

# History of Southwest Tulsa

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# Chapter One: Pre-History

## Layers of History

There are beginnings to all things. Depending on the pursuit of recording, the exact beginning will change from time to time. If, for example, the earliest footprints of man in the area are sought, you would seek out someone like William “Bill” O’Brien, local Tulsa historian and geologist. Bill O’Brien will gladly tell you about the physical composition of the earth’s surface and how it played a role in developments taking place, about pre-historic finds in certain areas and fossils which help chart progress in times we know little about.

O’Brien’s ongoing research covers the beginnings of man in this part of the country, about 12,000 B.C. He and others have found enough evidence to believe men traveled through the area from the north land bridge near our Alaska and traveled southward. Tracing bones, arrowheads and other archaeological finds, he has given us a beginning (one beginning) for this story.

Much of Oklahoma was once under water, was home to dinosaurs and was formed by changes in the earth’s surface. These changes took place gradually over the many years. As the surface rose from the water, the Clovis man, and later the Plainview man came to the area in search of food and water.

The river flowing through this area provided food, transportation and water for early travelers. Near the bend in the river by the current-day Sunoco refinery were several natural springs that provided quality drinking water. These were found early as explorers searched through the virgin land for new resources.

In 1682, French explorer LaSalle traveled down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. He raised a cross and planted the French Flag and claimed for France all the territory of the Mississippi Valley and beyond. LaSalle named the land Louisiana for King Louis XIV. The vast area included the Arkansas River and all the country watered by its tributaries, including what is now Oklahoma.

It was years before other explorers ventured into the land and documented their findings. In 1763, the land was ceded to Spain during the French and Indian War. Then in 1800, Spain ceded the land back to France. The United States bought Louisiana from the French in 1803 with the famous “Louisiana Purchase”, and white men began to venture up river into the Indian land. Among the first official people assigned to explore here was the legendary Lewis and Clark team. In 1804, they were ordered to explore the new lands from St. Louis to the west by President Thomas Jefferson.

Another exploratory trip began on Tuesday, October 28, 1806, in Kansas. Lt. James B. Wilkinson started out from Larned, Kansas with a party of men to explore the Arkansas River area south of Kansas. They left in two canoes, constructed of buffalo skins and green cottonwood trees. The group carried provisions for 22 days and expected to reach the mouth of the Mississippi River within that time. Their journey took 73 days and they suffered along the way. During their journey, they discovered no white settlements along the Arkansas River. They reported seeing thousands of buffalo and being watched by several Indian hunting parties.

Early Indians living in the untamed land were beginning to see a change which would never be equaled for them. White men started coming to their homeland. Then another change started taking place. This change involved the removal of Indians from their homes in the southeastern United States into "Indian Territory".

In 1812, the U.S. government began the removal of eastern Indians to the Louisiana Territory from their homes when nearly 2,000 Cherokees abandoned their homes in Georgia and Tennessee and started west. This was the first phase of the long removal period during which members of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole tribes in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida came west.

Between 1812 and 1837 nearly all of the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes traveled the tragic trail to the land which was to become Indian Territory. The land was divided among the Five Civilized Tribes: the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles.

On arriving in the new land, the remnants of the tribes adjusted to their new surroundings. They established farms, ranches and plantations; built towns, churches and schools; linked the five Indian nations together with a well-developed system of trade and communications. Even here in the wilderness they governed themselves with their own laws and their own courts and continued their progress along the road to a civilized society.

The natural born Indians and those forced here made the best of what they had. Then they faced other hardships. Land, once given to them, was beginning to be taken away from them as white settlers started arriving. Pressure was put on them to give up parts of their allotments and they were faced with other white man controls. In 1817, Fort Gibson was erected on the border of eastern Oklahoma to control the Indians. They were resisting the white settlers and the reduction in their lands.

In 1820, the U.S. Government set aside a portion of the Louisiana Purchase and designated it "Indian Territory". Its area was divided among the Five Civilized Tribes: the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles. Additional control was needed to bring the Indians into compliance with government regulations and in 1824, Fort Gibson was established on the Grand River in northeastern Oklahoma.

But what about the Tulsa area? On October 14, 1832, Washington Irving, documentary writer and artist passed through the present site of Tulsa, traveling in the company of U.S. Rangers. It is said he is the first white American civilian to reach the area. Washington Irving may have been the first, but thousands were poised to follow among those in the east, eager for handouts of land allotments.

Then, in 1834, the Creek Indians started their migration from Alabama. A few of them left as early as 1828. By 1836, more than 10,000 of them had reached Fort Gibson in Indian Territory. This migration turned into a death march for thousands of Indians. Freezing cold weather, inadequate food and no provision for medical care took a heavy toll among the Creeks.

A band of Creeks, calling themselves the Lochapokas, since that was the name of their home village in Alabama, arrived at Fort Gibson in 1836. Although they came all the way from Alabama in a single body, they had undergone extreme hardships on the journey, losing almost half of their group along the way.

Without stopping, the Lochapokas continued their journey up the Arkansas River. They were a proud and colorful group dressed in bright, fringed shirts and dresses. Most of the men wore a gaily colored handkerchief bound round their heads like a turban, with one end hanging down beside an ear. Coming through a beautiful small valley bounded by low-lying hills on three sides, the group paused near the bend of the river as the sun began to dip toward the horizon.

Then a single Creek Indian brave -- transplanted from his native home in Alabama to the raw wilderness between the Ozark Mountains and the Arkansas River -- trotted down the trail along the east bank of the river and up a small hill. On the crest of the hill overlooking the river he made his way to a great oak tree. He squatted beneath its spreading branches and deposited a bag full of ashes from the village fire in far off Alabama. From a flint spark he kindled a new, small fire. Swiftly he fed the flames until it became a roaring council fire. As darkness fell, the orange blaze lit up the branches of the huge tree with a strange glow and cast long shadows from the other braves who came to join the fire-maker. One by one they gathered in a circle beneath the tree. Their grave words of dedication mingled with the wild chants of the ritual and floated out over the silent valley and the rippling waters of the river.

The council fire on the banks of the Arkansas River was consecrated with the ashes of old Tulse town, brought to the site by the Creek Medicine Man. Thus the present metropolitan city of Tulsa was born.

The band of Creeks laid out its ceremonial square leaving the great oak tree standing at one corner. The Indians cut timbers from the surrounding forest and built public buildings in the square as was their ancient custom. Around the square they erected their individual dwellings.

According to stories handed down through the generations, the Lochapokas were led from their home in Alabama to their new home in Indian Territory and guided during those first tough years by a chief named Archee Yahola. He was greatly honored and revered by the Creeks and looked upon as almost a supernatural being. This founder of Tulsa died in 1850 from smallpox when an epidemic swept through the territory.

Soon, other Creeks who had migrated from Alabama began to settle in the immediate region at the present towns of Coweta, Sapulpa and Sand Springs. But the Lochapoka Square at Tulsa was still where they all gathered for their government functions and religious observances. (David where is this?)

## Geological Notes

The view from the high ridges of Chandler Park changes as you look in each direction. To the north, just below the ridge, runs the Arkansas River. Water flows from west to east, along the natural bend in the river. The bed of the river is wide, indicating a normally slow flow along the bend. On the north side of the river is the Charles Page Boulevard area, known to many people as the Sand Springs Line. The "Line" came from the Sand Springs trolley cars that ran along the north bank from 1911 to 1957.

To the east is a great view of what we call Lookout Mountain, the flatland of West Tulsa and Garden City. In the distance to the east is Turkey Mountain.

On the east bank of the river is downtown Tulsa and beyond. A clear day offers a view reaching out far into the distance.

To the south is the rolling prairie land of Red Fork, Carbondale, Opportunity Heights, South Haven and Oakhurst. Just below Chandler Park is Berryhill, small but growing.

On the southwest corner view is a series of ridges between Berryhill, Sand Springs and Sapulpa. At one time the area was trees and rocks, but it has given way to development of many kinds as the new millenium began.

For most people the view of this area would be enough to satisfy their curiosity. But there is much more to the complex makeup under the thin surface. Why are there ridges here in the first place? Why is the river bending and shallow? Why did they look for, and find oil and gas all over the westside?

We asked the members of the Tulsa Geological Society for a description of the westside from their point of view. What can they tell us about how this place came to be like it is today?

## Archeological Notes

Looking at Southwest Tulsa as far back as 12,000 years ago, Jenks resident William M. O'Brien has found physical evidence of life here.

"I have heard that materials taken from a nearby petroglyph site have been dated to about 12,000 B.C.," he wrote in "The Presence."

In February 1986, he was shown mortar holes in bedrock and a petroglyph of a right foot in Jenks.

"Over the past decade, I have pursued a theory that some of these (mortar) holes were used by early cultures as reference points for establishing astronomical alignments," he said.

He asserts that during 8,450 B.C. a cataclysmic disaster, possibly an astroid, snuffed out many plants and animals and it caused massive ecological change to surface 1,000-1,500 years later.

Further, from 1,500 B.C. to the Early Historic Period, that an inscription carved in rock in this area, shows that early Europeans ventured here.

"They were Celts, Phoenicians, Egyptians, and Libyians. They came from Tarshish in Spain, Carthage, upper and lower, Egypt, England, Ireland and many other parts in Europe," he wrote.

O'Brien is critical of textbooks which credit the finding of the New World to Columbus and go on from there.

He places the boulder pictured here as 3,000 or more years old. He calls it the "most significant petroglyph."

An inscription near the Arkansas River says a man named Gwynn carved it and he had fair hair and white skin.

"Gwynn probably came from Spain on a Phoenician vessel about 500 B.C."

