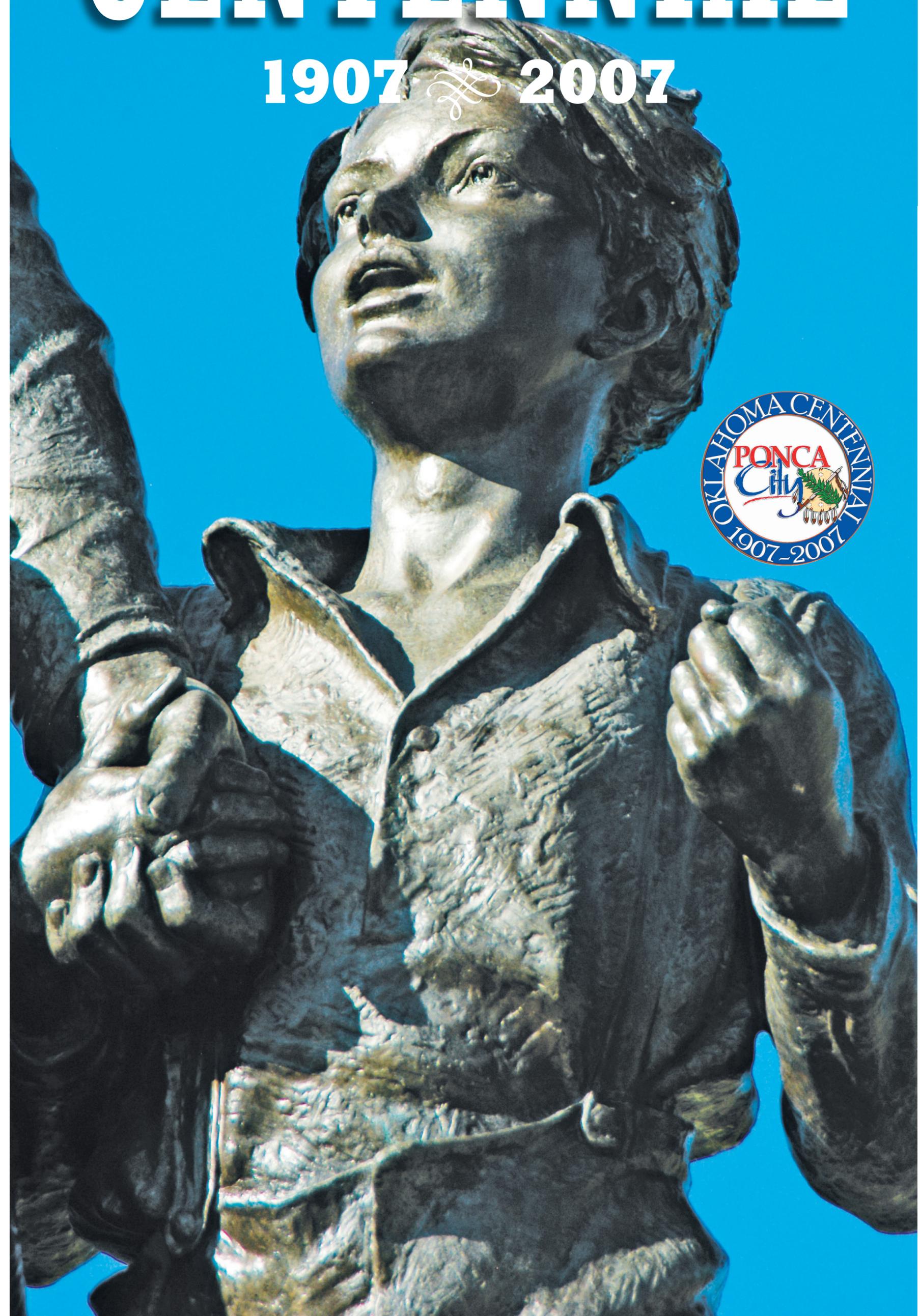
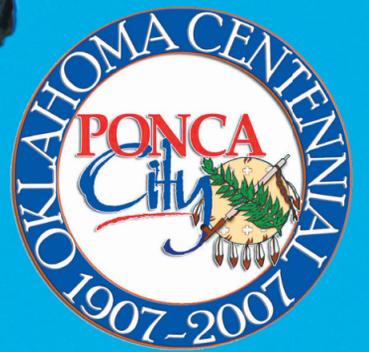


Oklahoma CENTENNIAL

1907  2007





BRAMAN, established in 1898, was well located and soon became a thriving village of steady growth until the discovery of oil, when it really boomed. This is an aerial view of Braman, taken in 1957, looking north.

Braman Saga Began in 1898 Before Railroad Completed

Editor's Note: Some of the following information was recorded by Mrs. Joe Crow

BRAMAN — The Town of Braman was started in the early months of 1898 even before the railroad was completed to the proposed townsite.

A town was started at Rock Falls where the early settlers forded the river, but when the railroad missed it, the town was not developed.

Three men who promoted the railroad, Braman, Templeton and Whittler, solicited donations from surrounding farmers and bought 80 acres of the Sam Garrison homestead, surveyed and plotted it for a townsite.

The man, Mr. Braman, (given name not known) who surveyed and plotted the townsite was a railroad surveyor who also had surveyed the railroad route, and he named the place Braman.

The first building and business were moved from Rock Falls by Bert Payne who had operated the store at Rock Falls since soon after the opening.

The town was well located and soon became a thriving village of steady growth until the discovery of oil, when it really boomed.

A patent was issued on Aug. 1, 1898, to Samuel L. Garrison on the West Half of the Northwest Quarter Section 8, Township 28 North, Range one West of the Indian Meridian, in Oklahoma.

Garrison filed on this land for townsite purposes and on April 22, 1898, he filed a plat of the Townsite of Braman.

An election was held on Oct. 26, 1898, by the voters of this land for the purpose of asking to have the town incorporated.

The request was presented to the Commissioners of "K" County and the town was duly incorporated.

Camp McFadden Extends Local Camp Fire Tradition

Camp McFadden continues to expand and grow and this Centennial year 2007 has been no exception.

The installation of an above ground swimming pool, additional cabin improvements, the construction of handicapped accessible cabins by the AMBUCS, and the first Outdoor Expo were some of the highlights of 2007.

In addition, the camp continues to show record reservations of the facilities for family reunions, scout and wildlife camps, weddings, and church groups.

Formerly a Camp Fire camp for many years, Camp McFadden is now a multi-purpose recreational area run by a non-profit board of directors. Located on the west shore of Kaw Lake, the facility has been renovated and updated with the help of many hours of volunteer time over the past four years.

The camp boasts a lodge which will seat well over one hundred with a large kitchen facility perfect for cooking for a large group.

Adelines Originated In Oklahoma

Oklahoma is the birthplace of the Sweet Adelines. The organization grew from its small beginnings in Tulsa in 1947 to an international order of almost 500 active chapters and a membership of 20,000 women in 1969.

Sweet Adelines, Inc. was a non-profit-independent service organization of women dedicated to the art of singing, teaching and enjoying four-part barbershop harmony.

Chapters existed throughout the United States, Canada and the Panama Canal Zone. Sweet Adelines offer specialized talent for entertainment at civic events and charitable functions.

In addition, the group strives to promote harmony — both vocally and spiritually — among all women.

Members maintained and supported a staffed international headquarters at Tulsa. The organization published its own magazine, musical arrangements and instructional items. International conventions and regional meetings are held annually.

One quartet was organized in 1969 called the Lizabeths. The local chapter was directed by Darlene Lewis in 1969. Officers were Linda Bacher, president; Liz Johnson, vice president; Norma Lockwood, recording secretary; Kathy Zehr, corresponding secretary and Eva Sayles, treasurer.

For more information call 765-6829, 762-5233, or 762-2885.

Do you want to camp, but not in a tent? Six cabins sleep 10 people each and the bath house has men's and women's showers and other bathroom facilities. In addition, two handicapped accessible cabins are being constructed with the help of the AMBUCS and students in the construction trades department of Pioneer Tech. Anticipated completion of the cabins is spring 2008.

If camping is more to your liking, Camp McFadden has RV electrical hook-ups with 30 amp service and places to pitch a tent.

Other activities include a challenge course, fishing pond, canoe pond, horse corral, picnicking areas and miles of hiking trails over the camps 250 acres.

This facility is perfect for a family just looking for an overnight get-away or a large group wanting a family reunion.

The challenge course with high and low ropes helps people overcome fears and creates team building opportunities for organizations and companies.

Local families who would like to have use of the camp during the day for hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities can do so with an annual Day Use Membership. For \$100 donation per year this membership includes use of the facilities during the day and discounts on facility rentals for two parents, minor children and up to two guests.

Future plans include a volleyball court, disc golf, softball field, soccer field and archery range.

To help finance these additions to Camp McFadden, the board is currently selling bricks and stones to create a plaza around the flag pole

overlooking Kaw Lake. Bricks are \$50 and stones are \$100, \$200 and \$300 depending upon the size of the stone. Each can have engraving with the donors name or other information desired.

The board is also interested in offering a summer camp program next summer and is looking for an individual interested in helping to organize and run some one-week sessions for area youth.

Visitors are invited to drop by the camp and visit with Camp Host Tim Arnswald. He can give a tour of the facility or visitors can just drive through. The grounds are open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Camp McFadden is located on Kaw Lake. It is approximately eight miles east of the Pioneer Woman on Lake Road to Sun 'n Fun Waterpark. Turn left (north) on Silverdale across from the Waterpark and go north until it dead ends at Hartford. Turn right (east) and enter through the Camp McFadden gate on the left.

Members of the board include: J.D. Raulin, president; Craig Barker, treasurer; and Pat Foy, secretary. Other board members are Rebecca Blakeburn, Ron Buck, Ben Cavett, Cheryl Cavett, Maggie Miller, Wayne Mitchell, Sharon Moreau, Bill Rutz, John Sutton, Kathy Tippin and F.G. Williams.

To rent the facilities contact Cheryl Cavett at 580-762-9955 or e-mail campmcfadden@poncacity.net. Individuals wanting to find out how they can help with Camp improvements should contact Sharon Moreau at 765-5532. To make a financial donation contact Craig Barker, 765-2337 or Pat Foy, 762-5177.

News Descended From Early Day Newspapers

Editor's Note: Reprinted in part from the Oct. 12, 1975, and Oct. 16, 1993, editions of The News.

Proud of your ancestors? So are we.

The Ponca City News "descended" from as lusty and red-blooded a pair of pioneers as you could find anywhere in the Cherokee Strip.

First came the Ponca City Democrat, which "made the run" and had its first home in a tent.

Soon it had a two-fisted rival, the Ponca City Courier.

Both survived the early day hardships to make names for themselves in the Cherokee Strip with their violently partisan politics and their unabashed rendering of the news.

The Ponca City News was born of their union a week after Armistice Day, 1918. The merger ended a rivalry of a quarter-century, spanning the Opening, Statehood and World War I.

Allen C. Smith of Davis County, Pa., printed the first issue of his Democrat on Sept. 14, 1883, at Arkansas City. He and his assistant, Vince Dillon, distributed the paper in Ponca City on Sept. 16. Smith had made the run with the B.S. Barnes townsite group.

Smith and Dillon published thereafter, with "offices" in a tent furnished with bales of hay. This historic site was at what is now First and Cleveland. Later Smith occupied a building at 109 South Second, then a frame structure on North Third. When Smith became postmaster in 1912 the Democrat became the work of other publishers, including J.V. "Daddy" Mowder.

Meanwhile, pioneer Republicans looked for editorial support, notably lacking in the partisan "Democrat." In the fall 1893, Bion Hutchins, head of Ponca City's first board of trade, interested Elbert W. Hoyt of Lyons, Kan., in publishing a paper as rabidly Republican as Smith's publication was Democrat. The Ponca City Courier was born.

Other papers came and went in Cross, Ponca City and surrounding communities, but the Democrat and Courier held their commanding lead. In 1905, the Courier boasted 1,750 subscribers; the Democrat 1,200.

The Courier published the city's daily. Hutchins had sold his interest in 1893, returning to his profession of teaching. Hoyt started the Daily Courier in 1897, and built its circulation to 500 by 1905. In 1900, the weekly Courier was turned over to William H. Hornaday.

In 1907, both Hornaday and Hoyt sold out to Col. L.D. Headley. Headley and his sons, Will and Henry, continued to publish first a weekly and then both a weekly and daily under the name of the Courier Publishing Company.

The Ponca City Democrat, which had bought out another early publishing effort, the Times, also was publishing daily when the papers were merged in 1918.

Violent political wars were waged in the columns of the two papers. The rival publishers, courteous and friendly on social occasions, dealt each other bitter blows in print.

Publishing on a shoestring with hand presses and handset type, the two early papers had a precarious existence — in more ways than one. Readers took their journalism seriously in those days, and threats of violence sometimes harassed the frank and forthright editors.

The doughty publishers shrugged and continued "to call 'em as they saw 'em."

Money was a scare item among the pioneers, and subscriptions were often paid for in potatoes, chickens or fruit. Headley had bad luck, he was often paid off in vegetables, he

didn't like. Always the gentleman, he accepted the offending onions and turnips, then secretly gave them away.

By the time Richard M. Elam, then co-publisher of the Enid News, bought and merged the two papers, oil had changed the publishing picture in Ponca City.

Discoveries in the area had brought mushrooming growth to the city; growing circulation and daily publication demanded faster publishing techniques and bigger papers. Both publications had invested in more modern equipment.

The Ponca City News was introduced to its readers with a special edition in December 1918. It was published on a 12-page Duplex, a flat-bed press which was slow, rickety and undependable but still capable of turning out more and bigger papers faster than the hand presses of earlier days.

Clyde E. Muchmore came to Ponca City in 1919 as city editor and co-owner of the paper. It was a time of burgeoning growth for Ponca City, with Marland Oil Company building and adding to its offices and refineries.

Muchmore assumed full charge of The News in the summer of 1919 when Elam left to run the Pawhuska paper. Under Muchmore's direction, the paper soon outgrew his quarters at 117 North Third, and the building at Third and Cleveland was completed in 1924. Two years later another major investment facilitated printing of more and bigger copies of The Ponca City News. A 16-page Duplex press was installed in The News basement. This press, kept in top operating condition, served until growing circulation again promoted The News to invest in a larger, faster model. The new 20-page Goss tubular press went into operation; the old press was sold to a Texas publisher.

From 1919 until 1951, Muchmore operated The Ponca City Publishing Co. as a corporation. On May 15, 1951, he and his two sons, Gareth and Allan Muchmore, formed a partnership, known as Ponca City Publishing Company.

The paper grew and prospered steadily under Muchmore's direction. Of course, there were lean years — notably during the thin "30s," when barter again took prominent place in Ponca City's economy and farm produce or salable junk were gladly accepted in exchange for a newspaper subscription. Like other local businesses, The News survived more on grit than income, and with mutual confidence, Ponca Citians and various firms, "carried each other along."

During Muchmore's 40 years as a publisher, The News circulation increased fivefold; the paper twice won state fair sweepstakes and numerous other awards, but, more important, it established a reputation for mature and responsible journalism. Muchmore himself, well known in civic, church, and charitable work both locally and on a statewide basis, won wide professional recognition.

He served as president of the

Oklahoma Press Association and the Associated Press Editorial Association, and served as a director of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Associations.

Courier Name Survived
For many years the name of the old Courier survived in the News-Courier printery. It was operated by the Ponca City Publishing Company until its sale in 1954 to Claude Braudrick, a former News employee. The company still operates the local radio station, WBBZ, purchased in 1949.

Clyde E. Muchmore died Nov. 5, 1959. A son, Gareth Muchmore, died Sept. 22, 1983. He was editor of the paper at that time.

