

Oklahoma
CENTENNIAL

1907 & **2007**



Rural Life in Early Kay County Had All the Comforts of Home

Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Karen Dye whose children were the fifth generation to live in the house.

NEWKIRK — Spring Creek Farm, located a mile southwest of Newkirk was purchased in 1900 by John Franklin Weaver, and he had the present farm house built. The material for the house totaled \$459.25 according to a statement dated July 31, 1903.

The house, for its time, was quite up to date and very beautiful. It consists of a large living room, a parlor, dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs. All the bedrooms except the guest room had a nice size closet.

There is a large front porch which runs the width of the house and there was a screened in porch on the south side which lead from the dining room to the cellar where canned goods, potatoes and onions were stored.

The dining room had a pass through with glass doors connecting with the kitchen.

rural farm in this area to be wired for electricity. The Harmon Bliss farm straight west was the first in 1937.

Weaver also built a large barn west of the house. One of his letters states that it took a great deal of fill dirt but that would keep the barn nice and dry when the creek flooded in the spring. He had the barn painted a slate gray color and had "Spring Creek Farm" painted on the south end of the barn. Just north of the barn was a cellar built over a spring for the purpose of keeping milk, cream, butter and eggs.

The vegetable garden was always planted north of the house and the flower garden was located south of the house. The orchard covered approximately five acres also south of the house.

The foundation of the house, the facing stone of the cellars and the front sidewalk, and a few corner posts are from the local limestone quarries.

The original two room house that was used to homestead the 160 acres after the opening of the Cherokee Outlet still stands.

There are two good water wells, one located near the

house; the other one is near the barn.

Spring Creek is a spring-fed creek. In the summer of 1980, it was the lowest it had ever been in more than 50 years. The creek runs the full north-south length of the farm.

John Weaver's oldest daughter, Edna, married Charles E. Bush in the living room of the house on June 3, 1903.

In 1917 Edna and her family moved back to the farm permanently. Her son, Raymond, was born in the west downstairs bedroom in 1926.

Some of the stories that Mrs. Bush used to tell about life on Spring Creek farm were ones such as watching the Ku Klux Klan meet across the road in Gamsjager's field and burn crosses that would light up the entire sky.

And one day when Anton Horinek was driving by with his wagon and team of work horses, the horses died from the severe heat. Mr. Horinek walked to the house and asked Mrs. Bush if he could bury them in her field. Mrs. Bush gave her consent, but she was so afraid that he was going to have heat stroke while he buried those horses.

During the depression, Mrs. Bush's only milk cow died and her oldest daughter, Fern, cried because then they would not even have gray to put on their bread.

Mr. Stewart owned the first car in Newkirk.

One day when Mrs. Bush was going to town with her children she saw the car coming down the road. She was afraid the car would spook the horse and he would run away with them in the wagon.

So, she stopped the wagon; tied the horse up and set the children out of the wagon until the car went past. She said the horse just stood there. It almost made her mad after she had gone to all that work.

Mrs. Bush always loved all the beautiful trees that lined the highway on the south side of Newkirk. All these lovely old trees were destroyed when the four lane was built. Mrs. Bush felt they should have saved the trees. She said that often times "progress" had the same definition as cancer, "uncontrolled growth."

Today no one lives on the farm, and Karen Dye said that the house will probably be torn down.



MEMBERS OF THE 2007 Kildare Fire Department are from left in front: Joe Morton, Bonnie Morton, Patrick Sullivan, David Sweeney, Harold Sullivan, Nat Bahm, Travis Harris. Shown on the fire vehicle is David Gallagher, and Vincent Scott. Members not shown are Virgil Brandon, Charlie Brandon, Dennis Bradley, Bryan Overman, Grant Galbraith, Josh Newport, Cody Kirchner, Adam Longcrier, Phillip Randol, Anthony Rhodes, Dustin Schikram, and Bradley Turvey. (News Photo by Rolf Clements)

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Kildare Settled in Middle Of 'Richest Wheat Land'

Editor's Note: Some of the following information was gathered from the Newkirk and Kay County Diamond Jubilee published in 1968

KILDARE — The small town of Kildare is situated in central Kay County, in the midst of what is sometimes called the richest wheat land to be found anywhere. There are various stories concerning the origin of the town's name. Many favor the viewpoint that the town was named after the grayish-brown and white birds called "Killdeers."

As the first settlers passed into the area they disturbed birds and the penetrating cry given by the frightened birds sounded like "Kildare."

Others prefer a more dramatic origin stemming from legends that early day residents would greet a stranger entering the town, threatening to kill him if he tried. George H. Shirk in his book "Oklahoma Place Names" explains that Kildare received its name after a town and county in Ireland.

Sept. 16, 1893, before the dust had settled, Kildare sprang up instantly as settlers arrived from the Kansas border.

They pitched their tents in the townsite and began to make plans for the future. Early day Kildare was a bustling community with a population of around 800 in the year 1898.

Businesses were numerous, among them: three general stores, two meat markets, three doctors' offices, three lumber yards, three hardware stores, three livery barns, a slaughter house, two blacksmith shops, a shoe cobbler, two restaurants and three elevators.

The post office was established Oct. 14, 1893, and mail came by train and was put on at the depot in Kildare to be taken to other areas. Mrs. Nina Stahlhut was postmistress for 30 years, retiring

in October 1967. Her father, Frank Frick, owned and operated a hardware store located where the present post office now stands.

The town contained a railroad depot, a telephone exchange and the Kildare Bank. Oil was discovered there but not enough to pay for the deep drilling required to make it profitable.

The Methodist Church, the only church ever built in Kildare, was erected in 1898 with funds raised by the Ladies Aid Society. The Rev. E.E. Tomlison was the first pastor and the Rev. Mr. Schwartz, (a missionary minister from Arkansas City) preached the first services in the town. The first Sunday School was held in an old saloon building.

The first school was built around 1895 and began as a three-room structure housing all 12 grades. It began serving only the first eight grades in 1937.

Children were brought to school from the surrounding farm areas in orange and black "kidwagons." These were wooden wagons encased with glass and drawn by a team of horses or mules and served as the first "school buses."

The school was so large in the early days that it required five "kidwagons" to transport the children to and from the school. A new building was constructed in 1961.

The first crop in the area was corn, which people fed to their horses, and it sold for 10 to 12 cents per bushel. The stage coach ran from Kildare to Blackwell and Tonkawa, and wagons carried freight and hauled grain before the railroad entered the territory.

The first newspaper in the Cherokee Strip was owned by Jeremiah Johnson and was called the Kildare Journal.

He later consolidated it

with the Republican and the News in Newkirk under the name of the Newkirk-Republican News Journal. In 1928 it became the Newkirk Herald-Journal.

Johnson's son Nelson became a U.S. ambassador to China.

Kildare once had a high crime rate and horse-stealing was common. Thieves would strike the livery barns and the private residences and escape into the dense timber on the other side of the Arkansas River. Very few were brave enough to follow them there. Saloons were numerous in Kildare in the early days. Residents recall there were seven in town at one time.

In 1910 Kildare began to decline and the population dropped to 216. The coming of the automobile gave people easy access to nearby larger communities for shopping and business. Fires were blamed for most of the destruction of Kildare.

Three large fires occurred at different times destroying areas that were never rebuilt.

The residents of Kildare got their water from Willow Springs, a settlement one half mile north of Kildare that was created about the same time as Kildare. At one time Willow Springs had a population of more than 400, with a bank, post office and small stores.

The most famous enterprise was the Willow Springs Bottle Factory. Today bottles manufactured there bring high prices in antique shops.

Willow Springs had a fine spring of clear, pure water and served as a watering place for Indians, cattlemen and freighters in the early days.

Drinking water was listed at two prices and was peddled in tank wagons to the residents of Kildare.

Water to be used for livestock sold at 50 cents for a bushel-sized galvanized tin bucket full, while that for human consumption was sold at five cents a pint.

Reportedly many residents dipped from the 50-cent brand before offering it to the livestock.

The little town dwindled and stores and houses were moved away when the railroad depot was located in Kildare.

Many area residents say that the original site for the county seat of "K" County was designated as Kildare but an Indian known as Chief Busheyhead took his allotment near Kildare and refused to move. The government then changed the county seat seven miles north of Kildare in Lamereux, now Newkirk.

Lamereux was renamed after the opening and became Santa Fe.

The railroad of the same name raised a protest and the government agreed that there were too many Santa Fes. The citizens then adopted the name Newkirk from the old haystation known as Kirk, which was located two miles north of Newkirk, and through the years the name stuck.

Today Kildare is a quiet village with activity surrounding its church, the school and the grain elevator.

In 2006 the estimated population was 90, down from 92 in 2000.



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Ponca City's First Hospital Opened After Flu Epidemic

Ponca City didn't have a hospital when an influenza epidemic swept through northern Oklahoma in 1918. In response, the Chamber of Commerce opened a hospital on West Grand, also known as Jones Flats, on Dec. 3, 1919.

Ponca City Hospital had 14 beds and was run by an administrative committee that included L.K. Meek, Mrs. Claudia B. Baker, Mrs. Ed L. Donahoe, R.P. Baughman, W.H. England and C.F. Calkins. A head nurse and two other nurses comprised the staff.