An inscription in north Tulsa has been translated Dec. 10, 1022. Drawings on cave walls appear to be left by Indians—Comanches, Kiowas or Pawnee. They show three warriors on horses and one on foot.

Horses were beginning to be introduced in Wyoming in 1690, and the gun was adopted by Indians around 1700. The cave drawings don't show guns.

## Anthropological Notes

The Mooser Creek basin holds evidence which may date to a period from the birth of Christ to 900 A.D. Possibly the site of a Woodland village, the area has stone tools, grinding sets, and cryptic rock designs, according to Jean Sinclair of the Tulsa Archaeological Society.

The grinding tools are mortar holes shaped like an inverted cone in rock, monos or rock hand tools, and rock matates or table surfaces.

The most spectacular so far is a 6-8 tabular surface, previously broken. "It is certainly the most speculative," she said.

Some of the rocks are enclosed to prevent vandalism and tampering.

The Society would love to have access to all of the site to dig ten test holes for other artifacts, but have so far been limited to the public segment of the area.

Sinclair urges those interested in these finds to be cautious about their conclusions. For instance, she points out, what woman would want to scoop ground flour out of the tight point of the stone mortar? A deep bent line in one rock may represent the bend in the Arkansas River or it may be something else.

State Archaeologist Dr. Brooks Odell saw the rock markings and is baffled by their meaning.

The society feels the evidence points to a large long occupation or possibly a village in that Turkey Mountain forest.

“We have concerns about (Indian) pot hunters,” she said. The area needs to be treated with respect, and the artifacts not moved or damaged.

Several individuals put on an “enrichment cluster” at Remington Elementary last spring where they demonstrated shucking corn, grinding it and fire building.

Dr. Don Wycoth showed flint-knapping. The cluster was so popular that it drew youngsters from other clusters.

Speaking of flint, Sinclair has a flint-edged scraper from the area. The closest place to find flint in those days was what is today Kansas.

## Sociological Notes

David Breed has some comments about the early development of the social structure for the area.

## Political Notes

David Breed will make some comments about the political structure in the country prior to the development of Oklahoma and the Southwest Tulsa area.

# Chapter Two: Early History

## Cattle Drives and Crossings

As the early development of Indian Territory was progressing, a cloud came over the land east of the Mississippi River. Differences between the southern and northern states brought on the greatest conflict in the states. In 1861, the battle between the north and south forces began. Although it was many miles to the east, the Indian tribes became involved. Many of them held strong sentiments with the south because their homelands were located there. Others joined forces with the north. Indian Territory became involved in the Civil War.

The U.S. withdrew its military forces from the Indian Territory and the Indian nations who did not have treaties with the Confederacy were faced with extermination. Many Indians, particularly the Creeks and the Cherokees, remained loyal to the Union. When U.S. troops returned to the Indian Territory, the national council of the Cherokee Nation abrogated the treaty executed by the Confederate States, deposed all officials of their nation disloyal to the U.S. government, and abolished slavery in the Cherokee Nation in February, 1863. John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokees, spent most of the war years in exile in Philadelphia.

### **OKLAHOMA FORTS DURING CIVIL WAR Photo**

Eventually, Opothle Yahola and his warriors and most of the Creeks fled to refugee camps in Kansas. By 1864 the whole Creek Nation had been run over by raiding guerilla bands of both sides of the conflict. And, Tulsey Town had not escaped the ravages of the fierce war. All the public buildings and homes of the Lochapokas had been destroyed, all livestock had been stolen. The town was deserted and overgrown with weeds. The only thing still standing in 1865 when the war ended was the Perryman log house and outbuildings.

But the Lochapokas came back to their town and began a second settlement of Tulsa. Lewis Perryman had died in Kansas, but one of his sons, George B. Perryman, returned to the Tulsa home and began building a ranch which would become the largest in the Creek Nation.

After the Civil War the great cattle drives from Texas north to the railroad lines in Kansas passed directly through Indian Territory. The grasslands of the territory were used to fatten up the cattle on their way to market. The cattlemen began paying tribute to the Indian tribes for use of the pasturage. After the war, the drive west continued. Led by cattle and fueled by railroads, major changes started taking place. Indian Territory was in direct line with the planned passage and had to be crossed on the way west. In 1871, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad extended a line into Vinita. The line ended there for years, until Frisco Railroad absorbed the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in 1882.

**PHOTO OF THE RAILROAD BRIDGE OVER THE ARKANSAS RIVER, redfor42.bmp**

Then they brought the line into Tulsa, the first passenger train arriving on Monday morning, August 21, 1882. Within a short time of arriving in Tulsa, the railroad made a decision to extend the line into the Creek Nation to reach cattle ranches and intercept trail herds on their way north. There were three natural crossing points (fords) in the river, all of which were in regular use by cattlemen and travelers. At one time the fords were owned by franchises, giving, if use was continuous, the right of sole occupancy and even of inheritance.

Historians J. M. Hall, Angie Debo, and Art Seigfried, all talked of the crossings and the ferry operations. The crossings were named for their owners, Muddaloke's, Gano's and Childers'. At Tulsey (Tulsa) was the Lochapoka Crossing. From West 49th Street to near the Chandler Park entrance was "Corneal" crossing, named for Cornelius Perryman. The historians told how young Creek Indians ferried their horses over the crossings and longhorns were herded down the chutes to swim across. "Skiff" ferries operated for people. Foot passengers paid 25 cents for a round trip.

**PHOTO OF FERRY BOATS CROSSING THE RIVER, redfor39.bmp**

The same historians reported that Sam Ackley operated a ferry where the 23rd Street Bridge crosses from Tulsa. In the 1880's Lincoln Postoak operated a ferry for his father between Fisher Bottoms and Wekiwa. He sold the ferry to Lester Starr and it served the Osage Stage Lines until 1903. After Lincoln Postoak sold out to Lester Starr, he came to Tulsey Town and ran the ferry over the Ackley crossing.

Postoak ran into trouble when he stuck the ferry tight on a sand bar. With the ferry stuck, he sold it to Lon Stansberry, Lee Clinton and Arthur Antle. When the river rose, they floated the boat. The ferry was cable operated. It would accommodate four wagons and teams. A round trip was 23 cents if the river was behaving, or 50 cents if the river was high and harder to navigate. Their ferry, run by John McLaughlin, did a good business until the toll bridge was built in 1904.

Ferries operating above the Tulsa area in the 1890's were the Anderson, Ackley and Mills Ferries. These crossings are now under the Keystone Lake.

The Postoaks were known for other things beside their ferry boat operation. Taylor Postoak was one of the early westside settlers. His family made the journey on the Trail of Tears says A.E. "Chief" Postoak, in 1994. Taylor was a full-blood Creek Indian. He was the elder of the Wealaka church and became an elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, according to a church manual, says J.M. Hall. Hall remembered Postoak coming to church only one time. He was asked to lead the prayer, but speaking only Creek, he led the prayer in his native tongue.

J. M. Hall recorded some of the early day cattle stories in his book The Beginning of Tulsa. Among those stories are a few comments about the westside and westside cowboys.

“W.O. Woodley was one of the first men to ship cattle to Tulsa from Texas,” Hall said. “He came from Waco in the Lone Star state and at one time had 15,000 head on the range in what is now Tulsa and Osage counties. One year he had 4,600 head near Red Fork. He had some trouble with agents of the Frisco Railroad over shortage of cars and high freight rates between Red Fork and Tulsa. The river was high but the cattleman’s temper was higher. With his cowboys and helpers he swam the 4,600 cattle through the stream (Arkansas River) near the wagon bridge (Eleventh Street) now stands. He had volunteer helpers, among whom was Lon Stansbery, “ Hall recalled.

There were many other early-day cattlemen in the Tulsa area and Hall recalled some of the names who contributed to the growth of Tulsa: Bob and Dave Shipman, P.L. Yoakum, Sims Miller, George Miller, Cyrus Rairie, Fred Errickson, Jim Boyd, Charlie Reynolds, J. W. Russel, John Freeman, Joe Price, Jim Daugherty, Jay Forsythe, Charlie Clinton, Mart Klinger, Lew Appleby, Sherman Dudley, W.T. Davis, Bud Middleton, George Sanger, Green Yeargin and B.L. Naylor.

### **PHOTO OF CATTLE CROSSING THE RIVER, redfor36.bmp**

Early settlers moving into the territories and beyond also took to the crossings. Some of the travelers were heading west, others were looking for land and opportunity. Crossing the river in their wagons proved to be a hazardous event for some, as they and their belongings tipped over and became property of the river. The Arkansas was wild and untamed in the early days. It would become full and swift flowing for a time and then shallow.

Others crossing the river and navigating it took another vehicle. They rode one of the ferry boats operating during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Traveling on the boats was an on and off proposition as the water rose and fell. Boats would easily run aground on the sand bars when the water fell to trickle proportions. Horses, wagons, buggies and people often waited in lines to cross on the ferry.

The land on the west bank of the Arkansas River was waiting for new arrivals. It had been home to pre-historic animals and early travelers. Home, to Indians forced from their homes to the new land and home to cattlemen traveling through and settling. There were few buildings to mark the land which was destined for quick changes.

In the years immediately preceding statehood, the west bank of the Arkansas River at Tulsa was to force major changes in the area. Competition with neighboring towns and people was just beginning to start in 1883, when people living on the west bank saw pilings constructed in the river for a railroad bridge. Centered in the competition was the westside champion, Red Fork, Indian Territory.

Tulsa pioneer J. M. Hall wrote about the westside in 1993, in his book The Beginning of Tulsa. Hall was well aware of the controversies that Red Fork was established before Tulsa and that it was a bigger town than Tulsa. He often said that was not true, and told a story in his book about a trip across the Arkansas River in 1883.