Editor's Note: Since this article was reprinted in the 1993 Cherokee Strip Centennial edition, many changes have occurred. The following material has been updated to reflect those changes.

Allan W. Muchmore, the remaining son, was editor and publisher of The News until his death in 1987.

Allan's son, Tom Muchmore, has been editor and publisher since 1997.

From its pioneer ancestors, The Ponca City News inherited a tradition of forthright independence. Clyde Muchmore developed and strengthened this with his determination to be "fair to both sides," and his deep sense of community responsibility.

It was in keeping with that tradition of growth with a growing community that Gareth and Allan Muchmore embarked on the expansion program completed in August 1975. This project moved The News a block north physically and about a century forward technologically.

The news processors, revolutionary to the printers and pressmen who perform the mechanical task of a newspaper, left unchanged the principals of journalism, and the importance of complete, accurate information.

And the end result was still The Ponca City News.

The format changes kept the emphasis on local news, combined with interesting features and a front page paying homage to the state, national and international interests of Ponca City's cosmopolitan population.

Into the 21st Century
In the 32 years since 1975, The News has fully immersed into the computer age. Gone are the days of "hot lead," reading upside down and backwards, pasteup and cut and paste.

Stories are written, edited stored and "pagnated" on computers that could only be imaged 30 years before.

Ponca City Publishing became the major provider of Internet service as that mode of communication exploded on the scene, and still remains a major local provider of Web services.

Going into the second century of Oklahoma statehood, The News continues to be committed the the highest of journalistic standards and service to the community.

TPI Staffing Began in 1989

TPI Staffing Services, Inc. began April 1st, 1989. TPI Staffing Service is a staffing agency that offers companies an affordable option to the traditional vehicle of finding and hiring employees.

TPI Staffing Service, Inc. was set in motion by Kathy Janes and continues to be operated by her. Janes was a stay-at-home mom who supplemented the family income by taking temporary jobs. As her reputation as a reliable temp grew, the demand for her skills become so great she began to see a need she could fill.

Her vision then and today was and now is to strive to be the leader in the employment industry with skilled employees and progressive services for all the clients' satisfaction.

Due to her customer service and ability to match the right person to the right job, Kathy expanded her business to Ponca City.

Ponca City proved to be full of opportunity and Kathy and the TPI Staff are proud to be part of the Ponca City community.

TPI Staffing is a 100 percent woman owned company.

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THE KAY COUNTY JAIL as it looked in 1904. (Photo provided by Karen Dye)



W.H. MCCAMANT of Newkirk was the contractor for the construction of the county jail which began in January 1894. The jail was a stone structure 24 feet by 42 feet. The sheriff's office was located in the front of the building with three steel cells costing \$612.50 and three wooden cages in the back. The construction cost was \$3,062.50. The citizens were unhappy about the location of the jail. By April of 1894 a grand jury had investigated the jail and gave several recommendations which included: Serving food three times a day instead of two; dusting the floor, and fixing deficient bedding. The grand jury recommended that cots be used instead of hammocks hanging from the walls and that blankets needed to be provided. In late April of 1894, four inmates escaped and were never found despite efforts by the sheriff and his posse of four. As a result a new jailer was appointed. (Information and photo provided by Karen Dye)

Schools, Parents Pondered Question of Kindergarten in 1962

During 1962, the Board of Education sought parents' opinions about kindergarten in the schools and a hot lunch program.

J. Win Payne was reelected school superintendent, a position he had held since 1946.

The Post Office consolidated its services; all postal transactions, including money orders, were transferred to the front windows.

Gov. J. Howard Edmondson contacted The Ponca City News to report that, rather than removing the famous oil derricks that loom over Oklahoma's Capitol Building, the state would "dress up and preserve" them. "Now, please tell your readers. Spare those letters," Edmondson requested. Earlier, in an editorial, The News had proposed letters to the governor and others, protesting removal of the derricks. They were installed in the 1930s when E.W. Marland was governor and discovered oil on the capital grounds.

Four local drug stores — Buck Rowe's, Humes Rexall, Northcutt's Rexall, and Walker's Walgreen — agreed to alternate being open on Sundays, with one staying open each week.

On Feb. 27, Army engineers of the Board of Rivers and Harbors approved the \$78 million Kaw Reservoir project on the Arkansas River. Sens. Kerr and Monroney announced they would try to get Congress authorization this year to provide planning funds. Kaw Dam boosters were jubilant. Army engineers planned to allot more of the water in the proposed Kaw reservoir for local uses, but they wanted more of the costs picked up by local interests. Engineers estimated actual work would begin on the project in five years, assuming Congress approved.

Joe Boylan filed as a candidate for mayor. A week later, Clifford Maple, Leonard Sherbon, and Fred Oliver also filed.

Bell Telephone Co. had a three-day open house at its new building in late March. As a salute, Andersen's Shoe Store, Troy Cleaners, Holland Janitor Supply and Braudrick Printery, businesses in the immediate area, held open houses too.

On April 3, Joe Boylan was elected mayor by a landslide vote. Voters rejected two proposed charter amendments and approved one, that of lifting residence requirements of city department heads.

McKinley Eagle resigned as chairman of the Ponca Tribal Council and member of the Ponca Tribal business committee. He had worked for the Public Health Service of the Division of Indian Affairs since 1957, but according to the service's policy, no employee is allowed to participate in tribal affairs. Eagle was the oldest living Ponca Indian tribal councilman, a hereditary chief, and had been on the council since 1932. His

position was to be left vacant until the policy could be challenged.

J.D. and Downing Johnson of the local Softwater Service accompanied officials of interested companies to the Codding Armour Research Ranch near Foraker. Considerable progress had been made in a two-year testing program of soft water as an aid to fattening beef.

The City Commission appointed L.A. Farmer, R.L. Bosworth, Mrs. Paul T. Powell, Mrs. Fred Dowling, Mrs. Frank Searcy, and Mrs. Allan Muchmore to the Hutchins Memorial Board.

The Chamber conducted a search for Ponca City's friendliest, most courteous employee. More than 600 names were submitted and 27,000 ballots were cast. Miss Flora Cohlman, from Hickman's Hardware, and Roy Webb, from Nuckols' Service Station were winners.

Gordon Holland and Keith

Wittmer were named team captains of the sustaining membership drive for Kaw Dam and Reservoir Assn.

The school board authorized purchase of 10 acres at \$15,500 for a new school on East Prospect.

Dr. John Gilbert, president of Kay-Noble County Medical Society, announced a mass oral polio immunization was planned. In three hours, 20,000 doses of the vaccine were given.

More than 25,000 people toured Conoco's new \$11.75 million research center open house on May 10.

The Chikaskia River Bridge on the Ponca City-Blackwell shortcut road was officially opened. Named the Goodson Bridge, it honored Dora Goodson, area pioneer.

Miss Neva Bell Harrod retired from Roosevelt School after teaching for 44 years.

The Men's Club held its annual Rose Show. The 510 entries were viewed by 1,200

people, with Ivan Berger winning top honors.

Six jetties were built in the Arkansas River using federal funds. They were to protect the city's main water gathering line and water wells from washing away during floods.

On June 1, library patrons checked out 1,097 books during the 11 hours the library was open. According to Gertrude Sterba, librarian, this represented 100 books an hour or more than a book a minute.

Jim Morrison was named president of the 1962 Community Chest drive with Jack Bowker as fund drive chairman. The goal was \$89,837 and they raised \$94,694.

As of June 15, area elevators had received 1.9 million bushels of wheat, with an average yield of 25 bushels per acre.

The Traffic Authority was making a study of speed limits in the city and considering the possibility that speed limits were too slow.

(See SCHOOLS, Page 12M)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY OKLAHOMA!

Trout Funeral Home & Crematory and Resthaven-Sunset Memorial Parks
Have Rich Oklahoma Histories
Created by the Ponca Citizens
Who Have Owned & Operated
them Through the Years!



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- 1936 - E. M. Trout, Sr. established E.M. Trout and Sons Funeral Home in a building located at Oak and Grand. Along with his sons Ernie, Jim & Jack, the family operated the funeral home until 1977.
- 1943 - The Calkins residence at 505 West Grand was purchased by the Trout family as the new home of the funeral home business. Note: The building was built by early Kay County pioneer, C.F. Calkins and originally served as the bank at Cross before being moved to Ponca City to the corner of First and Grand to become the First National Bank. It was moved to its present location in 1907 and, after some additions to the structure, became the private home of Mr. Calkins. The home faced east until April 5, 1912, when a tornado destroyed the front porch. The porch of the Greek Revival style home was rebuilt facing south and the three floored nine thousand square foot building was the town's largest privately-owned home until E.W. Marland built what is now the Cultural Center.
- 1977 - Steve and Terry Huston purchased the funeral home and the name was changed to Trout Funeral Home.
- 1993 - Gill-Lessert Funeral Home merged with Trout Funeral Home
- 2003 - Mike and Jo Phenix purchased the funeral home and, with the addition of a crematory in 2006, changed the name to Trout Funeral Home & Crematory



The early days at Oak & Grand... brothers Jack & Ernie Trout

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Resthaven Memorial Park

- 1930 - Lucas Cemetery was established on the north edge of Ponca City.
- 1953 - Glen Cook and Glen Hurley renamed the cemetery Resthaven Memorial Park & reorganized it as a garden-type cemetery. They also owned Sunset Memorial Gardens located east of Ponca City on Hwy. 60.
- 1957 - Both cemeteries were purchased by John C. Howe.
- 1964 - Jack and Jane Huston purchased the two cemeteries.
- 1995 - Both cemeteries were purchased by Steve and Terry Huston.
- 2003 - Current owners Mike and Jo Phenix purchased both cemeteries.



Sunset Memorial Park



Scheduled for completion in 2007:
Four Seasons Community Mausoleum
at Resthaven



Completed in September of 2007...
Cremation Garden under the Cross

Quo Vadis Was News Leader With Grand Opening in 1964

The Quo Vadis Motor Hotel at 212 South Fourteenth Street opened on Feb. 5, 1964. The new \$800,000 complex had four buildings with a Roman architectural motif — a private club, dining and meeting facilities, the Status Quo private club, sunken garden, a swimming pool, and 88 luxury units. Ponca City theaters showed the spectacle movie, "Quo Vadis," as a salute to the opening of the new hotel.

A public hearing was held for a rezoning request. An Oklahoma City group planned to construct a 32-unit apartment complex in the Country Club Second Subdivision. There were several outspoken homeowners at the hearing who were opposed to the project, concerned that the development would deter potential homebuilders in the area.

On Jan. 7, Rev. and Mrs. P.T. Stanford announced their retirement from the Daily Radio Revival. The program had been aired each day on WBBZ for the past 28 years.

The Security Bank was the first bank in the 27-state area of the Midwest Division of IBM to complete installation of an automation program. They installed a 1440 computer, which contained five units. The new machine would reduce posting time on checking accounts to one hour and 20 minutes a day. The machine also posted statistical information for all accounts.

The Ponca City Swimming Assn., headed by W.W. Woods, received permission from the city to renovate and reopen the Darr School Pool, which had not been used since the end of World War II. The swimming program would help students improve their athletic skills. The local Jaycees initiated a \$2,500 fund raising campaign for the rehabilitation project, led by Ralph Beatty.

A new ordinance was approved to allow motorcycles to carry a passenger.

JoAnn Muchmore was selected for the role of the empress, one of the lead roles in an upcoming Ponca Playhouse production of "Anastasia."

On March 4, Kaw Reservoir boosters were assured that the project was on schedule.

A representative of the Corps of Engineers reported it was rare that such a project could be authorized and an appropriation for planning passed by Congress in the same fiscal year.

After study of three proposed sites, the original site proposed by the Corps was selected.

The Library bought its first copy machine.

David J. Sutton Inc., the oldest car dealer in Ponca City, held a grand opening at its new location, 2701 North Fourteenth Street. Originally at First Street and South Avenue in 1947, the dealership had later moved to Fifth and Central.

Camp Fire Girls celebrated 50 years in Ponca City. Many churches observed Camp Fire Sunday and each school held Dad-Daughter box suppers during March. The girls decorated downtown store

windows to commemorate the anniversary.

Home Demonstration Units held their annual district meeting in Ponca City. There were 700 women representing 17 counties, meeting at the Hutchins Auditorium. Two weeks later, the National Security Seminar was held at Hutchins. Reservists displayed weapons and equipment on the grounds, including an 8-inch Howitzer. Nearly 1,000 people gathered for the keynote speaker, Air Force Maj. Gen. W.S. Steele.

It was reported that major crimes in Ponca City decreased by 28 percent during 1963.

Ponca City Savings and Loan hit \$100 million in assets. W.D. Beard was president of the company.

1965 — Continental Oil Company announced it would invest nearly \$10 million in exploration, production, manufacturing, pipeline and marketing facilities in Oklahoma during 1965. Plans were to drill 20 exploratory and development wells. Conoco wells in Oklahoma were producing at a daily net rate of 9,260 barrels.

On March 9, Ponca City voters decisively rejected a franchise for Ponca City TV Cable Co. by a four-to-one margin. The company was one of two that requested elections in an attempt to secure a franchise to serve the city with television cable service. Fidelity Cable Inc. was the other firm seeking a franchise. On March 24, voters denied a franchise for Fidelity. The firms seeking the franchise paid for the cost of each election.

In a later election, citizens overwhelmingly approved a 25-year franchise to Fidelity Cable to provide cable television to the city.

Charles D. Hull was elected mayor on April 6. He defeated incumbent Joe Boylan. Hull presented a 12-point "Program of Progress" as part of his campaign.

The new school on Prospect at Turner Road was named the E.M. Trout Elementary School. The building included a built-in storm shelter. Trout had served on the school board for 36 years, 24 of those as president.

There were 6,657 students in the city schools and 275 certified employees.

The Opportunity Center received 15 acres on Union to build a new complex.

West Junior High School opened in September.

Airport expansion continued. Public officials were criticized for locating a school in the approach path of the runway.

Richard Pitts reported to the school board that Garfield Elementary needed extensive repairs. R.E. Green, assistant superintendent of schools, reported that all the Ponca City schools showed evidence of termites.

The State Senate approved a controversial bill to require suspected drunken drivers to submit to chemical tests.

Homer Anderson, senior high principal, retired in May after serving 30 years. The building that had been

known as the "C" Building at the high school was renamed the Homer S. Anderson Building. Robert Ford became the new high school principal. Allen Robson was named new superintendent.

The Lake Road bridge, just east of Ponca Bowl, was removed in May and a new four-lane bridge was constructed. A new four-lane bridge was also built in the 2100 block of East Hartford. Both bridges were completed within six weeks.

The City Commission proclaimed May 17-24 as Older Worker Employment Opportunity Week. They urged employers with job vacancies to consider hiring qualified jobless workers who were past age 40. It was noted that America's 22 million veterans were an average age of 45. The project was part of President Johnson's commemoration of Senior Citizen's Month.

Six community leaders went to Washington, D.C., to attend hearings of the Appropriations Committees in both the House and Senate. The Kaw Dam boosters requested an additional \$800,000 from Congress to begin construction of the dam in fiscal year 1960. On their return, they proclaimed they had received the "strongest endorsement they had heard since the beginning of the project."

In May, precision pilots thrilled a crowd of 2,500 with aerobatics at the National Air Show, sponsored by the Jaycees. The highlight of the show was several old-time piston propeller-driven open cockpit biplanes. One performer was Harold Krier, three-time winner of the International Precision Aerobic contests. Aviators also performed parachute jumps and sky diving stunts.

The new Pioneer National Bank was built at Highland and Fourteenth Street. The \$100,000 round building featured a unique modern design.

(See 1965, Page 12M)



CURRENT Kay County Treasurer Christy Kennedy is shown making a presentation to former treasurer Pat Schieber at Schieber's retirement party in 2007. (News Photo by Sharon Rowen)

Treasurers Watch Over Funds

The County Treasurer shall stand for any and all moneys and securities belonging to the county.