During the first year, 540 patients were cared for in the hospital, 22 babies were born and there were 234 operations.

The hospital quickly outgrew the original facility and in 1920, E. W. Marland funded a \$22,000 addition that increased the bed capacity to 40.

After losing money for the first 14 months of operation, the Chamber of Commerce decided to get out of the hospital business.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita accepted an invitation by the Chamber to bring their healthcare ministry to Ponca City and took over management of the facility on Jan. 18, 1921.

Hospital on the Hill

Soon, with 30 stove fires to be constantly watched and with patients crowded in the halls, in the operating rooms and even in the chapel, the hospital was considered a fire trap and the decision to build a new hospital was made.

E.W. Marland and the Chamber of Commerce took responsibility for raising funds for the new facility that would be located on land donated by Marland at the north edge of Ponca City at Fourteenth and Virginia, the hospital's current location.

The "Hospital on the Hill," a new 50-bed modern, "fireproof" facility, was considered at the time to be the finest hospital that could be built for \$250,000. Nearly 6,000 people attended the house warming and dedica-

tion of the new facility on Nov. 2, 1926.

After World War II, a third expansion became necessary. This time the citizens of Ponca City financed the \$244,000 project with two bond issues. This expansion brought the capacity of the hospital to 100 beds and added a new maternity floor and delivery room in 1948.

1962 Addition

Fourteen years later history repeated itself as overcrowding was once again an issue at the hospital. The solution was the construction of a new \$1.8 million wing with 48 additional beds. The wing also included administrative and business offices, the kitchen, surgical suites, pharmacy, medical records, and fully equipped emergency and examining rooms. The project was completed in 1962.

1975 Expansion

Hospital officials broke ground on a \$10 million expansion of the hospital in 1973. The project included the construction of a four-story, 184,626-square-foot building, which is the main hospital building today.

The new building featured new and expanded intensive care facilities, improved emergency and outpatient facilities, along with new delivery rooms and surgical suites.

A dedication ceremony was held on May 18, 1975. That same year the name of the hospital was changed to St. Joseph Medical Center of Ponca City Inc.

In 1995 the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita and the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother merged their healthcare ministries to form Via Christi Health System (VCHS), which became the owner of

the Ponca City hospital. To better reflect the hospital's affiliation with VCHS, the name was changed to Via Christi Oklahoma Regional Medical Center in 2001. Via Christi continued to

operate the facility until it was sold on May 1, 2006, to a subsidiary of Community Health Systems of Franklin, Tenn. The name was changed to Ponca City Medical Center.



PONCA CITY'S FIRST hospital opened on West Grand on Dec. 3, 1919. The hospital quickly outgrew the original facility and in 1920, E. W. Marland funded a \$22,000 addition that increased the bed capacity to 40. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita took over management of the facility on Jan. 18, 1921.

First Nardin Moved To Be Near Railroad

Editor's Note: The following was compiled by Mrs. Joe Crow and can be found in the History of Newkirk located at the Newkirk Library.

Story of Nardin

When the Cherokee Strip was opened for settlement in 1893, hundreds of people made the run and staked land.

The first town site of Nardin was one and one-half miles north the present town, located near the Kay-Grant County line. There was a post office and grocery store owned by a man named Ed Vilott.

Nardin, at its present location, was established in March 1898, quickly after the H & S railroad reached that point on its route.

It was named Nardin in honor George Fred Nardin on whose homestead it was located.

He also gave the land for the site of the town. The town grew rapidly with several business establishments including grocery stores, dry goods stores, a hardware, lumber yards, furniture stores, undertaker, implement stores, cafes, saloons, hotels, blacksmith shop, jewelry store, drugstore, hat shop, produce houses, livery stable, doctors, dentist and a lawyer.

This was a new town, business thrived. One of the doctors was my husband's uncle and one of the hotel owners was my grandfather.

In 1899 a fire destroyed several business houses on the south side of the main street.

This was a real setback to the town as many were not rebuilt.

Over the years, several more fires destroyed many places of business. In the early days, the buildings were made of wood and rudely constructed.

All of the sidewalks were

made of wood and called board walks.

Since there was a family on every 160 acres and transportation was slow, business was good in the small towns.

When people wanted to go to Blackwell, they would drive their team of horses hitched to a wagon to Nardin, put their horses in the livery stable, board the train, go to Blackwell, do business there and return home in the evening. My Grandfather Miller made this trip many times.

There were four churches and a newspaper, "the Nardin Star" published for years. Nardin never lacked for excitement. There was a band concert every Saturday night.

This was something everyone for miles looked forward to. The youths would walk around the block listening to the music.

We were given 5 cents to spend and it was a real treat and a hard decision to decide what to buy.

In 1928 the bank was robbed. My brother and a friend of mine were locked in the vault.

One of the bankers was taken as hostage and it was thought for a while that Mrs. Davis, who lived in Blackwell, was the only person who could open the vault. The air in the vault would long be used up before she could get there. Luckily one of the bankers escaped from the robbers and he quickly opened the vault.

In spite of the fires, Nardin continued to be a good, small town and a wheat hauling center.

Like most small towns, when paved roads and cars became available, people began to go to the larger towns and fewer people remained on the farms until now all that is left of Nardin is a post office, filling station, three churches and two elevators.

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After opening a store in Cherokee, Iowa in 1896 and operating it for 10 years, the McGee family set out in search of warmer climate. Following a year of traveling by train, they settled in Blackwell, Oklahoma and opened their store before statehood in March 1907. J.M. (John Marion) McGee and his wife, Minnie, operated the store with their two sons, Robert and Fred, until the sons assumed operation in the early 1920's. Robert died shortly after in 1924. Fred continued to operate the store with his wife Bessie until 1961 when it was turned over to their two sons, Bob and Bill. Bill moved to Norman in 1965, opening a store there, and Bob, together with his wife Billie, and father Fred, continued to operate the store in Blackwell until March of 1977 when the store was moved to Ponca City. Today the business is still operated by the son of Bob and Billie, Matt McGee and his extended family. A new fifth generation, J.M. (Justin Matthew) McGee, son of Matt McGee, is now waiting his turn to assume future ownership.

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FIRE DESTROYED two buildings in THE 100 block of East Grand in Tonkawa on the morning of Jan. 31, 1964. Reportedly, more than a half-million gallons of water were used on the fire. (News Archive Photo)

Tonkawa Born in Land Run; Grew With Oil, Wheat, UPS

TONKAWA — Tonkawa is located on the North bank of the Salt Fork River, receiving its name from the Tonkawa Indians who lived on a reservation three miles east.

At the opening of the Cherokee Strip T.W. Gregory and Eli V. Blake took the land on which the original town was located.

Six months after the opening they applied to the government for permission to "prove-up" the land to be used as a town-site.

Eighty acres of the Blake claim and 120 acres of the Gregory land were included in the original townsite. A civil engineer surveyed the land, and divided it into streets and lots. A townsite company was formed and a drawing was held in Arkansas City, Kan.

The first store was operated by C.H. Martendale and the first postmaster was Eli Blake. In 1899 the Santa Fe railroad extended its lines south to Tonkawa and the first wheat was shipped out in the fall of 1899.

The University Preparatory School was established in 1901, with Central Hall its first building.

In 1910 the school boasted a library of 5,000 carefully selected books.

It had thoroughly equipped departments for teaching art, domestic science, manual training, modern language, military tactics and science, agriculture, public speaking, physical training and music.

It employed 25 teachers, all college and university graduates.

In 1910 the city had a population of 2,500, good brick business buildings, beautiful homes, cement side walks and well kept streets and lawns. Tonkawa then had a large flour mill, and four elevators to take care of the large crops raised in its trade territory.

Corn, wheat and alfalfa were the main crops. Much attention was given to hog raising and during the year 1910, 150 cars of hogs were shipped from Tonkawa.

Schools were a primary concern of the residents of Tonkawa and in the summer of 1910 a high school was constructed at a cost of \$25,000.

Many churches bespoke a "church going" community. Tonkawa in the early days didn't claim to be a commercial city but it did claim to be one of the finest little business and school cities in the entire Southwest.

At the Tonkawa Bakery, Mr. G.G. Overstreet had a motto, "Cleanliness."

It was said that he used the most modern type of ovens and that all the bread, cakes and pies produced were strictly pure and first class.

Haley & Vanslyke dealt in "staple and fancy" groceries.

The Midland Hotel was one of the most popular hotels in Kay County.

The beds were said to be fine, the food excellent and it was run by a very popular lady, who was highly esteemed in social circles, Miss Luella Gardner.

At the Star Livery Barn, G.B. Siler conducted a first class business with a good patronage. His barn was well equipped with all necessary facilities and special attention was given to first class livery as well as feeding and boarding horses.

In 1921 the population of Tonkawa exploded with the overnight discovery of an oil field to the south.

During the oil boom the population grew to 15,000 and in a two year period alone, oil production totaled more than 60 million barrels with a value of \$250 million.

Though many towns vanished following the "boom," Tonkawa survived.

