Lend-Lease act which was signed in March 1941, a group of eager Oklahoma businessmen from both towns began to vie for schools to be located in their

hometowns. For a period of time, it looked like Ponca City would receive first call on the development of a school, but at the last minute, Capt. Maxwell Balfour, a Spartan School of Aeronautics executive, decided to establish his school in Miami. However, it was only one month later when Ponca City, under the direction of Hal Darr, also saw the beginning of the Darr School of Aeronautics.

By August 1941, construction was in full swing at both facilities and as September rolled around, the first groups of British trainees arrived on the scene. They came on ships like the Queen Mary as they arrived first in Moncton, New Brunswick. After their assignments were issued, they boarded trains which sped them across the vast expanses of the United States to their new homes.

As the folks in both towns became used to the noise of engines buzzing overhead pretty much around the clock, so, too, did they begin to enjoy their new citizens from the United Kingdom and the other commonwealth countries which sent cadets to learn to fly over the vast prairies which lay beneath them. Most of these men had never driven cars when they arrived in America, but they took to flying like they had been doing it for years.

Prompted by Eleanor Roosevelt and her friends, including Lucille Jenkins (Mama Jenks) of Kansas City, the citizens of the towns were encouraged to show the English what good-old Oklahoma hospitality was all about. It was the goal of these famous women that these young men, torn away from their homes by bombs, and who had existed on war-rationed foods and other products for up to three years, could learn what America was really all about. They wanted to dispel the mental images that many of the young men had gleaned from Hollywood movies.

Almost immediately after their arrival at both schools, the young men were invited to more social functions than they could accept. Every-

where people offered rides, took them to movies, fed them Sunday dinner, and set up service centers where the men could enjoy time away from their quarters. A few married local women, but for the most part, these young men were dedicated to hours of study and intensive training as they worked to earn their wings.

Cooperative Effort

Both schools were run by their own Royal Air Force officers, but planes and facilities were provided by the United States. Flying instructors were recruited from around the country and included ex-military pilots, crop-sprayers, barnstormers, commercial and private pilots, some only one or two years older than their students. They were trained in civilian primary training programs and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps.

At both schools, it was not long until some American cadets from the U.S. Army Air Corps also joined the training program, and those who graduated, had the distinctive honor of being able to wear both the wings of the USAAC and of the RAF.

(See DARR, Page 11G)

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Continental Oil Born in Rocky Mountain Frontier

Editor's note: This article came from *The CONOCO Magazine*, July 1929. This was the first issue after Continental Oil and Marland Oil Company merged and pertains to the history of Continental.

The weaving of numerous small yet strong threads produce a massive fabric of great strength. Such are the threads picked up for a narrative of the Continental Oil Co. each with a separate beginning, but ultimately convergent in purpose.

The Continental Oil Company is the outgrowth of a number of consolidations and acquisitions which have taken place during the past nine years.

Some conception of the size and development of the Continental Oil Company may be gained by scanning the list of major petroleum organizations which have one by one lost their individual identity and merged into the whole as expansion extended to more and more widespread territory.

At the close of 1928 the following organizations had been brought together to be known as the Continental Oil Company: Elk Basin Petroleum Company, Keough-Hurst Drilling Company, Grass Creek Petroleum Company, Mutual Oil Company, the Frantz Corporation, Western Oil Fields Corporation, Boston-Wyoming Oil Company, Chappell Oil Company, Hamilton Oil Corporation, Merritt Oil Corporation, Continental Oil Company of Colorado, Sapulpa Refining Company, and the Texhoma Oil and Refining Company.

The name, Continental Oil Company, had its origin at a time when the Rocky Mountain States were on the frontier of America. Buffalo roamed the plains; elk, deer and antelope abounded in vast herds. At this period hostile Indians were still a source of trial to the white settlers, who consisted chiefly of cowboys and

sheepmen, prospectors and soldiers, with here and there a lone homesteader the forerunner of the prosperous western farmer of today.

A picture of the conditions prior to the entrance of petroleum marketing companies into this western country to operate on an extensive scale may be had from the statement that prior to the completion of the Kansas-Pacific railroad into Denver from the east, in August 1870, the light of a kerosene lamp was something of a luxury, and most of the population of Denver depended upon tallow candles for illumination. Kerosene was hauled to Denver by bull team from Florence, Colo., where one A. M. Cassidy built a primitive petroleum refinery in 1862, near the present site of a Continental Oil Company refinery. The kerosene hauled from Cassidy's refinery was sold in Denver for \$1.25 to \$5 a gallon.

Founding An Industry

Although the advent of rail transportation in 1870 lowered the costs on all commodities with a consequent increase in the general use of petroleum products, it remained until 1875 for a company devoted exclusively to the advancement of sales of petroleum products to enter the field.

Isaac E. Blake, at that time a resident of Ogden, Utah, conceived the idea early in 1875 of forming a company to transport petroleum products from the east to be marketed in the Rocky Mountain territory. After Blake had obtained the support of W. T. Kirkpatrick, of Council Bluffs, Utah, and of a fellow townsman, he went to Cheyenne, Wyo., to induce others to join him in the venture. He enlisted the support of a Mr. Hammond, then cashier of the First National Bank of Cheyenne. Hammond, in turn, interested Col. G. A. Draper, who, despite his 86 years, is still an active business man, justice of the peace and owner of a men's furnishing store at

Durango, Colo.

Each of the five men took \$5,000 worth of stock in the company, which was incorporated under the laws of Wyoming as the Continental Oil & Transportation Company, capitalized at \$25,000.

Tank Car Pioneers

The new company began operation with the establishment of bulk stations at Cheyenne, Wyo., and Council Bluffs and Ogden, Utah. A purchase was also made of two tank cars for the transportation of products from a refinery in Cleveland, Ohio. These two tank cars were the first to be used west of the Missouri river. In addition to being president, Blake was also manager of the Cheyenne station.

In 1876, as head of the Continental Oil & Trading Company, Blake visited Denver with a stock of package goods and appointed E. R. Barton manager of the Denver field. Operations were extended in the following year to include agencies in the principal cities of Colorado, Utah and Montana. The establishment of bulk stations by the Continental Oil & Transportation Company for the distribution of "coal oil" in bulk resulted in a steady transfer of consumption from cased to bulk products throughout the Rocky Mountain region. This transition was quickened by the entry of another company into the field as representative of the Standard Oil Company in 1880. This company immediately constructed additional bulk stations. The newcomer was the Consolidated Tank Line Company, of Hannibal, Mo., which ultimately was absorbed by Continental Oil Company.

The Continental Oil Compa-

ny was organized Jan. 1, 1885, and formally took over holdings of the Continental Oil & Transportation Company in the Rocky Mountain field, with Utah, Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico as its territory.

Marketing Chief Objective

From this point the growth of the Continental Oil Company was steady and phenomenal in turn, with constant devotion to the effort intensifying distribution of petroleum products. Marketing was and has been the chief objective of the company.

To bridge the gap in detail between early days of the Continental Oil Company and the date when it was merged with the Mutual Oil (1924) would require a volume within itself. An indication of the growth of the Continental Company of Colorado, prior to its consolidation with the organization which became the Continental Oil Company of Maine, is seen in the fact that its market had extended into the six states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Transportation facilities included 19 tank cars, 11 automobiles and 180 trucks, and four base shops were maintained for the automotive fleet. The strategic planning of the bulk stations and its automotive equipment brought the isolated rancher and the smallest hamlet within the limits of the service which has made the trade name "Conoco" famous.

The Continental Oil Company also brought into the reorganization 3,699 productive acres and 58,045 acres of prospective oil fields in Wyoming and Colorado. It also had a 15,000 barrel refinery

at Florence, Colo., and steel storage of 506,948 barrels in 270 tanks.

The Continental Oil Company of was essentially a marketing organization, and its chief energies were directed in this channel. It had won an enviable reputation as a great distributor of petroleum products. Merging this character of institution with the Mutual Oil Company, essentially a producing and refining company, made an ideal organization for economically serving the public in its ever-increasing demands for petroleum products.

The scope of the Continental Oil Company of Maine, the outgrowth of the series of mergers and acquisitions which have occurred during the past nine years, is covered elsewhere in this magazine, and indicates the extent of Continental's contribution to the latest consolidation with another great American oil company, the Marland Oil Company.

One of the most promising oil structures recently discovered (1929) in California is known as the Carpinteria. The old Continental Oil Company had extensive holdings in this area, and drilling is progressing at a rapid rate. Nowhere in the oil industry is competition more keen than in California. The intensive "town lot" drilling in existence there is a result of this competition.

In keeping with the dignity and size of the Continental Oil Company is the 50 Broadway building, New York City, where the company maintains district offices. The structure towers 36 stories above the pavement, and contains 257,000 square feet of floor space.

One of the largest copper manufacturing organizations in the world, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company located near Butte, Mon., is an exclusive consumer of Continental Oil Company products. The contract was secured some time ago by the old Continental Oil Company. The company mill has a daily capacity of more than 12,000 tons of ore, and employs 5,000 people.

Perhaps the most primitive oil drilling in the world is to be found in the huge field owned by the Burma Oil Company on the Irawaddy River, Burma, India. According to a peculiar law existent in the region, oil leases must be circular in shape. This leaves irregular patches of ground between the circles and natives have taken possession of these patches and dug oil wells by hand.

These wells are often six and seven hundred feet deep. Ordinary picks and shovels are used, and the pockets of oil encountered are scooped up in buckets and raised to the surface by means of windlasses operated by women and children.

Southern Wyoming and northern Colorado properties of the Union Oil Company of California were recently purchased by the old Continental Oil Company. Among the wells acquired is the famous Wellington gas well in northern Colorado. This well caught fire a few days after gas was found and the countryside for miles around was illuminated every night by a roaring column of flame nearly 100 feet high. The well's gas pressure was so strong that several attempts to cap it proved unsuccessful. The flame was finally extinguished and the gas was piped to surrounding cities.

'Madness' Told Of Local Scandals

Edward Donahoe wrote and published a book entitled "Madness in the Heart" in 1937.

The book used fictitious names and places, but it was the disguised tale of well known Ponca City citizens, in particular the Donahoes, the McGraws, the Soldanis and E.W. and Mary Virginia Marland. Many social scandals of Ponca City were highlighted. Edward's father, D.J. Donahoe, purchased and burned every copy of the book he could find.

W.H. Casey purchased a lot in the Acre Homes Addition at 717 East Overbrook. The Addition's restrictions stipulated that the cost of the structure be no less than \$5,000 and that the house must set back 75 feet from the Overbrook curb line.

While E.W. was governor, the Marlands periodically spent time at the mansion to escape the hassles at the capital. Once as Lydie was walking on the grounds, a swan attacked her along the bank of Whitemarsh Lake, and injured her arm. She had to wear a sling for a few days while she healed. Marland ordered the swans removed from the property.

The WPA completed construction of Blaine Stadium and Fieldhouse with assistance from two other agencies, the Civil Workers Association and the Federal Employees Relief Administration. The stadium, with stone north stands, cost \$83,000. Ponca City paid \$28,000 while the federal government paid the rest. The first football game in the new stadium was played in September.

Another New Deal project was the 101 Ranch. The Farm Security Administration controlled much of the former Ranch land, and they organized the 101 Ranch Resettlement Project. The land was to be divided into 26 farms for landless farmers. They could lease the land for three years, then would be allowed to purchase it with a 40-year note at 3 percent interest. To provide the families with income, the government allowed them to tear down old 101 Ranch buildings for materials. The buildings included the White House residence, hotel, cider mill, grain elevator, packing plant, refinery and some of the barns.

In December, Continental Oil Company fed employees doughnuts and coffee, and began distribution of 1,667 bonus checks totaling \$200,000. Part of a \$770,000 bonus to be distributed among the 5,000 employees of the company in various parts of the United States, it was one of the biggest bonuses given anywhere in the country. The average bonus check to Conoco employees amounted to two weeks pay.

The U.S. National Safety Council recognized Conoco's impressive safety record with several awards.