There have been 21 county treasurers in Kay County history. Robert Dunlop held the office when Oklahoma became a state.

Ellis E. Smith has held the office for the longest time, 16 years.

Christy Kennedy defeated Mary Lou Stanton for the office in November of 2006.

Kay County Treasurers

1902-1907 — Robert Dunlop
Robert Dunlop was a prominent oil man, state treasurer, and Kay County's first treasurer after statehood and the state's second treasurer from 1910-14.

He also made an unsuccessful bid for governor.

Dunlop passed away June 20, 1938, and was buried in McKee Cemetery in Pampa, Texas.

1909 — D.W. Zieflar

1917-1919 — P.H. McElhone

1921-1924 — Coe R. Davis

1925-1929 — H.N. Andrews

Went on to become a state legislator. He was found dead in his barn one mile east of Braman on May 6, 1938. County Attorney J. R. Gurley and Sheriff O.W. Cook ruled the death

a suicide. He was a resident of Kay County for 29 years.

He was elected in 1936 to the state representative position. He was born on a farm in Pittsburgh, Pa., on March 3, 1882. He attended West Newton Academy at West Newton, Pa.

He became a charter member of the Newkirk Kiwanis Club.

1929 — Coe R. Davis

1931 — Mrs. Bert Park

1933 — Henry Bucker

1935 — Vernon Smith

1937-1939 — Henry Bucker

1941 — C.C. Koons

1943-1945 — Robert J. Nespor

1947-1963 — Ellis E. Smith

1965 — Hurst Wheeler

1967-1977 — John A. Heinze

1979-1988 — Luella Backhaus

Retired after 42 years at the courthouse and worked under four treasurers

January 1988-November 1988 — Mike Grubb

Appointed by the commissioners to replace Backhaus

1988-1995 Betty Greenwood

1995-1996 — Radena Eisenhauer

1996-2007 — Pat Schieber

2007-present — Christy Kennedy

United Way Concept Began in Colorado

Frances Wisebart Jacobs, known as Colorado's Mother of Charities, was the driving force behind the concept of today's United Way. In 1887 she spearheaded the creation of the Charity Organization Society, which became a federation of charities that coordinated fundraising and other efforts and shared the proceeds.

This was the model that led to the creation of today's United Way, which recognizes Jacobs as its founder. She brought together Rabbi William S. Friedman, the Rev. Myron W. Reed, Msgr. William J. O'Ryan, and Dean H. Martyn Hart to put their heads together and plan the first united campaign for 10 health and welfare agencies. They created an organization to serve as an agent to collect funds for local charities, as well as to coordinate relief services, counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and in some make emergency assistance grants to those in need.

Many Community Chest organizations, which were founded in the first half of the 20th century to jointly collect and allocate money, joined the American Association for Community Organizations in 1918. The first Community Chest was founded in 1913 in Cleveland, Ohio, and had Red Feather as its logo.

The number of Community Chest organizations increased from 39 to 353 between 1919

and 1929, and surpassed 1,000 by 1948. Other names have been War Chest during World War II, United Fund, and in 1963, after several name changes, the term United Way was adopted.

United Way of Ponca City, as it is known today, began in 1937-38 raising \$19,500 under the name of Ponca City Community Chest. The first campaign chairman was the Rev. O.L. Shelton. The name changed to United Fund in the 1960s and to United Way of Ponca City in January 1974, with its first paid director, Bonnie Phillip, hired in 1973.

Since the beginning, Ponca City's most prominent citizens have held leadership positions in the organization. The first woman campaign chair was Jan Beeson in 1991. With the help of the citizens of Ponca City, United Way has raised more than \$22,156,269. It began with a goal of \$19,500 70 years ago, to a goal for 2007-2008 of \$760,000 under the direction of campaign chair Janice Myers.

The United Way of Ponca City mission has changed throughout the years to meet the changing needs of the community. Today's mission is to improve people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

"Ten years ago, United Way became more than a funder of agencies by looking outside our community for grants to bring more programs and dollars into Ponca City.

From that beginning, more than \$500,000 in grants are received each year through the AmeriCorps, Success By 6/Smart Start, Homeless Management Information System and RSVP (those presently funded), programs to help make our community a better place to live," says Helene Schwartz, executive director. "We team up with business, government, community organizations and the faith community to tackle the issues facing our community. We're community builders and want to help make long-term changes in our community. We find out what the unmet needs are and help bring people to the table that can make a difference. Changing lives means more than changing lives of the people within our member agencies it's about changing lives within the context of our community needs as a whole."

Another major change has been in the member agencies. Several agencies have been with United Way since its charter and others have come and gone throughout the years. Some agencies in the past included The Loft, American Cancer Society, Junior Baseball League, United Service Organization, Ponca City Handicapped Club and National Travelers Aid.

Today, the 13 member agencies include American Red Cross, Arthritis Foundation, Child Development Center, Cimarron Council-Boy Scouts

of America, Domestic Violence Program, Girl Scouts-Bluestem Council, Golden Villa Adult Day Services, New Emergency Resource Agency, Northern Oklahoma Youth Services, Peachtree Landing, RSVP, The Salvation Army, and the YMCA.

Since 1938 United Way has been raising funds and bringing the community together to focus on the most important human needs — building partnerships, forging consensus and leveraging resources to make a measurable difference. Today's United Way and its member agencies focus on community needs — helping children and youth succeed, strengthening and supporting families, promoting self-sufficiency, partnering to insure vital and safe neighborhoods, and supporting vulnerable and aging populations. A lot has changed since 1938. But the one thing that has remained the same is the giving spirit of Ponca City. It's the spirit that rallies citizens to contribute their time, treasure and talent; the spirit of everyone pitching in to help others. That community spirit is United Way.

To learn more about United Way, member agencies or United Way sponsored programs, visit its Web site at www.unitedwayponcacity.org. To volunteer, donate, or just say hi, stop by 205 North Second Street from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Only 15 Kay County Clerks Since Mills Voris in 1901

The office County Clerk has been held by 15 clerks beginning with Mills G. Voris in 1901.

W.E. Shinn became clerk after statehood and was the first clerk of Kay County, Okla.

Today the office is occupied by Tammy Reese.

The clerk is the keeper of many records including land records and minutes from all of the county meetings.

Mills G. Voris
January 1901-1903
J.S. Davis
January 1903-January 1905
C.H. St. Clair
January 1905 November 1907

W. E. Shinn
November 1907-1913

Former Sheriff of Kay County, Ed Shinn came to Oklahoma at the time of the Opening of the Cherokee Strip. He had lived in Cowley County, Kansas prior to this time and was no stranger to the land in the strip. He and his friends had hunted and camped in this section for years and these men in the border counties of Kansas knew well this land that was opened for settlement.

Those familiar with the strip had picked the valley of the Chikaskia river, running through the middle western part of Kay County, as the best locations for farm homes. The day of the run they lined up directly north of this valley. Shinn related that those runners who started from the Chilocco border had a three mile head start and a 15 minute time advantage on those starting from the original line. These people cut through the school reservation and were able to claim the rich land which Shinn and his companions had picked.

The men in Shinn's party rode all the way across the strip that afternoon and the only ones who claims were those who came back in from the south the next day and went to the eastern part of Kay County. Shinn staked a claim eight miles east of Ponca City and lived there with his family until 1907 when he was elected county clerk.

He was the first Justice of the Peace in the Batchelder Community and had the dubious distinction of marrying some "outlaws" who traveled through the country. His fee was \$2 and one of the outlaws declared he'd "get it back." Two days later a good supply of his corn was stolen from the field. He was also summoned to marry a couple who stood under the trees by the "twin bridges" at Pioneer Statue Corner.

Indians counted Shinn as a friend and often stayed overnight at the homestead. The Shinn's often fed them the evening meal and breakfast before they started out in the morning.

The first school in Kay County was a 8-foot-by-10-foot soddie named Enterprise. It was six miles east of the Pioneer Woman statue and was the highest point of District 74. School began March 4, 1894. The first school house was too small so the men of the district built another sod house, but above ground. It had windows, a shingle roof and good desks but by 1897 the parents felt the school district need a good frame building. The people in the district did all of their own work and the cost was \$305.15. Shinn hauled sand and water for the plasterers and the building was finished and ready for occupancy Nov. 1, 1898.

He was elected County Clerk and the family moved to Newkirk in 1907. He served as county jailer and was secretary of the county election board from 1914 until 1930. He served two terms as Kay County Sheriff from 1932 to 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Shinn were married in Geuda Springs, Kan., in 1888. They had seven children: Inez (Gibson), Laverne (Horner), Edna (Hadden), Etta (Klopp), and Eva (Cross), Carl and Ted. He died May 26, 1940

C.S. Ford
January 1913-January 1917

Ed H. Stalnaker
January 1917-May 1924

Bernice Schoonover
May 1924-January 1933

Schoonover worked as a clerk at the local draft board during World War I.

At the end of the war she served as deputy county clerk until 1924 when she was elected.

Born in McPherson, Kan., Aug. 20 1873, she married John Schoonover in 1895 and moved to Newkirk in 1897. She died March 5, 1961.

A. R. Hafer
Jan 1933-July 1943

Hafer was appointed Kay County Air Raid warden by Governor Leon Phillips in December of 1941.

He was to coordinate air raid blackout supervision and air raid shelter installations.

He resigned as county clerk in July of 1943

O.C. Billings
August 1943-November 1956

Billings a Blackwell republican, was appointed to clerk replacing A. R. Hafer.

He was born Sept. 28, 1869.

He was elected to the position for seven consecutive terms but was unable to complete last term because of ill health.

He moved to Blackwell from Salt Lake City in 1917.

He left to work with the YMCA in New York during World War I.

He then returned to Blackwell in 1919 and purchased an interest in the city drug store. In 1947 he moved to Ponca City.

He died March 15, 1958, and is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Everson Earl Eaton
November 1956-January 1969

Eaton was a farmer, barber, and insurance man before becoming county clerk.

Born Dec. 18, 1888, in Haviland, Kan., he settled in the Bressie Community in 1896.

The family traveled from Greensburg, Kan., to Oklahoma in a covered wagon.

Eaton was 8 at the time and rode a pony behind while herding 19 horses and a cow.

He became a barber in 1910 and was given a barber's chair by Zack Miller, of 101 ranch rodeo fame.

He joined the election board staff in 1944.

He was also known as Santa at Christmas time for over three decades

He died April 5, 1980, and is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Norma Lee "Ozzie" Cook
January 1969-January 1985

Worked for Earl Eaton as deputy clerk for two years prior to running for office in 1968.

Born in Thomas Okla., May 22, 1931, she received many state and national recognitions.

She died January 29, 2003.

Irene K. Czaplinski
January 1985-January 1989

Defeated Norma Cook for the position by a 11,121 to 10,867 count in 1984.

Switched from Democrat to Republican in 1987 saying she did not intend to criticize the Democratic party.

Mattie Kimbrel
January 1989-October 1995

Defeated Pam Goodno 10,639-9,537 in 1988 for the office. She resigned on Oct. 1, 1995.

Born June 20, 1931, died Nov. 11, 2004.

Pam Goodno
October 1995-January 2005

Took over for Mattie Kimbrel

In 2004, she became the subject of an investigation that resulted in charges being filed.

The charges were dismissed in May of 2004 by Associate District Judge Craig Key in Lincoln County.

However in October 2004 she went to trial on four misdemeanor counts of obtaining money or property by false statements.

She was later cleared on the charges.

Goodno was then defeated by Tammy Reese in December 2004.

Tammy Reese
January 2005-present

Defeated Pam Burkhalter in a primary election, 2,905 to 1,984, before defeating Pam Goodno by a count of 12,250 to 7,301.

She is married to Alan and has a son Jared and daughter Jennifer.

Reese was elected to serve as secretary to the statewide County Clerk's Association.



THE MILL AND elevator in Ponca City were built in 1922 with elevator capacity was increased to 100,000 bushels in 1923. The mill building was erected by Dunning Construction Co., Oklahoma City. The plant was a "sunlight mill," having the maximum number of windows so sunlight reached practically every nook and corner.

Flour Milling One of Earliest Industries Developed in City

Editor's Note: This article was written by former News City Editor Max Stokesberry in 1975.

By MAX STOKESBERRY
News Staff Writer

One of Ponca City's earliest industries — the flour mill — has been out of operation for 21 years (in 1975). But the elevator and a feed mill still tower above surrounding structures at the original location, 114 West Central, and remain a part of today's business picture.

Ownership of the property has changed hands five times, Ponca Grain & Feed Inc. being the present possessor. Ponca City Milling Co., owned by the Donahoe family, ran the flour mill for 50 years.

The enterprise came into existence shortly after the opening of the Cherokee Outlet to settlement Sept. 16, 1893. The present six-story brick mill building, replacing a smaller structure, was built in 1927. Construction of the present warehouse and office building was begun in 1928, and in 1930 concrete elevator tanks were erected south of the other buildings.

The 100-foot tanks, topped by a 40-foot headouse — and the mill — still appear prominently on Ponca City's skyline.

A story in The News on Sept. 19, 1939, said: "The entire top of the elevator is surmounted by a string of lights that may be seen for miles around by those entering Ponca City. From every entrance to the city the lights of the mill can

always be seen, a landmark to the traveler and a 'lamp in the window' to Poncans returning home."

Those lights, much the worse for time and weather, are still in place, says Richard Jorski, president of Ponca Grain & Feed. But many of the bulbs are broken and the wiring is deteriorated beyond usefulness.

However, a 10-foot star on top of the elevators has been refurbished by the present

owners and shines forth to be seen for miles around during the Christmas season. The star was put up by Stanton O. Meek when he headed Frontier Grain Co., 1965-73 owner of the property.

Lee McCord, Bob Jamieson and Bob Maxwell apparently were the first owners of the flour mill. They operated in a small wooden shanty with five employees and machinery shipped from Ohio.

(See MILL, Page 11M)

Altar Society Served Church

One of the oldest church organizations for women is the St. Mary's Altar Society. It was first organized by Father Felix De Crasse after he directed the building of the first Catholic Church in Ponca City in 1894.

At that time, a year after the Cherokee Strip was opened to settlement, the group was called the Catholic Women's League and was divided into six circles. The area you lived in determined to which group you were assigned.

Julia Fronkier, at age 92, was the oldest living member of the Altar Society in Ponca City in 1969. She moved here from Nebraska in 1903 and belonged to circle number four. Mrs. Fronkier remembers the dinners the women served and the bazaars the society held to make money to buy linens used on the altar for Mass and the vestments the priest wore. Each circle had approximately 15 members by the 1920s.

As transportation was no longer a problem the circles were reorganized in later years into guilds as part of the

Catholic Women's League. Circle membership was based on special interests and ability.

Guilds and presidents in 1969 were St. Helena's, Mrs. Merlin Brewer; St. Jude's, Mrs. Gene Springer; St. Francis, Mrs. Gene Stanfiell and St. Theresa's Mrs. W.A. Limke.

The women's league played an important role in the building and furnishing of the new church and rectory built in 1936. The church was rebuilt in 1954.

In 1958 the Catholic Women's League was renamed the St. Mary's Altar Society. The care of the altar, linens and vestments remained its major purpose. But other projects gained their time and consideration too. Among them are helping with the needs of the church, school, convent and rectory. The Society served bereavement dinners to families after funerals at the church and conducted The Bishops Clothing Drive for distribution to peoples all over the world.

The Society's fund raising events enabled members to purchase an organ for the

chapel in the convent. Members made clothing and prepared gifts for the St. Joseph Orphanage and worked with children in the White Eagle Community.

Active in civic affairs, the Society worked with the other members of Church Women United, welcomed newcomers to the community and has dressed dolls for Welfare children at Christmas time.