Bringing to mind the meaning of its name, taken from the Tonkawa Indians whose name meant "We Stay Together," Stay together they did to build a stable and progressive community.

On Jan. 31, 1964, fire destroyed two buildings in the downtown

area and threatened an entire city block.

Damage was estimated in the thousands of dollars.

The blaze was discovered at 5:20 a.m. completely destroyed Freeman's Drug Store and gutted the second floor of the adjoining building where the dental office of Dr. A.S. Casford was located.

Firefighters from Tonkawa, Blackwell, Ponca City and Perry fought the fire.

The fire injured three people but none were hospitalized.

Tonkawa City Manager at the time, Hal Hunt said that more than a half-million gallons of water were used on the fire.

In 1968 Tonkawa was the third largest city in Kay County with a population of 3,459. The number is boosted during the school year by the students at Northern Oklahoma College with an enrollment of 1,000.

Northern Oklahoma College, formerly the University Preparatory School offers college courses in virtually every field and is termed the fastest growing junior college in Oklahoma.

Wheat was the most important single cash crop in the Tonkawa area with yields of 33.3 bushels per acre. Barley, corn, oats, sorghums, alfalfa

and soybeans are also important crops. Substantial resources are to be found in beef and dairy cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry.

In 2000 the census recorded Tonkawa's population as 3,299.

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Ponca City Music Club Began With Effort To Buy New Piano

The Ponca City Music Club emerged on March 19, 1921, from a temporary group which was organized to acquire funds to purchase a grand piano for the civic auditorium.

Mrs. Frances Smith Catron, Ponca City's first lady of music, was elected president. In June of the same year, members voted to federate with the Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs.

The club met in private homes until October of 1932, when members began meeting in the Episcopal Parish House. Meetings were held there until the library was built and the clubroom made available to clubs in the city.

In 1933 the club presented the premiere performance of "Trails Southwest" for orchestra and chorus by the noted composer, Thurlow Liluranc.

In February 1955 the premiere performance of the folk opera "Esther and Cousin Mordecai" was presented.

In November of 1957, the club sponsored a concert by the famous composer Roy Harris and his wife, Johanan, a concert pianist.

Membership in the music club is available to anyone interested in enjoying and encouraging music. For those who want to become more involved, the music club sponsors choral, piano, organ and string workshops.

In the past the club has sponsored two junior music clubs, the Mozart and Schubert Clubs. In 1969 a third club was added. The Mozart Club is for elementary students, the Schubert club for senior high students and the newest club, Haydn, for junior high students. Members of the junior organizations are eligible to enter the Junior Music Festival sponsored by the Oklahoma and National Federation of Music Clubs.

Since 1933, the local club has given a scholarship to a graduating senior from Ponca City High School who enrolls in a college or university with a major in music. The club also contributes to the Frances Smith Catron Scholarship Fund and the Charles Cuning Memorial Fund.

The first week of May of each year is traditionally National Music Week, Special civic, club and church programs are scheduled in observance.

In addition to its own activities, the music club has cooperated in a number of civic projects.

Three of its officers, Mrs. Floyd Focht, Miss Irene Drake

and Mrs. Ernest Nelsons, were instrumental in organizing the Columbia Concert Series, now called the Ponca City Concert Series.

Officers for the 1969-70 year were Mrs. Warren Knarr, president; Mrs. Hellen Foster, vice president; Mrs. Betty Berrong, secretary; Mrs. Joy Billingsley, treasurer; Mrs. Bonnie Hasz, historian; Mrs. Phil Beaubien, auditor and Mrs. Virginia Perkins, parliamentarian.

Committee chairmen were Mrs. Jackie Skidmore, membership; Mrs. Frankie Bradford, social; Mrs. Virginia Perkins, past presidents assembly; Mrs. Betsy Pusey, music service; Mrs. Julie Kallemeyn, hymn of month; Mrs. Carol Martin, parade of American music; Mrs. Segrid Krehbiel, Haydn; Schubert, Farrell Dixon; Mrs. Kay Bewley, choral workshop; Mrs. Ruth Johnson, piano-organ workshop; Mrs. Rhoda Young, publicity; Mrs. Betty Pollard, budget; Mrs. Bonnie Motz, awards; Mrs. Lena Caine, music week; Mrs. Frances Wood

Thompson, courtesy and Mrs. Dottie Roberts, club pianist.



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In addition to very active children's and youth ministries, there are classes and seasonal opportunities designed for guests and members of all ages. Young families, special studies, mid-life, and retirees can all expect to find a class suited for them. There are also opportunities to share musical talents in choral groups and handbell choirs for children, youth and adults.

We are also very pleased with the Mother's Day Out program. It provides loving care, nurturing, teaching, and entertainment in a Christian environment to children ages six weeks through pre-kindergarten. Children throughout the community are welcome, regardless of church affiliation. Mother's Day out presently meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays each week, year around; with plans for expanding after construction is completed.

Dr. David Cressman, who was recently appointed as Senior Pastor, invites you to worship, praise God, and find encouragement as we seek to offer open hearts, open minds, and open doors to God and to all. To learn more about the ministry offerings at FUMC, please visit our website at www.fumcpc.com

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Kaw City Reborn After Burial Under Reservoir

Editor's Note: Some of the following information was gathered from the Newkirk and Kay County Diamond Jubilee published in 1968.

KAW CITY — Kaw City is named after the Kaw Indians and was established in 1902 when the Santa Fe Railroad was built through Osage country. William M. Jenkins, fifth territorial governor, bought the land from George M. Murff and laid it out in town lots.

The first two buildings were erected on Second Avenue, running east and west north of the railroad tracks. One was a peanut stand with living rooms above owned by Bill "Peanut" Reed. The other a harness shop, owned by Henry Diamond. The first bank was established by J.E. Hoefer and was named the Farmer's State Bank. William Cline of Newkirk put in some business buildings just south of the bank for rental purposes. The first hardware

store was opened by B.F. Smith. Early settlers bought their supplies at Longwood one half mile south and one mile west of Kaw City. With the coming of the railroad Longwood was abandoned and the merchants moved their goods to the new town-site.

The Kaw Indians played an important role in the history of Kaw City. The Kaws lived on their allotments north of Kaw City, or near the Indian Agency at Washunga. They were described as a colorful sight as they walked the streets in bright blankets and beaded moccasins. They drove to town in light wagons, the men on the seat, the women and children sitting on the floor of the wagon in the rear.

An oil derrick appeared eight miles east of Kaw City in 1919.

Main Street was loaded down with oil field equipment and trucks, and the town soon realized that the

peace of the prairie had been shattered. Oil was discovered and strangers moved into town. People crowded in the little town and unheard of prices were charged for the privilege of a sleeping room.

The Chamber of Commerce started a push for better roads. Gas was piped into town; bonds were voted for water and sewer systems. New buildings were built, including a modern, four-story hotel built by I.M. Clubb. The town's population doubled and the oil field surrounded Kaw City for miles.

Though the boom was tragically brief, many improvements in the town were made that have lasted through the years. Culture abounded in Kaw City, which at one time had an Opera House.

In a story for The Ponca City News, Sept. 19, 1960, Mrs. J.W. Coyle of Kaw City describes her role as a member of the "Queen Esthers."

The Queen Esthers was a group of young girls who were coached in cultural matters by Mrs. Laura Clubb. They were trained in voice, dancing drills, morals and manners.

Laura Abigail Clubb was one of the foremost women art collectors in the world. After completing courses in oratory she became one of the pioneer teachers in Oklahoma, instructing in oratory in State Baptist College.

In recognition of her intensive studies of art and critical knowledge of the subject, the Kansas Wesleyan College conferred on her the honorary degree of Master of Fine Arts.

Her fabulous collection of paintings first hung on the walls of her beautiful residence in Kaw City, then were moved to the Clubb Hotel. The collection was finally given to the Philbrook Art Center in Tulsa.

Little remains of the sophisticated early days of Kaw City. The building of the Kaw Dam and Reservoir inundated the original site of Kaw City and a new town was built approximately two miles west.

The New Kaw City Relocation and Development plan of 1967 projected Kaw City's population to catapult from 457 to 9,800 by the year of 1990. Instead the 2000 census showed Kaw City's population had fallen to 372.

The first lots in the new townsite of Kaw City went on sale at 1 p.m. May 25, 1968, in the Kaw City High School auditorium. Initial sales went exclusively to Kaw City residents.

The new city emerged in 1970. The new town was to occupy a 159-acre site on higher ground. On June 2, 1968, the "final" Old Kaw City Reunion was held, a homecoming for some 2,000 townspeople and former residents.



THE KAW CITY Motor Company one was of many thriving business that existed in the old town. The old Kaw City was flooded in 1976 by the waters of the Kaw Dam. Some buildings including the train depot were moved to the area now known as Kaw City. When traveling east into Shidler from Kaw City, the tennis court of the old school and parts of the former Methodist Church can be seen below the water on the south side of the bridge over Kaw Lake. (News Archive Photo)



THE CLUBB Hotel was once the pride of Kaw City. The building was demolished before the town went under water. (News Archive Photo)



KAW CITY resident John Brown stands on the last train to pass through Kaw City.