1938 — Louise Niemann,

daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George Niemann, was married in the gardens of the family home on South Eighth Street. The Spanish well on the front lawn was filled with ice to chill the champagne.

W.D. Edwards established the Edwards Motor Company at 120 West Grand Avenue. It became the DeSoto and Plymouth and GMC truck dealership.

Doc Farmer arrived in Ponca City to become president of Northern Oklahoma Gas Company.

The building that housed East Junior High School was condemned at the conclusion of an assembly, when the balcony actually fell down.

This was E.W. Marland's last year as governor. He announced that he planned to run for the U.S. Senate against Democrat incumbent Elmer Thomas. He was unsuccessful in his bid to return to Congress.

Marvin Van Winkle, owner of Van Winkle's Clothing Store for Men, was killed when his car struck a bridge. Most of the local businesses closed during his funeral, and a large representation from the Ponca Indian reservation was also in attendance. Marvin and his wife, Millie, had assembled an Indian dictionary to better serve their many Native American customers. They had become well known for their understanding of the Ponca Indian language and their customs.

Conoco introduced the catalytic cracking process at its refineries.

The South Avenue underpass was completed.

W. W. (Bill) Vance was elected mayor. A citizen's committee drafted him to run. When he filed, he stated, "If citizens want me to run, I'll just do the very best job I can. That's the only promise I have to make."

1939 — In January, E.W. Marland and his wife, Lydie, returned to Ponca City and the Marland Estate from the Governor's Mansion in Oklahoma City. John Duncan Forsyth remodeled the carriage area of the chauffeur's cottage into a bedroom and bathroom, and the Marland's made the cottage their home. They only opened the mansion occasionally for special events.

The Ponca City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution published the first edition of "The Last Run." The book is a compilation of stories and memories by Ponca City and Kay County citizens who participated in the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run.

Mrs. Myrtle Sidles had the idea to have a Pioneer Woman Statue float in the Cherokee Strip parade. For many years, Mrs. John Silvy portrayed the pioneer woman, and her son, then later her grandsons, depicted the young boy.

Tom and Marion Irby installed a dishwasher in their new home.

(See MADNESS, Page 11G)



THE MARLAND OIL Company represented a complete cycle in the petroleum industry. The company produced raw material, refined it into motor fuel and lubricating oil and transported it in its own tank cars or ocean tankers to its own service stations and bulk plants, or to the station dealers or jobbers.

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PCMA Established Residents' Minds on War in '42 Prior to WWII Start

Prior to the U.S. entry into World War II, Ponca Military Academy was founded on the east side of Ponca City as a highlight of 1940 as the Centennial Countdown continues.

1940 — Col. William V. Cox founded the Ponca Military Academy, and the academic year began with 18 cadets. Located in the former Quah-Ta-See-Da Club, it offered schooling for boys seven to 17 in third through 12th grades. Jack Bowker and Jim Monsour were two of the first graduates.

Lew Wentz was elected Republican national committeeman.

Continental Oil Co. opened the Continental Associates building next to their headquarters building. It had an indoor pool, gymnasium, and cafeteria.

Ponca City's population was 16,794.

Jay and Jessie Paris purchased the Marland home on Grand Avenue.

Marland announced his candidacy for the 1940 eighth district Congressional race. Due to ill health and lack of funds, he did no active campaigning and lost the nomination.

T.J. Cuzalina began writing a newspaper column entitled "Just Poppin' Off" in the Ponca City News, New York Times, and Denver Post. On the Fourth of July, he sponsored a public fireworks display at a vacant lot behind his home.

The Glenn Paris & Sons Furniture Store opened on East Grand Avenue. They used the motto, "Trade with the Boys."

1941 — The Discalced Carmelite Fathers purchased the Marland Mansion and grounds for \$66,000. It became known as the Marland Carmel Priory, a school of philosophy for students of the Carmelite order.

The Darr School of Aeronautics purchased 36 acres adjacent to the Ponca City

airport. On Aug. 1, Darr leased the 484-acre main flying field at the airport, and the British Flight Training School No. 6 began training pilots at the Ponca City Airport on Aug. 7.

Ponca City had 50 miles of surfaced streets, including brick, concrete, asphalt, and oil mat. There were 30 miles of "earth material" streets.

On Oct. 3, E.W. Marland died at the age of 67. The funeral was held at the junior high school auditorium. The Highway Patrol escorted the funeral car to the auditorium. His body was laid to rest in the mausoleum of the IOOF cemetery.

Lydie continued to live in the Chauffeur's Cottage on the grounds of the mansion.

William McFadden, former partner of Marland Oil, named Grover Blackard as the administrator of Mr. Marland's Estate. The Blackard's purchased the gatehouse on Fourteenth Street for their home and his office.

William McFadden sold five bronze statues to Frank Phillips, owner of Phillips 66. The statues had lined Monument Road when it was part of the Marland Estate. They depicted McFadden, George Miller of the 101 Ranch, John Bull (an Indian chief), Mrs. John Bull (his wife) and Belle Starr, the "outlaw queen."

Frank Overstreet, vice-president of First National Bank, and T.J. Cuzalina, druggist, ran for mayor. Overstreet won with a margin of 595 votes.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Cherokee Strip Celebration on Sept. 16. On Friday night, The Bob Wills Orchestra played for a free street dance and 20,000 people showed up. On Saturday, William McFadden, who now lived in Fort Worth, led the parade on his palomino, followed by Gov. Leon C. Phillips, and a group of other dignitaries.

The parade ended at the Pioneer Woman Statue.

One of the most important happenings in the minds of Ponca City citizens during 1942 was that their husbands, sons and brothers were rapidly marching into the armed forces of the United States to carry on war against the axis powers.

Gasoline rationing began. Kay County was given a 200-tire quota for sales in January. Tire inspectors monitored sales.

Because of the war, Continental hired women in the refinery for the first time.

Mid-American Manufacturing Company opened, producing canvas articles for the army, including pup tents, bed rolls, and back packs.

The "Daubers," a group of the Mother's Club Fine Arts department, organized the Ponca City Art Association.

A Chamber of Commerce committee met with a government representative to discuss a proposed channel that would straighten the Arkansas River and provide power.

Zone air raid wardens were named and they started an instruction course. Ponca City was divided into 35 zones.

Maj. Gordon Lillie (Pawnee Bill), 81, died at his home near Pawnee.

The Ponca City Mill installed a V-for-Victory sign atop the large elevator.

The Red Cross was issued its highest quota ever for its blood drive. They met their goal two weeks prior to deadline.

Clifford Wetzel was installed as president of the chamber at their annual installation dinner, taking the reins from Lawrence Northcutt.

Mayor Overstreet set April 1 for daylight savings time to take effect in Ponca City.

Ralph Cooley organized the civil air patrol and 58 volunteers showed up to work in the three-day draft signup.

Roy Grantham, county attorney, resigned to join the army as a first lieutenant in field artillery. Earl Sullins, high school football coach and physical education director, resigned to join the U.S. Army as a physical education instructor.

Airplane Assemblies, Inc. opened, the third war industry to contract in Ponca City. Clifford Wetzel, president of the Chamber of Commerce, announced that local war contracts totaled \$1,700,000.

A total of 18,451 people received war ration books during the registration period.

The Ponca City News sponsored a three-day cooking school.

The Oklahoma Press Association convened in Ponca City for a three-day meeting, with Ernest Fischer, Associated Press correspondent in Berlin, as principal speaker.

Citizens collected 161,920 pounds of scrap metal in a city-wide salvage drive, according to Paul A. Long, chairman of the drive. Ponca City school children collected 3,600 pounds on the opening day of the drive.

On August 23, the annual Boy Scout camping week at Wentz Camp began with 144 scouts from the North Oklahoma area

council. Bishop Francis Clement Kelly dedicated the Marland Carmel priory.

The John Boyer Company, a local business that assembled noses for trainer planes, expanded their work force to 250 employees.

Continental hired women for their testing and chemical laboratories.

S.D. Hinton was unanimously elected chairman of the 1943 Community Chest drive. The \$21,000 goal included a hospital improvement project. Total subscriptions were \$24,283.

Harold Darr, owner of Darr School of Aeronautics, was honored by the Chamber of Commerce at a dinner designated "Darr Day." Three directors related the history of the schools.

On Dec. 7, the high school held its inaugural assembly of the Victory Corps. Faculty members Lillian Shuster, Woodson Tyree and Frank Gibbard were in charge of the event, and inducted 433 students.

Nov. 30, Poncaans rushed the gasoline service stations. Gas rationing took effect on Dec. 1, and filling station operators reported they had no customers that day.

T.W. Prentice was named county chairman of a committee organized to cooperate in the national \$9 billion war financing campaign.

The annual "kiddies pet parade" was on Dec. 12, with 1,151 area children participating in the event.

The Tulsa World named Bob Askey, end, and J.L. Theobald, guard, co-captains of the Po High football team, to the All-state squad.

The new city directory listed 240 different businesses in Ponca City.

Continental Oil Co. entertained 1,300 employees' children at its annual Christmas party.

Every student at the Darr School was invited to a Christmas dinner at various Ponca City homes.

Glenn Paris, president of Northern Oklahoma area council of Boy Scouts, reported scout membership increased by 338 in 1942.

Continental Oil Company was guarded by Bullmastiffs which were trained by Joe Boylan, superintendent of the safety and sanitation division of the company.

W.D. Beard was appointed county administrator for the sale of war bonds and stamps.

Kay County citizens pledged \$70,000 in a bond pledge drive. Final sales of the war bonds totaled \$288,553.

1943 — Ponca City activities centered more than ever on the war effort. Residents took part in war production, contributed to scrap and bond drives, and sent members of the family into the service. Many appreciated the increased payrolls and trade that resulted from the war.

Infantile paralysis, chicken pox and influenza victimized a large number of citizens.

War production increased with the first shipments from the Continental Oil Company's new toluene plant, and increased production from the refineries, the airplane sub-assemblies plant, and army garment manufacturers.

Major Cox of the Ponca Military Academy reported his school was at full enrollment with 70 students.

In March, prices for milk remained at 13 cents a quart retail, due to the milk price ceilings established by the Oklahoma Price Administration. It was raised to 14 cents in April.

L.A. Farmer, president of Northern Oklahoma Gas company, was the new president of the Chamber of Commerce.

900 Continental employees, members of the Independent Oil Workers union, agreed to work two days per week per man to help area farmers harvest and care for their crops.

Tag licenses for automobiles were numbered stickers to be pasted on windshields.

The school census revealed the highest number of students ever recorded, with a total of 5,280 children between 6 and 21 years of age.

Charles P. Howell was re-elected for the eighth consecutive time to serve as superintendent of the public schools.

A section of the 34-year-old bridge east of Ponca City over the Arkansas River dropped eight inches, making it unsafe for traffic.

Local shoe repair shops reported rushing business since shoe rationing had become effective.

The Lummus Company constructed a 100-octane gasoline plant south of town. They were able to increase wages for their employees with common labor receiving 60 cents an hour and semi-skilled 70 cents. The highest increase was from \$1.25 to \$1.50 for steamfitters.

In April, Glenn E. Paris & Sons furniture store observed its third anniversary by moving to a new location, 216-18 East Grand Avenue.

On April 3, the Tonkawa prisoner of war camp held an open house.

Grocers urged Ponca City housewives to spend their ration coupons as they needed them so that the stores would be able to replenish their stocks.

Ponca victory gardeners were allowed water rate reductions from April through September.

The estimated budget set by the Board of Education for the 1943-44 school year was \$349,740, an increase of almost \$32,000, which was mostly for teacher salaries.

City commissioners passed a new city ordinance to keep Ponca City clean.

Payrolls had increased 61 percent since 1940, post office receipts rose 24 percent, sales tax collections rose 30 percent.

On April 14, the first day of issuance for canning sugar, 400 citizens lined up at the fire station to purchase up to 25 pounds each, the maximum amount allowed. Potatoes had also been scarce. Hatfield Gro-

cery reported receiving 2,500 pounds, and selling them all in one afternoon.

Residents donated almost enough tin cans to fill a railroad car. Total weight of the cans was 710 pounds.