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

Courthouse Burned in 1897

Editor's Note: The following information was taken from the book Newkirk — Carved In Stone by Karen Dye

NEWKIRK — The original Kay County Courthouse burned on March 1, 1897.

On March 19, 1897, citizens of Owen township near Tonkawa prepared a petition which they presented to the county commissioners asking them

not to rebuild the courthouse until after a vote as to where to place it.

The county received \$4,000 from the North American Insurance Company in April 1897 and then voted to spend no more than that on a new building with \$1,000 to be retained for furniture.

Nehemiah M. Tubbs was selected to build the new

courthouse.

It was completed by July of 1897.

That building was replaced in 1926.

Clyde Woodruff of Fort Worth, Texas, designed the building and it was dedicated on Oct. 28, 1926. The total construction cost was \$291,999 and required a total of 160 working days.

The Ponca Military Academy had a full enrollment of 140 cadets.

The library housed more than 40,000 books. Its museum room contains many valuable Indian, pioneer and historical articles. The Gordon Matzene collection of modern and Oriental art is especially noteworthy.

Almost 15,000 residents belonged to Ponca City churches.

The city park system included more than 1,500 acres in 17 parks. The city also operated three swimming pools free for children under 16.

Ponca City Art Association bought the Soldani Mansion at Central and Ninth Street for approximately \$37,000.

The new Child Development Center opened in January at 219 North Fourth Street. Sponsored by the Church Women United, the center provided childcare for pre-school children in a building donated by First Christian Church. The center started with 14 children.

Elec Rains was chairman of the United Way campaign. The goal was \$144,566 and they raised \$146,000.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for Kaw Lake on May 21. The event was held on the western cliff of the dam site, which would overlook the nearly two-mile long dam. Herman Smith was program chairman. Rep. Ed Edmondson was master of ceremonies. Francis Pipestem, Otoe, gave the invocation in his native tongue and in English. A princess from each of the area tribes led the procession of Native Americans onto the site. Gov. Bellmon welcomed the crowd. Civil Engineer Fred Fellows, whose studies led to the proj-

ect, kept the first shovel full of dirt turned by Sen. Mike Monroney.

The Attucks School closed in May. All the teachers were offered jobs in the school system. That same year, the Board of Education adopted Geographic Attendance Zones for school attendance and assignment. All elementary and junior high students were assigned to the school nearest their home. The Attucks students were assigned to McKinley and Garfield schools.

The State Senate approved a controversial bill to require suspected drunken drivers to submit to chemical tests.

Evans and Throop Construction had the low bid of \$387,415 for first work on the Kaw Reservoir. The bid covered the access road from the west, project building, overlook shelter and laying of utility lines.

1967 — Traffic-actuated signals were installed at Fourteenth and Hartford. Lee Knight, traffic engineer, said there would not be left turn signals.

The Fire Department took over ambulance service for the city.

Hospital rates went up on Feb. 1, due to Medicare and the minimum wage and hour law.

Security Bank celebrated 50 years of service in Ponca City with a two-day open house.

On Feb. 6, Continental Oil reported the highest annual earnings in its history. Andrew W. Tarkinton, president and CEO, reported that consolidated net income reached an estimated \$115.6 million.

The Corps of Engineers announced that hydroelectric power would be added to the Kaw Dam at a cost of \$9 million.

On March 2, Gordon Holland, Ponca City businessman, announced his candidacy for city commissioner of public property. The next day, Art Erwin, retired Continental employee, announced he would file for the same office. On April 3, Holland was elected.

City commissioners unanimously concluded that public swimming at Lake Ponca was inadvisable.

An estimated 35,000 people visited the two-day fourth annual Boat & Travel Show at Lake Ponca. Miss Pamela Blubaugh was named queen of the show.

Owner Laura Valentine closed The Arcade Hotel, except for a few residential apartments with outside entrances.

In April, City Commissioners agreed to buy the original E.W. Marland home at 1000 East Grand Avenue from Mrs. Jay Paris for \$85,000. The house was to be used to establish a Cultural Center. The Indian Museum, which had been in the basement of the Library, was moved to the Cultural Center.

City Commissioners appointed Gerald Sober, Mrs. Frank Searcy, Winfield White, Mrs. Tom Irby, Dr. Arthur Young and Mrs. P.T. Powell to the volunteer board of directors.

On May 2, building fund pledges for the YMCA reached

\$50,000, according to Kent Phipps, president of the YMCA.

The United Way set a goal of \$151,007, with John McFadden as campaign chairman. They raised \$158,500.

The Planning Commission approved plats of two subdivisions. One is north of Hartford and west of The Meadows, the other is Westland Terrace, west of Waverly.

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The new U.S. Highway 60 and State Highway 156 were completed in June. Evans and Throop constructed the \$1.3 million project.

Continental Oil Co. was ranked the 33rd largest industrial corporation in the U.S. with sales of \$1.75 billion in volume of sales for fiscal year 1966.

BPW Came to City in 1924

The Ponca City Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in 1924 with 55 charter members, two of whom were active in 1969: Miss Mildred Headley and Miss Katie Nulty.

The organization was recognized as a civic club in 1929 by the Chamber of Commerce. In earlier years the women held parliamentary drills and dancing classes, and established an educational fund for worthy girls. They also made donations to the Red Cross, Crippled Children's society, the Salvation Army, the Milk Fund, and the Camp Fire Girls recreation camp.

The Ponca City BPW helped each year with the fishing derby and pet parade and other projects.

Among the 1969 BPW programs was sponsorship of the 101 Ranch Rodeo queen contest, \$100 scholarship to a senior high school girl, a tea honoring the working women of Kay County during National Business Women's Week, and selecting a delegate to Girls' State. Other activities included choosing a "Girl of the Month" for recognition during the school term and "Our Little Miss Pageant."

In 1966 the club sponsored a Youth Power delegation, taking eight high school students and two Kaw City students to Oklahoma City University for the meeting.

The youth conference was a joint project of the governor's committee on children and

youth and the BPW clubs of America. The conference was an annual occurrence with full participation by the Ponca City BPW Club.

During 1966-67 the club sponsored a Ponca City Spring Charm and Self Improvement Course. They also sponsored a "Young Career Woman" to state convention and gave donations to the Ponca City Art Center, the YMCA, Challenge, 55 and Older Club, Retarded Children's fund, and sent articles to U.S. servicemen in Vietnam. They were also responsible for the sale of "Miss America" automobile tags.

In 1968 the Ponca City BPW received first place on the club history book and first place in publicity in state competition. Dorothy Ford was president during 1968-69. Among the club activities was a tea during National Business Women's Week for all members of the ninth district, with Louise Robison, making an official visit to the club. The Ponca City BPW placed third in publicity during the state convention held in Oklahoma City. They also sponsored the ninth district "Young Career Woman," Miss Patti Norris.

President of the Ponca City Business and Professional Women for 1969-70 was Mrs. Jessie Smith. Other officers were Miss Patti Norris, president-elect; Mrs. Dorothy Miles, vice president; Mrs. Lois Scott, treasurer; Mrs. Paula Denson, recording secretary, and Mrs. Pam Irons, corresponding secretary.

Ponca City Exceeded 28,000 In 1966 as Continental Grew

The 1966 census reported Ponca City's population as 28,100 in the city limits. In the metropolitan area, it was 33,000.

Also in 1966, Continental Oil Co. employed more than 3,000 people locally. Through its employees group, known as Continental Associates, they provided one of the finest and most unusual recreation centers in the Southwest.

Lakeside Golf Course is an 18-hole public course that overlooks Lake Ponca. It is owned and maintained by the city.

Cities Service Oil Company had 500 employees. They were in the process of investing \$5 million in new refinery facilities locally. There were 21 producing fields in the immediate vicinity.

Carbon Black Inc. was a new industry in Ponca City. They manufactured 40 million pounds of carbon black per year, and employed 60 people.

Educational facilities included a high school, two junior highs, 10 elementary schools, two parochial schools, a military academy and a business college. Forty percent of local teachers had a master's degree or better.

The American Legion Home School, supported by the American Legion of Oklahoma and by individuals, provided a home for the needy children of servicemen and ex-servicemen.

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The people of Kaw City chose a site south of the Grandview Cemetery, two miles west of the present Kaw City, for their new town. The land cost was \$500 per acre.

On July 25, the city was inundated with record-breaking rainfall over six inches. Harold Cogman tried to cross the Lake Ponca Spillway but the current swept his 1964 Ford into 25 feet of water in Turkey Creek. He swam out.

Commissioners approved a general fund budget of \$3.6 million for the 1967-68 fiscal year, \$588,437 more than the previous year.

The formal opening of the Art Center was on Sept. 9. Mayor C.D. Hull cut the ribbon for the new Ponca City Art Center at 819 East Central. A month of activities included music, art and drama. Art works from the Cowboy Hall of Fame, Museum of Art at University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Art Center and Philbrook Art Center were on display.

M.D. Timberlake, architect, designed the building for the district headquarters of Oklahoma Natural Gas Company at Fourth Street and Chestnut.

The newly remodeled and expanded post office opened at 4 p.m. on Oct. 14. The entire building was renovated, adding air conditioning, and replacing all plumbing and lighting at a cost of \$637,000.

In November, more than 500 people participated in a city planning conference at Hutchins Memorial.

Also in November, county commissioners formulated a comprehensive county master plan. They appointed a six-member planning commission and hired a local engineering firm to make a preliminary study. The main focus was to offset unorganized growth in the Kaw Dam area.

The city opened a public parking space at First and Cleveland, former site of Thompson-Parker Lumber. City Manager Leon Nelson reported it was a temporary measure to provide off-street parking. Costs were to be covered by parking meter fees and by adjacent property owners.

The Planning Commission approved a site on Eighth Street between Grand and Central for the new YMCA building.

we're all smiles



Left to right: Shelly, Tammy, Jim Highfill, D.D.S., Denta & Jaclynn



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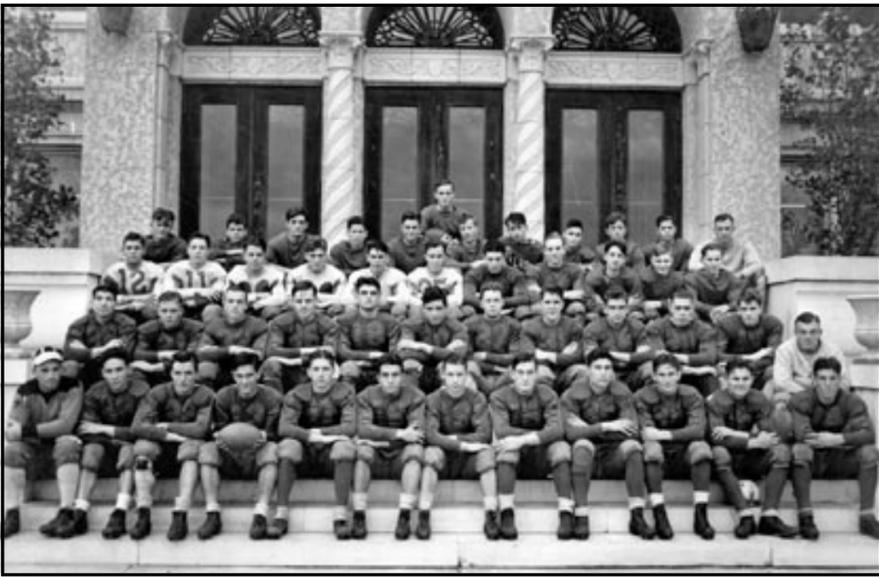
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THE PO-HI football team from the year 1933 is pictured.



SPORTS HAVE been an important part of the culture of Oklahoma since the earliest days. North central Oklahoma has been rich in state champions, both teams and individuals. Pictured above are an early Ponca City baseball team and the 1933 Ponca City High School football team.

Area Has Produced Many Sports State Champs

By DAVID MILLER
News Sports Writer

Ponca City area high schools are well represented in the lists of state champions in a variety of sports.

Ponca City, as the largest school, has the most state champions, primarily in three sports, tennis, golf and wrestling.

But there are some others who have excelled in a sport, such as Frontier, which has won six boys' and three girls' basketball titles; and Morrison, which has 12 state titles in football.

Tonkawa has won five football state champions and Woodland, when it was Fairfax, has won four.

Blackwell has excelled in wrestling, with nine state titles in that sport.

The state championships listed below are those listed on the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Web site (in the case of track and field, the top three finishers are listed):

BOYS TRACK
TONKAWA — 1st, 2007; 2nd, 2006; 3rd 2005; 3rd, 2003; 2nd, 1996; 3rd, 1993.
DEER CREEK-LAMONT — 1st, 2004; 1st, 2003; 2nd, 2001; 2nd, 1986; 1st, 1985; 3rd, 1984; 2nd, 1980; 2nd, 1979; 2nd, 1975.

PAWNEE — 3rd, 2003; 3rd, 2001; 3rd, 1950.
WOODLAND — 3rd, 1994; 1st, 1976 (F); 1st, 1975 (F); 2nd, 1974 (F);
NEWKIRK — 3rd, 1983; 1st, 1975; 1st, 1956.

POWASSON — 2nd, 1965.

GIRLS TRACK

WOODLAND — 2nd, 2005; 2nd, 2003; 2nd, 2002; 3rd, 1980 (F).

TONKAWA — 3rd, 2004; 3rd, 2001; 3rd, 2000.

NEWKIRK — 3rd, 2003; 1st, 2002.

PAWNEE — 2nd, 1996.

DEER CREEK-LAMONT — 2nd, 1991; 3rd, 1973 (L).

WRESTLING TEAM

POWASSON — 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 1960, 1959, 1953, 1940.

BLACKWELL — 1999, 1973, 1957, 1956, 1946, 1943, 1941.

WRESTLING, DUAL

POWASSON — 2005, 2004, 2003.

BLACKWELL — 1991.

INDIVIDUAL GIRLS GOLF

POWASSON — Michaela Cavener, 2003; Michaela Cavener, 2002; Patty McGraw, 1977; Frances Jones, 1941.

GIRLS GOLF TEAM

POWASSON — 1959, 1958.

BOYS GOLF TEAM

PAWNEE — 2001; 1991; 1990;

POWASSON — 1986; 1985; 1959 (4 ball); 1931 (2 ball).

INDIVIDUAL BOYS GOLF

POWASSON — Jim Begwin, 1982; Jim Begwin, 1981; Tim McGraw, 1974; Phillip Howe, 1963; Tracy Walcott, 1929.

GIRLS SWIMMING

POWASSON — 1965.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

FRONTIER — 1951 (M); 2003; 2005.

POWASSON — 1987.

BRAMAN — 1972.

BOYS BASKETBALL

WOODLAND — 1925 (F); 1978;

BURBANK — 1940; 1947.

PAWASSON — 1961; 1970; 1971; 1973.

FRONTIER — 1996; 1997; 1999; 2004; 2005; 2006.

TONKAWA — 2003.

PAWNEE — 2005.

FOOTBALL

TONKAWA — 1952, 1953; 1999; 2000; 2005.

MORRISON — 1984; 1986; 1988; 1989; 1990; 1991; 1992; 1993; 1994; 2003; 2005; 2006.

BRAMAN — 1971.

WOODLAND — 1975 (F); 1976 (F); 1977 (F); 1986 (F).

PAWNEE — 2004.

CHEERLEADING

NEWKIRK — 2007, 1997.

BLACKWELL — 2000.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY INDIVIDUAL

POWASSON — Chelsea Baldwin, 2003.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY INDIVIDUAL

POWASSON — Greg Avery, 1978; John Womack, 1970; Charles Brown, 1964.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

POWASSON — 1964.

GIRLS TENNIS

POWASSON — 1961, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1987.

BOYS TENNIS

POWASSON — 1965, 1969, 1975.