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Newkirk Platted as 'K' County Seat Before Run

Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Karen Dye.

NEWKIRK — Newkirk was platted in 1893 by the United States government as the county seat of "K" County.

The name stipulated for this community by the government was Lamoreux after Silas W. Lamoreux, commissioner of the General Land Office at that time.

Unhappy with the selection of the name, one of the first acts by the citizens of this new town was to choose a different name.

For political reasons, the citizens voted to change the name to Santa Fe to entice the railroad to build a depot.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe tracks ran the length of the townsite on the east side. The first addition to the community bore the name East Santa Fe and one of the first banks carried the name "Bank of Santa Fe."

Two versions exist to explain why the name was once again changed. One version insists that the post office vetoed the name Santa Fe, while the other suggests the railroad itself rejected the name. The railroad still was influential in naming the community; however, because it had the cattle shipping point named Kirk on its line approximately two miles north of the new town.

On Nov. 8, 1893, an election was held to change the name of the new site.

Selection of names included Lahoma, Perkin, and Scattering as well as Newkirk, which received 310 votes.

The Kildare Sooner suggested that Kirktown or Kirkton would have been more appropriate as Newkirk meant "new church." However, the Newkirk Republican retorted that the new name appeared to be "working all right as there were two new churches organized in town." The powers that be in Washington officially changed the name of the post office to Newkirk effective April 1, 1894.

Newkirk citizens elected a provisional city government on Sept. 18, 1893, just two days after the run. The first town council members selected were N. L. Bowman, mayor; W. H. Line, clerk; Porter Willis Smith, treasurer; W. B. Brown, marshal; J. W. Dunn, A. C. Dolde, W. L. Barnum, W. M. Ferguson, C. E. Wintrose and Robert Sutherland, councilmen.

Many of these men stayed in Newkirk and helped guide its future while others simply stayed a short period and then moved on.

Porter Willis Smith, a banker from Udall, Kan., was asked to give a short speech upon his election as treasurer.

He humorously responded, "I shall keep no more than 20 percent of the funds for myself."

Of the original council, Smith, Brown, Dolde, Ferguson and Sutherland remained to direct the community through the early years.

In those initial years Newkirk grew impressively. The first edition of the Newkirk Republican which appeared on Nov. 24, 1893, listed 27 professionals and businesses in Newkirk which included five attorneys, two restaurants, four saloons, three doctors, two meat markets, a shoe repair, a ladies dress shop, a real estate office, a men's store, a grocery, a feed store, a mercantile, a lumber yard and three banks.

However, in just two months the community boasted 247 businesses which included 12 doctors, seven hotels, 15 groceries, 12 saloons, seven hardware stores, five lumber companies, 21 carpenters and contractors, four banks, 21 attorneys and six barbers.

Depot Important

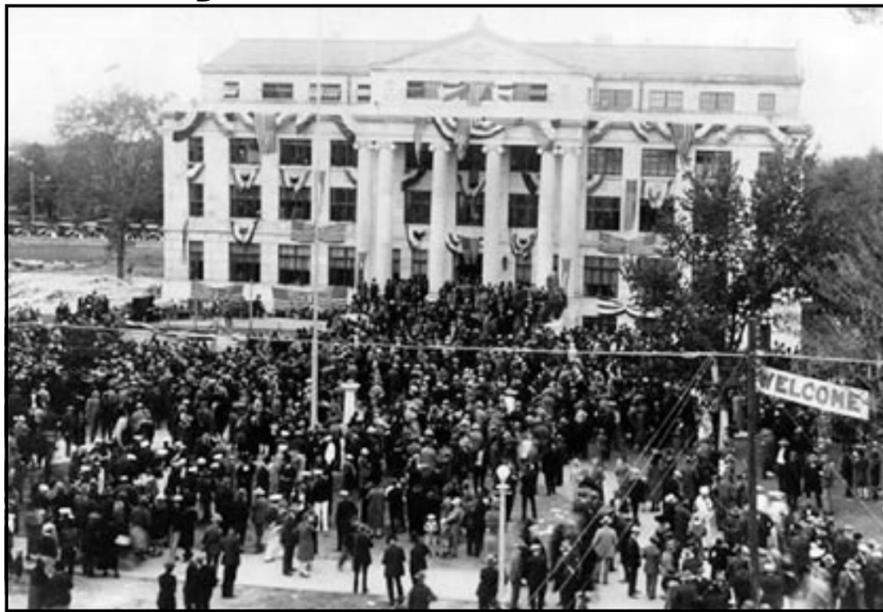
During its first year Newkirk had fenced the public square, named the streets,

built three wells, located a cemetery, and granted right-of-way to the Northern Oklahoma Telephone Company. Most important of all, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe had built a depot.

To frontier communities the railroad was the lifeline to the rest of the world. Rivalry for railroads was even more fierce than fighting for the coveted county seat prize. Without a railroad and a depot for passengers and freight, early day communities were destined to perish. Cross, for example, in the southern section "K" County, lost its depot to Ponca City and eventually became simply a subdivision of Ponca.

By April 1896, street lamps had been installed, the city jail had been built, trees were planted in the park, wooden sidewalks were in place, and iron fence had been built around the public square, which proudly displayed a band stand. In addition a water works system costing \$2,500 had been built, a hook and ladder truck had been purchased, a stone crossing were located at Main and Seventh Streets so that citizens would no longer have to walk in either the dust or the mud when crossing the main thoroughfares.

(See NEWKIRK, Page 11L)



A LARGE crowd was on hand for the Oct. 28, 1926, dedication of the Kay County Courthouse. (Photo supplied by Karen Dye)

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It's Been A Long and Winding Road...

'50s

'60s

'70s

'80s

'90s

In 1950, Jack and Patti Bowker purchased the Pawnee Ford Agency, which was the oldest in the Southwest at the time. Jack was the youngest Ford dealer in the country, and he served as the dealership's only salesman while Patti handled the bookkeeping.

Four years later, the Bowkers bought the Howard Moss dealership in Blackwell, which they would operate for the next six years.

Jack Bowker began the new decade by purchasing the Parkinson Motor Company at 2nd and Central Avenue in Ponca City, changing its name to the Jack Bowker Ford Company.

He expanded the operation, and maintained a larger stock of new Ford vehicles. Also, eight employees were added, including Bill Pippen as business manager and Mitch Price as sales manager.

While other dealerships were scaling down because of the energy crisis, Jack Bowker's was growing. He built a half-million-dollar facility at "the crown of the hill" on North 14th. It included a 26,000-square-foot building with a 35-stall service department, a computerized parts department, and 46 employees. The open house ceremony was a major event, attended by nearly 1,000 people!

After graduating in 1979 from Oklahoma State University, Cory Bowker moved back to Ponca City and began his career at the dealership.

Jack Bowker purchased Ponca City's AMC-Toyota-Jeep Renault dealership, and moved its inventory to his spacious lot. A 35th anniversary open house was held, with 100 silver dollars as a door prize.

Trucks continued to be the backbone of Ford Motor Company's business in the Midwest, and Jack Bowker Ford maintained a large selection of trucks to offer to Ponca City area customers.

As Jack Bowker marked his 40th year in the business, he was informed that only 2% of Southwest Region dealers who had started in 1950 were still in business. Jack's son, Cory, was made the dealership's president.

Bowker Ford was renovated in 1996 to include a larger showroom and a new customer lounge. A year later, the dealership received its 5th North American Customer Excellence Award.

And the Road Goes On...

In 2001, the Bowker line was expanded yet again to include Lincoln and Mercury vehicles. With this addition, the Jack Bowker dealership now carries an inventory totalling well over \$4 million.

We realize that our success has been made possible by the thousands of satisfied customers who have given us the privilege of dealing with them over the past 57 years. We are very grateful to you all, and we pledge to you that, in the years to come, we will continue to do our very best to make your road as smooth as possible. Thank you all for your business!

Cory and Jack Bowker

Everything Was 'Rosy' for Big Blue Band in 1958

In 1958 everything was coming up roses. On New Year's Day, the Po-Hi band played in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the Felician Sisters Assumption Villa in January for a new two-story school and dormitory to be built northwest of the main building.

The Sooner State Life Insurance Company opened its home office in Ponca City. J.R. Meek served as first vice president and Frank Overstreet was a director.

The Mother's March netted more than \$4,000 for the fight against polio.

The Kay County Child Guidance Clinic was created, under the umbrella of the Kay County Health Department.

WBBZ Radio joined more than 50 other radio stations across the state in Traffic Watch, a concentrated effort to promote deathless weekends on Oklahoma highways.

In April, Ponca City's automotive companies and related industries held the second annual Auto Show in the Agricultural Building. The public viewed the newest in motor vehicles, farm implements and boats.

The City Commission passed an ordinance to prohibit the sale of raw milk in Ponca City.

More than 300 Ponca Citizens turned out for the dedication of the new Doherty Men's Fraternity Clubhouse, formerly the pump station for the Cities Service Oil Company at 1500 South Fourth Street.

The cornerstone was laid at the new Woodlands Christian Church at Fourteenth Street and Hartford.

A four-mile stretch of a four-lane super highway was opened in April, connecting the Kansas Turnpike to Interstate 35.