“P. L. Yoakum had bought a herd of steer cattle from a ranch on Duck Creek and was to accept delivery on the prairie just a little west of where Red Fork was later located,” he said. “In those days in all business deals of this kind, payment was made in cash, there being no banks in this section. Yoakum had brought about \$10,000 from Kansas and was afraid to make the trip across the river alone. The writer and another man rode with him, spaced about 200 feet apart. I observed that there was no sign of a town at Red Fork at that time. A Mr. Harmon, an intermarried citizen, lived about a mile from where Red Fork is now located. Chauncey A. Owen endorsed this statement by saying, “I know when the railroad was extended to Red Fork. There was no town there at the time!”

## Frisco Railroad Arrives in Red Fork

The railroad bridge served a dual purpose for the people living west of the river. It provided for the railroad, cattlemen and oil field equipment, but it also opened up a new path from the westside into Red Fork's neighbor, Tulsa. The Presbyterian church built a missionary church and parsonage in Red Fork in the mid-1880's. One of the little church's first pastors was Dr. Loughridge. The church was mentioned by A. E. Deffenbaugh, on the back of his 1888 photo of the Red Fork train depot. In the background of the photo is a small white church building. Dr. Loughridge was pastoring at the Red Fork church when he started holding services in Tulsa. He had to ride the ferry, ford the Arkansas or walk over the railroad bridge when the other options were not available. In 1888, Dr. Loughridge left Red Fork for Tulsa. Dr. Ralph J. Lamb succeeded Dr. Loughridge at the missionary church in Red Fork and he too, made frequent journeys across the river to Tulsa. While he was living in the parsonage, he built a pulpit and carried it across the railroad bridge on his shoulders to Tulsa, where it was used in other churches prior to being encased for storage.

### **RED FORK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1884, redfor55.bmp**

Mr. A.E. Deffenbaugh was appointed as Agent at Red Fork for the Frisco Railroad in July 1887 and transferred to Claremore in December of 1895. His first depot was just a shed that was replaced by a larger building in 1888. The larger building was originally a section house in Sapulpa that was moved to Red Fork.

Mr. Deffenbaugh had a photo taken of the Red Fork Depot taken in 1888. On the platform were his wife and his mother. In the background to the right is the small Presbyterian Mission Church. He said the church was also used as a mission school.

**PHOTO OF THE RED FORK DEPOT, 1888, redfor14.bmp**

The Frisco Railroad ended at Red Fork only a short time. In less than two years, it was extended to Sapulpa, just a few miles west. The extension nearly meant the end to Red Fork, but pioneers in the town would not let it die. Their early day spirit must have passed on to later generations, for the feeling is still in the community.

C.W. "Charlie" Baldwin was one of the early settlers in Red Fork. He recorded his thoughts about the early development of the westside in a story entitled "Our Street". Charlie writes

"OUR STREET". Only two words but they call to mind a panoramic picture of the length of our street. You may think it a homely picture, but to me it is a picture I love, for in the homes and business houses on "OUR STREET" are the finest and most loyal friends and neighbors man ever had. You may at once ask where is this street you call "OUR STREET"? I take pleasure in introducing you to the people who live on "OUR STREET" and informing you that it is the original and main street in the city of Red Fork. It was surveyed and laid out by Ex-Mayor Patton.

Main Street and Commercial Ave. That crosses it, are the only streets in Red Fork that are one hundred feet in width. When these streets were laid out we had not yet learned the system of making narrow streets and then voting and selling bonds to widen them.

When I first came in contact with "OUR STREET", the only portion of it that in the least resembled a street or even a country road, was about a hundred feet directly in front of H.C. Hall & Co. Store. This store was at that time, presided over by one Thomas Flynn, with the assistance of Jimmie Brown, a little Euchie Indian.

That was "OUR STREET" as I first knew it in 1889. How different it is today."

In 1889, the westside was surveyed for the U.S. Geological Survey. Survey teams included; W.A. Lindsay who recorded the township lines, Frank Lewis and Geo W. Hooper who recorded subdivisions connections and meanders, William J. Peters who recorded the Third Guide Meridian East and the North Boundary of the Creek Nation and included work by Geo W. Hooper as he recorded parts of the North Boundary of the Creek Nation. At that time, Red Fork was noted on their map, but no town was visible.

**PHOTO OF 1889 SURVEY OF RED FORK, INDIAN TERRITORY, redfor19.bmp**

The surveyors recorded the San Francisco Railroad cutting through the area, from northeast to southwest. They recorded the steep slopes of Red Fork Hill and Turkey Mountain, but no names were assigned. No hint was given of other communities on the west side of the river. Land, destined to become refineries and railroad yards was still prairie land, with a few farmed acres to the south. Beginning in 1889, Indian Territory would begin another round of major changes. Those changes were not on the west bank, but did have a major impact on the people in the westside. On Monday, April 22, 1889, at high noon, the first land run for Indian Territory began on the Kansas border. It was followed in 1891 by the Second Land Run and in 1893 by the Third Land Run.

## Original Towns Spring Up

This will be a good time to cover the beginnings of the early towns. We'll go deeper into their history later in another chapter.

## Land Allotments

The story of the Indian land allotments, how the allotments were made, the Indian rolls, and the way much of their land was wrestled from them would be good topics here.

# Chapter Three: Early Towns and Communities

Introducing the individual communities to the reader will take a bit of time, but we want them to get a visual picture of each area, the things that drove the area, set it apart, and the people who led the communities. It would be good to have a general description of the size, location, and physical character of the communities. It will also be of great benefit to name as many of the people as we can in these sections. There are so many people and families who shaped the communities.

Whether you traveled by horseback, by rail, or that fancy four wheel machine called the automobile, you would have an opportunity to pass through several distinct communities in Southwest Tulsa. Each of them came about in its own way, with different leaders and residents. Over the years they changed personalities, much like the people living and working there.

## West Tulsa

Old West Tulsa alluring

12/18/01 AFB West Tulsa

West Tulsa was an incorporated town for two years, but soon made an enticing community for Tulsa to annex Sept. 14, 1907. "West Tulsa, newly incorporated suburb of Tulsa, just across the river, held their first election last Wednesday," the Tulsa Chief recorded on Oct. 6, 1907.

The first mayor was W.H. Templeton and the aldermen were A.F. Jones, Will Simpson, Elmer Garret, T.A. Mooney and L.H. Feasal. The recorder was F.A. Fuller and marshal was Jack Smith. When statehood arrived, the town was a two months old. But from news reports, West Tulsa was having a building boom and Sept. 7, 1909, its independence ended. "The City Commissioners has admitted West Tulsa as a part of the city," the Tulsa Chief trumpeted. "West Tulsa became a separate municipality two years ago. It is a village of 500 population, with two oil refineries and large railroad yards."

The boom started before the village incorporated. In October 1906 the Chief reported that Mayor John O. Mitchell was building a combination hotel, store and restaurant in West Tulsa. "West Tulsa is growing very rapidly. Six new houses have been erected in the past month, and two other foundations are being built.

The Uncle Sam Oil Refinery and the brickyards had employees wanting to live in West Tulsa. "As soon as the car line is built, it will no doubt be extended to West Tulsa and West Tulsa will be a beautiful suburb of the city. It is high enough to have good drainage, and a nice view can be had of the Arkansas River and the famous Tulsa oil wells," reporters said.

Mitchell was listed as owning West Tulsa and was fixing it up for addition to the city. "Within a short time West Tulsa will be one of the finest residence sections in greater Tulsa."

The Indian Republican April 12, 1907 proclaimed a lumberyard was coming to West Tulsa. "Scarcely a day passes in the growing little burg that property does not change hands," and further, getting in on the ground floor would "certainly double their money before the end of the year."

That same issue covered a setback. Uncle Sam Refinery promoter and secretary, H.H. Tucker Jr. was arrested in Kansas City on a charge of defrauding investors. Headlines said, "Ten thousand is sum defrauded;" "Get Rich Quick" scheme is nipped in the bud; and "Uncle Sam Oil Company Defunct."

April 9, 1907, Tucker announced he'd have the 100 signatures on his bond in four days. He said he had no fear "in regard to the criminal charges against him. The charges "only disturbed him because they cast a shadow upon the company." In June a federal judge, denied Tucker's petition to postpone the hearing on discharging the Uncle Sam Oil Company receiver. Tucker got 90 days in jail for contempt, for a petition attacking several federal judges. In July, the U.S. president declined to pardon Tucker for his contempt sentence.

The July 6, 1907 issue of the Tulsa Chief reported that a modern park was being laid out in West Tulsa. "It promises to be the real thing this time. The land has been purchased and the street car line is to be extended to the grounds in the near future." The park was to have a mile-long racetrack, baseball and football fields, a lake for boating and bathing, summer theatre, ice skating, and a convention hall.

In September 1907, Dr. Bland and J. Makin were promoting an electric power production project, which involved cutting an aqueduct or canal through the bend of the Arkansas River, and tapping the energy from water making "a good fall of nine or 10 feet." They had Eastern capitalists ready to invest if the project could be undertaken. Then the incorporation took hold.

By January 1908, the Chief reported the Webster Oil Refinery was nearly finished. "To the great surprise of many Tulsans, who strolled over the toll bridge to West Tulsa yesterday, they beheld many changes and improvements on that side. "The first one to catch their eye was that of the plant of the Webster Oil refinery which is the first building on the other side of the bridge," it read.

In May 1908, Robert Galbreath sent the Tulsa Boosters a telegram saying he had that day bought land on the Frisco railway for the "greatest oil refinery in the world." The Chief noted "Galbreath and his associates have amassed a fortune estimated at more than a million dollars each" from the Glenn Pool. E.A. Porter of Chicago then announced he

had bought three acres for a company producing crude oil products such as axle grease and lubricants.