GIRLS NO. 1 SINGLES INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

POWASSON — Sandra Shelton, 1961; Patsy Rippey, 1965; Sandra Shelton, 1968; Beverly Barger, 1970; Beverly Barger, 1971; Judy Barger, 1972; Judy Barger, 1973; Judy Barger, 1974.

GIRLS NO. 2 SINGLES INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

POWASSON — Connie Stotts, 1965; Connie Stotts, 1966; Becky McNeese, 1967; Debbie Lessert, 1971; Deena Walters, 1973; Deena Walters, 1974; Tracia Barger, 1978; Lori Leming, 1987.

GIRLS NO. 1 DOUBLES INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

POWASSON — Cahlene Neill, Connie Stotts, 1964; Polly McCormick-Debbie Lessert, 1970; Judy Barger-Chris Begley, 1971; Janice Kellenberger-Deena Walters, 1975; Janice Kellenberger-Juli Cookson, 1976.

GIRLS NO. 2 DOUBLES

POWASSON — Sandy Barger-Pat Mehring, 1966; Polly McCormick-Leslie Lessert, 1971; Jackie Burrows-Linda Flanigan, 1974; Jackie Burrows-Linda Flanigan, 1975; Sherry Richardson-Nancy Mathews, 1976; Nancy Mathews- Mary Taylor, 1977; Stephanie Younger-Leah Phipps, 1979; Stephanie Younger-Leah Phipps, 1980; Toni Cookson-Rosie Taylor, 1981; Suzanne Younger-Grace Riddle, 1985; Grace Riddle-Kris McNeal, 1987; Melissa Collogan-Romi Foreman, 1998.

BOYS NO. 1 SINGLES INDIVIDUAL

POWASSON — Jerry Cook, 1975.

BOYS NO. 2 SINGLES

POWASSON — Phil Landauer, 1969; Clark Phipps, 1974.

BOYS NO. 1 DOUBLES

POWASSON — Rod Buckner-Jim Hill, 1965.

BOYS NO. 2 DOUBLES

POWASSON — Terry Snow-Charles Meek, 1965; Brian Conway-Jim Lundeen, 1975.

NOYS Has Served Youth in Ponca City Since 1972

The American Association of University Women of Ponca City became interested in the establishment of a youth shelter and called a public meeting in March of 1971 to garner support.

Soon a feasibility committee, headed by District Judge Lowell Doggett, met to organize the effort to develop a youth shelter.

In November of 1971, John Raley, Ponca City attorney, filed Articles of Incorporation with the Oklahoma Secretary

of State and the Kay Juvenile Services Inc. was born. The organization's charter lists the original directors as Flavel Perry of Ponca City, George Rowley of Blackwell, and Dr. Edwin Vineyard of Tonkawa.

In 1972 Ray O'Meiliea of Pioneer Bank and Flavel Perry took the lead in negotiating a lease for space for a youth shelter from the Ponca City Hospital. By October of 1972 state funding was secured, staff hired and the Youth Shelter officially opened on the grounds of the St Joseph Hospital.

The program grew under the leadership of the local board and Marc Whitt, executive director. In 1976 the organization purchased and renovated the former Turner Hotel located at 415 West Grand in Ponca City to be used as a youth shelter and office building for the expanding programs.

By 1977, the organization had established outreach counseling programs in western Kay County and Noble County and had outgrown the building. Under the leadership of the late Ray O'Meiliea a 1,300-square-foot addition was added to the existing structure.

In 1986 the corporation's name was changed to the Northern Oklahoma Youth Services Center and Shelter Inc. to more appropriately reflect the regional nature of the program. The acronym NOYS has become a popular name for the

nonprofit organization.

In 1989 Marc Whitt resigned as executive director, and the NOYS board, led by J.E. Miller, hired Vearl Caid from Lawton. Caid's experience and contacts in the youth service system helped obtain additional state funds to add Pawnee County to the NOYS service area and open an outreach counseling office in the Pawnee County Courthouse in 1990.

Also in 1990, NOYS obtained its first Child Abuse Prevention grant from the Oklahoma State Health Department. Since then NOYS has continuously operated child abuse prevention programs that have assisted thousands of at-risk families in northern Oklahoma. The NOYS Family Resource Program has been recognized twice by the Oklahoma State Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce for their Outstanding Child Abuse Prevention Program of the Year Award.

In May of 1999, the Ponca City fire marshal and the DHS State Licensing Authority declared the shelter building at 415 West Grand Avenue "inadequate" and asked the NOYS board to set a definite plan for acquiring an acceptable facility.

For the next two years the NOYS board and staff identified and assessed the suitability of five existing buildings, six potential sites and various construction options.

In 2001, NOYS earned a national accreditation by CARF, The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission, for integrated behavioral health programs, including outpatient and children and adolescents outpatient treatment.

In June of 2001 the agency's total program budget for the fiscal year exceeded a million dollars for the first time as NOYS operated the emergency youth shelter and 13 other programs designed to support families and prevent child abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency.

In early 2002, NOYS embarked on the organization's most ambitious and successful efforts yet. In February the board set a capital campaign goal of one million dollars to construct a new family service center and emergency youth shelter.

The campaign kicked off in May under the leadership of the board president, Jeff Denton, and the direction of the campaign chairperson, Lynda Clark.

The hard work and dedication of the entire community paid off and the goal was reached by July of 2003. A

ground breaking ceremony was held in September 2003 at the location of 2203 North Ash Street in Ponca City and the new 8,000-square-foot facility was finished in June.

On July 16, 2004, the community came together to celebrate with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony held for the new Family Service Center and Shelter.

The quality programs and services did not falter during the grueling building campaign. As the new building was being finished in June, an intensive on-site audit earned another three-year national accreditation by CARF, including outpatient and children and adolescents outpatient treatment.

(See NOYS, Page 12M)

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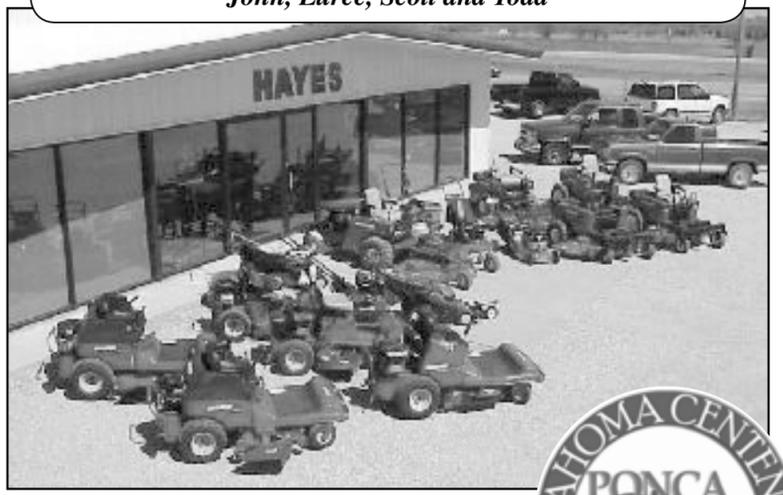
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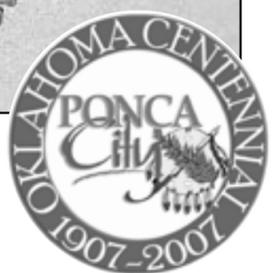
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One-man Machine Shop Becomes Industrial Leader

Mertz Inc. started in 1927. Originally owned and operated by Roy Mertz, the one-man machine and welding shop soon earned a solid reputation for the manufacture of precision products. Roy, a perfectionist, skillfully crafted metal fabrication orders for industry and the public.

After returning from World War II, Forrest and Don Mertz worked under the watchful eye of their grandfather and in 1948 they purchased the company from Roy. Carrying on the tradition of excellence, the brothers eventually outgrew the shop their grandfather had founded. In 1968 they built a new plant, moved to their present location and incorporated as Mertz, Inc.

During this time, Forrest and Don's father, Jack, pursued a career as manager of construction for Marland Oil. Jack's career spanned a period of 50 years with Marland/Conoco Oil. In fact, Mr. Moran counted Jack Mertz as a friend and recruited him to build his Mo-Ranch as well. After retirement from a distinguished tenure with Conoco, Jack recruited a crew of responsible high school students to help with the building of the growing Mertz facilities. Jack spent another 15 years in this effort.

In the 1960s Mertz began building seismic vibrators, which soon became the company's primary product. During a subsequent downturn in the energy market, Mertz began building agricultural equipment.

Steve Ballinger, Forrest's son-in-law, continued the family-operated nature of the business by joining the company in 1988. He held various company positions before becoming General manager in 1996 when Forrest purchased his brother's half of the business. The next year Mertz sold its seismic vibrator product line and moved into the manufacture of equipment for the well-servicing market.

Mertz remained a family-owned company until 2004. In that year, the company changed its name to Mertz Manufacturing, LLC, and became a wholly owned subsidiary of Compact Power Inc. based in Fort Mill, S.C. Mertz currently builds the exclusive lines of Powerhouse and Boxer branded light-medium duty construction equipment for CPI. Steve Ballinger is the current President and COO of Mertz Manufacturing, LLC.

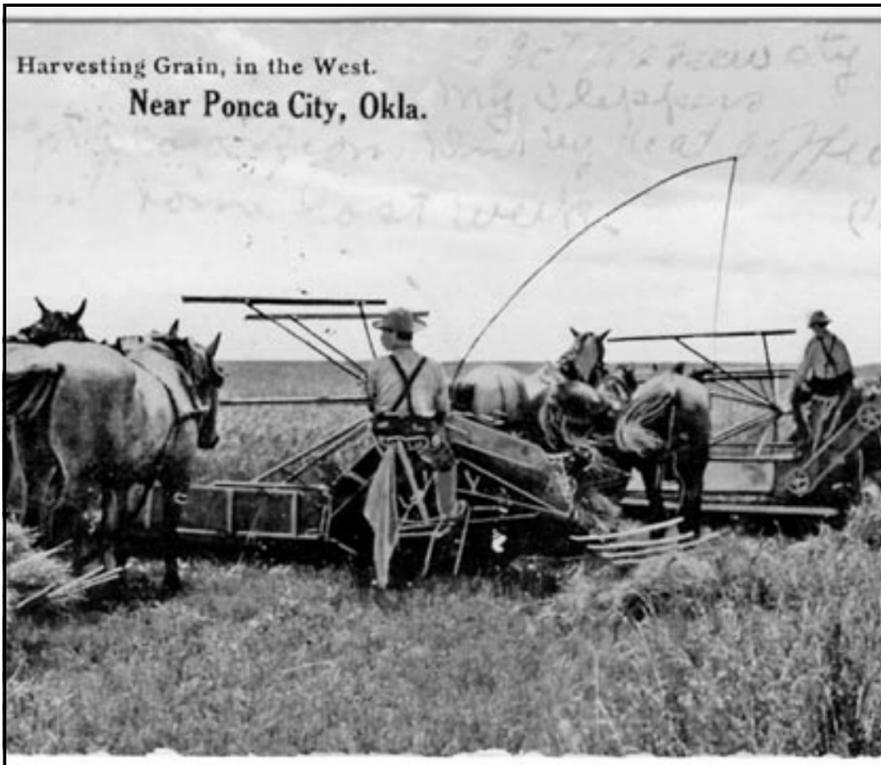
The Ponca City plant has been expanded numerous times and presently covers

over 165,000 square feet. Plans are currently under way to expand the operations west of the plant to accommodate the growth in paint, assembly, inventory, shipping, and receiving operations.

As in the days of old, the company's biggest asset is the experienced, committed and loyal employee base. The average service time of Mertz employees is over seven years. Many employees have been joined by family members in making a career at Mertz.

Mertz Manufacturing products now include compact power utility loaders, mini-excavators, oil and gas field equipment, components for servo-hydraulic petroleum excavation vehicles, fire-fighting apparatus, as well as precision parts for large mining and construction equipment.

Built on an early foundation of superior quality in metalwork, solid business integrity, customer satisfaction, and character-based management, Mertz Manufacturing LLC has been an industry leader for many decades. Companies in 30 countries, worldwide, have come to rely on the performance and durability of Mertz Manufacturing products.



HARVESTING WHEAT on a farm near Ponca City around the turn of the 20th century is depicted on this picture from an early post card.

Round Grove Community Developed After Last Run

Editor's Note: The following information was compiled by Mrs. L.L. Bellinghausen of the Round Grove Extension Homemakers and is published in the History of Kay County, which can be found at the Newkirk Public Library.

ROUND GROVE — After the Cherokee Strip was opened to settlement in 1893, the Round Grove community was developed as people settled down to building homes and farming.

It included the town of Autwine, which was laid out in 1899.

There was a Santa Fe Railway between Blackwell and Ponca City and trains stopped at Autwine several times every day. Much shipping of grain and livestock, including hogs, cattle and wheat, oats and corn were traded and shipped.

There were three grain elevators, a dry goods store, hardware, bank with a meeting hall on the second floor, restaurant, a general merchandise store operated by Orville Horton, and a drugstore owned by the town doctor, E.J. Orvis,

and also a post office where mail was delivered three times each day.

The P.J. Bellinghausen family moved from Lawrence, Kansas to a farm between Tonkawa and Ponca City in 1899. Mr. Bellinghausen was a nursery man and he planted all kinds of fruit trees on his farm and also the Catalphi trees which he had developed.

There was no bridge over the Chikaskia River so they had to ford the river to go to Tonkawa. Their mail and most of their supplies came from Autwine. There were 20 homes in Autwine at this time.

Grade school students went to the Round Grove school and Louis Bellinghausen had to walk over three miles to attend school in the first grade. High School students rode the train and went to the Blackwell High School.

Mrs. Zella Harden was the depot agent for the railway and the telegraph office. Most stores were closed by 1904 and 1905 because Blackwell and Ponca City were growing faster and had better business facilities. One elevator was still in Autwine in 1930.

One lady, whom the Round Grove Extension group had befriended, had a small house and lot which the group inherited. The proceeds from their sale was used to help buy a building from the prisoner of war camp at Tonkawa.

The building was torn down and all the community members worked on the project which was to be the new Round Grove Community building. It was built on land donated by Joe Schiltz one mile south of the Baptist Church and five miles west of Ponca City.

The women made curtains and helped paint so they could have a place for club meetings and other community affairs.

The Round Grove school was annexed to the Finley District about 1954. Another school building was built and three teachers were hired for several years.

The Round Grove school was sold to Joe and Mike Schiltz and moved away. Later the school district was annexed to Tonkawa and Ponca City school districts.

The Baptist Church was closed in 1963 and the building sold and moved.

Local YMCA Began in 1955; New Facility Planned in 2009

The YMCA of Ponca City was chartered in 1955 by a group of individuals with great foresight into the needs of this community.

Over the past 52 years, the YMCA has been "Building strong kids, strong families and a strong community." Throughout the United States, YMCAs collectively are the largest community service organization serving 20.2 million men, women, and children, in 10,000 communities.

In 1968 volunteers raised the funds to build the Y facility.

Throughout the years the YMCA facility has gone through several additions and renovations to keep up with the growing needs of programs and services for the people of

Ponca City and the surrounding areas.

Since its opening the YMCA of Ponca City has been providing programming for youth. However, when the trend and need arose in the late 1980s for child care, since more women were returning to the work force and time demanded that both parents work, the YMCA responded, nationally and locally.

In the 1990s about half a million children received child care at the YMCA annually, in the nation.

In 1998 the YMCA of Ponca City acquired the Before and After school child care program from the Ponca City Public school system. Since then the program has grown from

45 children daily to more than 120 children daily. Since many of the sports programs in the nation were developed by the YMCA nationally like volleyball, basketball, football and racquetball, just to name a few, the YMCA of Ponca City has always tried to offer a wide variety of sports activities for youth and adults.