Frank Waters, senior at Ponca City High School and son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Harold Waters, was awarded a National Merit Scholarship, one of only 600 in the nation. Three Po-Hi seniors — Carol Duley, Linda Short, and Ralph Leon McLaury, were commended for outstanding performance on the National Merit Scholarship Test.

Work began on the new \$75,000 building for Hartford Avenue Church of Christ.

The Chamber of Commerce proposed three plans to solve the city parking problem: reduce over-parking fines, widen streets, and create two free parking areas near downtown.

In August, more than 200 volunteers took the first step in a comprehensive study of the traffic and parking situation by counting traffic at 63 posted locations.

More than 10,000 citizens viewed the exhibits at the 4th annual Home and Trade Show, hosted by the Ponca City Home Builders Assn.

Mrs. Lillie Burkhart, Princess Pawhuska, was chosen to represent Osages and Oklahoma at the World's Fair and International Exhibition in Brussels, Belgium.

The Ponca City PTA sponsored the annual pre-school

roundup in June, where 430 new first graders received physical examinations.

Jerrie Cobb was declared winner of the seventh annual Sky Lady Derby, sponsored by the Women's National Aeronautics Assn.

Construction began on a new shopping center at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Hazel.

The Board of Education purchased land on the west side for a new junior high school.

In July, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. announced a \$273,100 expansion program.

Gov. Raymond Gary became member No. 1 of the Children of the Pioneers, a society honoring pioneer ancestors in connection with the Pioneer Woman Museum. Mayor I.H. Needham, whose father, Jasper H. Needham, was a pioneer of Oklahoma County, was presented certificate No. 2.

John B. Hale presented a life-size oil painting of E.W. Marland to the Pioneer Woman Museum.

Angela Hall at the Felician Sisters Assumption Villa was completed in July.

A Senate-House conference committee agreed on a \$1.18 million appropriations bill for construction of water projects. Items in the bill included \$15,000 for preliminary studies of the Kaw Reservoir on the Arkansas River near Ponca City.

The 45th annual convention of the Oklahoma Municipal League welcomed 175 members to Ponca City for its two-day meeting.

In late August, over 120 stu-

dents enrolled at Ponca Military Academy. Public schools anticipated over 6,500 students for the upcoming school year.

On Sept. 16, the new Pioneer Woman Museum was dedicated to the present and future generations of Oklahoma as a standing symbol of the hardships and sufferings their ancestors endured. Roberta Long Newman was named curator.

The city officially declared war on the growing rat population with the announcement that a special Warfarin preparation was available free of charge to city residents.

Robert L. Wischnick, president of Continental Carbon, and Harold G. Osborn, senior vice president of Continental Oil, announced plans to expand the Continental Carbon Co.'s carbon black plant.

The Retail Development committee of the Chamber of Commerce staged its annual fall observance with "Fall '58 — Fashions and Values." There was a flurry of live models, band music and special promotion prices by the city's retail merchants.

The county adopted a new registration system, and in October, the official count of registered voters was 20,383. There were 13,607 Democrats, 6,715 Republicans, and 61 independents.

Camp Fire Girls dedicated a newly planted tree in dedication ceremonies at their headquarters, 602 East Ponca, as Camp Fire Girls across the nation began a two-year conservation program.

School board members

created a new position to be called Supervisor of the Physical Education Program and employed Earl Sullins to fill the new job.

Community Chest Drive President T.C. Gravett reported the \$60,054 goal had been exceeded.

The City purchased a 400-horsepower diesel generator to be used on a stand-by basis in case of disaster such as tornado, bombing or raging fire.

In December, Ponca City's grocery stores voted to close on Sundays.

1959 — Clyde A. Muchmore and Keith K. Kinneberg, Po-Hi seniors, were among the five Oklahoma seniors named as honor award winners in the 18th annual Science Talent Search.

In February, dedication ceremonies were held at the Tracy W. Young Army Reserve Center, a new \$210,000 facility at 805 West Hartford.

Dick Bowman, former Ponca City and OU football star, was named head football coach at Ponca City High School.

A check station and residence featuring a drive-up window and canopy-type porch was completed at Lake Ponca. New parking regulations went into effect and overtime parking fines, if paid within 24 hours, were cut to 50 cents.

On March 1, Ponca City High School wrestlers took State Championship at a tournament in Perry. C.H. Sims and Joe Chamberlin won individual titles.

Firemen probed ruins of the Higdon Florist Conservatory Shop at Fourteenth and Grand

in an attempt to determine cause of a blaze that gutted part of the stone and glass building, doing an estimated \$50,000 damage.

Janie Bays, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Bays, was named Oklahoma's Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow.

Ground was broken in March for the new central dining hall at the American Legion Home School.

City Commissioners unanimously passed an ordinance that charged a \$20 fine for distribution of lewd literature.

Pat Schlesinger, water and light superintendent, presented a sample of the oil that city workers struck in the sewer lines on Circle Drive.

On April 7, 75 percent of Kay County voters voted in the repeal elections as the state put an end to 51 years of prohibition.

The city installed five of the new sirens for local disaster warning systems that were purchased by city and federal government. On April 17, warning sirens blew to signal the local Civil Defense disaster alert team. This was a grim rehearsal for a mock nuclear bomb attack on the United States.

Col. John D. Bristow, Tulsa, district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed Kaw Dam and Reservoir on the Arkansas River.

More than 30 people spoke at the hearing that lasted for three hours.

(See 1958, Page 11L)

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Legendary Po-Hi Coach Recounted Historic Year

Editor's Note: This 1983 article, by former Po-Hi Athletic Director, the late Earl Sullins, is reprinted here for this edition. Sullins reflects on some of the football players he coached, who fought and died in World War II. Coach Sullins has added some more notes about the teams.

**By EARL SULLINS
Former Wildcat Coach**

Siroccos swirled, drawing from the dry red clay road that was North Seventh Street just east of the Ponca City High School football field.

The temperature hovered at about 100 degrees but coach Delbert Carlile and I made no concession to the heat of those last dog days of August. In the stifling mid-morning and midafternoon sun, the Wildcats held two-a-day practices as scheduled.

A few days later, Sept. 1, in faraway Europe, Hitler sent his troops against Poland.

Little did we realize that those remote events were to change all our lives. All, because before World War II was over the team's three coaches and every single boy on the varsity squad would be in uniform.

It is to their memory that I relive the football season of 1939.

Game 1 — Ponca City vs. Newkirk

We were to play Newkirk only one more season because we had outgrown them, just as years later we outgrew most of our opponents.

The starting lineup included ends Jack Thomas and captain Warren Dailey, tackles Riley Hurst and Jack Ream, guards Harold Warren and Tracy Young, center Warren Witt and backs Harold Fisher, Charles Mertz, C.L. Schneider and Kirby Rider.

Early in the game Ponca City started from its own 40 and drove to the Newkirk 20. Mertz, on a sweep, was forced out of bounds at the 11. Rider, the 163-pound junior fullback carried over the middle for the touchdown. We missed the extra point and led 6-0.

In the second quarter, Schneider returned a punt 15 yards to the Tiger 45. Mertz hit Fisher on a 10-yard pass and a few running plays later the Wildcats were on the two. Schneider carried over from there and kicked the extra point. Score 13-0.

In the fourth quarter, Mertz ran 36 yards to score following a Newkirk fumble. Schneider converted. Score 20-0.

Later Wayne Morgan scored on a 26-yard dash. Final score 26-0.

Game 2 — Ponca City vs. Bartlesville

Early in the first half Ponca City moved into scoring range three times at the Bartlesville 25, 19 and 5, but fumbled on the first occasion and ran out of downs on the other two. In the final minutes of the half, Hurst intercepted a pass on the Bartlesville 38 and Ponca City advanced to the 11, but time expired.

In the second half, a bad center snap gave Bartlesville a safety. Late in the fourth period with the ball on the 45, Mertz passed to Schneider, who lateraled to Dailey, who scampered to the 23. On the next play Schneider rifled a pass to Jim Barnett, who sprinted down the sidelines to score. Final score 7-2.

Game 3 — Ponca City vs. Fairfax

The biggest player we were to face was Fairfax 310-pounder Henry Bolton. The other tackle was an Osage boy named Tallchief, a cousin of world famous ballerina Maria Tallchief.

After a slow first period, Schneider finally scored. I felt the first team was playing somewhat complacently, so I substituted our entire second team, which really had a diminutive backfield. Duane Moore, the 135-pound American Legion Home boy whose legs were a mass of scar tissue from burns in a childhood accident, quickly made two long runs for touchdowns. Bus West scored a 22-yard run and Morgan scored on a 33-yard run for the final touchdowns. Final score 34-0.

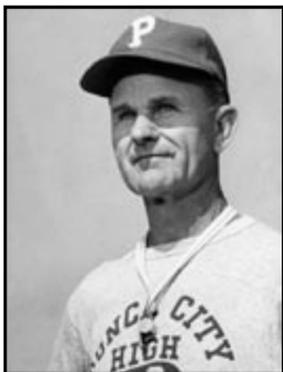
Game 4 — Ponca City vs. Pawhuska

Pawhuska easily won a post-season game against Miami in Skelly Stadium for the mythical state championship (There were no playoffs until 1944). The loss to us was the only one they sustained in two years. Their ace back, Ted Brunt, was the greatest high school running back I ever saw.