On June 15, shoe dealers experienced their busiest day in months. The first shoe ration stamp had expired.

Mid-American Manufacturing hired 200 additional workers. They were now manufacturing clothing for the army.

All city department heads except two received a salary increase, thanks to a new city ordinance.

Ponca City Savings and Loan Association had the 51st semi-annual and consecutive dividend since their founding in 1917. L.S. Barnes, president, distributed checks totaling over \$50,000 to stockowners.

All cadets at Darr School of Aeronautics were placed under a two-week quarantine after one of the British students was diagnosed with infantile paralysis.

In August, Continental Oil increased their week work to 44 hours. Local stores changed their hours to accommodate the oil company's employees.

Sisters of St. Joseph held open house at the new nurse's home and hospital annex.

Ponca City barbers charged 60 cents for a haircut and 25 cents for a shave, upping prices by 10 cents.

John E. Boyer Company, airplane parts assembly plant, increased contracts by 30 to 40 percent.

In September, the prisoner of war camp in Tonkawa received 461 more German prisoners.

The Chamber of Commerce and real estate agencies requested that persons having available rooms or living quarters for rent to list them. Many newcomers to Ponca City could not find a place to live.

City commissioners approved a contract to raise and widen the Lake Ponca dam and repair the spillway.

Cities Service Refinery went to a 48-hour week.

On October 23, a B-17 bomber crashed in Ponca City just before a rainstorm. All 14 men aboard were killed.

Two groups of war prisoners from the camp at Tonkawa were approved for agricultural work in Ponca City.

The White House at the 101 Ranch, one of the most noted landmarks in Oklahoma, was sold to F.G. VanSickle, along with the round house dormitory and the long barn. He announced that he would tear down the house.

State Sen. Charles Duffy reported that engineering plans for a new bridge over the Arkansas River had been finished and would be carried out as one of the first post-war projects.

The huge Christmas tree was erected downtown in the middle of Grand Avenue. It stood 35 feet high, its branches made of trees. A star made of 40 white electric light bulbs topped the tree.

Herman Smith Impacted Ponca City in Many Ways

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

Often businesses are remembered by their owners, or merchandise. Herman Smith, who was a long-time businessman operating Smitty's Men's and Boys' wear was one of the memorable personalities.

"Smitty" entered the clothing business in Ponca City in 1926, when he came here from Guthrie as assistant manager of Lintz Department Store. After the store burned down in 1929 Smitty opened a boys' wear store in the back of Johnson's Men's store in 1929.

He branched out into men's and boys' clothing in 1934. Smitty gave much of the credit for the store's success to his wife Louise, who managed the store during his absence during World War and the Korean Conflict.

A veteran of three wars, rising from a buck private in the infantry to in World War I to a major in the Air Force in the Korean War.

Born in Missouri, Smitty came to Oklahoma after he was discharged in 1918 and went to work Lintz Department Store, where he met and married a co-worker, Louise Schneider. They were married on Christmas Eve, 1922.

Their first son, Truman was born in 1924 in Guthrie. A second son, John, was born in 1929 after they had established residence in Ponca City. The two sons would eventually join Smitty in the clothing business.

When World War II broke out, Smitty immediately went back to the service.

A two-time mayor of Ponca City, Smith again went into service during the Korean Conflict and found himself a major this time. He began as a public information officer at Vance Air Force Base in Enid and then was transferred to Korea where he was made protocol officer of Korea.

He was instrumental in the distribution of two tons of clothing to 8,000 Korean

refugees and orphans in connection with the American Relief for Korea program.

Ponca Citians and contacts in Korea had collected the clothing. After Smitty returned from act service, Ponca City and northern Oklahomans sent an additional 21 tons of clothing to needy Koreans.

Over the years Smitty promoted Ponca City wherever he traveled and was most enthusiastic about the possibility of the location of the Kaw Reservoir in this area. Active in the Ambucs he served as the national president.

(See SMITH, Page 10G)

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Greg Ward, left, General Manager, and Michael Ward, President

WARD'S air conditioning, inc.

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Herman "Smitty" Smith

Chilocco Established To Educate Indian Youths

Chilocco Indian School was created as a result of the Indian Appropriation Act of May 1882, which authorized the establishment of three Indian schools in the West.

The act included appropriations of \$25,000 for construction of a building for a school on 1,109 acres in Indian Territory at a point adjacent to the southern boundary of the state of Kansas.

The new institution was to be a non-reservation boarding school for 150 children of the plains Indian tribes in western part of the territory. The school was called Chilocco from the Cherokee word Tsalagi and the Choctaw word Chilukki, both meaning cave people. The school Chilocco was said to be the white man's version.

First Building
Chilocco's first building was constructed under supervision of Maj. James Haworth of Kansas, superintendent of Indian Education, with the help of his wife.

Many historic accounts about Chilocco say that the stone for this first building, a three-story structure of magnesium lime stone, was quarried on the reservation land.

According to a 1968 article in the Cherokee Strip edition of The Ponca City News, Francis Means, of Newkirk said that according to his father D.L. Means, the stone was from a quarry owned by a Cherokee Indian named Jesse C. Bushyhead. The land was later owned by the Means family.

Means said after the first building, the stone came from the Chilocco quarry.

Recruiting Trip
The building was completed and ready for occupancy when Maj. Haworth set out across Oklahoma for the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa and Comanche tribes.

On Jan. 3, 1884, Haworth reported in a letter the following to the Secretary of Interior: "I have arranged for about 100 children, who will reach here (Chilocco) in about 10 days, or as quick as the weather moderates a little so they can safely travel in wagons."

"I have had a cold, rough, stormy trip, day and night, traveling through storms and freezing cold, crossing unbridged rivers and unten-

anted plains, but tonight, I am seated by a comfortable fire, for which I am thankful."

Opened With 186
Records show that Haworth was being cautious in his estimate of the number of students, because the school officially opened Jan. 20, 1884, with 186 students.

It is recorded that 123 of the students made a month-long trip to the school in a wagon train, supervised by Frank Maltby, clerk and industrial teacher of the new school. According to records, the blizzard halted the wagon train for two days and the students stayed at a trail camp.

Jasper M. Hadley, a Quaker and the school's first superintendent, was credited with hauling a few of the children in the first class from their tribal homes to the school.

Lights on the Prairie
The first building was equipped with housing for students and employees, classrooms, kitchen, dining hall and a hospital room.

For some time, this building was the lone structure on the prairie. Its shining lights could be seen for miles and it became a landmark for riders on the plains. It became widely known as "lights on the prairie."

More Land Recommended
After an inspection visit to the school on Oct. 19, 1882, the Secretary of Interior recommended that a larger tract be reserved for the institution.

The Cherokee Nation agreed to cede property from the Cherokee Outlet for educational purposes. On July 12, 1884, President Chester A. Arthur, by executive order, allotted additional land to the school, bringing Chilocco's size to 8,640 acres.

The school was first known as Chilocco Indian Agricultural School and was ungraded for a few years. Emphasis was on agriculture and home training.

First Graduation
The first academic graduating class had six boys and nine girls. They received diplomas in 1894, 10 years after the school opened.

In the first spring after the school started operation, students and teachers took on the duties of breaking the

prairie sod for fields and gardens. Cattle were purchased by the government, and herded by larger boys of the school until fences could be put up.

From the end of the first growing season, students and employees canned produce from the garden and farm, and kept the dining room supplied with milk, butter and cheese as products of the thriving dairy herd.

Cowboy Duties
For a time, the students of the new school became full-fledged cowboys as some small range jurisdiction differences developed with stockmen living in the southern part of Kansas.

These stockmen resented the fences going up on the fertile range land on which they had been grazing their herds. They cut the fences at night and the students repaired them in the daytime until the stockmen finally withdrew under pressure.

According to the 1968 article, aside from the fence skirmishing, Kansas people were friendly and sympathetic to ward the school and its students. There are a number of stories of visits to Chilocco from pioneers from neighboring Arkansas City.

First Christmas
Following is an account of the school's first Christmas from the Arkansas Valley Democrat, dated Jan. 2, 1885.

"Christmas of '84 will long be remembered at Chilocco by the children, employees and the kind friends who so generously assisted. "The Christmas dinner was furnished by the liberal hearted farmers that Chilocco feels proud to call her neighbors, some of whom spent the day and evening at the school.

"The chapel in which the evening entertainment was held, was tastily decorated with appropriate pictures and mottos. The words "welcome" and "Merry Christmas" were very beautiful, being formed on a dark background with snow white letters, giving them a very icy appearance.

In a prominent place stood the official Christmas tree, an ingenious contrivance made by Mr. Nelson the carpenter. This consisted of revolving frame work, pyramid shaped, on which was a

glittering array of Christmas presents.

"The program for the evening consisted of a song by the children, a recitation by Miss. Addie King, and an address of welcome by Rev. S.B. Bleming.

"The children were remarkably quiet for Christmas. This was owing to the revolving tree, the motive power being unseen, they believed that strong medicine had been applied, consequently, the deathly stillness pervaded until Santa Claus came forth in all his glory and broke the "spell" by calling each child's name more than once in a stentorian voice.

"Each child received presents that would gladden the heart of any white child. Among the kind friends who came in the good old fashioned way with her big baskets of "good eat" (as the Indians say) were Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Means, Mr. and Mrs. E. Deweese and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mercer and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Deweese and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lorry and Mrs. Theobus."

New Agriculture Program
In 1925, under direction of the Director of Agriculture Lawrence E. Correl (who later served three years as superintendent), Chilocco started a revolutionary new program of renting land, machinery and other equipment and supplies to students for practical training in farm management.

Agriculture students leased 60 to 70 acres, and under supervision of practical farmers and trained agriculturists, sharecropped the acreage for one-fourth the net profits.

In 1968, the basic plan was still in use and opportunities for farm management training at Chilocco were unsurpassed in any institution of high school level.

The Chilocco dairy herd was purchased in the first year of operation, and departments for other farm animals were added soon afterward.

Addition of the Navajos
A new experiment in Indian education started in September, 1947, when 200 Navajo Indians from Arizona and New Mexico were brought to Chilocco. Few could speak any English, and though most of the students were age 15 and over, Chilocco added an elementary course to its cur-

riculum to meet the new challenge.

Navajo Indians who served in World War II and returned to convince their people of the advantages they received from educational courses in the service are credited with the start of the educational revolution in the Navajo tribe.

The Navajo children were eager students and a successful program was adopted, whereby the boys and girls were placed in employment after five years of training.

In 1962, it was decided that the special Navajo program had achieved its purpose, and was dropped from the Chilocco system. Navajo children still attended Chilocco, but as regular high school students.

Fire Damage
A fire at the school in November 1949, that did \$110,000 worth of damage, was blamed on a favorite Navajo pastime of parching corn. The fire resulted in the hospitalization of six students.

The fire started when two students, parching corn in a large machinery shed, ignited some wasted oil on the floor, destroying that building, a breeding barn, corn crib, oats bin, bran storage bin, six wagons, 60 double harness sets, two new tractors, a combine, a mechanical post hole digger, a truck, 25 barrels of oil, 6,000 bales of hay, 1,500 bushels of corn, 3,000 bushels of oats and 200 sacks of bran.

Boxing
In the 1930s and '40s, Chilocco was making quite a name in high school boxing circles, scheduling bouts in most of the major cities in the country.

The 1932 team (in only the third year of boxing at Chilocco) was invited to appear as a sport feature at the Chicago World's Fair.

The program came to a halt in 1949 when a government edict eliminated boxing from all government-supported institutions.

The first Indian school to take up the sport, Chilocco was the last school to quit after the edict was issued. It is reported that through the influence of Superintendent Correll, Chilocco was able to complete the season.

School Function

To enter Chilocco, children had to be at least one-fourth Indian and unable to obtain other education. Children were evaluated by a federal social worker and approved by the area Indian Bureau office.

Reports stated that since the average Chilocco student did not have a good scholastic record, the counseling staff was considered a highly important part of the school program.

Home Economics
The school home economics program produced two national winners, in 1956 and 1968.