Plans are now under way for the construction of a new recreation facility to be managed by the YMCA. Ponca City voters voted in May to construct the \$16 million recreation facility with proceeds from a half-cent sales tax. The YMCA had raised \$2.5 million for a pool to be added to its previous location, but which will now be housed in the new recreation center to be built on West Grand and managed by the YMCA. Construction is expected to begin in April 2008 with completion expected in July 2009.

The Mission

It is the mission of the YMCA to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Critical to the mission of the YMCA is our dedication to inclusiveness. No one is turned away from programs or services due to inability to pay. With the help of the United Way the YMCA is able to continue to offer services for those who are in need of financial assistance. Many of the youth in our before and after school programs and our summer day camp programs would not be able to attend if we were not able to offer financial assistance.

The goal of United Way is to help make lasting changes in people's lives, right where people live. With the help of United Way and agencies like the YMCA — changes are happening every day.

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Early Days on Bliss Farm

Editor's Note: The following was compiled by the Mutual Improvement E.H. Group and can be found in the History of Kay County publication at the Newkirk Library.

Early Days Along Bois D'Arc Creek on the Bliss Farm

Ed Bliss came from Buda, Ill., to Newkirk to visit his former boyhood friend, W.G. Fisher and to look for farm land in 1904.

Fisher sold him his own farm which is one mile south and one and one half west of Newkirk. There was about 40 acres of bottom land and was state school land. The state owned the land and the buyer paid for the improvements and assignment of the state lease.

It was a well improved farm with a seven room house, large barn and other outbuildings, two wells, a cistern and an orchard, but best of all a creek ran from north to south through the place.

Bois D'Arc creek was good sized and had flowing water the year round, also a good growth of timber, but for the three or four years it flooded the bottom land each season

and sometimes several times in a year. All the prairie sod became broken for crop land and the water shed couldn't hold all of the run off. So, a heavy rain meant a flood.

The banks and bed of the creek were mostly black mud, but there was an outcropping of rock on this farm. A spring of good water came from this rock ledge and above the spring a wash from heavy rains left a small canyon. In the banks of this wash, fossils were found. One was said to have been a mastodon tusk, a piece of ivory about a foot long.

Boys of the neighborhood used the creek for a meeting place. They fished, hunted and trapped up and down the creek. There was plenty of dry wood or driftwood for a fire and sometimes a rabbit or fish was roasted. There was a swimming hole about a half mile north, which had been a creek bed, but when the creek changed course, a pond was left. It was also a place to skate in the winter.

Flint arrowheads were found in the creek bottom and were plentiful on the south end of this farm. After a big

flood washed top soil away, arrowheads and pieces of them were numerous.

Once a flint tomahawk and flint knives were uncovered. Small pieces of pottery that looked like handles and spouts of jugs were exposed. They were poor quality because of grains of sand in the clay. About 300 of these pieces were picked out of the mud at one time. This indicated an old Indian campsite on the creek. Later other relics were found after cultivation or heavy rain. A collection of arrowheads was given to the University of Oklahoma in later years that came from Bois D'Arc and Deer Creek in this area.

The creek provided plenty of wood. Elm wasn't cut often because it was hard to split, but willow, hackberry, cottonwood and box elder were used. A few oaks grew along the creek but unless they interfered with cultivation, they were not disturbed.

In the summer anyone going to the creek took a fishing line and pocket knife. They would cut a pole, use a stick to dig worms from the bank and could easily catch a mess of bullheads or perch.

Rose Stone Inn
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Tours, Hotels Feature History

Rose Stone Inn, Pioneer Woman Guesthouse, and Hidden Garden Bed & Breakfast are a history experience and teach Oklahoma's Heritage. Shirley & David Zimmerman originally founded the Davenport Inn, a B&B in the Mooney House that once terminated Grand Avenue on the west. That house, built by Dan Mooney in 1904, whose Diamond Oil Co. discovered the Jena-Marie field near Newkirk and was partner with Marland on many ventures, became one of the first B&B's in Oklahoma when Shirley and two others established the Oklahoma Bed & Breakfast Assoc. in 1989. They ran the Inn for eight years and expanded operations downtown. In 1994 they opened Rose Stone Inn at 120 S. 3rd and Derrick's Restaurant. It's a remodeled Savings & Loan building, one of the first S&L's in American history — Ponca City's Building and Loan was established in 1918, merged many times and is now the Bank of the West at 4th and Central. One of the purposes for this Inn was to give tours and serve motorcoach tours to the area. Dave, a former board member of N. Central OK Historical Assoc. and Chairman of Ponca City Tourism, hosted elder hostels along with Northern Oklahoma College for 5 years in the late 90s. Zimmerman continues to teach a class for OU called Standing Bear and the Indian Reform Movement and still guides tours of the local area. Tours include Petroleum from the Ground to the Glamour, This Land is Ours! (Tallgrass/101 tour), and The Roaring 20s and the Roaring Dust. Rooms at the star-rated Rose Stone Inn are named after things to do and see around the area. Among the many guests, are numerous atmospheric researchers who schedule global warming climate studies at the Southern Plains facility near Lamont. "That's typical," Dave claims, "So much of our history is still-aborning and so recent it is just not getting recognized."

In 1977 the couple remodeled an established Ponca City landmark on 14th Street. The Pioneer Woman Guesthouse, just north of the Pioneer Woman State Park, was built in 1963 prior to chain lodging, as the town showplace with adjoining coffee shop. This Route 77 motel had suit-sized rooms and has hosted celebrities and governors throughout the years. Rooms are named after famous Pioneer Women from the region such as Carrie Nation, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and Amelia Earhart. Each has period decor, remembrances of their namesakes, and windows overlooking the Pioneer Woman Monument. Next door is the Pioneer Woman Museum. At the rear of this property is Hidden Garden Bed and Breakfast recently shown on *Discover Oklahoma*. Named after the secluded gardens it resides in an outstanding example of Frank Lloyd Wright's Organic School of Architecture.

Pioneer Woman Guesthouse
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HORSES, MULES and wagons were the main sources of transportation in the early pre- and post-statehood days. This livery and feed barn owned by C.T. Reed helped to supply and support the transportation needs in the early days.



COWLEY COUNTY railroad enthusiasts are planning a countywide celebration of railroad heritage. For information on the event call 620-442-6750.

Newkirk Hosted Fair in Early Days of Kay County

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

Citizens of Newkirk and the surrounding territory organized a Fair Association around 1900. The first year proved to be a financial failure and the association was unable to pay all of the premiums offered and the bills for operation. The next year the association reorganized electing F.B. Hutchison as president and Sylvester Spore, superintendent and general manager. The crops were good that year and everyone was anxious to have an exhibit at the fair. The association gathered

two large tents, built a fine half mile race track, 110 stalls for horse and cattle exhibits and 24 hog pens. The big tents were with farm products, canned goods, jams and jellies. Since the bills were not paid the year before the association could not get credit so Spore and Hutchison agreed to become personally responsible for all bills contracted. They rented lumber, agreeing to buy all that was cut or damaged in anyway. Opening day arrived and exhibition tents were filled to capacity and every stall and pen occupied by well groomed stock. There were fast horses for the races. The fair had advertised widely and people for miles

around planned to attend. The association met, happily anticipating the money that would be left to put the fair solidly on its feet. Disaster struck the next morning in the form of a drenching rain. It rained steadily for four days. Roads were impassible and creeks could not be forded. They were no bridges at the time. Not a race was run, not a paid admission at the gate or a premium awarded. The inventory showed a debit of \$800 and Spore and Hutchison divided the amount by two and paid off the debts of the Fair Association. Not to be discouraged they continued their efforts through the years and many fine county fairs were held in Newkirk.

The fair grounds were about 1.2 mile east of Newkirk. The grounds contained four or five frame buildings, a half mile oval race track and good sized grand stands. The fair was held in September and lasted five days. Livestock, fruit, grain, produce, poultry and art work were exhibited. Racing brought in good horses and cowboys. Rodeo hands from the 101 Ranch came in to perform. Wilson Fisher recalls a time around 1900 when Will Rogers appeared and did rope tricks. In 1909 many saw their first airplane which took off from the oval race track, flew around 10 minutes and landed, terrifying the horses. Frank Midgley Sr. and W.C. Liermann remembered this as

one of the biggest events of the time for Newkirk. Town and fair facilities overflowed with people. Orra Meeks recalled the good horse races with horses named "Goodluck Liniment" and "Colonel Loomis." "Goodluck Liniment" was one of the best and was owned by Charlie Adams, father of Don Adams and Jeanette Sherrod. After 1910 financial difficulties developed but the fair continued. Blackwell also had a fair then. About 1917 the fairs were combined with the city of Blackwell providing facilities and the fair became the Kay County Free Fair. The organization has remained much the same. Theodore Deffner of Black-

well is one of the loyal exhibitors who has entered exhibits at the Kay County Free Fair every year since its beginning and has shown in fairs for more than 50 years. The present fair has a total of approximately 6,000 exhibits each year ranging from roses to horses. It is recognized as one of the outstanding county fairs in Oklahoma and attracts thousands of spectators per night. County Fair executive board members in 1968 were: Ray Elledge, president, Blackwell; Orra Meeks, vice-president, Newkirk; Roy Schiltz, Ponca City; Harold Hiatt, Braman; C.A. Porter, Ponca City; Howard Merhoff, Newkirk; Von Long, secretary Kay County Free Fair and county extension director.

County Chapters of DAR Sprouted After Statehood

The Daughters of the American Revolution was formed Oct. 11, 1890, by four women who had fathers and grandfathers who fought for independence in the Revolutionary War. They were concerned that the men who "helped found this great country" not be forgotten. DAR is a lineage society dedicated to patriotism, historic preservation, and education, especially of children. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineage descent from a patriot, is eligible for membership. The DAR is not a political organization, but has always been a staunch supporter of national defense. As a national society, they have volunteered more than 55,000 hours to veteran patients, awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships, and supported schools for the underprivileged by donations of over a million dollars, annually. The Ponca City Chapter, Oklahoma Society Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized in 1918 by Mrs. J.W. Wilker with 24 members. The Sarah Harrison Chapter of Blackwell was organized in 1914, with 26 members, and merged with the Ponca City Chapter in June of 1998. The Tonkawa Chapter was organized March 18, 1926, with 15 charter members and merged with the Ponca City Chapter on June 5, 1999. The Chapters now work together and share the National Society's goal of promoting

patriotism, historical preservation, and education. The chapter has repeatedly met the requirements for National Gold Honor Roll. Chapter members have served the Oklahoma Society as officers and on committees. In 1941 the chapter presented a cherry wood grandfather's clock with original brass works to the state museum in Oklahoma City. A book entitled "The Last Run," which has a collection of oral histories from pioneer citizens in the Ponca City area, was compiled and published by the chapter. The chapter maintains a DAR Museum in Marland's Grand Home, 1000 West Grand Avenue, where over 200 items of historical value are on display. Many historical monuments have been established by the chapter, including a Memorial Fountain to veterans of WWI, a monument honoring pioneers who made the land run into Oklahoma, and a monument at the site of a spring used as the settlers first water supply. The Ponca City Chapter gives six different awards and Scholarships a year to students in local schools. The chapter meets on the third Friday of the month, September through May at 12:45 p.m. at Marland's Grand Home. At each meeting there is presented a program on Patriotic, Historical and Educational topics. Guests are welcome for the programs. For further information about the organization, or to apply for membership, contact Donna Humble, Regent.

Edwin Fair Center Dates Back to 1958

Edwin Fair Community Mental Health Center is a private, not for profit community mental health agency that dates back to 1958 when a group of local citizens formed what was then referred to as Kay Guidance Association. This group of citizens sought out a psychiatrist who was just graduating from Menninger School of Psychiatry in Kansas, Dr. Ellis Edwin Fair. He came to the community and started the Kay Guidance Center in 1958. Later in 1968, the agency became known as Bi-State Mental Health Foundation and moved to its current location at 1500 North Sixth Street, which is the old Washington Elementary School. The Ponca City School System leased the property for \$1 a year with the understanding that the agency would provide mental health consultations and assessments in the schools for a specified amount of time. Bi-State Mental Health Foundation also had offices in Cowley County in Kansas, thus the reason for the name Bi-State. Dr. Fair secured federal funding for the mental health organization and developed a comprehensive array of services for both children and adults. Services included those provided by adult and child psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, educational psychologist, pastoral counselors, clinical social workers, counselors, and a speech and hearing department. There were child development specialist and substance abuse counselors to round out a very com-

prehensive and diverse group of professionals whose expertise was well respected within the Ponca City and surrounding area. Dr. Fair was a true pioneer in community mental health as such an array of services was uncommon at the time. On May 22, 1989, the organization became known as Edwin Fair Community Mental Health Center, Inc. in honor of its founder. With Dr. Fair's retirement, the leadership of the organization was assumed by Dr. Bill Hamilton, a local psychiatrist who is currently in private practice. Edwin Fair organization has had many community leaders and professionals who are well respected and recognized in our area. The organization takes great pride in its history and association with other professionals in our area who have since moved on to other endeavors. In addition to Dr. Hamilton, other former professionals include Jim Thomas, Ph.D., Dan Smith, Ph.D., Bruce Lutz, Ed.D., Homer Anderson, and Edna Brown, LCSW. There

have been many others who have made significant contributions to the mental health needs of our community but the list would be too lengthy. Needless to say, this community mental health agency is proud of its former and current staff who have dedicated themselves to providing quality mental health services to the community and surrounding area. Currently, the agency is more dependent upon funding from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health but the agency still maintains its private, not for profit status. Over the years, the federal support for community mental health has been replaced with state support. However, there has been limited capacity for the state to maintain the level of funding for a comprehensive array of services that were originally associated with the organization. With current levels of funding, the focus of the mental health delivery of services is more defined and targeted to the most severe and to those most in need of mental health services.

The targeted population includes seriously mental ill consumers, individuals at risk for hospitalizations, and consumers who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Most of the services are targeted to support those individuals such as medication clinic, case management services, and supportive counseling to help maintain individuals on an outpatient basis. In addition, there are children's services available and programs that have received state recognition as best practices such as the Systems of Care program. Another innovative program that Edwin Fair agency provides is a best practice referred to as a PACT team, Program for Assertive Community Treatment. This program targets those individuals who haven't responded to traditional mental health delivery of services and who have had several inpatient stays at psychiatric facilities. For more information on Edwin Fair Community Mental Health Center, call 762-7561.

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THOUSANDS CROWDED into Ponca City and surrounded the Pioneer Woman statue at its dedication on April 22, 1930. Will Rogers spoke at the dedication.

Dan Moran, Continental Gave Land To Be Used for Park

Editor's Note: In June 1941 The News ran the following story about the donation of land for Moran Park on South Avenue.

From the Continental Oil company Ponca City received, Friday, an unexpected and welcome gift-25 acres of land in the southwest part of the city, to be used for park and other civic, noncommercial purposes.

President Dan Moran of Continental tendered the gift to the city through the Chamber of Commerce in a message read by Col. T. D. Harris at the Chamber board of directors meeting Friday afternoon.

After spontaneous applause, the directors lost no time in voting their acceptance, urging the city commission to do the same, and

later in the day a resolution of acceptance and thanks was prepared jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and the commission. It will be acted upon formally by the commission Monday night.

The resolution went further—a return surprise to Moran — and voted that the park he created on the land should be known as Dan Moran park.

Learning of the gift Saturday, public officials, officers of the Chamber of Commerce and of several civic organizations sent telegrams of appreciation to Moran.