Pawhuska came into this game with a 15-game winning streak and Ponca City had not beaten the Huskies in five years.

Pawhuska controlled the half, threatening several times, Ponca City recovered a fumble on its own four but later misplayed a punt to give Pawhuska a safety. In the second period Ponca City stopped drives on the 15 and 8 yard lines.

In the second half, according to The News' account, "Ponca City unleashed an aerial and running attack that electrified the spectators." The Wildcats drove inside the 20 twice but failed to score. Finally late in the fourth quarter Ponca City recovered a fumble on the



Earl Sullins

Pawhuska 39. A pass to Barnett was good for 15 yards. Another completion to Mertz put the ball on the five. Two carries by Mertz finally carried over for the score. Final score 6-2.

It was a costly win. Triple-threat halfback Schneider left the game with a gash over one eye.

Fisher went out with a slight concussion and Dailey broke his leg.

I reached the hospital just as Dr. Vance was completing the cast on Dailey's leg. "Coach, I'll be ready for that Blackwell game (seven games later)." He was.

(Sullins has added a post script saying this was the only loss for Pawhuska in two years.)

Capt. Warren Daily broke the fibula in his leg in this game but came back to play in the two final games.

Game 5 — Ponca City vs. Brantford

Ponca City scored early in the third conference game against the Purple Pirates. Wayne Morgan intercepted a pass at the 45 and lateraled to Schneider who romped to the 12.

Four plays later Morgan scored from the four. The second Wildcat score, in the second period, came after tackle Pat Norris blocked a punt and Witt fell on it at the 35. After a 25-yard run by Mertz to the Enid 29 time ran out in the half.

In defending Enid, I used the theory that you meet strength with strength and let weakness take care of itself. Enid had two runners who were state champions in the hurdles and sprints. It was against this speed we set our defense and it worked in the first half. But Enid coach Perry McCoy, a former Oklahoma A&M quarterback, figured out what we were doing and in the second half started using his 200 pound fullback, a boy named Poindexter.

My failure to prepare our team to adjust to the inside running attack probably did not cost the game, but did, cost us the margin of defeat.

Behind Poindexter and a tough defense, Enid scored twice in the second half to hand Ponca City its first and only loss of the seasons.

Game 7 — Ponca City vs. Chandler

Even with some of the reserves playing in this game, Ponca City scored the first play from scrimmage when 145-pound Wilson Clark ran 63 yards. Later Duane Moore (135-pounds) sparked a drive and scored on a 26-yard run. In the second period, the Poncas scored on a sustained drive and a 5-yard run by Mertz.

The first team were spectators for the entire second half. Final score 25-6.

Game 8 — Ponca City vs. Perry
Coach "Hump" Daniels' record at Perry may never be equaled. His spinner formation was his own innovation and led his 1954 team to the No. 2 rank-

ing in the state. The 1939 team was undefeated but had 6-6 ties against both Enid and Ponca City. In the game we outplayed them and should have won.

In the second period I put in the second defense and Perry quickly drove into four-down territory. Even with the first defense back in Perry was able to score for a 6-0 lead. Early in the second half Ponca City scored what appeared to be the tying touchdown. However, the referee said Schneider's knee touched the ground on the one and awarded the ball to Perry there. (To this day Schneider says his knee did not touch the ground.)

But Perry had poor field position and Ponca City had two more chances to score in the half. After failing on fourth down from the one on the first series, Mertz finally scored from nine yards out on the second. Later Young recovered a fumble on the Perry 42 and Ponca City moved to the 31 only to fumble it back. Other than the scoring drive, Perry never crossed the

midstrie. Final score 6-6. (Sullins' post script noted the time game was the only flaw in Perry's undefeated season. Coach Daniels undefeated team previously beat Enid and two of the three Oklahoma City High Schools — none of them scored.)

Game 9 — Ponca City vs. Seminole

The Seminole games this year and the next were very physical. I think 6-5 Home Simmons, who later played at OU, was on Seminole's team. We had no mouthpieces, no face guards and even the wearing of headgear wasn't mandatory. As I remember some of them did not give much protection anyway.

Early in the game, Schneider returned a punt 55 yards for a touchdown. A short time later Schneider capped a drive from a yard out for a second score. After Seminole scored — with the help from a long pass — Barnett recovered a fumble on the Seminole 27. Schneider scored on the next play.

(See SULLINS, Page 11L)

Sullins Had Great Impact On Generations of Athletes

There have been many sports figures who have been important to the Ponca City area — but few can equal the impact that former Po-Hi coach and athletic director Earl Sullins made in his 98 years.

A measure of the esteem in which he is held is that the high school's football stadium has been known as Sullins Stadium since 1977, approximately 27 years before his death.

Mr. Sullins, as he was known to most of those whose lives he touched, attended and graduated from Red Rock High School and in 1931 he obtained his bachelor of arts degree at Central State Teachers College in Edmond.

After teaching a year at Paoli in southern Oklahoma, he began his career in Ponca City, teaching and coaching at the junior high school. He became the head high school coach in 1938.

His teaching was interrupted by World War II. He was named physical education director for the Army Air Corps during the war.

After the war he came back to Ponca City and resumed his position at the high school. In addition to his coaching duties, he eventually was named athletic director in He retired in 1971 at the age of 65, but con-

tinued to be a presence on the Ponca City sports scene.

His football record was 115-47-10 and he compiled the winningest record in the modern era of Po-Hi baseball. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame and the Ponca City Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Sullins basic philosophy of coaching was "That our team be respected on and off the football field" and "There are many values a boy can receive from football that he won't receive in the classroom."

He was feted in 1997, when he was 92, with a special Earl Sullins Tribute attended by many of his former players and coaches. Former Nebraska coach and congressman Tom Osborne was the principal speaker and Eddie Sutton of Oklahoma State was in attendance. Osborne's high school coach in Hastings, Neb., was Earl Appleby, a member of one of Sullins' teams.

Mr. Sullins never married, counting Ponca City High School athletes as his family.

He had a phenomenal memory and was a good resource for newspaper sports writers who were stumped on when something took place. He never hesitated with his answer. And during the tribute he corrected the speaker a time or two when

something was tied to the wrong year.

He continued his ties to Ponca City football until 2002, running the scoreboard during games at Sullins Stadium.

On July 16, 2004, an era ended when Mr. Sullins passed away. Funeral services were conducted by one of his players, Chuck Bowman, who was the retired director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

During his years as Po-Hi coach he coached 15 all-stars. Those included:

- Daily Oklahoman**
1939 — Warren Witt, center.
1940 — Kirby Rider, back, Tracy Young, guard.
1941 — Wally Edwards, guard, Bill Bothwell, back.
1946 — Al Prado, guard
1947 — Dick Powell, back.
1948 — Tom Catlin, center
1949 — Jack Wear, end
1950 — Ned Blass, tackle
1951 — Jim Krider, back; Tom Ross, tackle; Marty Bacon, center.
1952 — Delbert Long, back, Fred Clarke, tackle.
1953 — Chuck Bowman, tackle, Gene Mullin, center.
1954 — Roy Boring, back, Wesley Jordan, guard.
Tulsa World
1940 — Wally Officer, back.
1948 — Dick Bowman, tackle.
1949 — Gene Nicks, tackle.

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Following the Land Run of 1893, Baptists longed for a place of worship. In 1899, John K. Brown helped the group organize and meet in a school building at Sixth and Grand. The congregation dreamt of a building of their own and soon a little white church was constructed.

It had no electricity or plumbing. The baptistery was filled by running a garden hose from the house next door. In warm weather baptisms took place in the Salt Fork River.



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Conoco Expansion Highlighted the Year 1960

In 1960 Continental Oil announced that it would construct a million dollar petrochemical plant, with an annual capacity of more than 20 million gallons of cyclohexane, which is used primarily as a raw material in the manufacture of nylon.

The Red Cross Blood Bank announced plans to provide donors for open-heart surgery patients.

The Ponca City Traffic Authority approved a plan to limit traffic around the Pioneer Woman Monument to one way.

Vern and William Eubank, co-owners of the new Ben Franklin Store, held a three-day grand opening.

Ponca City's Jerrie Cobb received the 1959 "Woman of the Year in Aviation" trophy. She also was selected as one of 12 candidates to be the first woman in space.

A new Photostat machine was installed at the police department to make accurate copies of bogus checks, mug shots, fingerprints and accident reports.

Five Po-Hi seniors were named finalists in the 1959-60 National Merit Scholarship competition: Marilyn Clark, Delores Kester, Karen Padgett, Stephen Wittmer, and Boyd Christensen.

Construction began on West Junior High. The board of education decided to amend the plans and build a storm shelter under the auditorium.

Lee Knight, traffic engineer, announced that right turns on red lights after stop would go into effect at almost all of the city's signalized intersections. The first intersections with the new signs were Cleveland and Central.

On Feb. 24, more than 1,700 Northern Oklahoma citizens went to the Capitol to plead with Gov. Edmondson to "Fix Highway 60 in '60."