May 26, 1908, disaster struck: flooding sent the Arkansas River to 16 feet deep and still rising. Then it hit 19 feet. Some 100 yards of Frisco track was washed out west of the river, tying up trains in the train yard. Tent dwellers gathered up their belongings and no traffic was allowed on the wagon bridge during the flood.

June 2 that year, the Chief reported a Frisco fast train derailed just outside of West Tulsa. The engine and three cars left the track, but none were hurt due to the slow speed.

Sept. 22, 1908, the West Tulsa Board of Education awarded a contract to Alanson Snyder for a West Tulsa school with electricity. He bid \$22,500. "From all indications, West Tulsa will have a public school building within five months that will be an incentive to men with families to locate and live here and educate their children." Among the improvements, the Frisco had a freight house and passenger ticket office in West Tulsa and was expanding the siding in December 1908.

Four days after Christmas, an article said the Uncle Sam Oil Refinery "may be operating soon," due to negotiations with Pennsylvania oil capitalists. June 29, 1909 the refinery idle two years was abuzz with 30 men working there to finish it. A horse with rabies bit the West Tulsa School Superintendent S.M. Linscott in May 1909. He went to St. Louis for treatment at the Pasteur Institute.

In September 1909, the West Tulsa Belt Line construction was starting. That month, 150 were expected to show up for class at West Tulsa schools, a 25 percent increase. Linscott recovered and was teaching with Miss Middleton and Mrs. Haworth. Then the community was added to the city of Tulsa.

A Texas Company 35,000 gallon tank exploded about 2:30 p.m. Oct. 25, 1909, breaking windows in West Tulsa and setting off a 24-hour prairie fire. Some thought it was an earthquake. The smoke clouded the skies. Oil company employees and others sped to the scene.

Just before Christmas, the Frisco took out a building permit for a new frame West Tulsa passenger station. The cost was \$2,500. Work began by February on the Texas Company refinery. Thousands of men and hundreds of teams are working on two pipelines to the Texas Gulf Coast and other improvements.

City Assessor J. F. Ayars said West Tulsa would be assessed at about \$100,000. It was the first assessment since West Tulsa was annexed. The showing was expected to increase when the "big new refinery and other factories now being contemplated will be included in the list," the Chief said. Old-time West Tulsan J.S. Leslie planned to improve some of his lots in that community. He started with a two-story concrete block store.

Fred Lannon, who lived to age 101, recalled Leslie delivering groceries in a horse-drawn spring wagon. In July 1910, the Uncle Sam Oil Company was building seven service stations in Oklahoma. Anna Hallworth was retained as a teacher in the West Tulsa school and Miss Overton chosen to fill any vacancy.

August 19, 1910, the Chief reported that the Texas Company was nearly complete and would produce everything out of oil –including chewing gum. Grading for the West Tulsa Belt Line was nearly complete that month. The 200-gallon a minute pump for the city well in West Tulsa drained the well too fast. A smaller pump was order by the Water Commissioner Wheatley.

In October 1910, the City of Tulsa sued the St. Louis and St. Francisco and the West Tulsa Belt Line to block construction of the Belt Line past Factory Avenue in West Tulsa. The city said it hampered the coming and going from the river bridge. The Belt Line connected the Midland Valley Tracks to the Frisco tracks. In April 1911, the West Tulsa Belt Railway accepted a franchise offered the year before.

In November 1910, the Frisco was building a new \$50,000 roundhouse in West Tulsa. Some 300 men came to build it and slept in a string of boarding cars on a sidetrack. In March 1911, the company built a large oil tank. A Sunday-morning fire possibly started by drinking hotel guests destroyed the West Tulsa Hotel and Grocery of Jacob N. Kunkle and the Walker home.

In December, the Tulsa Boiler Manufacturing Company opened in West Tulsa. The Tulsa-Sapulpa Interurban track was being laid in West Tulsa. In March, 1911, the City Engineer proposed to condemn property in four blocks from Mitchell to Center St. for direct access to the Arkansas River Bridge.

Feb. 4, 1916 the Chief reported that the Uncle Sam Oil Company would fight to keep from being annexed into the City of Tulsa. When the City Commission declined to leave Uncle Sam out so it could avoid city taxation, company executives decided to try to block the whole parcel. Their attorneys filed for an injunction in federal court. “The cities cannot be legally governed by a single set of officers, because...a navigable stream separates them,” the plaintiffs alleged.

On Dec. 20, 1913, the Josh Cosden refinery began operation on the west bank of the Arkansas River. In 1917, the West Tulsa Bank opened and in 1919 the Constantine Refinery caught fire and caused serious damage

In 1921, Rev. Wilkie Clock made a report to the Methodist Conference asking that the conference pay some \$8,000 which he felt was due. The report outlined conditions in West Tulsa, including:

- Children without clothes for school
- People sleeping on dirt floors
- Some 10, 13 or 27 people using the same toilet

- A man living in a tent
- A family of six in a house about to fall down
- Bare-foot families

The report cited 305 which contagious disease such as diphtheria, mumps, measles and whooping cough. It said 217 houses were in bad condition.

Feb. 10, 1921, the Mid-Continent Race Track was under construction. In August 1923, the Arkansas River flooded and most of West Tulsa was under water. In the 1970's Urban Renewal wiped out the old housing in West Tulsa. Some former West Tulsa residents still resent being uprooted.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM RESOURCES

Before the railroad bridge was built over the Arkansas River in 1883, some people already settled on the lower land on the west bank. The 1889 survey showed the west side as prairie land in most of what we came to know as West Tulsa. There were numerous fences around large plots of ground. Some of the surveyed land (where the railroad yard and West 21st Street Industrial Area) showed to be plowed ground. No notes were made on the survey about owners of the land.

The oil strike in Red Fork brought changes to West Tulsa as it did to other nearby areas. The first change was an increase in population. Numbers of people coming to the great oil field swelled as news of the strike spread throughout the country. More important to the West Tulsa people were the creation of the Josh Cosden Refinery in 1913, and the ever-expanding railroad service facility for the Frisco Railroad. Many West Tulsans worked at the nearby refineries and railroad jobs.

They also sported the Magic City Kennel Club in the early 20's. The Kennel Club was home to greyhound racing in the area and became a popular stop for local residents and travelers alike.

Between West Tulsa and Garden City was another attraction for a while. The Sunset Plunge Amusement Park operated at the junction of the Sapulpa Union Railway and the Sapulpa to Tulsa Highway which became part of the famous Route 66 through America.

#### **West Tulsa, 1921, By Rev. Wilkie Clyde Clock**

The following report was obtained from Tulsa Police Department historian Ron Trell in July of 1992. It appears to be a report from Reverend Wilkie Clyde Clock for the 1921 Methodist Conference, on West Tulsa, Oklahoma. The original report includes a survey of the living conditions of West Tulsa.

“West Tulsa is located on the West Bank of the Arkansas River, which separates it from Tulsa proper. It has a population of about three thousand who live in all sorts of homes from modern bungalows to box houses and tents. The population is a shifting one though there is a tendency to permanent residence in proportion as the people are able to purchase homes.

The principal industries are the refineries which number five, from the Cosden with its employees from fifteen hundred to two thousand strong and producing upward of twenty different products, the Midco, a little to the West, the Pan American a growing concern, The Texas a splendid part of a large concern as is the Pan American, the Constantine, just being rebuilt and the Uncle Sam. The Frisco also has a considerable force of employees and a Boiler Shop.

The wealth of Tulsa largely depends upon these plants. The Cosden is producing four times the products it was three years ago.

In this community the Baptists are at work and are doing very credibly. The Nazarenes also have a small but good work. For some time the Catholics have had ten lots. For about six years the Methodists have had a mission here. It has been blessed of God these years. The building shown in the cut was erected by Rev. H. B. Brill with his own hands and has served and is still serving as our place of worship. In it last Sunday there were one hundred and sixty in Sunday School last Sunday. At the Children's Church last Sunday afternoon there were sixty-six children being taught by Mrs. S. W. King, the Bible and solid hymns.

Within the past three weeks over eighty have been won for Christ in a "Win My Chum" campaign put on by the Epworth League. The converts have been largely among the children and young people and have been the result very largely of personal work, neighboring pastors have generously helped in the work. Tulsa Methodists are at work and each part and people have helped and are helping continuously, and not only these but other Churches and individuals as well.

Miss Pearle McKeeman has been very successful in her work among the young people and children also having classes in sewing, home making cooking etc. We have almost daily calls to help find employment, homes, medical help, food, legal advice as well as the usual demands upon parsonage, including wife.

We have entered upon a building adequate for needs with a written guarantee that the Board of Home Missions would help us two dollars for one up to the extent on their part of twenty thousand dollars. We have

done our part thus far and the Board is behind on theirs almost eight thousand dollars.

The Board tells us they can not meet this now because the Church at large has failed to meet their obligation. Will Methodism fail us? We do not think it will if it has the facts.”

Rev. Wilkie Clyde Clock  
Report for the 1921 (Methodist) conference  
West Tulsa, Oklahoma

Another very interesting view of West Tulsa is given in an article written by westside author Truman Mikles. Truman’s article appeared in the Tulsa County News on October 19, 1989. It is an interview of pioneer family member Merritt Dean. This story shows a rare glimpse at the kind of people living in West Tulsa. The story could be repeated thousands of times as each family has its own history. Current breakdowns in family heritage and unity increase the importance of this type of historical documentation. The story of the westside through Merritt Dean’s eyes is important to the people on the west bank of the river. It appears below in its entirety.