The ninth grade food class won the grand national prize in the "Seventeen At School" second annual recipe collection contest, winning 14 appliances for the school and individual appliances for each of the 34 students taking part.

The teacher and one student won an expense-paid trip to New York City and Washington, D.C.

In 1968, 12 home economics class members won first place in a national menu-planning contest. The students received a free trip to Minneapolis and their teacher, Mrs. Jesse Jordan, received a month-long European tour. Also, a major appliance was given to the school.

Resale of Land
According to reports, Chilocco was stripped of \$15,000 to \$20,000 in revenue, when Congress decided to sell 2,668 acres of the school property back to the Cherokee Nation for the \$3.75 per acre originally paid the Cherokees for the land.

The sale left Chilocco with 5,881 acres.

The yearly revenue had been used for construction of a number of buildings on the campus, notably a \$148,000 student union building used for the first time in the 1966-67 school year.

School Offerings
Chilocco grew to provide a well-rounded activity program, including athletics, band, orchestra, vocal music, movies, dramatics, picnics, parties, socials, pageant, plays, concerts, lyceum numbers, a variety of clubs and student were urged to attend church of their choice.

(See CHILOCCO, Page 11G)



CHILOCCO'S FIRST building was constructed under supervision of Maj. James Haworth of Kansas, superintendent of Indian Education, with the help of his wife. The school was created as a result of the Indian Appropriation Act of May 1882, which authorized the establishment of three Indian schools in the West.

County Assessor Sets Value Of Real Estate for Taxation

According to research, there have been 13 Kay County Assessors since 1911 with Judy Barnes acting as the current assessor.

The job of the county assessor is to set the value of property for taxation purposes. Workers meet with residents around the county yearly and discuss property taxes. The office is located on the second floor of the courthouse.

The following is a list of Kay County assessors.

A. Smith — 1911
W.A. Baird — 1912
George W. Hines — 1914-23
Z. H. Tate — 1924
Sid Spore — 1925-36
Clay King — 1937-39
Sid Spore re-elected 1937-46

Spore was born Oct. 18, 1877 in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He died Dec. 14, 1951 in Winfield, Kan.

He was a pioneer resident of the Newkirk area retired as assessor in January 1947 after serving 24 years in the office. He did not run for reelection in 1946.

Ralph M. Coate — 1947-1958
Born Aug. 26, 1880 in Council Grove, Kan., and died March 28, 1969. He is buried in Resthaven Memorial

Coate's father made the run into the Cherokee Strip on Sept. 16, 1893, staking a claim four and half miles northwest of Ponca City.

Coate then drove his mother in a wagon from Council Grove to the homestead.

He stepped down from the county assessor's office in 1958, pointing out that he was behind on fishing and visiting with friends and relatives.

Roy A. Neal 1959-1972
Operated a service station in Blackwell.

Took assessor's office over Jan. 6, 1959, for Coate.

Tommy D. Coulter — 1973-1978
Was the subject of a state investigation.

In 1976 Oklahoma Attorney General Larry Derryberry ruled there was not enough evidence to justify removing Coulter from office.

The probe began after Blackwell Mayor Max Rogers accused Coulter of neglect in connection with a \$950,000 error in assessment of property deeded to a tax exempt agency of the city of Blackwell.

John L. Gingerich — 1979-1982

Born Sept. 13, 1907, Ponca City died Feb. 4, 1991. Buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery
Ran for office in 1972 and 1979. Was elected in 1979.

He served in the Seabees in World War II.

John Heinze — 1983-1993
Resigned 1993 effective Dec. 31 after 10 years in the position

Began serving in county government in 1967 including working as county treasurer for 11 years.

LaTresa Kay Engle — 1994-2002 retired
Born Sept. 22, 1946, in Blackwell and died Nov. 15, 2003.

She is buried in Hope Cemetery in Arkansas City, Kan.

She began part time work in the assessor's office in 1978. She also worked on the Newkirk Library Board of Directors.

Judy A. Barnes — 2003-
Defeated Steve Austin for the position by a vote count of 7,790-7,101.

Barnes was born in Pawnee and graduated from Ripley High School. She worked in the Payne County Assessor's office during high school. She was appointed by Tresa Engle in 1994 to first deputy.

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WPA Provided Jobs During Great Depression

Editor's Note: The Works Progress Administration (WPA), later known as the Workers Project Administration, was responsible for a number of projects in the Kay, Noble and Osage county areas. This information came from a series by Louise Abercrombie written in 1987-1988. Much of the research was from a survey by OSU professor of history W. David Baird and Thomas Franzman, a graduate student.

The WPA was a government program putting men to work during the Great Depression under President Franklin D. Roosevelt New Deal Administration.

A number of WPA projects were built in northwestern Oklahoma from 1935 to 1943. This article chronicles some of those projects.

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Staff Writer

In a 1936 letter to Clyde W. Muchmore, publisher of The News, the Works Progress Administration gives data on Farm to Market road work in Kay County.

Projects ranged from Tonkawa, Braman, Newkirk, Kildare, Blackwell, Washunga, Three Sands and Chilocco.

Three crews worked on these WPA projects, giving jobs to 237 men, using 42 trucks and 21 teams. Federal funds expended on these projects amounted to \$108,655 and the contribution from Kay County was \$18,959.

Rein School
Rein School in the Bressie Community southwest of Ponca City was constructed of native stone in the 1930s by the WPA.

The school was in operation from 1936 to the mid-1950s. The number of students varied from 18 to 28. The building was nominated for the National Registration of Historic Places.

Perry National Guard Armory
PERRY —The Perry National Guard Armory is a

monument to the excellent quality of WPA projects. The Armory is a mortar and brick work of art with a definite eye appeal.

Located at Delaware and Fourteenth Streets, the building is owned by the Oklahoma Military Department. The building sits on nearly a one-acre plot, is significant of WPA military projects.

Perry Stadium
PERRY —The WPA built stadium, which later became Daniels Field named after Harold "Hump" Daniels, Perry High School coach from 1931 to 1950, is a fine example of quality work.

The WPA built the stadium while the seats in center section of the east side of the football stadium were put in later. The board of education appropriated money and civic clubs of Perry raised enough funds to finish the project.

According to 1985 survey of WPA projects by W. David Baird, professor of history, and Thomas Franzman, graduate student for OSU, the WPA program changed the building landscape, provided economic security to tens of thousands of destitute workers.

Blackwell Armory
BLACKWELL — The Blackwell Armory, like other armories built by the WPA became a fortress in war and peace. The two-story, red-brick building is on the inventory of the National Register of Historic Places of the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service.

The structure at Sixth and Doolin, during its many years has seen school basketball games, city activities and community dances.

Creation of the WPA program was explained by Harry L. Hopins the administrator for Oklahoma, who said, "If the millions of Americans unemployed had been kept on the dole, none of the work would have been done. But far worse than that would

have been the destruction of their long idleness of their spirit and their very ability to work.

Tonkawa Armory
TONKAWA — Constructed in 1936-1937, the two-story native limestone building Tonkawa National Guard Armory, Third Street and North Street, served the National Guard until 1985, when a new armory was built it west of town.

Listed as the builder/architect of the first armory, was Bryon Nolen, State WPA Architect, and K. Ahler, District Architect. The building contractor was Robert Schwab.

The original building was constructed of native limestone, which was cut rusticated and laid random coursed ashler pattern. In later years it would be used by Tonkawa High School for activities.

Newkirk Bathhouse and Pool
NEWKIRK — The first water purification plant at Tenth and Elm Streets and the Newkirk bathhouse and swimming pool, Peachtree and Tenth Street were WPA projects. The federal government recognized the value of water to the community of Newkirk. During the 1936-1938 drought the WPA constructed these two water related projects.

Recreational improvements were designed to lift the spirits of a people weighed down by the consequence of a national economic depression compounded by searing heat. The facility impacted the community in a tangible way, it poured wages from some 16,800 man-hours of labor into the local economy helping revitalize main street.

Dayton School
LAMONT — An example of early day WPA work is the Dayton School building in Grant County. According to the National Register of Historic Places Inventory, the school building, was made of uneven blocks.
(See WPA, Page 10G)



SULLINS STADIUM at Ponca City High School was a WPA project. The stadium was originally named Blaine. The name was changed to honor longtime coach Earl Sullins. (News File Photo)

Early Day Residents of Cross Recall Events Following Run

Editor's Note: Several stories, told by early day residents of the City of Cross were related in the March 1895 issue of the Cross Newspaper. "Tellers" were only identified by initials. These stories were compiled for the 1993 Cherokee Strip Centennial edition.

By KATHY ZEHR
Retired Staff Writer
First Night at Cross

About 5 p.m. on the day of the opening, we landed in Cross after a delightful and long-to-be remembered trip. We started from Arkansas City in a commodious hay wagon and to our expectant eyes the large store structures (built of canvas) were very imposing.

We pitched our tent and were prepared for housekeeping, but were at a loss to know where to find wood to build a fire as there was nothing but prairie on every hand.

We finally succeeded in securing a railroad tie and proceeded to get supper. After finding a bucket, we carried water from the tanks furnished by the railroad company and we most heartily enjoyed our meal after the long day's travel in wind and dust.

We often remarked that we were sure of our "peck of dirt," for it was out of the question to try to keep things clean. The last sound to greet our ears after we had retired to "peaceful" slumber was the sweet voice of the lone coyote.

One of our neighbor's mules was afraid of the coyote and wanted to sleep in the wagon. The people could get neither rest nor sleep until a lantern had been hung outside the tent to give the mule light to sleep by.

Two Weeks Later
I arrived in Cross on the 3:30 train on the evening of Oct. 3, 1893, and of course, expected to be taken to a hotel; but as there was no hotel completed, I was ushered into a tent with a pile of hay in the corner, and told by my husband to make myself at home.

As I had small children with me, I can assure you the place did not look very inviting, but I thought as it would only be a short time until our house would be completed, would make the best of it; so I undressed the children and put them to bed, covering them with wraps from my shawl strap and a part of a tent someone kindly left for my benefit. I then blew out the candle and retired to the same corner and — strange as it may seem — slept sound-

ly until my husband called "breakfast!"

Such a breakfast! Coffee made in a tomato can, stale bread and cheese, made up the bill of the fare. The next obstacle we met was the lack of dishes — our goods not having arrived yet. The only thing in my keeping was a beautiful set of silver knives I had packed in my trunk for safekeeping.

The children soon solved the difficulty by picking up fruit cans off the prairie and asking their papa to melt off the tops over our fire. The fire was built in a hole in the group to insure it against being blown away in less time than it took to make it. We now had secured drinking cups and as nothing more was needed until we secured a greater variety to eat. We then proceeded to set the table which must first be discovered.

The table proved to be a flat building stone which served the purpose very nicely, and by placing it near enough to the "bed" we could eat our meal Japanese fashion.

Although it was a rather gloomy breakfast inside, there was such energy displayed outside by the people rushing around and the sound of the hammer on every hand told of the many buildings under construction, we soon forgot the hardships and became enthused and fascinated with our first western town. (J.C.)

First Thanksgiving Day
The moon was shining brightly the evening we first landed at Cross and our first impression was that there must have been a collision between two freight trains loaded with boxes from the size of a cracker box to a piano box.

Our "house" was enclosed but lacked a few minor details such as doors, windows, partitions, etc.

Our household goods had preceded us and the boxes and furniture were piled to the ceiling.

It was just before Thanksgiving Day and one of our first thoughts was what we could find to eat on that day. It was

useless to attempt to bring order out of chaos, so we placidly ignored our surroundings and proceeded to roast our Thanksgiving turkey, (which was chicken); our cranberry sauce was conspicuous by its absence, and our plum pudding was a dish of prunes. Our extension table consisted of two of the larger boxes, using newspapers for tablecloth.

But we were happy and thankful to be once more a reunited family and could easily overlook the discomforts, and were as merry as a band of school children at a picnic. (K.H.E.)

Another Thanksgiving Story
The first Thanksgiving held in Cross was under very adverse circumstances. Everything was crude and temporary. No place for church, Sunday school or day school. Indeed the surroundings made one think of the first Thanksgiving of our forefathers in the old Colonial days.