The Ponca City Wildcat wrestling team walked away with its second straight state championship.

A group of Ponca City bankers and businessmen purchased the entire capital stock of First National Bank of Kaw City.

About 300 high school students participated in the 1960 Pon-Dram Panic and 50 more helped in the planning and preparation of the all-school production, "Thoro-Fair."

A new historic marker was installed at Cowboy Hill just south of the Salt Fork River on Oklahoma State Highway 156, honoring the 101 Ranch. Scores of youngsters

thronged to Lake Ponca Park to hunt for 17,000 Easter eggs hidden by members of American Business Club.

There were 400 American Legion and Auxiliary members registered for the 33rd annual Home School Day that was highlighted by the opening of the new \$72,900 dining hall at the Legion Home School.

As the only CONELRAD station in North Central Oklahoma, WBBZ furnished area residents with Civil Defense information for 30 minutes on May 3, when all other AM and FM radio stations and TV stations were off the air.

Ponca City's 1960 unofficial preliminary census population was 24,266. The Census Bureau reported that the number of housing units had increased 25 percent since 1950.

Ponca City's beauty shop operators won their battle for the right to operate shops in residential areas.

Members of the Planning Commission unanimously approved the location of the Hutchins Memorial in North Park.

Mr. Hutchins' widow left \$500,000 in her will for a tribute to her husband, and the city contributed \$75,000. Plans were made to landscape a portion of the north end of North Park to enhance the new building. City commissioners approved the contract with John D. Forsyth, Tulsa architect, for drawings of the building.

Gordon Holland purchased Dreyfus Janitor Supply in May. He had managed the C.R. Anthony store for ten years.

In June, Mayor Jennings, and new city commissioners Clark and Whiting approved Maurice H. DeFord Jr. as municipal judge, Marland Johnson as city attorney, and Ralph Bowman as city treasurer.

Jack Bowker, owner of the Jack Bowker Ford Co. in Blackwell, purchased the Parkinson Motor Company from Ted Parkinson.

Ponca City Jaycees launched a safety campaign by painting orange "X" marks on city streets at locations of personal injury traffic accidents.

Tents spotted the pageant area at Lake Ponca in late June as 16 local amateur radio operators began a 24-hour test under simulated disaster conditions. During the around-the-clock operation, they contacted many other stations in and outside of the U.S.

Oklahoma Natural Gas introduced an artificial odor into gas lines to aid users in detecting leaks.

In July, Conoco announced plans for a \$2.5 million expansion of the research and development facilities in Ponca City. Plans were to double the size of the main research lab and add 135 scientific personnel in the next five years.

More than 1,500 people signed a petition calling for an election to amend the city charter. The amendment would restrict the use of parks within the city limits.

Ponca City Traffic Authority approved plans to install a drive-up mail deposit box and a drop-in box for payment of city bills on Sixth Street, just east of the Civic Center.

Merchants sponsored the city's first "Crazy Days," which was like a sidewalk sale. Employees dressed in bizarre costumes and sold merchandise at bargain prices.

Former Po-Hi and OSU wrestling stars, Doug Blubaugh and Shelby Wilson were named to the U.S. Olympic team. They each won a gold medal at the Rome Olympics. A special welcome home was Sept. 15 - "Wilson-Blubaugh Day."

Dignitaries included Lt. Gov. George Nigh; Allan Muchmore, Chamber of Commerce president; Mayor Jennings, and coaches who had worked with the Olympic winners, plus about 2,000 fans.

On the opening night of the RCA world championship rodeo in August, Mayor Jennings issued a calf-roping challenge to area mayors, including those from Blackwell, Newkirk, Tonkawa, Kaw City, Stillwater and Perry.

Glenn W. Peel, rancher and oilman, was elected wagon train boss for the 101 Ranch Memorial Trail Ride. It started at the Kansas line and wound up in Ponca City on opening night of the Cherokee Strip Rodeo in September.

James Garner, movie and TV star, arrived in Ponca City to attend the Cherokee Strip celebration, appear at the rodeo, and ride in the parade.

More than 20,000 spectators lined Grand Avenue to watch the three-mile-long rodeo parade. Capacity crowds filled the rodeo arena for three nights. Officials extended the rodeo one more day and held another full performance for ticket holders who couldn't get a seat for the earlier shows.

In November, Lawrence S. Cannon, president of Kaw Dam and Reservoir Development Assn., was one of four Oklahomans appointed by President-elect Kennedy to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee.

On Nov. 22, Ponca City voters approved an \$885,000 bond issue for new generating equipment at the power plant. Voters rejected a proposal to construct a municipal hospital for \$575,000, using the memorial money from Mrs. Hutchins.

1961 - Work began to prepare the municipal power plant for the new generating unit. Seven tons of concrete were blasted from the old base to be replaced with a new base to hold the 5,800-kilowatt generator.

The city limits was extended to include 15 acres at the northwest edge of town, west of Ash and south of Hartford. On the northeast side, the Woodlands subdivision was brought into the city, adding 144 acres.

Signal lights were installed at Fourteenth and Hartford.

In a special election, voters approved the north seven acres of War Memorial Park for the location of the Hutchins Memorial.

Representatives of the V.F.W. and owners of property near Wentz Camp met with city commissioners to discuss the possibility of getting city treated water.

In March, supporters of the Kaw Dam and Reservoir attended a meeting in Tulsa of the Arkansas Basin Development Assn. The governors of Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma were present.

Conoco announced it would

build a \$775,000 three-story building to house the new central computer department and process center.

A gas accumulation in a muffler at the municipal electric plant was blamed for an explosion that rocked the northwest portion of the city. Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

On May 1, Jack Mertz took the oath of office as city commissioner of public property, replacing Perry Whiting.

E.M. Trout was elected president of the board of education. He had been a member for 33 years and president since 1942.

L.W. "Brownie" Brown was appointed Lake Ponca patrolman.

The Traffic Authority recommended that traffic lights be installed at South Avenue and Seventh Street. They also requested "No Parking" signs in the 100 block of South Fifth Street.

Construction began on the first segment of a new road on the west side of Lake Ponca.

Members of the Hon-Pe-Aika (Moccasin people) interpretive Indian dancers of Wichita stopped at Ponca City on a canoe trip down the Arkansas River. They were headed to Fort Gibson. They presented Mayor Jennings with a letter

from the Wichita mayor, publicizing the Kansas Centennial Celebration.

An anonymous phone call to WBBZ resulted in the recovery of 120 sticks of dynamite. The badly decomposed explosives were pulled from rock crevices near a quarry a mile from Uncas. The dynamite was believed to have been stolen about a year ago.

The Public Health Service area office in Dallas approved final plans and bids for the \$1.6 million addition to the Ponca City hospital. Ground-breaking was set for June 25.

Francis Eagle, grandson of Chief White Eagle, was named chairman of the 1961 Ponca Indian Powwow.

On July 1, Robert I. Spray announced his purchase of Spray's Jewelry and Gifts at 210 East Grand. He had been manager for 16 years.

Kay County's unemployment rate was reported lowest of any of Oklahoma's major labor markets, with 19,000 working and 725 jobless.

Southwestern Bell completed delivery of 14,838 new telephone directories.

Kay County's assessed valuation was \$75,578,600, third highest in the state. Only Oklahoma and Tulsa counties had higher valuations.

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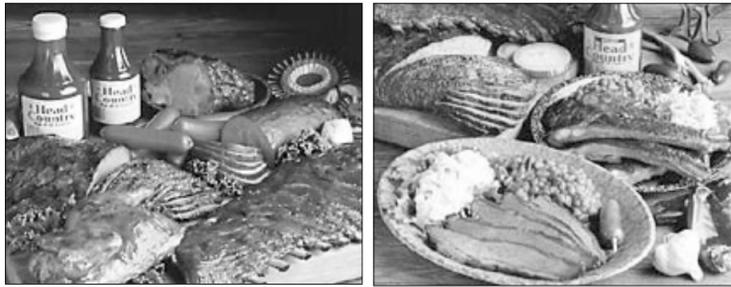
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Worship Service:
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1958

(Continued From Page 8L)

On May 4, Forrest Jennings officially took over the reins of the city from former mayor I.H. Needham.

Edwards Implement Co. held an open house at its new building on 401 South First. Another open house was at Kay Office Supply in their new building at 418 East Cleveland.

On May 27, Mayor Jennings ousted City Manager Frank Winsted and demoted Police Chief Don Thurber. He named Earl Lane as interim chief of police and Leon Nelson as interim city manager. He reminded commissioners and staff that the city charter identifies the mayor as the authority governing appointment of key personnel.

The drive to secure funds for a new wing to the Ponca City Hospital received a boost of \$100,000 from Conoco and \$25,000 from Cities Service Oil Company.

Baker Furniture held an open house at its new location at Fourth Street and Cleveland.

Marvin Hatcher retired as the planning commission chairman, after serving 24 years.

Officers confiscated four slot machines in an attempt to break up a syndicate's attempt to set up gambling operations.

D.J. Donahoe presented petitions at the city commissioners meeting on July 21, asking for the recall of Commissioners Luther Miller and Fred Dowling.