#### “REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED ON THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER”

One hears about building a community, a city. But Merritt Dean has actual experience because he has seen the west Tulsa area grow. The family home first was at 17th and Nogales and later at 25th and Jackson.

These are some of Dean’s memories. “My father, DeLancey Deville Dean, (and mother, Olive Folsom) moved to Tulsa from Mountain Grove, Mo. Because his brother-in-law, Morris Pyle needed some dependable ‘back up’ in his real estate, construction and contracting business.

Uncle Morris was married to dad’s sister, Dora, and besides the collateral of her diamond ring, Morris had lots of guts, know-how and faith in himself. My oldest brother, Ora, went down in 1916 with a wagon, a team of horses, \$5 and a collie dog. The collie caught chickens, rabbits and other animals, which they ate. But the \$5 was gone by the time they reached the Verdigris River, and Ora drove across the railroad bridge because he didn’t have the quarter to pay for the ferry.

Uncle Morris was busy developing the flood plain on the west side of the Arkansas River. The river comes east from Keystone in an east by north direction but drops almost due south at 11th and Union in Tulsa.

Dad and some of the older members of the family drove down in wagons but I was a baby (and the youngest of nine children) and came by train.

Uncle Morris was building houses all over town. Ora drove a sand wagon and my brother, Jim, drove a snatch team (horses in harness) that pulled the wagons filled with sand off the riverbank and onto the firm road surface. I was born in 1917, so I was really small when we came to town.

Uncle Morris planned for the main street in West Tulsa to be Phoenix, so he built brick buildings at 17th and Phoenix. One was to be a bank and one an apartment house. But, the politicians across the river wouldn't accept his decision and put the bridge across a block farther west so the main street was Quanah.

The ferry site was west a block or so of the bridge site and I assume the steel post and the steel ring that was used to guide the ferry over is still there. It was the last time I looked anyway.

Transportation used to be in jitneys. The jitney was a long open van with running boards. If the passenger was a man, sometimes the jitney would only slow up at the stop and not stop. You would have to run and hop on.

The interurban streetcar from Greenwood to Sapulpa ran down what would have been Rosedale. The West Tulsa stop was at 17th.

The fire station was built on 17th between Phoenix and Olympia. The Cameo Movie Theater was next to the streetcar station on 17th. The Empress Theater was on Quanah a couple of blocks south on the east side of the street. The first trucks in town were Army surplus with solid rubber tires.

The main and most important people in town were: Pharmacist Doc Reynolds at the Ozark Drugstore who diagnosed your malady and prescribed the appropriate medicine, and took chickens, a hog, or whatever you had to pay for it. Methodist Preacher Clock of who ran the Goodwill Industries, dispensed charity to poor kids on Christmas and acted as counselor and friend to many people in trouble.

And builder, Walton Clinton, who among his other good works donated the Celia Clinton elementary school (named for his daughter.) The law for many years was a 300-pound policeman called Dimples.

A traumatic time during the Race Riot in 1921 occurred when there were soldiers at the bridge to check the people going to and from Tulsa on the east side of the river.

Then, in about 1923 or 1924, there was the flood when everything in West Tulsa was under water. And there was the time lightning struck the Constantine tank farm which ran east and then south from the river bridge. A cannon was used to open up the tanks that were on fire, so the oil would

spill in the diked circle around the tanks, and burn more rapidly. For many years after the fire, the melted steel from the tanks lay along side the river. My brother, Ora, leased the land and rented pasture to residents who owned milk cows.

Mrs. Sanders, who lived in the Constantine office building, had guineas that ran wild and nested in the protection of the old steel plates that once were tanks. In the fall, we hunted them and the quail that became numerous there.

To the west of West Tulsa lies an oil refinery which began as the Cosden refinery and was known as the Mid-Continent, DX, Sun Ray DX, and now the Sun Oil Co. At the gate was Paul Barr's restaurant that fed hundreds of shift workers.

Real estate manipulators and owners of the west side built dozens of shotgun houses.<sup>1</sup> The Deans built quite a few of the brick buildings along Quanah. I remember that Dad and I built the bank vault at 18th and Quanah. (Original West Tulsa Bank.)

A strange and unique woman, Martha Elliott, and her husband, Watt, lived in some shacks at 17th and Maybelle. She kept goats. Every day she pushed a cart into Tulsa and salvaged food from the restaurant garbage cans, and boxes and throwaway goods from the stores. She dressed in cast-off men's clothing and shoes. She was a well-known landmark.

Before Howard Park was named, there was a burlap track where greyhound races were held. Later, when the park was developed and there was a baseball field, with lights, the mosquitoes from the sloughs along the railroad tracks were so bad that sometimes the game would be called lest the spectators as well as the players be caused great blood loss from the insects.

Later they used kerosene torches and repellents to hold the mosquitoes at bay; but besides smelling bad, I think it was an exercise in disappointment.

To build the Texaco refinery and tank farm, they cut down a wonderful grove of ancient cottonwood trees and other kinds, and routed the wild bees that had put thousands of pounds of honey in every possible hollow tree. This grove was about 300 yards wide and a mile long. In the early days, the mecca for young and old alike was Sunset Plunge which was on the main road south towards Sapulpa about 32nd Street. There were two big swimming pools, a roller coaster (called the Jack Rabbit), and carnival booths.

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<sup>1</sup> Shotgun houses were constructed on 25 foot lots with one room behind the next. One could stand at the front door and shoot out the back door.

Ora kept working horses; for many years he was engaged for road building, leveling, earth moving and hauling. He also raised game roosters and followed the cockfights.

After activities tailed off at Sunset Plunge, some promoters built Crystal City at 43rd Street in Red Fork. The Sunset Plunge property was bought by Guy Hall Sr. who was an early telephone exchange installer. He later was involved in the Spavinaw water system installation and kept exact records of where all the pipes are buried and worked until his death for the water system.

The YMCA boxing coach was Guy Fox whose father made cement blocks at 18th and Nogales. His blocks were foundations for a lot of houses built in that area.

The Eugene Field junior high school was the final place of education for a lot of the westside boys who went to work as soon as they could for the refineries.

The best swimming hole was pretty close to the Public Service Company. If there were more West Tulsa boys than Garden City boys present, we swam first. I don't remember any fights about who swam first, but there was no easy tolerance.

Most sand was hauled in wagons with the bed made of 2x4's. In order to dump the sand, the bed was twisted, a 2x4 at a time, to let the sand fall through. Wagons had tailgates and a chain boomer.

The Dean boys must have worked together a total of 200 years for the Texaco Refinery. I retired in 1979 with 34 years of service, despite the fact that when I was 28, I fell from a tower at the Texas Co., 40 feet, onto my head. I broke both arms, ruptured my spleen and kidneys, suffered a severe brain concussion. I had to have bone transplanted from my leg to one of my arms. The arm still looks funny and maybe I can't tell whether I'm throwing or kicking, but still I can hold a golf club firmly and set a good drive. And if anyone asks my why I sound funny, I've always got the excuse that I fell on my head. It took me over three years to recover from that accident.

I married Aleene Wheeling who was from Quapaw, but she graduated from Central High School. We have a son, Michael and a daughter, Patricia, and two grandsons, two granddaughters, two great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter. I graduated from Clinton High School in Red Fork in 1935.

I recall some of the problems that were in West Tulsa. The hoods used to waylay anyone who had money left over after the movie and walked through the park by mistake.

I remember some of the businesses there. Joe Denton's hardware, Sherrill's Feed Store, Shepard's Dry Goods, Julius Jacobson's Store, Bunch's Grocery, Boyd's Blacksmith Shop, Cox Clothes, Compton's Ice Co., Quisenberry's Ice Delivery, bottle water delivery, McMichael's Sand Company, Ivey's Trash hauling.

### **PHOTO OF QUANNAH AVE, LOOKING SOUTH, redfor10.bmp**

Also, just across the river north, was the Tulsa Incinerator, and the Tulsa Cold Storage Co. And there used to be a trash dump just south of West Tulsa along the river.

I was surprised when I was chosen by Claire Nowatzki, the Clinton High School art teacher to be a pallbearer at her funeral. I was chosen to be executor of my aunt Dora Pyle's estate and surprised to be asked by Uncle Morris' daughter for permission to be buried in the family plot.

I've heard that mothers across the river warned their girls to not have anything to do with that rough bunch across the river in West Tulsa. I doubt that anyone who lived in West Tulsa ever thought much about the so-called-disadvantages of living next to the refineries and where the river flooded. We took it in stride without any thought about it one way or another.

And, without much encouragement from anyone, most kids who grew up on the west side managed to live a full life. I've not run across anyone who is ashamed of who he is or what he is. Most of the people I knew gave life their best shot."

Truman Mikles' article appeared in the Tulsa County News on October 19, 1989.

## **Red Fork**

Indian Territory was impacted by discovery of oil in 1897.

On Thursday, April 15, 1897, the first commercial oil well, the Nellie Johnstone Number 1, was brought in on the outskirts of Bartlesville. Even though this was the first strike in the territory, it did not have the impact that the Red Fork strike had a few years later.

On Tuesday, June 25, 1901, at 3:00 p.m., the Sue Bland #1 well came in. It was only 600 feet deep and produced around 10 barrels of crude oil a day, but it brought oilmen swarming into the area from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. The oil field at Red Fork was on the west side of the river; Tulsa was on the east. Oilmen from Tulsa had to cross the river every day to get to the fields.

With the well, came growth, controversy, excitement and bitter feelings. Depending on which version of story told, you get a different feeling about the players and events. The important thing to remember about the Sue Bland strike was that it was a continuation of the pursuit for riches and accomplishment in the development of the United States. The strike divided some people and provided a home for many others.