The Christian civilization of our people made us desirous of recognizing the day. The difficulties surrounding us and the necessity of better accommodations induced the ladies to turn the day to a financial account as well as thanksgiving. The idea of giving a dinner and supper, with the usual price of 25 cents, presented itself as the best means of accomplishing that end.

The ladies went to work and solicited for the dinner. Many gave turkeys, chickens, groceries and some gave money to buy such things as were not donated.

Then with the aid of cook books and valuable information gathered from one another, all the tempting and appetizing viands that could be found were prepared. The crude, improvised tables fairly groaned under the weight of the multiplicity of eatables, substantial and delicate.

Total receipts from the dinner and supper were \$67. It was with heart overflowing with gratitude that we offered up our thanks for the success of our effort.

(See CROSS, Page 10G)



GRANT COUNTY courthouse, located at Medford, was one of the many Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects in northwestern Oklahoma. (News file photo)

Uncas a Victim of Progress

The Kay County community of Uncas was a victim of progress with the establishment of the Kaw Reservoir.

The most recent annual Uncas Reunion was held June 2, 2007, at Lake Ponca. Anyone interested in Uncas, or who grew up in the Uncas area, or has family who resided there, was invited to attend.

A farewell reunion was held on May 29, 1972, when CBS News covered the reunion as current and former residents said good-bye to the 70-year-old town, as the townsite was inundated by waters of the \$116 million Kaw Reservoir. A video of that taping by CBS News was shown at this year's reunion.

Uncas comes from the Mohegan Indian word "Wonkus" meaning "fox." The city was laid out in 1902. A warranty deed dated June 9, 1902, and filed June 11, 1902, from Alexander Smythia and his wife, Josie, deeded it to the Kaw City Townsite Company.

The Kaw City Townsite Company, with William Jenkins as president, filed a plat of the townsite of Uncas on June 20 of the same year. Lots were sold to prospective buyers.

President McKinley appointed Jenkins to serve as Oklahoma Territory governor. The homestead of Charles Curtis, who became vice president of the United States (with President Hoover) from 1928-1932 was located one half mile west of Uncas on Coon Creek. The Oak Grove Cemetery was laid out in 1895.

The railroad coming in 1902 and the opening of the limestone quarry one and half miles west of Uncas that employed approximately 200 men helped bring people to Uncas, with several area men becoming skilled rock masons.

A rock crusher was put into operation at the quarry to supply the Santa Fe Railroad with ballast for its new track. The work continued for years until the track was completed from Newkirk to Pauls Valley.

Later, the Mervine Oil Field also provided employment for the area.

The diesel "Doodle Bug," which passed through Uncas from Arkansas City, would go as far as Shawnee and return the same day.

The Uncas post office, which opened in 1895, was closed in

1956 after 61 years and the passenger "Doodle Bug" train was abolished when the mail contracts ended in 1957. The Uncas Railroad station was closed in 1962. By that time Kaw Lake was a certainty.

On April 23, 1973, the Daily Oklahoma announced "Hamlet of Uncas Out of Business." Uncas was not in the reservoir itself, the town lay in the lake's overflow flood plain.

For access to the granite memorial monument or a copy of the CBS News film, call Jack or Carolyn at 580-765-4988.

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German Soldiers Held at Tonkawa POW Camp

Things were busy on the homefront as World War II continued in Europe and the South Pacific as the Centennial Countdown continues.

1944 — Ponca City banks gain in deposits during the past year was more than \$2.3 million.

Marvin Hatcher, realtor, was chairman of a rent control committee, organized by V.N. Souigny, M.E. Woodridge, C.K. Dowling and Merle Paynter.

The army assigned an airplane to the local Civil Air Patrol to be used alternately by Ponca City and Blackwell.

C. E. Northcutt was elected chief of staff at Ponca City Hospital. C.C. Gardner was vice chief of staff.

Dr. Phil Deschner, Methodist pastor, supplied Bibles and Testaments printed in German to prisoners of war at the camp at Tonkawa.

The local Red Cross opened a course for nurse's aide corps.

Total public school enrollment is 2,565 boys and 2,426 girls.

Several local boosters encouraged Lew Wentz to run for state senator on the Republican ticket, but he declined.

The city's oil refineries continued to break all their previous production records of war materials, with totals increased by the completion of the aviation gasoline plant in May.

A total of 96 fathers and 30 other local men left for physical examinations at the Republic for the armed forces. There were 56 fathers and 20 others accepted for military service.

J.W. Wiker retired as manager of the Arcade Hotel after 40 years of service.

The Darr School of Aeronautics closed April 15. Government flight training programs ceased but the city had outlined plans for improvement of the airport and extension of air service after the war.

The U.S. Navy commended the Continental refinery employees for producing and packaging 15,000 barrels of aircraft oil in only six days, and loading it onto 108 railroad boxcars. The oil was urgently needed in the Pacific theater of the war.

Frank Overstreet was elected mayor, defeating W.J. Casemore by 10 votes.

In April, one of the worst floods in the city's history washed out the 35-year old concrete and steel bridge over the Arkansas River. Many houses

were flooded. Two marooned families who lived east and south of the Pioneer Woman statue were rescued by plane. The water system was threatened, and many homes lost electricity. All roads leading away from the city were closed except the one to Winfield, and the only trains out of the city were to Arkansas City and Oklahoma City. Within a week, the river had fallen over eight feet from the crest, but was still eight feet above normal.

A.W. Oberschelp began a ferry service across the river. The first vehicle to use the ferry was a milk truck.

The Boy Scouts sold \$21,000 of war bonds door to door. Top seller was Charles Casey of Troop 3, who sold bonds worth \$4,000. Kay County was recognized as one of three counties in the United States that had made distinguished records in every war bond drive.

In May, E.M. Trout was re-elected president of the board of education.

The No. 2 fire station on West Grand was closed.

An Indian tribal Memorial Day service was held to honor 92 Ponca Indians who were serving in the armed forces.

On May 6, the temperature dropped to 22 degrees, one of the latest frosts people could remember.

Continental Oil Co. manufactured the first barrel of 100-octane gasoline ever to be completely made in a single plant in Oklahoma.

Sirens at the city fire station announced the allied invasion of Europe in June.

All Germans at the Tonkawa prisoner of war camp were moved to other camps.

There were 4,500 people who attended the All-Star rodeo, sponsored by the Conoco Employees Association.

Grandstands at the 101 Ranch were torn down; the property now belonged to Jack Webb.

The Board of Education purchased six 50-foot lots on Grand Avenue from A.G. Soldani to build a gymnasium and playground.

Despite the flood, the farm outlook indicated that crops had produced very well.

In late June, a pontoon bridge across the Arkansas River opened. Cities Service and Continental Oil companies built the bridge.

Purchases of war bonds in the three drives of the year maintained the county's place among the top in per capita

bond investments. In July, citizens bought extra bonds in the amount of \$250,000 to purchase a B-17 airplane to be named "Miss Ponca City." The plane attacked the enemy in Europe on 55 missions. It was shot down in flames on Sept. 12 in Germany and all crew members were missing, according to an Associated Press story. In November, Staff Sgt. Merlin Summers, co-pilot, was officially listed as a prisoner of war.

The city approved an ordinance extending the city limits to include five acres around the hospital.

Representatives of government agencies announced plans to use the Darr School of Aeronautics building as a storage station for "semi-dead" trainer planes. The first ones arrived in early August, and by October, the building housed 500 planes.

The Chamber of Commerce surveyed members concerning post-war plans for the city.

Principal needs included extending public utilities, soil conservation, and repair and remodeling of homes and buildings. General improvements needed were farm-to-market road improvement, rural mail routes, a community center building and school buildings.

The scouts of Northern Oklahoma Council of Boy Scouts opened their annual camp at Chilocco near the end of August.

Bill Livermore of Tulsa bought the Clifford Wetzel Insurance Agency.

The 64th annual Ponca Indian Powwow began on Aug. 24. Zack Miller was elected head of the Cherokee Strip Cowpunchers association.

Mid-American Manufacturing constructed a new building on South First Street to house their factory.

City Commissioners conferred with acting City Engineer, Fred Fellows, regarding methods to eliminate the bad taste of water from Lake Ponca.

On Nov. 11, all stores in Ponca City closed to commemorate Armistice Day.

The rebuilt bridge over the Arkansas River opened on Nov. 16.

James "Jake" McNiece was a member of the "Filthy Thirteen" group of paratroopers who volunteered for a suicide mission on D-day. Later, the troops landed in Holland.

In December, the Chikaskia River overflowed and the Arkansas River was again over its banks.

On Dec. 7, local theaters offered free shows to bond buyers in connection with the third anniversary observance of Pearl Harbor.

1945 — The country saw an end to a bitter six-year war and first world peace in 13 years.

It was the end of the European war, the atomic bomb, and the Japanese war. It was the beginning of the United Nations, and the international war crimes commission.

Activities of the first eight months of 1945 had centered on winning the war. Those of the last four months were pointed to the reconversion of industry and the redeployment of troops.

During 1945, Ponca City concluded two big government loan drives — the Seventh war loan and the Victory loan. Participants exceeded all goals, and all bond drives were completed above 100 percent.

In January, the regional housing agency approved fifty \$6,000 homes for Ponca City.

Fire gutted the Attucks school, and Lincoln school was closed after a boiler explosion.

The Big V Ranch received \$5,038 for conservation participation.

Continental Oil Company received a \$165,214 tax refund for overpayment of income tax.

In January, voters approved a \$150,000 bond issue for a 50-bed addition to the hospital.

Feb. 1, the brownout of the city began. The city appealed the brownout order since it used only low grade fuel oil.

C.P. Howell was reelected school superintendent for a 10th term.

A new grading system was put in place for Ponca City restaurants under the new city food ordinance. The eating establishments were placed in three classes.

The Board of Education

approved plans to rebuild Attucks School.

Voters showed their favor for duck hunting at Lake Ponca, 203 yes votes, and 30 no votes.

D.J. Donahoe Jr., owner of the pioneer business, Ponca City Milling Company, sold to International Milling of Minneapolis.

About 7,000 Ponca Citizens viewed war films at the Ponca Theatre.

The Jaycees and the Ministerial Alliance appeared before the City Commission to request passage of a curfew law. The commission passed the ordinance, keeping youths under 17 off the streets after midnight.

Gareth Muchmore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Muchmore, was appointed executive in charge of the new financial, commercial and business news report of the Associated Press in New York.

Remodeling began at the Ponca City railroad depot, at a cost of \$50,000.

Ponca City druggists received a supply of a new drug, penicillin.

Residents southeast of the city made an agreement with city fathers and the rural electrification authority to receive electricity.

The Loft, Ponca City's teen town, celebrated its first anniversary.

In March, city commissioners and five school board candidates took office without an election. In accordance with a recently passed law, candidates without opposition could take office without being elected. Sen. Charles Duffy of Ponca City had introduced the law.

In an effort to relieve the housing shortage, restrictions on remodeling of existing houses were lifted.

The Board of Education asked State Sen. C.B. Duffy and Reps. Floyd Focht and J.R. Dorsett to support the bill in the state legislature to increase the auto license tag fees, since that money is used to help finance schools.

The Ponca City News published an "Extra" when President Roosevelt died. Local stores closed from 3 to 4 during his funeral in Washington.

Seven pieces of artwork from the collection of the late Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Calkins were given to the Ponca City Library.

On May 7, The Ponca City News published a victory edition. Mayor Overstreet issued a proclamation that the city's V-E Day would be May 8. Local citizens sobered at the news of Germany's surrender as they awaited President Truman's official announcement.

On May 9, the lights went on again, in keeping with the national order to lift the brownout.

City Commissioners restricted the size of fishing huts at Lake Ponca to 10 feet by 12 feet.

Continental Oil Co. directors voted a 40-cent dividend. Dan Moran continued as president of the company.

There were 300 Poncans and 150 out-of-town guests at the Ponca Military Academy commencement exercises.