City Commissioners approved a five-day work week for members of the Ponca City Fire Department.

The Junior Safety Patrol program received 110 new safety patrol belts to be used by the 500 students who took part in the safety program.

In August, Ponca City celebrated the oil industry centennial week with events planned by the Oklahoma Petroleum Council.

Local liquor dealers rushed to be ready to open their stores at 10 a.m. Sept. 1.

On Sept. 8, a recall election brought out a record number of voters. Perry Whiting and Robert Clark defeated Luther Miller and Fred Dowling as commissioners of public property and finance.

Robert Spray, president, announced the Community Chest budget of \$80,464.

C.E. Norton, city treasurer, began his 41st year as a city employee.

In September, Leon Nelson was officially appointed as city manager and Earl Lane was named chief of police.

Kay County cities shared in the first allocation of the Oklahoma alcoholic beverage tax revenue in September. Ponca City's share was \$12,641.

City workers completed the smooth concrete crosswalks at the Third and Grand intersection. They requested public comments before they repaired other intersections.

International Milling Co., producer of Robin Hood flour, closed permanently.

Mrs. Lillie Burkhart presented a collection of Indian costumes to the Indian Museum at the Ponca City Library.

In November, State Junior Chamber of Commerce members arrived for a three-day State board meeting, headquartered at the Jens-Marie Hotel.

The Women's National Aeronautical Association awarded Jerrie Cobb a trophy as Aviation Woman of the Year.

The Community Chest drive went over the top with \$81,007 in cash and pledges.

In December, Chickasha Mobile Homes announced it was ready to move into Darr School and would begin production in January with 100 employees.

The Traffic Authority voted to institute right turn on red light movement at most of the city's signalized intersections.

Bert Long, 111 North Eleventh Street, was first place winner in the Christmas lighting contest. Terry Jamison, 1700 El Camino was second, and Dr. V.C. Merrifield, 707 East Overbrook, was third.

Sullins

(Continued From Page 9L)

With the three extra-point kicks, Schneider accounted for all 21 points the Wildcats scored.

Game 10 — Ponca City vs. Guthrie

This game reminds me of our game two years later with Guthrie when we took an eight-game winning streak in and lost 14-13. This time the 14 was ours. Guthrie had a fine halfback in Bo Winninger, who later became a great golf pro.

Guthrie scored first on a 29-yard pass from Winninger to Dickerson and Myers kicked the extra point. Later Ponca City threatened after recovering a fumble. Ponca City drove to the five, but fumbled.

Guthrie upped the score to 13-0 when Winninger ran 61 yards

to score, but Myers missed the extra point.

In the fourth quarter, an exchange of punts gave Ponca City the ball on the Bluejays' 39. When two running plays netted only one yard, Mertz passed to Schneider for 27 yards to the 11. Rider gained a yard and Mertz calmly threw a short pass to Fisher in the end zone. Schneider's kick was good. Final score 14-13.

Game 11 — Ponca City vs. Blackwell

Blackwell was a real power in high school football from 1924 (tying Tulsa Central for No. 1 in the state that year) until World War II. It was their glory years. The first meeting between Ponca City and Blackwell was in 1911. After a break

in 1913, the series resumed in 1914 and continued for 52 years. It was an annual Thanksgiving Day Classic with a tradition you could not understand unless you were a part of it.

The early part of the game was a kicking battle until Schneider intercepted a Blackwell pass and behind a screen of blockers dashed 77 yards to score. Breathing heavily, he missed the extra point.

Blackwell resorted to a bit of trickery for its first score — the old hideout play. Tom Turvey had not gone to the huddle, but crouched down near the sideline against a backdrop of speculators. Blackwell rushed over the ball and Virgil Elliott quickly threw the ball to Turvey who ran unmolested 61 yards to tie the score.

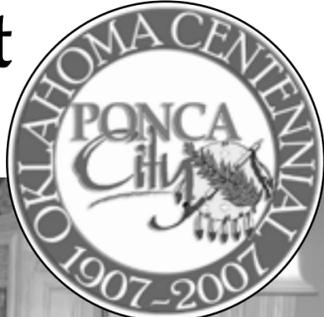
On the next series Ponca City fumbled and Blackwell recovered on the Wildcat 24. On the first play of the second period, Elliott passed to end Angelo Vaughn in the end zone. Thurman Garrett kicked the extra point.

Ponca City had several scoring opportunities after that including a five-yard pass from Schneider to Jack Thomas in the end zone that was nullified by a penalty.

The scoring play came on fourth down with Schneider passing to Mertz, who scooted across the goal line. Schneider kicked the extra point. Final score 13-13.

The Wildcats, who were rated in the the Top 10 at various times during the year, finished 8-1-2.

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Newkirk

(Continued From Page 7L)

By 1901 there were 20 imposing stone structures in the downtown area. Most of these were built of native limestone quarried east of the community. Three banks conducted a brisk exchange and each had an impressive building in which to transact business. The most imposing structure was the Eastman National Bank complete with turrets and spires.

Every community is judged by the appearance of its commercial buildings, and Newkirk is no exception. The merchants and businessmen who settled here had dreams that Newkirk would emerge as a great urban center. Those taking lots in the commercial district of Newkirk immediately began construction of impressive native limestone structures. Their buildings could actually be construed as personal monuments of the owner such as Columbia, Stanley, Thomas and Endicott. The territorial period of growth in Newkirk, as in all communities throughout Oklahoma, utilized the building material close at hand, which for Newkirk was the native limestone.

Several rock quarries were conveniently located in the immediate vicinity, and thus contractors took advantage of this beautiful building resource. Most of these quarries were located east of Newkirk along the banks of the Arkansas River.

Historic Downtown Newkirk's entire business district was added to the National Register as an historic district in 1984. Newkirk has the most intact streetscape in the State of Oklahoma according to the Oklahoma Preservation Office. This is due to the fact that during the latter periods of economic growth, any constructions completed took place outside the confines of the downtown area. The building owners left with vacant buildings did nothing to modernize or destroy the historic buildings.

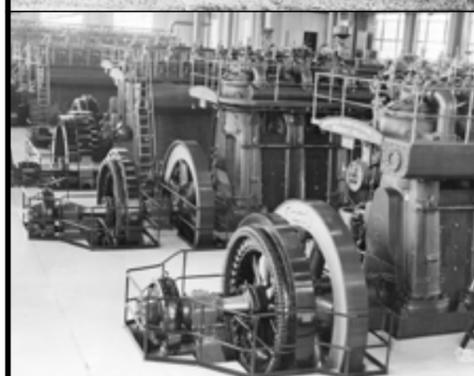
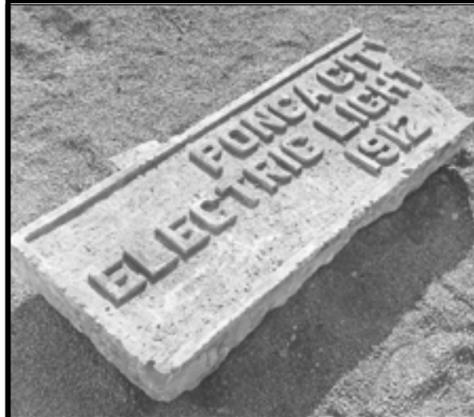
Although architecture in many parts of the United States is reflective of a true architectural style, Oklahoma's buildings often lack such "purity" and instead contain elements of various styles. Because of the manner in which Oklahoma was settled by people from many different regions of the United States, many different building ideas are often represented. Also, due often to the lack of formally trained architect or engineer, a building may represent several styles that were adapted not only to climate but available local materials.

Newkirk's limestone buildings, constructed from 1893 to 1907, basically reflect what is sometimes called a Plains Romanesque or Territorial Style. This style is characterized by decorative details. The storefronts consisted of huge plate glass windows topped by clerestories or transoms such as on the Brown Building. Two of these limestone buildings

constructed about 1907 reflect the classical revival style characterized as stately structures which may often have columns, pilasters and pediments such as the Farmers National Bank and the First National Bank.

The brick buildings fall into the Plains Commercial, the Spanish Revival, and even one Art Deco. The Plains Commercial is very prevalent all over Oklahoma, and are often rather square box type buildings with very little ornamentation. The Nelson-O'Neil Building is a perfect example of the Plains Commercial. The Cline Building is the only Art Deco building in Newkirk. The Edicott Hotel and the Hardy building are both examples of the Spanish Revival style.

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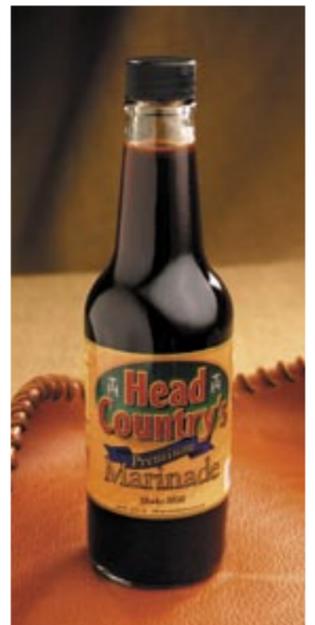
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