In the center of the controversy were several influential individuals, those daring to drill in the Red Fork area, those looking for credit, a few who despised the large eastern oil companies and many who sought homes and work in the frontier land.

One version of the strike at Red Fork is told by Dr. Clinton, a resident of the area and entrepreneur who spent many years in the area.

From the "Chronicles of Oklahoma" Dr. Fred Clinton's story about the First Oil and Gas Well in Tulsa County.

"In 1901, a group of persons were endeavoring to secure a large oil and gas lease in the Creek Nation, extending north to the Arkansas River, and have it approved by the Secretary of the Interior before allotments were completed. Citizens of the Creek Nation had enough carpetbagger rule and did not want an absentee landlord substituted. This problem had to be met at once. Here, we Creek citizens applied a new technique in oil pioneering development. Finding the oil and giving it nationwide publicity. No honest and qualified Secretary of the Interior would cloud the land title of an allottee by approving a lease on it without the authority of law. If these parties seeking large holdings had not wasted their time trying to claim the Red Fork well as their lease and had drilled southeast of Sapulpa, as first planned, they could have hit the Glenn Pool sand, and the story would have been different.

We citizens at Red Fork were always on the alert for some industry to aid in the development of this section and the coming state. One fine May morning Dr. J. C. W. Bland sent for me for a consultation at Red Fork about a 500,000 acre oil and gas lease said to have been passed by the Creek Council, at Okmulgee, subject to the approval by the Secretary of the Interior, Ethan Allen Hitchcock. Doctor Bland and I did not have any ready money, so I reminded him of a thing he well knew. We were doctors and not oilmen.

Many Persons planned to drill for oil, and some had drilled wells in the hope of securing large approved oil leases in the Indian Territory. As these brought in no worthwhile returns to the Creek Nation or to citizens of the Nation, we decided on a rational development for community and state, with oil as the magic lure when we found and publicized it. It was my suggestion to Doctor Bland that we proceed immediately to initiate the

oil development on the Sue A. Bland homestead Adjoining Red Fork, and if we struck oil to give it the widest publicity; this would attract oil people and insure development. I told Doctor Bland that if he could get his wife's consent to unload equipment and commence drilling immediately, I would agree to raise the money to pay freight and demurrage and get everything going until we both could arrange for the completion of the well. Doctor Bland attended to both assignments. Before returning to Tulsa, I went to H.H. Adams, Frisco Agent at Red Fork (1897-1902), and borrowed \$300, which was enough to free the equipment and to get the drilling started.

The land allotments to enrolled citizens in the Creek Nation were progressing rapidly. We Creek citizens were giving up our free range and our privileges of selecting any place on the public domain, establishing a home or business there. We were being confined to the 160 acre allotment established by the recent agreement with Government, so our minds turned to the immediate future. We must develop industry to take the place of cattle and other live stock. Stock raising was still carried on in a big way by a few large stockmen. This produced more and finer stock in smaller quantities but more widely distributed over the territory.

Everything worked out very well at Red Fork; drilling was slow but continued. Good food and drinking water were difficult to secure and very expensive. The only public eating-places were temporary tents put up and run by fellows who followed the booms to reap what ready cash they could. Colonel Robinson's Hotel was the only hotel in Red Fork at that time. Many persons arriving with no place to stay were entertained in private homes. As I recollect, Dr. F. B. Fite, Chief Pleasant Porter and J. H. Hill, all of Muskogee, were entertained in the Clinton home at Red Fork. Mrs. Vera Bland Stickles told me that Mr. Crossman and the other drillers frequently ate with them during the drilling period.

Dr. Bland paid the drillers considerable money and gave them blocks of land inside the townsite adjoining the Sue A. Bland allotment. This was the only land then available that could be sold and drilled for oil. This land properly managed would have brought more ready money than we could have secured for the lease of the Sue A. Bland homestead, because we could not, at that time, deliver title or get approval for leases. We had been offered \$40,000 for the lease by David R. Francis, former Secretary of The Interior. Frank O. Brown, residing in Red Fork since 1901, bought blocks 11 and 12 in the townsite of Red Fork for \$1400 each and within twenty-four hours sold them for \$2800 apiece.

After being sick for three days, Doctor Bland sent for me and I found him confined to his bed and suffering from an acute attack of appendicitis. We decided that his chances were better at that critical moment without an operation. He asked me to take over. When the oil and gas well was

drilled in on the Sue A. Bland homestead, (N.W., S.E., Sec. 22, T.19N, R. 12 E.), just after 1:00a.m., June 25, 1901, he asked me to take full charge.

Great excitement prevailed with the discovery of the Red Fork well in 1901. Doctor Bland asked me to accept a power of attorney for the purpose of filing upon the above-described property for Sue A. Bland, his wife, a Creek citizen. Those were the days of few automobiles and telephones in our part of the country. Armed with this power of attorney and a quart bottle of Red Fork oil, I traveled in my buggy across the river to Tulsa, and got to the railroad station just in time to drop the lines and jump onto the trail. I asked a friend either to take my buggy home or to notify my wife. I went by way of Vinita on the Frisco, and on to Muskogee on the Katy.

I arrived late in the evening at Muskogee and reported immediately to Dr. F.B. Fite's residence. On entering, I found him at home. We went into a huddle when I told him of my mission. He decided that we should test this oil and suggested we pour it on some shavings and set fire to it. After a conference we decided to go to the rear yard so there would be more room and less damage. We lighted it. He was completely satisfied, and I suggested that he pour it into a new lantern. The wick was saturated and the bottom of the lantern was filled while in the house, but we decided to light it in the rear yard. When we touched a lighted match to it, a flame came up and burned like good kerosene. We were well pleased. We then extinguished the flame and got into the doctor's buggy and went out to the residence of Allison Aylesworth, the Dawes Commission Secretary. He had been ill for several days but was being released by Doctor Fite the next morning.

On being introduced and informed of my mission and of Doctor Bland's illness, he told us to be at the Dawes Commission office before eight o'clock the next morning, June 26, 1901, where we would receive prompt attention. We were there promptly. Mr. Aylesworth had made all proper preparations for filing my power of attorney for the Sue A. Bland's application for homestead allotment. When this was completed I immediately left the Commission's office and south a private conveyance home. Before leaving Muskogee, I went to the office of Doctors F.B. Fite and J. L. Blackemore where I met Doctor Blakemore. He expressed a desire to visit Red Fork and see the well. He arranged about his practice, secured a hack, and we departed about 4:00 p.m. We traveled by course and by trail road toward Red Fork. Doctor Blakemore was the family physician of Captain F.B. Severs. He invited A. Z. English, son-in-law of Captain Severs to accompany us. Sometime in the night we missed the trail and ran into a barbed-wire fence, cutting one of the horses severely. This was near the "IX Ranch," owned by Bluford Miller, brother-in-law of Captain Severs. Doctor Blakemore was very fortunate in securing a new

horse from Bluford Miller so we could continue our journey. We arrived at Red Fork, early in the morning of June 27th.

There was a seething mass of people over every portion of ground or space that could be occupied in the town of Red Fork. Food and water were extremely scarce. In the absence of Doctor Bland and myself, different people who felt at liberty assumed authority to run the business and give orders, but this was all gradually taken care of when Doctor Bland was up and able to attend to his own business. The following persons resided in Red Fork when the well came in and were most likely the first to see it in action: Mr. and Mrs. Lee Clinton, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. W. Bland, Owen Bland, Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Adams, Lincoln Postoak, J. B. Hall, J.W. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. John I. Yargee, Van and Pleas Yargee, C.M. Forsythe, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Atkins, Miss Vera Bland and sister Era Bland, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Lindsey, Robert and Thomas Hughes, Mrs. Robert Fry, May and Lena Sanger, Rena and Sammy Norman, Colonel Robinson and sons, Edward and George, Mrs. Louise Clinton and her two children, Vera and Paul.

In the early days Doctor Bland made long professional calls in his buckboard and it thrilled me to accompany him. He had a wonderful mind and memory, and could quote extensively from the classics, prose and poetry. He was our family physician from about 1887 or 1888. From that time on our relationship was very close until his death in 1928.

My call to counsel and aid him, in the case of the oil well, was in line with our many efforts to find some self-supporting industry to develop our section of the country, and the coming state, and I did not expect to share his property. We were friends. So it may now be told, I never claimed or received one dime from the production of the well or wells drilled. It was understood that I did not even want to be reimbursed for money or any aid furnished.

Drilling wells and plugging them on large leases was too slow when you could sail to success on the wings of publicity from a producing or flowing oil well. Paul Clinton sent the first telegram to the Kansas City Star and received a check for nine dollars. The show was on. We sent for Fred Barde of Guthrie, Kansas City Star correspondent for this territory. Tulsa had no daily papers at that time. However they were numerous all over the United States, and many foreign countries were alerted by our vigilant citizens and amazed and astonished visitors.

The Red Fork well may have been like a mustard seed to some, but when one considers the time, the place, the lack of experience of the active, responsible paying participants, it was and is the considered opinion of the

writer that this nationally publicized well was the spark-plug for the immediate statewide development of the greatest self-supporting industry in Oklahoma: OIL! Our dreams were to find oil and let the world know about it, believing it would be a magnet to attract oil men with associated industries.

After titles, the next problem at Red Fork was marketing the oil. The nearest refinery in 1901 was at Neodesha, Kansas. The refinery was willing to pay \$1 a barrel for crude but it took 90 cents to deliver it there, leaving only 10 cents a barrel for owner and operator. These problems had been solved elsewhere, and we knew they would be remedied by the type of substantial and experienced men arriving from older fields. F.O. Brown, who resided in Red Fork, from June 25, 1901, practically all the time, later informed me that oil was shipped in barrels to the Prairie Oil and Gas Company, Independence, Kansas, at \$1.32 a barrel.