The hospital announced that it would build a new road around the building and add a parking lot.

Mrs. Blanche Lucas, Postmaster since 1935, resigned. Ed P. Souigny was appointed as acting postmaster.

The city set up a selective service reemployment committee to aid returning veterans.

On Dec. 4, voters endorsed a \$300,000 extension to the municipal power plant. Half the money was already in hand, and the commissioners had figured out that the remainder could be paid without a tax levy.

The city began a \$32,000 drainage project, paving of several miles of streets and alleys, construction of storm and sanitary sewers, and improvements to the recreational area around Lake Ponca.

Farmers in the area were planning to spend \$1.5 million on urgently needed farm buildings. 480 families expected to build new homes at a total estimated cost of \$3 million.

Businesses planned \$500,000 for remodeling and redecorating their stores, and churches added \$200,000 to the community total.

Blackwell Known As 'Pearl of Chikaskia'

The following was compiled by Cora Overman, Crescent E.H. Group, and published in the History of Kay County which can be found at the Newkirk Public Library.

Blackwell, originally dubbed "The Pearl of Chikaskia Valley" is situated nearly astride the Indian Meridian, 14 miles south of the Kansas border.

Surrounding it are the fertile valleys of the Chikaskia River and Lost, Bitter, Duck and Stink Creeks. Combined with these are the broad, level fields of grass and grain to create unsurpassed natural beauty.

Prairies that were seas of wild grasses used by roaming bison, deer, and antelope are preserved in some nearby areas while much of the fertile lands are producing grain and forage crops.

Originally, this area provided brisk business for traders and native Indians with furs of mink, otter, bobcat, coyote, raccoon and beaver along with other fur and meat-producing animals. This trade although greatly diminished is productive today.

In 1811 Fort Osage U.S. Agent George Sibley visited the Osages on the Chikaskia River near the present site of Blackwell and thus became one of the earliest travelers to explore this area.

Pike in 1806 crossed near here as did other hunters and explorers of that era.

The financial depression of the 1890s brought demands from the People's Party, Coxey's Army, and other dissidents to formulate plans to provide relief. This interest had created participation in previous land openings but no one had the foresight to anticipate the multitude of home-seekers in the fourth Oklahoma Land Opening, the largest and most spectacular of all.

It's not true that Blackwell is the Indian name for oil well. The city picked the name from the man who sold a half interest in three 80s to a Winfield, Kan., townsite company who in turn staked out the town.

Col. A.J. Blackwell, who represented Indian heirs in the half interest sale, retained the other half of the 80s.

Those three 80s plus an 80-acre tract of land owned by the government made up the site on which Blackwell is located.

A tentative plot of the townsite had been prepared in advance of the opening day and a drawing for lots held.

Col. Blackwell was named head of the first city council. His strong desire for self acclaim led him to name two streets, King David and King Solomon after his sons, also a third one Blackwell Avenue.

This name is retained on a main thoroughfare. He also erected the first church and preached in it.

Fierce contests with Parker, a settlement east of the river, over the designation of the townsite resulted in a victory for Blackwell Rock later shortened to Blackwell.

There was a huge tent hotel and 11 mercantile stores opened one day after the Run. Tent homes that sprang up so quickly were followed by sod houses, dugouts and frame houses.

Schools were established soon. Although a far cry from the now modern system of four completely new grade schools, a junior high and nationally known high school, they were indicative of the high interest Blackwell has maintained in education.

Churches have also played a major factor in the cities growth with all major denominations represented and housed in beautiful structures.

Three large parks, an outstanding swimming pool and a youth recreational building provide supervised entertainment.

Other facilities include a fine library, Senior Citizen center, Country Club, baseball and football activities, riding clubs, moving picture theaters and many other organizations to suit any choice.

Situated in a rich agricultural area, grain and livestock handling are of importance to the city. The zinc smelter, the flour mill, and iron foundry along with the gas and oil industry and other smaller enterprises provide work and income for many.

With access to Wichita, Kan., and Oklahoma City and other points on nearby Interstate 35 and other fine connecting highways to state parks, numerous fishing areas and places of scenic beauty, Blackwell is truly a pleasant and profitable place to live and visit.

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Cross

(Continued From Page 8G)

The money was appropriated toward the completion of the school house, which was for a time also used for church purposes. (H.P.)

The First Christmas

Christmas of 1893 will long be remembered by all who had the good fortune to witness the exercises on that occasion. The school house was crowded to its utmost capacity, notwithstanding the dark night and cold driving rain.

The building was neither plastered nor papered, and, if the stars had been shining they could easily have been seen through the cracks in the roof. Those who arrived early succeeded in securing seats, which consisted of boards resting on soup boxes.

It was not possible to secure the traditional evergreen tree, but so small a difficulty as that was easily overcome by the energetic young people substituting a young oak tree from the banks of the picturesque Chikaskia River. The branches were gnarled and twisted in the most artistic manner by the persistent Oklahoma zephyrs. Strings of popcorn were gracefully festooned from twig to twig and brand to branch, and there were gay colored ornaments of every conceivable shape and form. The many presents for the children were all illuminated by tiny wax candles. One could easily imagine they were entering fairy land after the dreary blackness outside.

After a very interesting program, in which most of the children and some of the young people participated, "Kris Kringle" made his appearance amid the merry jingling of sleigh bells, and proceeded to distribute candy, oranges and toys among the expectant little ones.

The only accident of the evening was the catching fire of the popcorn from one of the candles, and for a moment there was danger of the tree and all its contents and the rafters overhead going up in flames. The presence of mind and prompt action of someone present took care of that blaze. The catastrophe being averted, the evening ended pleasantly in general sociability and congratulations of the

success of our first Christmas entertainment in this new, strange land. (M.E.K.)

The First Winter

Pater came in at the time of the opening (September 1893) and after more than three months of waiting, naturally the rest of us felt anxious to come too and the cry went up, "haven't you secured a house yet?"

He answered, "Have patience, we are building one," but did not tell us that it did not contain eight rooms, with 20 chests and a large summer kitchen attached, etc.

When we came, the house was but half completed and oh goodness, how were we ever going to live in such coop! We were consoled with the bright idea (will not say it was original) of taking a piece of chalk — and now comes the first question — in which corner shall we mark off the kitchen, and where will the dining room be?

As for the drawing room, we thought we had better draw the beds into that — and divide it with curtains and call them partitions — and maybe sometime in the future we could get the legislature to locate an asylum there — then we will be able to get more roomy quarters.

Well, we finally settled down quite comfortably — called it an outing — but did not fully realize the meaning of the word. The wind turned around and everything else turned around, especially things lying loose outside the house. Then came the cold! Dear reader, if you have ever tried to explore the North Pole you may have experienced some such weather. We huddled around the stove with water freezing only two feet away — and we were sure it even froze the hair off the China dog. At night we piled on the covers and had it not been so cold would have gotten up and heated some flat rocks (to put in the beds).

But all this has passed and gone and just now we are wondering why the government does not open up more land so we could make another run. (C.M.)

Weather

Having heard of the need of rains in Oklahoma, I was

wholly unprepared for my first rain storm here. Our kitchen was decidedly open, not having either weather boarding or building paper. The lumber had shrunken so badly in places, especially near the stove, that the rain could literally pour in. Our sleeping rooms, however were exceedingly comfortable.

On the day of the storm I was preparing an especially inviting supper, and so intent upon my work, that the clouds had gathered unknown to me. When the wind and rain came blowing a gale, from the same direction of the kitchen, I was not prepared for the flood that came upon me. There was no chimney, of course, and the rain poured in about the (ceiling) pipe extinguishing both fire and pies, drenching everything.

Of necessity, we waited for the storm to abate, darkness came, and as we could not take a lighted lamp into the kitchen (the roof was like a sieve), we feasted on cold supper. We were fully convinced all seasons were not "dry seasons" in Oklahoma.

Laundry and Food

It was next to impossible to get laundry done and one morning while another lady and myself were in one of the hardware stores, a gentleman asked me if we did laundry work. We replied that we sent our laundry to Arkansas City.

While looking over the beautiful country the following Sunday, we espied a man who evidently, in a fit of desperation, had been in the river trying to wash his shirt. He was carrying the garment clothes-line fashion and by the time he reached the city it was dry and ready to be worn again.

There was but one restaurant where we could find good butter, and it was so very scarce, and you may be sure we were very thankful to get it.

Bologna and crackers were the staple articles of that time. I noticed one man who had become so attached to his bologna and crackers that he carried it wherever he went; in conversation he would hold the sack on his knee, fearing someone would deprive him of the "appetizing" ? supper. (H.P.)

WPA

(Continued From Page 8G)

The school was located in the Dayton Community, located about ten miles southeast of Lamont in Grant County.

The school house of native red sandstone was started in 1936. The rock was quarried from the D.N. Porter farm located two miles south of the school. The rock was hauled to the site where it was trimmed and shaped by stone masons.

Sullins Stadium

PONCA CITY — Sullins Stadium, in Ponca City, previously known as Blaine Stadium or Blaine Park Stadium was a WPA project. The stadium and field house were built in an off again, on again fashion completed in 1937.

The original stadium, with the stone north stands, cost \$83,000. In addition to the WPA, two other programs were incorporated in the project. The other federal agencies were the Civil Workers Association and the Federal Employees Relief Foundation. When completed the city paid \$28,000 about a third the cost.

The stadium was renamed in 1978 for Earl

Sullins, whose teams won more games in the stadium than any other coach. According to the WPA impact study "Blaine Stadium and Fieldhouse were significant for the immediate and long-range impact they have had upon the Ponca City Community.

Grant County Jail

MEDFORD —The WPA two-story brick built Grant County Jail in Medford, was a 1938-1939 project. The jail was modified in 1981 to meet the New Law Jail Standards. According to the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey conducted by Oklahoma State University, "The Grant County Jail is significant as a WPA project designed to aid local government through the creation of temporary jobs for unemployed workers during the Depression and through the construction of an expanded facility for the sheriff's department."

Although the idea of building schools, recreational facilities and military structures seems more appealing, the WPA-built jails also serve society by protecting the citizens from criminal offenders.

Club

(Continued From Page 4G)

Former Olympian Doug Blubaugh was the guest speaker at the monthly Agrarian Club meeting March 9, 2006, in Ponca City.

Blubaugh, who now lives near Perry, was introduced by his neighbor and long-time friend Ray Schlitz, the vice president of the organization.

Blubaugh told about his experiences in the 1960 Olympics in Rome where he won the gold medal in the 160.5 weight division.

He was 9-0 with six falls and pinned the great Habibi of Iran, a five-time world cham-

pion at the time.

He also pinned his final foe in 60 seconds and was voted the "World's Outstanding Wrestler."

Schlitz said the club members enjoyed hearing about his adventures as well as seeing his gold medallion, pictures and newspaper stories.

Blubaugh was reared on a farm in Kay County, attended Union 98 rural school, Ponca City High School and Oklahoma State University.

Since his retirement he has assisted the wrestling programs at Ponca City High School and OSU.

Floyd Harden relates that at one time there were several Agrarian clubs in the state, but most have dissolved membership, with the exception of Ponca City.

Currently two charter members attend the meetings along with children of other charter members.

Anyone interested in agribusiness is encouraged to attend meetings of the group on the second Wednesday of each month at the Pizza Hut/

for more information contact Jim O'Neil, president; Ray Schlitz, vice president, or Bonnie Nimerick, secretary.

History of Eastern Heights

In 1967, the Northeastern Oklahoma Evangelistic Association sent Harold A. Prough, known as "Hap" Prough, to Ponca City to plant a non-denominational Christian church. With eight adults and seven children, the Church rented the Seventh Day Adventist Church building at Elm and Chestnut, and borrowed the baptistry of the Church of Christ at Hartford and Joe. Members since 1967 who are still attending in 2007 are Jan Prough, Don and Carl Lou Myers, Carla Strait, Jim Bennett, Wayne Kraft, Charles and Glenda Stuckey, Jeanette Huff, James and Roberta Stuckey and Carmaleta Westbrook.