The joint Chamber of Commerce and city commission resolution of acceptance follows:

"Where as, the Continental Oil company, through its president, Dan J. Moran, has just presented to citizens of

Ponca City a valuable tract of ground, comprising 25 acres, lying just north of the Continental tank farm, along north side of U. S. highways 60 and 77; and whereas such gift, to be used exclusively for park and other civic, non-commercial purposes, has saved the city a considerable sum of money, thus making it possible for this development, the need for which has long been felt, to begin at once, now, therefore,

"Be it resolved, that this resolution, inform Mr. Moran that the announcement of this gift is receiving the complete and enthusiastic approval of the citizens of Ponca City, and especially of the employees of the Continental Oil company and the residents of the west side of the city; and that his action will cement still more closely the pleasant relationship now existing between the Continental Oil company and the citizens of Ponca City; and will cause us to be still more cognizant of the benefits to be derived from civic cooperation;

"Be it further resolved, that the city commission of the city of Ponca City officially accept this tract and that city officers and the directors of the Chamber of Commerce take this means of expressing their deep appreciation, and that of all citizens for the generous gift; and that they by this resolution recognize the spirit of cooperation and the civic pride which were the inspiration for the gift; and

"Be it further resolved, that we herewith assure Mr. Moran and the Continental Oil Company and the work of beautifying the grounds and preparing it for park and such other developments a are immediately needed will begin at once. It is our further purpose to make a study of the need of this community in order to make this tract serve to the fullest extent the best interests of citizens. It is our desire that this tract of ground perpetuate the name of the donor."

Smith Local Industrial Leader Since Gruner Began in 1950

Smith Technologies is operating for the 57th year as a Ponca City manufacturing facility.

The original Ponca City business was begun in 1950 by Hans Gruner, a German immigrant. He established Gruner and Company at the intersection of Waverly and Hartford, which is still the location for Smith Technologies. The facility has expanded significantly since becoming part of Smith International in 1970.

Smith Technologies Ponca City is a part of Smith International Inc. which is a leading worldwide supplier of products and services to the oil and gas exploration and production industry, the petrochemical industry and other industrial markets. In 1902, Herman C. Smith founded the parent company in a blacksmith shop in the small town of Whittier, Calif., when he began sharpening crude fish-tail bits for the local drilling operators.

From that modest beginning, Smith is now a globally-diversified, Fortune 500 oilfield service company based in Houston, Texas, that employs approximately 18,000 full-time personnel.

The following four business units provide Smith International with a comprehensive line of technologically-advanced products and engineering services: Smith Technologies, M-I Swaco, Smith Services and Wilson.

For the eighth year in a row Smith bits have led the industry in world records; this honor

was awarded from Harts magazine which publishes world records.

Currently, Smith Technologies Ponca City employs around 450 people, most of whom are Ponca Citizens. Employees also commute from several surrounding communities.

Smith has many long-term and loyal employees, with average length of service being approximately 15 years.

The plant covers about 206,000 square feet and houses more than 850 pieces of equipment. Much of this equipment is CNC (Computer Numerical Controlled) lathes, mills and machining centers.

Most of the employees in the manufacturing areas are titled manufacturing technicians, and perform such jobs as machine operation, welding, hardfacing, brazing, assembling, heat treatment, warehouse and shipping.

Other jobs in the manufacturing areas are performed by support department employees such as quality assurance, maintenance and tooling.

Many others who support manufacturing operations from areas such as design and integration services, manufacturing engineering, purchasing, planning and scheduling services, information systems, accounting and human resources. An efficient operation takes a coordinated effort by all.

The company offers over 1000 sizes and types of drill bits under the Smith Bits product lines.

The Ponca City operation currently produces more than 100 roller rock bits per day, ranging in size from 3 7/8 inches to 17 inches in diameter.

There are also two new product lines in Ponca City. New production includes PDC (polycrystalline diamond compact) Fixed Cutter bits, and Impax Percussion and Hammer bits. Both types of bits target the oil and gas industry.

Production of several other types of downhole tools is also being considered for manufacturing, and we are extremely optimistic about expanding our ability to reach new markets and customers for Ponca City production.

Company officials say, "Our quality policy is to establish a relentless focus on satisfying customer needs and expectations. We seek excellence in products and services through continual improvements by establishing annual strategic quality objectives, defining specific measures for these objectives and monitoring progress against these objectives. Smith Technologies employees understand that we must exceed our customers' expectations, and also that we must meet the needs of employees. Firm, fair and consistent are words you will hear when discussing such things as pay, benefits, or respect for personnel in general. In order to continue as a world leader continuous improvement and innovation are essential, and the proud employees of Smith are dedicated to this strategy."

Calkins Mansion Survived Many Ordeals Through Years

The C.F. Calkins home is a Southern Colonial mansion built 100 years ago by Cherokee Strip pioneers.

Calkins was an early day merchant who owned a general store at 120 East Grand for many of the early years in Ponca City.

The three story, 9,000-square-foot home, which has a three-quarters basement, was erected on West Grand about 1907.

It was the largest privately owned home in Ponca City until E.W. Marland built the Marland Mansion.

Steeped in history from the earliest days of the Cherokee Strip, the steel frame of the building was once a part of one of this area's first banks.

The late Charles DeRoberts, who was the father of Mrs. C.F. Calkins, first used the steel building as a bank in Cross, which is now the Cross Addition of Ponca City.

In the beginning, Cross was a thriving young town. When the Santa Fe Railroad made Ponca City the main stop on the line instead of Cross, the small community withered and eventually yielded to the larger town of Ponca City. It was then that the Bank of Cross was moved to the corner of First and Grand and became the First National Bank.

Later, when the bank built a permanent building, the metal structure was moved to the 500 block on West Grand, and became the nucleus of the Calkins home. In order to preserve the elm trees, which were already on the property, the trees were dug up, the roots balled, and they were laid on their side while the building was wheeled onto the property.

The trees were then righted and replanted. During the tornado of 1912, the home was severely damaged by flying fencing from a dog racing track which stood at the corner of Osage and Grand, on the location of the old No. 2 Fire Station. At this time, Mr. Calkins had the structure jacked up and turned one quarter of a turn counterclockwise. The present east side of the building was once the south front.

After the move, the two-story Colonial porch and columns were added to the house, which contained a breakfast room and a new kitchen. At one time the home boasted 20 rooms with four complete tile baths on the second floor, a complete bath on the third floor, a half bath on the first floor and also in the basement.

On the main floor there was

a music room, a living room, a dining room, a breakfast room, the kitchen and a private office.

The kitchen included a walk-in refrigerator room and a 7-by-15-foot walk-in pantry.

In the early years the building was heated by a coal furnace, with an outside coal bin, with a screw type conveyor to bring the coal from the bin to the furnace.

When the Calkins occupied the house, it was filled with a vast art collection. Painters included Thomas Moran, Corot, Albert Pike Lucas, DeHoogh and Sandzen. The Calkins also owned several pieces of Chinese silk hangings, and many Persian rugs, which were displayed in the third floor ballroom.

All rooms and halls on the first and second floors of the home, except the kitchen, had the walls and ceilings hand-painted and decorated with birds and floral designs by Mr. Fred Bickley, a local interior decorator.

The home was purchased by the F.M. Trout and Sons Funeral Home after Mr. Calkin's death in 1943.

Much of the original architecture was retained and the building has provided a warm home-like atmosphere for the business through the years.

War Memorial Honors Veterans

The War Memorial in front of the Charles P. Howell Building was erected to honor former students and teachers who served in the Armed Forces in World War II and to perpetuate the memory of the 71 who gave their lives for our country.

The names of these Gold Star heroes of WWII are recorded on a plaque in the center of the memorial. The names of nine students who gave their lives during the Korean emergency are on the smaller plaque on the memorial.

The Student Councils and the student bodies for the years 1946 through 1951 financed

the building of the memorial. The Board of Education appropriated funds for the Memorial Walk which leads from Overbrook Avenue to the War Memorial. School records show that at least 1,515 former students and teachers served in the Armed Forces during WWII. The 1945 edition of the Cat Tale Yearbook was dedicated to these who gave us "a new meaning to the words valiant, true, and brace."

The War Memorial represents many different things to many people. Directly or indirectly several thousand students and patrons had a part in making it a reality. It

represents the whole-hearted and cooperative efforts of the student bodies and faculty working together for the common goal, and it represents the willingness of the people of this community to support those efforts.

It is a bond between the student body and the former Po-Hi students who did their part so well in WWII. It is a constant and permanent reminder of our own citizenship obligations and a challenge to each succeeding student generation to prove itself worthy of the ideals for which others fought and for which many died.

Neighbors Club Formed During 1901

The Royal Neighbors of America was organized and chartered Feb. 9, 1901.

Mrs. Nancy Daack, who is serving as oracle of the camp, received a 50-year membership pin in 1969. There were 25 members in the organization in 1969 that had been members 50 years or more. Lottie Barrett was a Royal Neighbor member for 63 years.

Members of the organization, which is headquartered at Rock Island, Ill., meet twice a month for socials and charitable activities.

Other officers in 1969 were Beulah White, past oracle; Lillie Colvin, vice oracle; Bessie Peterson, chancellor; Daisy Berry, recorder; Minnie McClelland, receiver; Gladys Becraft, managers; Ruth Hastings and Verna Pray, musicians; Ema Garnett, flag bearer; Mildren Hatten, captain; and graces Madeline McClaskey, faith; Margaret McKenney, courage; Dovie West, modesty; Mattie Heinze, unselfishness and Pearl Conelison, endurance.

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— EST. 1995 —

Mill

(Continued From Page 5M)

The mill had a flour manufacturing capacity of 100 barrels a day.

The firm bought wheat from the 1894 crop, the first produced after the Outlet opening. It is recorded that the first load of wheat purchased was brought in by Little Buffalo Standing, a Ponca chief.

In about 1895, two Donahoe brothers, E.L. and J.J. purchased the mill. A third brother, D.J., joined the other two in 1899. He was in the grain business at Billings, but moved to Ponca City in 1901 to become active manager of the company.

The Ponca City Milling Co. was incorporated in 1915, with the three Donahoes retaining most of the stock. In 1917, when E.L. died, operation of the mill and affiliated elevators passed into the hands of D.J. Donahoe Sr.

Four years later D.J. Jr. returned from school and went to work in the mill. The next year, 1922, he became manager, his father remaining as adviser and president of the company.

At this time a new mill was built. In 1923 the elevator capacity was increased to 100,000 bushels.

Today's mill building, now 53 years old, was erected by Dunning Construction Co., Oklahoma City. The plant was a "sunlight mill," having the maximum number of windows so sunlight reached practically every nook and corner.

The owners installed the "best of machinery and equipment," made by Barnard and Leas Mill Machinery Co., Moline, Ill. Included was a McIntosh-Seymore full Diesel oil engine which furnished power to operate the mill. An air purifying system eliminated dust from the building.

In addition to its flour milling facilities, the plant included a corn mill capable of turning out 20 tons per day of balanced rations for dairy cows and chickens.

The firm sold its products over many parts of the U.S., chiefly in the South and Southwest. It operated seven grain elevators outside of Ponca City — at Kaw City, Burbank, Ralston, Marland, Red Rock, Wakita and Mulhall.

The new mill's daily capacity was 500 barrels of flour, 200 barrels of corn meal and 50 tons of feed. The mill and its machinery represented an investment of \$200,000, according to newspaper reports.

In 1928 a building contract was awarded for the present warehouse and office building. The 60 by 44 foot warehouse occupied the site of the old mill, which was removed. The old frame office building was moved to the rear of the lot to make way for the new one. A basement under the office contained the new mill laboratory.

Both the warehouse and office were of brick and concrete so they would have the same construction and appearance of the new mill. Harner & Wyatt of Kansas City were architects for all three structures. George M. Robertson Construction Co. of Lincoln, Neb., was the successful bidder for the warehouse and office contract.

"Dee" Donahoe (D.J. Jr.) later became president and remained as manager until Feb. 28, 1945, when the com-

pany was bought by International Milling Co.

In January 1943, he announced that a new mixer and a new feed warehouse had been added to the facilities. The building housing the mixer was built next to the company's location. W.J. Grover Jr. was named to manage the feed department.

Johnny Howe worked at the mill in 1927-31. He hired on as a chemist, but also helped draw up plans regarding size and location of the new mill. Although he was there only about four years, Howe says those were times when some radical changes in farming were being made. This period also saw the coming of the Great Depression to this area, and Johnny was one of the many people who found themselves out of a job for that reason.

It was because he couldn't find employment that he went into the bread baking business. He operated the Howe Baking Co. her from 1931 to 1957.

When Howe first came to work at the mill, the office was a small former pioneer residence. The mill itself was three stories high and covered an area about the size of a house. Johnny had the job of buying all the things needed in a mill laboratory and overseeing installation.

In the new lab they started testing flour for moisture, protein and baking qualities. The experimental baking tests provided Howe with a knowledge that he later put to use in his bakery.

Howe said that during harvest in the 1920s horse-drawn wagons would line up for two or three blocks down First Street, waiting their turn to come onto the scales and then dump their load in the elevator. The same kind of lines formed at J.M. Shornden's elevator on North First.

Getting the wheat to market via wagon and a team of horses was a much slower process than after trucks came onto the scene. But there wasn't nearly a much wheat produced as there is today, for two reasons, Howe says.

In the first place, considerably fewer acres were planted to wheat then. Much of the cultivated land was devoted to corn, which was raised mainly to feed horses, hogs and other livestock. Howe said, also, that the average wheat yield for Kay County then was only 12-14 bushels per acre. Fertilizers, better farming practices and improved wheat varieties have brought about the much higher yields of today.

The change from horses to combines, tractors and trucks occurred largely between 1926 and 1931 in this community, according to Howe. Gradually more wheat, and less corn, was grown in the county. Unfortunately the wheat price got so low during the Depression and Dust Bowl days that it was hardly worth raising. Howe recalls the price dipped to less than 30 cents a bushel at the mill. The demand for flour also fell off sharply.

Royal Banquet and Ponca's Best were the two main brands turned out by the mill at that time. Much earlier — in March 1912 — an item in the Ponca City Democrat listed Banquet, Cream, Crown and Ponca Best as the brands of flour produced.

A flour sack — probably

from sometime in the 1930s — has been kept by Mrs. Luther West, 418 North Osage. According to printing on the bag it contained 12 pounds of Royal Banquet Extra Fancy Patent Flour. Also printed on the front was "Ponca City Milling Co., Inc. Ponca City, Okla."

A sketch of the mill and a guarantee appeared on the other side of the sack. The latter read: "We guarantee to be milled from a brand of carefully selected Highest Grade Hard Wheat, under the most sanitary conditions. Even the air is washed in our sanitary sunlight mill which cleans all impurities from the air, and assures you a clean wholesome flour. Royal Banquet will give complete satisfaction for all baking purposes or your purchase will be replaced or refunded. Ponca City Milling Co., Inc. D.J. Donahoe, Pres."

The mill and elevators acquired a bright new look in 1938 when given an aluminum-colored coat of paint. It was a new type of painting job that took seven weeks and cost \$10,000. Dee Donahoe believed he had the answer to proper preservation and weather-proofing of concrete, as well as an attractive appearance that would last a long time.

Contractors were Cement Gun Construction Co. of Chicago, pioneers in the new type of application. This was the first job of its kind south or southwest of Kansas City.

According to a story appearing in the Nov. 13, 1938, edition of The News, the world's first concrete elevators were built about 1918. But an effective method of weatherproofing the structures wasn't developed for several years. The article said cement paint had been tried, but it became hard and started cracking within a few weeks due to expansion of the concrete.

The type of application used on the local elevators was never to become hard, and it was to contract and expand with the building itself. The surface was prepared by sand blasting to remove all foreign substances and set up a perfect base. When any defective concrete was discovered in the blasting, workmen went back over the surface, chipping out defective spots and patching with a specially prepared mastic.

A special asphalt mixture, black in color, was then applied over the entire surface, followed by a second coat containing silica sand. Two coats of aluminum paint then were put on under air pressure. Approximately 85,000 square feet of concrete were covered by the painters.