All kinds of people came from everywhere by every means of transportation then in use. Well-directed publicity attracted people, not only in Indian and Oklahoma Territories, but from all over the United States. Muskogee and Oklahoma City furnished the greatest number at the beginning, who began immediately to invest their time and money in development.

We also had the benefit of the great oil companies from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Kansas, Texas and other states. Guffey and Galey arrived within a few hours after the well came in. Many excursions were run on the Frisco Railroad. New companies were formed. Diligent efforts were made to secure leases or to buy land. Among those who came from Muskogee may here be mentioned: Doctor J. L. Blakemore, Doctor F.B. Fite, Mr. J. H. Hill, Attorney. From Oklahoma city came: Mr. Lee Van Winkle, Doctor Beard, William Petty, Usher Carson, Charles F. Colcord, and Robert Galbreath. Numerous other visitors included officials from the Indian Agency and the Dawes Commission at Muskogee. General Pleasant Porter, Chief of the Creek Nation, also visited the well.”

“Chronicles of Oklahoma” Dr. Fred Clinton

Nathaniel Emmons once wrote that “Any fact is better established by two or three good testimonies than by a thousand arguments.” The factual, documental quotations and citations in this article from responsible citizens in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma, added to others over the nation, lay at rest the unsupported claims of those who challenge the drilling of the Bland-Clinton oil well at Red Fork, June 25, 1901 by Doctors J. C. W. Bland and Fred S. Clinton. The quotations in this article are from people who were in position to know, personally or from reliable sources. They were responsible persons; i.e., answerable legally and morally for the payment of the bills for drilling of the Bland-

Clinton oil well. Even in that early day we were careful to be trustworthy in all our promotions. “

There is another version of the stories about the Sue Bland Well. It comes from a booklet produced by Cities Service Company in 1980. Their version is quite different.

### Tulsa, Energy -75 Years After Glenn Pool

“In 1901, Tulsa was the 31st town in size throughout the territories. Since its founding on leased land from the Creek Indians in 1882, Tulsa had become a cattle-wheat-and-prairie chicken stop along the Frisco railroad. It had acquired some general stores, a blacksmith, livery stables, a post office, a few houses (so to speak), a bank, the Saint Elmo Hotel, a lumber company, a pool hall, a school house, and two churches. Wagon-tracked Main Street was flanked on the west by its only aesthetic relief -- two peach orchards adjacent to the newspaper office and one and a half blocks south of the Frisco line. Its population was 1370

Life was a breeze, based on staying healthy, employing the ethics of commerce, avoiding drunk shooters and tossing garbage in the streets after neighbors had passed. For recreation, children could watch dogs fight, chase loose chickens and pigs, play in mudholes, listen for train whistles and hide in the smokehouse. Adults had lemonade picnics, church singing, deer hunts and Saturday trips to the general store for dry goods. Afterwards, while women mailed letters, the men gathered to exchange views and catch up on the outside world.

Some important news early that year was what had happened on Big Hill, near Beaumont, Texas. On January 8th, Captain Anthony J. Lucas watched a gusher which was so large that he asked, What is it?”

“Oil, captain,” a toolpusher said. “Its oil.” Spindle Top excited the country. Within four months, drilling had started in the Creek Nation on a piece of ground, described as 22-19n-12e, in the village of Red Fork, two and a half miles below Tulsa, south and west of the Arkansas River.

No one had bothered to get prior approval from the Department of the Interior (which the law clearly stipulated), but the interested parties had at least agreed. On one side were the Indians -- about six or so -- who sought to cover their tracks by stressing that they were not acting for the Creek Nation, but independently, as individuals who happened to be blessed with keen appreciation of potential royalties, and who couldn't stand red tape. Two of them were Dr. John C. W. Bland, a businessman (when his practice in Red Fork allowed it) and his half-blood Creek wife, Sue A. (Davis) Bland. On the other side were two experienced oilmen

from Pennsylvania, John S. Wick (the promoter) and Jesse A. Heydrick (who had the brains and who called the shots).

After \$5,000 was raised (mostly from Pennsylvania investors), the well was spudded in on May 10, 1901, on Mrs. Bland's farm. She and Dr. Bland were surrounded by well-wishers, fellow landowners who would naturally watch closely the drilling progress. Certainly, if oil were found on her land, it would be found on theirs.

To the west were the Yargees; to the north, a collection of Perrymans; and to the south and east, almost as many Clintons. Because their mother, Louise Clinton, was one-quarter Creek, they all had allotments. Among them were Vera Clinton, Lee Clinton, Paul Clinton and the most prominent one of all, Dr. Fred S. Clinton. He was one of Dr. Bland's closest friends. In fact, they had practiced together in Tulsa in 1897, and Clinton had intervened at a crucial time on Heydrick's behalf, paying \$300 in rail and freight charges so some oil gear could be unloaded.

The well came in around midnight, June 24, 1901. It was just what the doctors ordered. Heydrick -- away in Pennsylvania -- had admonished Wick that if they struck oil, he was to first shut the well down and then his mouth. No one but the drilling crew was to hear about it. But, Wick lost his head and his mouth with it. Ecstatic, he sent a wire to Perry L. Crossman, the drilling contractor in Joplin. The message said "Oil is spouting over the top of the derrick."

Those words awakened sleepy telegraphers for 200 miles, and they instantly flashed the news throughout Oklahoma's two territories and three other states. By mid-morning, Red Fork's few impoverished buildings, barns and horse lots were overrun by a mob of sightseers, promoters, speculators, gamblers, bad girls, doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs.

Next to what they could make from it quickly, the fans wanted to confirm what had already become a distorted story, with each telling magnifying the last. The rumors were numerous and splendid though grandiose. One was that the Sue Bland #1 would be mightier than Spindle Top, and Red Fork would surpass the great and wild Beaumont as a center of action and easy money. By mid-afternoon, throngs trampling Red Fork included most of Tulsa. There was no bridge except for trains, between Red Fork and Tulsa. There was only a ferry (a concession that belonged to Lee Clinton for awhile) and a few places that people could cross if the river were not too high. Adding to the throng were crowds from surrounding towns -- so many that "a restaurant was erected immediately at the well to feed the people," and special trains were readied in Oklahoma City for excursions to "the oil fields," loaded down with citizens "prepared to make investments."

The next day, the Kansas City times, in a story datelined Sapulpa, Indian Territory, said “Telegrams are pouring in from all over the country and hundreds of people are on the grounds. It is impossible to secure livery rigs in nearby towns because of the demand.” The Times added that the “spouter” was gushing and that the country and been thrown into excitement.

On Thursday, June 27, 1901, a federal inspector dropped by to render and official opinion. What he passed on to Washington was that he saw little, that “at intervals of perhaps from 15 to 30 minutes each, a small quantity of oil was forced up by the gas to a distance of perhaps two feet above the top of the pipe, part of the oil falling back and part slopping over the sides of the pipe.”

A day later, June 28, Robert Galbreath and several of his friends arrived from Oklahoma City to view it up close. Since the Tulsa Democrat (the Tulsa Tribune’s predecessor) published only on Fridays, it was scooped by three days on the biggest story in a year or so and right in its own backyard. But its enthusiastic version was the first one that Tulsans read. Under a five-column headline, the story repeated all of the known facts and then got down to business: “There is a vast quantity of fine oil under the land around Tulsa . . . and Tulsa is in the middle of the field . . . All the world is ready for another oil excitement. And every train is bringing in men of means who want to get a foothold . . . It is impossible to foretell the outcome.”

On June 29, Heydrick returned, looked the well over and knew it was doomed to high promotion and low production. He was offered \$20,000 for the well and the 40 acres around it, but his partners in Pennsylvania told him not to sell. It was their mistake, for shortly afterwards, the Department of the Interior voided the lease. Heydrick and Wick got nothing for their troubles, not even the credit for its discovery. That went to Doctors Clinton and Bland, who graciously accepted it for the rest of their lives. Clinton actually believed he deserved it, and others did too. Even the Tulsa County Historical Society erected a marker in his and Dr. Bland’s honor, praising them for having drilled the first oil well in Tulsa County.

In 1948, Carl Coke Rister in his critically acclaimed Oil! Titan of the Southwest refused to recognize Dr. Clinton’s contribution. Four years Later, Clinton told his story for the Chronicles of Oklahoma. It is a tale with more holes in it than one of Dr. Clinton’s outlaw cases in territorial days.

Dr. Clinton's article is replete with distortions, superfluous citations and omissions. He never mentions Wick or Heydrick, never says that his name was not on the lease, never says that he did not put up a dime to finance the well, Heydrick Oil Company struck (oil), "though it misspelled Heydrick's name. The Kansas City Times in its first report said, "two lucky Pennsylvania prospectors located the field and they have leases on the land for miles around the favored shaft."

After Clinton's article appeared the Heydrick heirs struck back. L.C. Heydrick wrote the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce asking for a disinterested party to look into the matter, to go to the University of Oklahoma archives and examine the "Heydrick Collection: Red Fork Discovery." He also sent \$100 to cover expenses. The Chamber, acting through Parker Ledbetter of the oil activities department, chose Dr. William A. Settle, chairman of Tulsa University's department of history and political science. His report, issued on August 6, 1953, said, in conclusion, "that no competent and disinterested person could examine the Heydrick papers . . . without concluding that Jesse A. Heydrick and John S. Wick deserve the credit for promoting and drilling the Red Fork discovery well, the Sue A. Bland #1.

As for Dr. Clinton, he did confess however that he "never received one dime from the production of the well or wells drilled." The Sue Bland was epochal, a fact that Robert Galbreath seemed to appreciate. He would be in Red Fork long after the mobs had gone home, drilling, failing, struggling, searching, and perhaps in time finding not a well that coughed once and died but an oil field.