Four years later, membership and finances had grown so that the church purchased 8-1/2 acres of land at the present location, 5100 Lake Road.

Phase one of the building was completed and dedicated in 1971. Chairman of that building was Don Myers, and treasurer was Charles Stuckey. The mortgage was paid, and in 1983 Phase Two, consisting of the two-story 7,000-square-foot educational and fellowship wing, was completed. Larry Phillips was chairman of this building committee, James Stuckey was treasurer, and Jim Maxon was in charge of construction.

In 1988 the mortgage of \$300,000 covering this second construction was paid in full, and the mortgage was burned at a special ceremony following a church service.

Eastern Heights Christian Church was chosen as the name of the church in its new location on the hill, on Lake Road, three miles east of the Pioneer Woman statue. At one point the church had contributed 48 and finally 50 percent of its income to maintain missions in Thailand and South Africa, a long time dream of minister Hap Prough, and the board at that time. Hap also was a rural mail carrier, and associate minister/music minister Mark Berry was also employed at Air Systems Components to enable the church to extend the mission budget.

Frank Tepe served as assistant minister from 1983 until he retired in 1998 to preach in Christ Church in Blackwell, but he and his wife Lola still reside in their home on the EHCC acreage. Roxie Berry has served as organist since she and Mark came in 1978.

Pianists through the 40 years have included Nevelyn Porter, Francine Phillips, Lola Tepe, Delia Huff, Kathy Hixon, Joy Snyder, Alvie Miles, and others who have filled in briefly.

Children's Sunday school teachers have included Carl Lou Myers and Vi Harmon who have taught 35 years and Belinda Kraft who taught 30 years.

Through the years, deacons and elders have included Calvin Lane, Steve Hixon, Shawn Pappinchock, Mike Gibbs, Mike Huff, Leonard Parent, Kendall White, Jeff Myers, George O'Mealey, Bob Wilson, Harvey Lofton, Clifton Cravens, Joe Garrett, James Stuckey, Burl Landers, Charles Stuckey, Larry Carr, Russell Bryan, Tom Martin, Jack McCollough, Jim Albright, Mark Berry, Hap Prough, Farrel Eaton, Rick Whiting, Harold Waggener, Eyvind Logan, Wayne Kraft, Mike Lindsey and Brad Nesom.

Present elders are Eric Veters, Gary Heick, Bob Hengen, and Larry Thomas.

To bring history up to the present time — Leland Griffin, from Colorado, served as interim minister from the time of Hap's retirement in December 2000, until Larry Leathermon was selected by the pulpit committee and congregation to serve as full time senior minister in June 2001.

Leathermon, with his wife Shirley, came to EHCC after serving as president of Platte Valley Bible College in Scotts Bluff, Neb., for 16 years.

The present staff includes Mark Berry as assistant minis-

ter and music minister, Roxie Berry as secretary and organist, Rick Whiting as youth director, Denice Heick as children's director, and Larry Thomas as treasurer.

Members serve as Sunday school teachers at all levels. Volunteers staff Vacation Bible School, and the children's Christmas Program is a highlight of the year. The nursery and Children's Church for children through fourth grade are staffed by volunteers, as are many activities for children, youth and adults throughout the week. A favorite time is the Wednesday fellowship supper, a time for visiting and enjoying the meal prepared by volunteer teams, followed by studies for all ages ending at 7:30.

For three years Eastern Heights has been building again. Nearing completion is a 100- by 170-foot Family Life Building located south of the original church building. Under the guidance and planning of Larry Thomas and the ministers and elders, the members of the congregation have worked on Saturdays and when possible during the week to complete the shell building constructed by Rick Scott, local builder. It has a capacity to seat more than 400, is carpeted with inlaid lines creating a basketball court and a volleyball court, and tables will be available for large dinners.

It is to be used by the church but will also be available for community and school use, as a service provided by the church. The interior is finished with guidance by church member and interior decorator Judy Kruse. At a later date an elevator will be installed.

Eastern Heights is a non-denominational Bible-teaching church, and welcomes everyone to a warm church family.

Women Hired at Refinery



AS WORLD WAR II raged in Europe and the South Pacific, more and more men were called to fight for their country. Because of the war, Continental hired women in the refinery for the first time in 1942.



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Smith

(Continued From Page 6G)

Smitty died in 1989, but is fondly remembered as a colorful businessman and promoter of Ponca City.

He was joined in the business by his sons John in 1953 and Truman in the fall of 1958.

For 47 years the store was located at 119 East Grand and moved in 1975 to 405 East Grand.

The store closed in April 1986.

Smitty's grandson Jeff Smith, carries on the business tradition of his grandfather with "John's," at 205 East Cleveland.



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Chilocco

(Continued From Page 7G)

Courses in advanced training were offered, with heavy equipment a favorite with post graduates.

In November of 1926, Chilocco added a 50-bed hospital. The medical facility contained two large wards, private room, a operating room, X-ray room, a sterilization room and a classroom and offices for a physician and a dentist, besides a dispensary, nurses quarters, reception room and kitchen and dining rooms.

Students interested in nursing were given a 20-week course in home nursing and if they wished to continue in the nursing field, they were given advanced training in hospitals, where they emerged as graduate nurses. Many of the graduate nurses went home to work among their people where they were so desperately needed.

At one time, Chilocco offered three divisions of education, high school, special Navajo programs and postgraduate vocational classes.

Chilocco changed a great deal since the opening of the strip. It changed from the "lights on the prairie" to a large and modern board school. Thousands of students graduated from Chilocco, took their place in communities and have led productive lives.

In 1974, Jim Baker, a Chilocco graduate, became superintendent of the school. Baker hoped to revitalize the institution so young Indians would

have a ruining start at a good career.

In 1978, the school had a declining enrollment and some violent incidents that led to a visit by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., which funded the school. The incidents included a 20-year old boy found beaten to death in his dorm room, a boy found just outside the school grounds, apparently the victim of a hit-and-run driver, and the drowning of a young girl in one of the school ponds.

The visit spawned rumors that Chilocco may be closed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In 1979, Baker was reassigned to Washington, D.C., Bureau of Indian Affairs. He was replaced by Charles Tillman.

In October 1979, a Senate appropriations subcommittee report recommended closing Chilocco and Seneca Indian Schools in Oklahoma and a similar school in New Mexico by the end of the next year. A report from a subcommittee, part of an appropriations bill headed for the senate said the three schools were "over-funded and under-utilized" and "wasteful management practices are fostering student behavior problems and impairing education programs."

In November, 1979, it was announced that the school was indeed going to be closed. On May 9, 1980, the school handed out the last diplomas to 11 seniors.

Darr

(Continued From page 4G)

At the end of each course, after written examinations were taken and flying skills were assessed, most of the men in each course graduated. Of course, a few, for various reasons, were eliminated and sent back to Moncton, New Brunswick, where they were assigned to other training. Sadly, seven in Ponca City and 15 men in Miami died in training accidents and lay at rest in the Oklahoma towns they came to love.

For those who graduated, it was probably some of the happiest times in their young lives as they marched in their Wings Parades and later stepped forward to be presented with their wings. In the background, many adopted mothers and girlfriends brought out their needles and thread to help place the wings on the pilots' uniforms.

Celebrations, including graduation dinners and dances, were plentiful, but did not last long.

Usually, within one or two days, the new graduates stepped onto the trains which would take them back across the broad expanse of the United States and into New Brunswick, where they were sent back to assume their new duties as pilots in England.

In the first courses which graduated at both schools, many did not survive more than two or three months. In later courses, as the war was winding down, the mortality rate declined drastically. In London, at the church of St. Clement Danes, the roll of honor lists all those who served in the Royal Air Force who lost their lives in World War II.

Their story is not over.

More than 61 years after World War II ended, groups of men from both No. 3 British Flying Training School in Miami and No. 6 British Flying Training School in Ponca City still get together to relive their memories of the good times they shared in Oklahoma.

About two years ago, the men of No. 3 BFTS officially closed their association, but at their annual meeting in Leicester, England, in early October of 2006, the men of No. 6 BFTS still wholeheartedly voted to keep their association going as long as possible and the next meeting was scheduled to be held in Banbury in late September 2007.

People from these two Oklahoma towns on the prairie have kept up their friendships with these Britons throughout the years. In Miami, many items relating to No. 3 BFTS are held at the Dobson Museum, while excellent research records are housed in the library of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. Many visitors come each year to relive old memories.

Paula Denson's Quest

Some, like Paula Denson, who was born as the war was ending, have made it a personal mission to record the history of both schools. Prompted by the purchase of a shoe box full of old letters which she purchased at an estate sale nearly eight years ago, Mrs. Denson has actively sought to find the writers of some of the old letters written by the RAF cadets of Ponca City to one of the families who hosted them so many years before.

She has been successful in several instances and has made four trips to England

to visit with her new found friends. She has also helped to preserve artifacts and photographs of No. 6 BFTS as she created a display as part of an exhibit owned by Friends of Marland's Grand Home Foundation in Ponca City.

"These artifacts and memorabilia needed a home after they were displaced from their previous location at the local airport. Due to the need for a security room at the airport after 9/11 they were boxed up for a long period of time with no place to go," said Mrs. Denson. She and Karen Hunter rescued the items when Lillian Taylor, a former Link trainer instructor who recently passed away, sought help in finding a new home for the memorabilia. Many hours were spent researching and cleaning the items and they were placed in a permanent display so that visitors could learn more about the school which closed in 1944.

As word spread of the work, a son of one of the instructors made a special trip to Ponca City to seek her out and ended up donating other articles owned by his father to FMGH, a non-profit 501-C-3 organization dedicated to the restoration of E.W. Marland's first home in Ponca City and to the preservation of the city's interesting history.

Mrs. Denson and Sandy Graves have helped to set up an Oklahoma Archives room at the Ponca City Library. As president of North Central Oklahoma Historical Association, Denson encouraged board members to donate a new file cabinet to the library for the purpose of housing Darr School of Aeronautics records as they become available. Now there is a place for serious researchers to seek

out information about the history of the school.

Mrs. Denson has achieved her goal by not only meeting many of her personal heroes, but by writing a book which illustrates the young men's lives as they trained in Oklahoma. In partnership with the Oklahoma Heritage Association, "The Royal Air Force in Oklahoma during World War II" was published in late December 2006. It contains over 200 photographs shared with her by friends, both in England and in America, and is a fully documented social history of both schools.

The foreword for the book was written by England's own, the now deceased Raymond Baxter, who trained as a flyer at the school in Miami. To learn more about this piece of Oklahoma history, Mrs. Denson has established a Web site dedicated to the preservation of the history of both schools. It can be viewed at <http://www.pkden-son.com>

Deborah Club Organized in '56

Deborah Past Noble Grand Club was organized Jan. 26, 1956 and was affiliated with the Miriam Rebekah Lodge No. 20.

Any Past Noble Grand was eligible for membership. Meetings were held the first Wednesday night of each month.

Primarily a social club, the Past Noble Grands also devoted time and funds to the Child Development Center, the Odd-fellows Home at Checotah and other charitable organizations.

Mrs. W.M. Warren was president in 1969.

Eastman

(Continued From Page 4G)

By 1910, the deposits of this bank were about \$175,000 with capital stock of \$25,000 and Surplus of \$12,500. This bank was absorbed by the Eastman National in 1933.

The Farmers State Bank was organized Nov. 15, 1899, under the auspices of A. S. Slosson, president and J. H. Coleman, cashier and operated until 1936 when it was absorbed by the Eastman National Bank.

The Security State Bank of Newkirk was organized in 1918 with P. S. Mason as president and F. S. Midgley as cashier; W. S. Cline was a director of the bank. The bank was nationalized as The Security National Bank in 1919 and consolidated with The Eastman National Bank in 1927.

The senior Midgley served at the bank from 1926 until his death in 1969. F.S. Midgley Jr., was elected to assistant cashier in 1947 and assumed he presidency in January 1958 and was chairman of the board at the time of his death in June 1983. Walter Shafer was named president in January 1983.