Now, more than 40 years later, Donahoe's confidence in the weatherproofing job seems to have been justified, according to the present owners. The surface is reported to still be in good shape, although much of the paint has worn off to reveal the dark coating underneath. Apparently there has not been a later paint job, but International Milling did paint its Robin Hood Flour sign on both sides.

Fire Damages Mill
About a year and eight months after International became the owners, the mill was damaged by a fire on Halloween morning, Oct. 31, 1946. International had changed from natural gas to heating oil, according to Jack Baskin, then assistant fire chief, who

recalls the spectacular blaze of 34 years ago. A composition roof had been added to the mill, and this was what caught fire as sparks fell from an oil burner smokestack.

While hundreds of people watched, firemen, assisted by mill workers, fought the flames for nearly an hour. They kept the fire from spreading to the interior of the mill or to the concrete grain elevators on its south side.

Playing water on the burning roof from street level had little effect, according to Baskin, so he and several others rode up an endless belt manlift, taking ropes with them. The ropes were used to haul up fire hose on the outside of the elevators to a position from which water could be poured downward on the flames.

Damage to the roof and dust collector equipment located atop the mill was estimated at approximately \$3,500 by Robert McKercher, mill manager. But water damage and the loss to business while shut down for cleaning and repair was expected to increase the loss to well over \$40,000.

International Milling Co. was making flour at 22 locations in the U.S. and Canada when it purchased the mill here Feb. 28, 1945. At that time the local plant was producing 90,000 pounds of flour daily. International discontinued the feed operation and began a program of improvements and expansion.

Later the mill had a daily capacity of 240,000 pounds of flour. The manager was Ed H. Rush and the mill had 33 employees. Rush also managed the company's mill at Blackwell.

In 1959 the company quit making flour here. The machinery and other equipment were removed, part of it going to Blackwell and the remainder either used elsewhere by the company or sold.

It wasn't until 1965, however, that International sold its Ponca City property to Frontier Grain Co. Frontier sold out in 1973 to Louis Jorski, who operated as Jorski Mill and Elevator Inc. until Richard and Bill Jorski became the owners.

Ponca Grain & Feed Inc. buys wheat, corn, oats, barley and milo. Probably 85-90 percent of the grain handled is wheat, according to Richard Jorski. Most of the corn comes from Nebraska and most of the oats from South Dakota.

Approximately 75 percent of the wheat goes for export, with the remainder sold to Shawnee Milling Co. to make flour. The firm retails feed to farmers and stockmen in Kay, Osage and Noble counties.

Formerly this feed was both from Shawnee, but now the local firm makes about 40 percent of it. Jorski said they have plans for expanding their feed operations and will install some additional equipment in the next few weeks.

They have put in a new scale and unloading facilities. The scale is about twice as big as the one previously used, and more conveniently located to handle today's large semi-trailers. They can now unload 7,000 to 8,000 bushels an hour, compared to 1,000 previously.

At his death in September 1946, Daniel J. Donahoe Sr.

was described in The News as a wealthy pioneer Ponca City grain and flour milling merchant and civic leader. One of six Donahoe brothers, he died at age 81.

Daniel Sr. was a graduate of Wisconsin University, where he later received his law degree. He made the 1893 run from the southern border of the Cherokee Outlet, at a point about due north of Marshall. He and two brothers and a sister all obtained claims, but when he found there was no railroad nearby Daniel Sr. gave his claim to a stranger and rode away.

He set up a law office in a tent at Perry, but after a month came to Ponca City. He bought a claim and started up his law practice again, but soon began buying grain.

D.J. Sr. also had ranching interests near Red Rock. He worked for years to get better railroad facilities here and in 1925 was instrumental in convincing the Interstate Commerce Commission that the Rock Island should be extended through here.

He helped found the Commercial Club, later the Chamber of Commerce, and was its president in 1930. He helped organize the Retailers Credit Association and the Security Bank, being a director of the latter and of the Ponca City Building & Loan Association.

A charter member of Rotary, he served that club as president.

He also served on the City Council and was an active member of the Library Board for 34 years.

In 1919, when there was a lot of unemployment, he suggested that the Chamber of Commerce organize a social group to care for those needing help. He headed the committee that planned the Humane Society and became its chairman, remaining as head of the organization when its name was changed to the Welfare Association. Donahoe's real estate holdings became a major part of the town's early development.

Many others connected with the flour mill, including Dee Donahoe, also have passed on. In 1939 there were about 40 persons on the payroll.

Homer Brunt was the oldest employee at that time, having started working for the Donahoes in 1897. He was a grain buyer at their elevator in Mulhall for two years prior to coming here.

C.D. Ashenhurst was sales manager and had been with the firm for many years. George Alderman had been employed since 1900 and Jim Hazen since 1907. Roy Cobb, who joined the company in 1900, later moved to California.

In 1939 staff also included A.W. Oberschelp; Alice Leche Armstrong, accountant; Joe Cooper, mill superintendent, and Bob Hawkins, warehouse superintendent.

Archie Higgins worked at the mill from Jan. 2, 1934, to 1945 when the Donahoes sold out. He was assistant grain elevator operator under Wassom, then head operator for two or three years after the latter's death. Higgins resigned and entered the plumbing business. Now semi-retired, he still works on small jobs.

Oberschelp came to Ponca City in 1915 and worked for the city Water and Light Department until he re-enlisted in the Army in 1918. Returning after World War I, he was employed in the meat market of Charles and Fred Handley until starting to work at the mill in 1921.

Later he was employed by the Donahoes at both the mill and their laundry. Oberschelp resigned in the early 1930s and operated the Elite Laundry and Cleaners for 45 years, retiring three years ago.

Several of Homer Brunt's relatives followed him into work at the mill. They included his son-in-law, George Spaulding, who was a truck driver. George's sons, Homer and Paul Spaulding, also worked at the mill here as did their brother-in-law, Ralph Mitchell; their aunt, Marguerite Brunt Wise, and an uncle, Ray Morgan. A sister of the Spaulding brothers, Rachel Christy, worked for International after it bought the mill.

Oscar Woody was a former mill superintendent. The former Ruth Wright, now Mrs. Melburn Leche, was private secretary to Dee Donahoe in 1941-42.

McGee Jewelers One of Oldest Firms

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

One of the businesses in Kay County that is more than 100 years old is McGee Jewelers, which opened in Blackwell in March 1907, before Oklahoma became a state in November.

The history of the jewelry store began in Cherokee, Iowa, in 1896. After operating the business of 10 years, the McGee family set out in search of a warmer climate.

After a year of travel by train, the family — John Marion McGee and his wife Minnie and their two sons, Robert and Fred — settled, in Blackwell opening their store there.

Robert and Fred assumed the operation in the early 1920s.

Robert died in 1924 and Fred continued to operate the store with his wife Bessie until 1961

when it was turned over to their sons, Bob and Bill.

In 1965, Bill moved to Norman and opened a store there. Bob and his wife Billie, and Bob's father Fred continued to operate the store in Blackwell until March 1977, when the store was moved to 219 East Grand in Ponca City.

Today the store is still operated by McGee descendant, Matt, and his extended family.

The historic original fixtures and safe are still being used on an everyday basis in the store, same as nearly 100 years ago.

Although the store has acquired many new tools, many of the older ones are still in use.

A new fifth generation J.M. (Justin Matthew) McGee, son of Matt, is waiting his turn to assume future ownership.



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Schools

(Continued From Page 3M)

The City approved Jaycees boat races at Lake Ponca on Labor Day.

On Aug. 1, barricades were removed, and the Highland underpass was opened. Construction had begun in June 1961.

Continental Bowl opened on North Fourteenth Street.

Jack Davenport donated the original ticket office of the famous 101 Ranch Roundup for the rodeo. A total of 7,000 spectators enjoyed the rodeo performances.

Ponca Military Academy had a capacity enrollment of 150 cadets representing 12 states and two foreign countries.

T.J. Cuzalina and Dee Sims chaired the first annual Cherokee Strip golf tournament at the Ponca City Country Club.

City Commissioners set a 10 p.m. curfew for minors at Lake Ponca.

Candy Stripers, the voluntary teen-age service group at the hospital, chalked up 1,700 summer service hours.

Charles Stolper announced the formation of Temple Emanuel and the plans to build a Jewish house of worship.

Billy Jo Nimmo announced plans to build a 41-room nursing home for \$25,000 on Airport Road. Glen Conklin was going to construct a \$150,000 nursing home with housing for 56 patients.

In October, The Soroptimist Club hosted the first public major event, a style show, in the new Hutchins Memorial Auditorium.

In August, the Army engineers asked the Senate Public Works subcommittee to approve \$83.23 million for the Kaw Reservoir.

More than 70 businessmen and civic leaders met to kick off the fund drive to under-

write the project for the next three years. Congress authorized construction of the Kaw Reservoir on Oct. 14, and sent the bill to the White House for a signature.

H.H. Patterson sold Pat's Potato Chip Co. to Guy's Foods. He had operated the business that his parents founded in 1927 at the Ponca Theatre.

In November, Oklahomans elected a Republican governor for the first time in history, Henry Bellmon of Billings.

Paul Lawrence sold his Lawrence Concrete Co. on U.S. 77 to Chandler Materials Co.

Evans and Throop Construction started digging up and repairing portions of Fourteenth Street from South Avenue to the north city limits.

The new Thunderbird 40-unit motel on South Fourteenth Street had a two-day open house.

The city annexed 131 acres on the west side, including Hampton and Kupka properties, the Drive-in Theater and the Selvey Addition.

1963 — Sen. Robert S. Kerr died unexpectedly in Washington, D.C. He had led the campaign for the Kaw Dam project.

The new \$2 million wing at Ponca City Hospital opened.

City commissioners approved the plans for 25 boat docks at Lake Ponca.

Continental Bowl changed its name to Pioneer Bowl, so they didn't infringe on the Continental Oil trade name.

The school board authorized the use of the administration and the Senior High School as fallout shelters.

Gene Morahan, president of the Jaycees and First National Bank cashier, was chosen one of the state's three outstanding young men of the year.

Gov. Henry Bellmon and

Robert S. Kerr Jr. headed the list of distinguished guests for the second big Kaw Dam rally, honoring Don McBride, water resource technician. Some 1,200 people attended the rally at Hutchins Memorial.

In March, Conoco was awarded an \$11.5 million military contract to supply the government with 128,512 million gallons of aviation fuel. The Ponca City refinery was to supply 4,420 barrels daily.

Millard Clawson, city civil defense director, marked 16 buildings as fallout shelters that would protect 5,560 residents.

Martin Garber of Enid, 8th District highway commissioner, toured the roads in this area. He said the 30 miles of U.S. 60 east of the city were probably the worst stretch of road between the east and west coast.

City commissioners adopted an ordinance on April 1, providing for licensing and regulation of private clubs that permit the drinking of alcohol beverages.

Lydie Marland gave the city a large painting of a foxhunt.

Rose Chisholm and Barbara Harwood, high school seniors, were named 1963 National Merit Scholarship winners.

Randy Hodgson, Larry Garrett, Van Edwards, and Keith Harman, all Po-Hi seniors, were named Junior Master Farmers in the FFA program.

Lee Drake and partners announced they would construct the Meadows Apartments, a 24-unit garden-type luxury complex on East Hartford.

The Ponca City News, was appointed by Gov. Bellmon to be the Oklahoma Economic Advisory council, a new body to bolster industry in the state.



FORMER SHERIFFS Craig Countryman, Bernie Drowaskey, Glen Guinn, Norman Coffelt, and Danny Johnstone are pictured outside the sheriff's department.

Sheriffs Keep Peace in Kay County

There have been 31 sheriffs in the history of Kay County with C.W. Wooden being the first sheriff following statehood in 1907. Today Everette Van Hoesen holds the position of Kay County Sheriff.

1893 — George S. Fenton
1894 — H.C. Masters
1896-1900 — William F. Pierce

1900 — Daniel A. Bain
1902-1905 — R. W. Whitaker
1905-1907 — C. W. Wooden
1907 — Sylvester G. Ford
1908-1910 — Paul M. Mead
1912-1914 — Hugh Johnson
1916 — W. L. Holmes
1917 — W. L. Haines
1918-1921 — Dan A. Bain
1924-1927 — J.M. Barker

1929-1931 — Joe H. Cooper
1933-1935 — Ed Shinn
1937 — O.W. Cook
1939-1945 — D. F. Harsh
1947 — Roy Welch
1949 — Lloyd R. Shinn
1951-1953 — Roy Welch
1955-1963 — Forrest Walker
1965-1975 — Norman L. Coffelt

Arrested the first drunk of 1968 at 1:20 a.m.

1977-1981 — Thomas D. "Danny" Johnstone
1983-1985 — Robert E. Johnson

retired
1986-1987 — acting sheriff Glenn Guinn
1987 — Richard Stickney
1987-1988 — Richard Stickney

Stickney resigned as sheriff

on Oct. 31, 1988, to stay within budget.

"Due to mandatory budget restraints and to allow service to be restored to the people, I feel the best immediate and short-term solution would be to resign, effective midnight Oct. 31, 1988," he said.

By resigning a portion of his salary was used to pay part of overtime claims.

1988-1989 — Bernie Drowatsky
1989-1992 — Glenn Guinn
1993-1998 — Marion Van Hoesen

1999-January 2005 — Craig Countryman
2005-present — Everett Van Hoesen

1965

(Continued From Page 4M)

The Chamber of Commerce voted to have two signs on I-35, promoting Ponca City's tourist attractions. Each sign featured an 18-foot picture of the Pioneer Woman Statue.

In May, Cities Service adopted a new marketing name, CITGO, a new emblem and a red, white and blue color scheme, replacing the Cities Service Oil Co. trademark at the company's 13,000 service stations in 37 states. Two new CITGO products — a premium gasoline and a multi-grade motor oil — were introduced with the name change.

Forrest Walker, veteran

Kay County peace officer, was appointed chief of police. He succeeded Earl F. Lane, police chief since 1959, who retired.

On Halloween, downtown merchants staged a Moonlight Madness Sale. Stores were open from 7 to 10 p.m. with special bargains.

Employees were dressed in their pajamas.

In November, Ponca Playhouse presented Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," directed by Loyd Bishop.

Kay County Cablevision Co., formed in November, contracted with Southwestern Bell to build and maintain a new

cable company. They built a 400-foot receiving tower east of town to receive TV stations in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Wichita.

The City authorized two parking lots in the downtown area. Property owners would pay half the cost of building the lots, and the City would cover the other half. Parking was to be free.

Gibson's Discount Center opened in November on North Fourteenth Street. The slogan was "Where You Always Buy the Best for Less."

On Dec. 1, there was a new sound in town ... K-LOR Radio, 99.3 FM.

NOYS

(Continued From Page 7M)

The sparkling new facility immediately housed the youth shelter and 12 more programs that reached thousands of youth and families in Northern Oklahoma.

Traditional youth service programs like the shelter and outreach counseling were complemented by innovative volunteer efforts such as CASA and the ARMS Mentoring Program.

In the early days the NOYS mission was to operate an emergency youth shelter and programs to divert at-risk youth from the juvenile justice system.

Over the past 36 years NOYS has evolved into a multi-county program that exists "to strengthen families, decrease the occurrence

of child abuse and neglect, family violence, teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency." To accomplish this mission the NOYS board and staff plan and set annual goals and outcome objectives for reaching the at-risk population with specific service programs.

"The support of United Way has been a significant part of the growth and success of NOYS since 1988. Local funds such as the United Way allocation not only pay for needed services but also leverage the state and federal funds that makes up the bulk of the agency's budget. The United Way of Ponca City is an important part of the history of Northern Oklahoma Youth Services and will be important to our future success!" says Caid.

100 YEARS



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