In July 2004, a group headed by Mark T. Detten, who had been president of Home National Bank, Ponca City, announced the intention of buying Eastman National Bank of Newkirk, Kay County's oldest Bank. As of July 19, it executed a definitive agreement with shareholders owning more than 56 percent of the outstanding common stock of Eastman National Bancshares, Inc. Eastman National at that time was headquartered in Newkirk and had \$46.4 million of assets and \$40 million in deposits. Other banking executives joining the Eastman team

were Barry Bickle, Larry Buck, Darin Kirchenbauer, Steve Linville and Mike Mott.

The management team at that time included all of the current officers, including its president, Walter Shafer. He retired in 2006.

Eastman National Bank, Ponca City, officially opened Oct. 4, 2004, in the former Security Bank building at Third and Grand. The drive-through is located at Second and Central. Eastman built a new branch at Fifth and Prospect in 2005, while still retaining the important Eastman Bank facility in Newkirk.

Current officers are Jim Leach, chairman; Mark Detten, vice chairman; Thomas Smith, executive vice president and CFO; Barry Bickle senior vice president; Larry Buck, senior vice president; Darin Kirchenbauer, senior vice president; Steve Linville, senior vice president; Michael Mott, senior vice president; Joe Anderson, vice president and cashier; Mary Austin, vice president; Gary Scott, vice president; Janet Martin, vice president, and Nathan Mayer, assistant vice president.

Directors are Jim Leach, David Sparks, Sally Wells, Dave Bishop, Lyn Boyer, Walter Shafer, Tom Rigdon, Mark Detten, Fred Boettcher and Barry Bickle.

In March 2006 the total asset report was listed at \$99,038 million.

In 2007 Eastman National Bank was named the Business of the Year by Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Council.

In February 2007, the total asset report was listed at \$120,987 million.

Madness

(Continued From Page 5G)

They had seen a demonstration of one at the 1939 New York Fair and thought it was the coming thing.

On Sept. 17, the Thunderbird Aviation Club held an air show at the newly enlarged airport. The runways had been extended to 3,500 feet and hard surfaced, so the airport could accommodate the largest aircraft of the day.

In December, residents in the 700 block of Overbrook formed a homeowners group to set restrictions on construction. Only residential buildings could be constructed in the area, the dwellings were

limited to two and a half stories in height, and the largest garages could hold no more than three cars.

Fire Chief George Brown took semi-retirement after receiving an eye injury in a fire call. He had joined the fire department in 1902, when there were only eight volunteer firemen who used two two-wheeled fire carts to put out the fires. Brown was named fire chief in 1906, along with the title of the town's jailer.

For the next 33 years, he held the position as fire chief without missing a day of work due to illness.

Foster Club Organized in 1922

Foster Club was organized in the spring of 1922 when several women living in the Foster district met in the home of Mrs. Stanley Zeigler.

Mrs. W.D. Close was the first president and members voted to meet twice monthly, the first and third Wednesdays. In 1969 members agreed to meet only on the first Wednesdays. Every meeting opened with a devotional and roll call.

The first community project sponsored by the club women was a Sunday School held at the Foster school house. After the first year, 1922, the Sunday School was carried on by the local people for the next 10 years. Foster Club members financed the purchase of a piano for the school.

Two years after the club was organized, it became part of the Kay County home demonstration organizations. By 1935 the membership had grown from the original eight women to 25. In 1969 there were 16 members on the roll, with membership limited to 25.

Through the years Foster Club members have donated money and time to such wor-

thy causes as the Salvation Army, IOA Boys Ranch at Perkins, the Red Cross, Retarded Children's Building Fund and others. Shut-in members and persons in rest homes are remembered on birthdays and at Christmas time.

In the summer of 1941 the group held a reunion of former members. Following World War II a turkey dinner was served to returning service men and their families.

Those same service men were remembered during their tours of duties with gifts of home-made candy and other items. Foster Club members bought several war Savings Bonds during that period.

The group, no longer associated with the extension homemakers group, was primarily a social club in 1969. The women hosted showers for brides and mothers and served meals to families during time of bereavement.

Officers in 1969 were Mrs. Lou Long, president; Mrs. Hattie Gardner, vice president; Miss Bessie Foltz, secretary-treasurer; and Miss Grace Snow, reporter.

History

(Continued From Page 3G)

Many Subsidiaries

Widespread activity made necessary the formation of the Marland Oil Company, as the holding corporation for a score of subsidiary companies. These subsidiaries include the Marland Refining Company, Kansas-Osage Gas Company, Marland Production Company, Ponca City Gas Distributing Company, Reagan County Purchasing Company, Kay County Gas Company, Hudson's Marland Oil Company, Ltd., Sealand Petrol Company, Ltd., The Marland Pipeline Company, Marland Oil Company of California, Marland Company of Mexico, S. A., and the Marland Industrial Institute, Inc.

The Marland Oil Company represents a complete cycle in the petroleum industry. The company produces raw material, refines it into motor fuel and lubricating oil, and transports it in its own tank cars or ocean tankers to its own service stations and bulk plants, or to the station dealers or jobbers.

Whole Cycle In View

From the administrative office building of Marland Company at Ponca City can be had a view of the petroleum industry which is possible nowhere else in the world.

Two miles to the South Ponca oil fields, with several of those early wells still producing oil. Across the road Marland pump station which boosts the oil through the pipelines to the Marland refinery. Adjacent to the refinery is a 10,000,000 barrel storage tank farm. Near the refinery are the loading racks, where long rows of tank cars are constantly moving out to the markets of the United States.

And across the street from the administrative building is a model service station, where oils and gasoline from the South Ponca field are distributed to motorists.

In November, 1928, Marland retired from active participation in affairs of the Marland Company, and was succeeded as president by D.J. Moran, who

was president of the new Continental Oil Company.

Since Moran became president the land Oil Company has further developed its holdings, with the purchase of five small independent oil companies in the east, including the Purchase Prudential Refining corporation. With the acquisition company another 10,000-barrel refinery at Baltimore, Md., was added to the Marland holdings. Purchase of the assets of the Co-Service Oil Company, Beaver Oil Company, Mylex Oil company and National Oil Company also gave marketing outlets along the Atlantic seaboard. Purchase from the National Oil Company included that company's properties in Virginia and Marland.

On June 26, 1929, a certificate of amendment of incorporation, changing the name of the Marland Oil Company was filed with the secretary of the state of Delaware, and the company now has the name of the Continental Oil Company.

Ena Extension Homemakers Organized in 1924

Ena Extension Homemakers was organized in 1924 in Western Osage County and was the only federated club in the area.

The word Ena means "mother" in the Osage Indian tribe and is an apt name for a club organized as a home demonstration group under agent Sara D. Atwood.

The women came from school districts of Peter, McCord, Braden, Pahe and Gaylor, holding their meetings at Peters School twice a month.

Modern conveniences of telephones, electricity and automobiles were few and far between, so it was not unusual to see a mother and her children waiting at a crossroads to be picked up by another member going to the meeting.

President Pauline Clapp said baby-sitters were unknown and grandmothers were usually club members. She says there have been many mother and daughter members, and in 1969, the club had a third generation member.

The children who attended

the meetings with their mothers played together while their mothers conducted their club activities, with only an occasional bit of mischief reported. Such as pulling the hostess' prized flowers or turning sheep into the vegetable garden, said Mrs. Clapp.

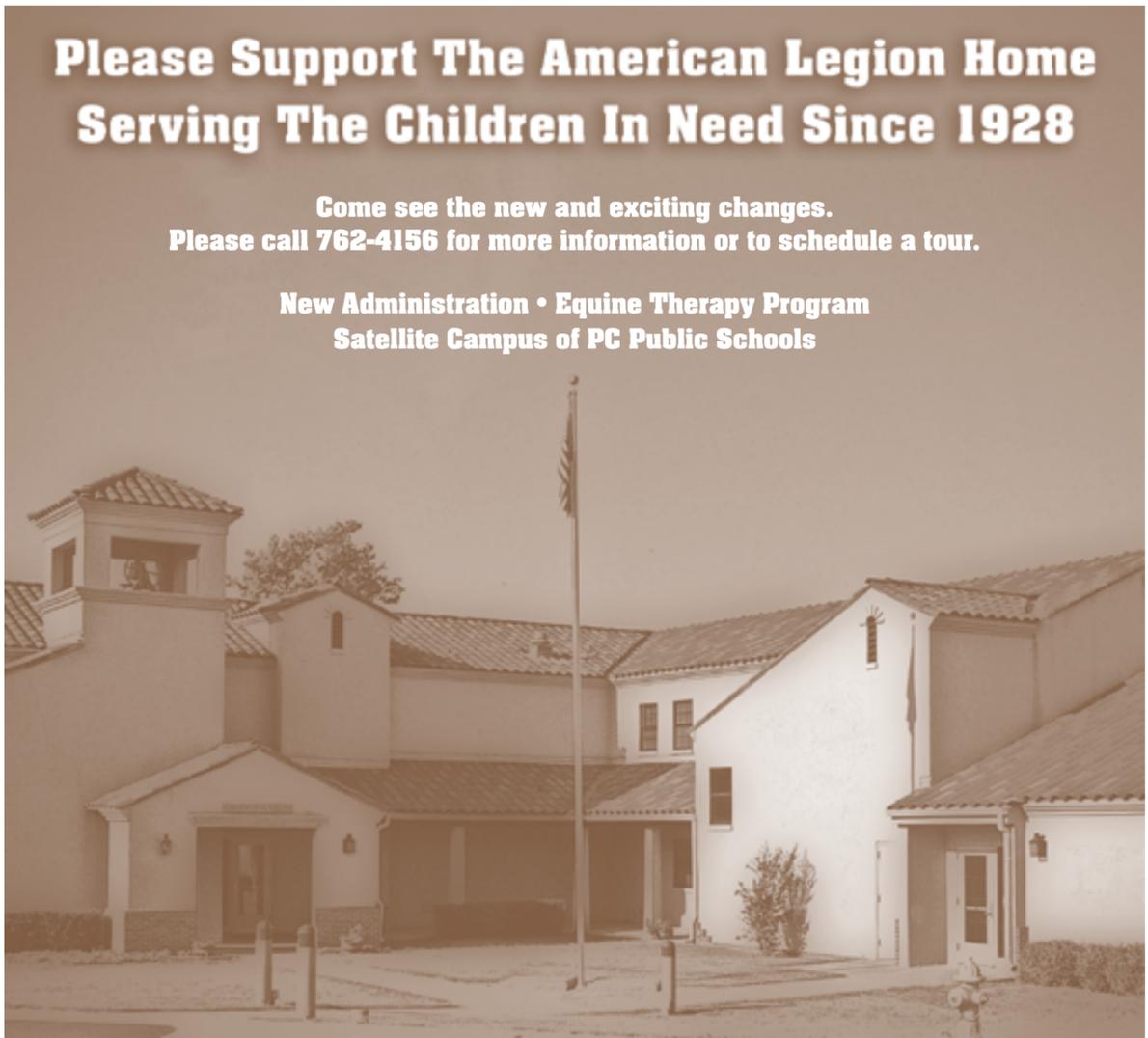
Mrs. George Crane was the group's first president, and led the women in lending helping hands to families within the 30 square-mile area.

Members actively participated in the home demonstration programs of preserving fruits,

vegetables, meat and poultry, learned more about citizenship, family life, health, home improvement, hospitality and clothing.

The club found time to sponsor showers for neighbors who had been victims of fire or other disasters. Families with new babies and newly-weds were offered assistance or given showers.

Members prepared fair exhibits and served refreshments throughout Ponca City in World War II and served meals for farm auction sales.





Oklahoma is now
100 years old,
And the great Sooner Story
is about to unfold.
It started with a land run —
yes, wagons and horse,
To stake their claim on
a great land, of course.
Look what we've done
in just 100 short years.
Our ancestral Oklahomans
put aside their fears.
Energy, agriculture,
technology and tourism,
just to mention a few,
A navigation channel,
a link to the world
for me and you.
Across our state,
we Oklahomans
have got to say,
"You're doin' fine,
Oklahoma,"
and that's "OK"!



PALADIN APARTMENTS

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