Tulsa saw the well's implications. A bunch of high-stepping, fast-moving, loud-talking promoters organized themselves as the Commercial club, forerunners of the Chamber of Commerce. They were "young, determined and proud," committed to proving to the country that they "would not be ignored, nor pushed around." They were cocky, brash, shameless and forever eager to toot their own horn. What was it that drove men to crow so loudly about so little? Tulsa was deprived of every modern convenience -- the sort of physical consolations that appealed to traveling salesmen and other gents with folding money. But the Commercial Club knew that and also knew that improvements follow growth. They applied themselves toward such growth, "dreaming dreams and seeing visions of a metropolis" and resolving to "stick together, to pull as one for the good of all."

It would have been nice had the whole town agreed. Remembering the rush toward Red Fork, the club members recognized that Tulsa's immediate and most urgent need was a bridge across the Arkansas River. The city was isolated, cut off to the south and to the west by a river that

either rambled or rampaged. A town could not be like a herd of cattle, crossing only in summer, particularly if oil might develop some day. Access to the fields would be mandatory if Tulsa were to share in the extraordinary wealth that oil always delivered. Even without oil, a bridge was essential to growth. So the Commercial Club whooped up an election. But the town said no.

Then three club members resolved to build a bridge anyway. With the help from the government, a toll bridge was built. Don Hagler, George Williamson and Melvin Lairr put up much of their own cash. It was an infectious precedent that would be equaled in later days, in other ways, but it would lastingly express the notion that progress demands individuals more than consensus.

While it was being built, the Commercial Club threw itself and its bank books at the railroads and any kind of industry and promoted local construction. The bridge at the Eleventh Street crossing was dedicated in 1904. A rider and horse galloped over the planks. Tulsa's hustling attitude soon began to have an impact, not in Indian Territory (where jealousy among towns was as common as good water was rare) but in other states such as Missouri.

A reporter for the Joplin Globe came down for several days, talking to a few people, read some documents, got a haircut and returned home to write:

That little territory town, Tulsa is doing things. Tulsa now has seven railroads, five in operation, one in construction and another just chartered. It may be interesting to know how... Within the past two years Tulsa has given \$37,000 in bonuses to railroads.

Within the past fortnight, Tulsa has succeeded in getting a zinc smelter to locate there. How? Well, Tulsa offered a bonus of seven acres of land, 1.5-cent gas and money, in the sum of \$7,500, of which \$2,500 was spot cash, the balance to be paid upon completion of the plant.

An oil refinery is soon to be added to Tulsa's enterprises. The oilmen of Tulsa furnished the money for that {Somebody must have lied to the guy; few oilmen of significance were even here then, none with assets to finance a refinery}."

A wholesale grocery house in Tulsa is doing a business of \$750,000 a year. A new hotel will open next week. Tulsa capital made it possible. Tulsa has a Commercial Club and a manufacturers association. They work together. It is hardly necessary to say that they do things. It may be argued that Tulsa is young. Enthusiasm and youth are twins. It is also

youth's prerogative to grow. But there is this alternative before every city, whatever its age -- either grows or decline.

Prior to the railroad's extension across the Arkansas River in 1883, the westside was settled by few people."

Frannie Brownlee Misch captured the first community development on the westside in her story.

"From Cattle Led The Way".

Red Fork town was located 18 miles down the river from its first intended location. Chille Morgan, a Creek Indian interpreter who died in 1897, related that the charter designated that the town of Red Fork be laid out at the juncture of the Cimarron (Red Fork) River and the Arkansas. However, with the extension of the Frisco Railroad west from Tulsa in 1884 the first location did not fit with the terminus plans, so this new town was named Red Fork to fit with the charter.

James Parkinson established a commissary store to supply the road graders who were housed in tents. A post office was established with Samuel Clay as postmaster. H.C. Hall soon opened a general store. Both merchants carried some of all kinds of supplies, including building materials. A trade was soon established with Indian posts and overland stores, making Red Fork an important freighting point. The new stockyards was a meeting place for stockmen. The country south and west of the village was unsettled and wild. The Dalton gang operated in this region and once robbed the Hall Store.

Old man Harmon built the first house there and the Charles Clintons built the next one, a three-room house with an enclosed porch. Clinton knew this western terminus of the railroad was to be an important shipping point for cattle from the Chickasaw Nation, the Shawnee Country and the territory occupied by the Sac and Fox Indians.

Louise Clinton wished to locate in a settlement where there could be a church and school for the children. She enlisted the aid of the Presbyterian Mission in Tulsa and the mission board in New York to assist in this project. She often donned her dark blue riding skirt, saddled her horse with her side saddle and rode out over the country to solicit funds for this much longed for church house. When it was completed she and her husband purchased a bell in Chicago for the church belfry.

The first teacher was a Miss Ratcliff who boarded in the Clinton home. The next teacher was Miss Effie Chambers from Sidney, Iowa, and she too

boarded with the Clintons. Later Miss Chambers went to Turkey as a missionary.

The Clinton family soon began work on a large addition to their first Red Fork home on a hilltop where Clinton Junior High School now stands. Lilah Denton Lindsey was a guest there in the summer while her husband built the chimney. While here Lilah was invited by the missionary school in Tulsa to teach there in the fall.

A 160-acre Red Fork townsite was laid out in 1902. The Red Fork Derrick, a weekly newspaper, was edited and published by O. B. Jones. The village had grown from 75 people to 1,500 in 1901 when the first oil well was drilled. N.V. Yargee was an early resident as was Dr. J. C. W. Bland, the first graduate physician in Tulsa who moved to Red Fork in 1895 to have a country practice and engage in cattle raising.

Charles Clinton died in 1888 but the family retained the ranch. Mrs. Clinton lived to see her children, Fred, Lee, Paul and Vera (Mrs. J. H. McBirney) established in Tulsa. Several years ago Mrs. McBirney located the old church bell in a pile of debris when the little church was torn down. She had the bell repaired and shipped to the ranch home of her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Hardy, near Yakima, Wash. Where it again rings loud and clear as it did in 1885.

Following the strike in Red Fork, was a continuous drive to prosper from the oil discovery. A major obstacle for Tulsans wanting to get back and forth from the field was the river; wide, unruly and often treacherous passing. Three enterprising Tulsans, M.L. Baird, J.D. Hagler, and George T. Williamson, obtained a franchise from the Federal government to build and operate a toll bridge. With their own private funds, they built a bridge of steep spans and plank flooring across the Arkansas River and opened it to traffic on Monday, January 4, 1904. The three Tulsa owners of the bridge were so proud they put up a sign at the entrance which read: "You Said We Couldn't Do It, But We Did!"

Frannie Brownlee Misch

In November 22, 1905, Robert Galbreath of Tulsa and Frank Chesley of Sapulpa completed their discovery well in the area which later became the fabulous Glenn Pool, 15 miles south of Tulsa. By this time, nearly all the lands of the original Indian Territory had fallen to land runs and other government actions. Recognizing the growth and needs of the area, the Federal Government granted statehood in 1907 and Indian Territory became the State of Oklahoma. The population of Tulsa at the time of statehood was 7,500.

Then, in 1913, another major development took place. Josh Cosden's refinery in West Tulsa "went on stream" to begin a record of continuous operation through a series of name changes. It is now the Sun Oil Company, DX Division.

In 1917, the United States entered the first World War. Oklahoma's first paved roads were built in Tulsa County in 1917, after citizens voted a bond issue to pay for 105 miles of concrete-surfaced roads. In 1920 the population of nearby Tulsa had grown to 72,075.

The face of Tulsa was marred on Tuesday, May 31, 1921. Tulsa's pace as a progressive, booming, civilized city was halted as a bitter race riot erupted. Many of the Negro population in Tulsa fled to nearby hills and towns to escape the riot. The riot lasted two days, during which time the Oklahoma National Guard was called in to quell the problems. The guard left after two days when the rioting stopped. The north side of Tulsa lay smouldering. Many of the Negroes living in Tulsa came to the west side of the river to seek safety, until the shooting and burning stopped in Tulsa. Some returned, but many stayed.

After the oil strike in 1901 and the riot 20 years later, things started to settle down on the westside. People returned to hard work and families. Children started seeing changes in their schools and neighborhoods began to grow.

Red Fork was joined by other westside towns of West Tulsa, Carbondale and Garden City. South Haven and Berryhill began to take on their own identity. Red Fork led the changes with their new high school. In 1925, the first graduating class of Red Fork High (LOCATION) stood proud for graduation ceremonies.

On Wednesday, October 16, 1927, Red Fork annexed into the City of Tulsa with great fanfare.

## Garden City

Some may consider W. E. Hardesty the father of Garden City. Hardesty "sold 60 acres off of the northern end of his tract to be divided into town lots" for homes for the Texas Company refinery employees around 1915. These plots became known as Garden City.

In an April 18, 1938 Works Progress Administration interview by W.T. Holland, Hardesty said he arrived from Kentucky in Tulsa on Jan. 30, 1899. The area south of the train station was native oak woods. "Mr. Hardesty struck the Arkansas River on the way south, about where the 21<sup>st</sup> Street bridge now crosses it. "Here he crossed the river on the ice," Holland wrote.

He leased 80 acres of farming land from a Creek Nation freedwoman named Anna Martin. The land was east of the West Tulsa business section on South Quanah, which was unsettled or open farming land in 1899. Hardesty brought his family out and farmed

the land for 12 years. His first permanent home was on 40 acres of timber two miles south of his first lease that he bought from Lee Clinton in 1911. "A few years later, he bought some more land adjoining his first tract from the allotment of Fred Clinton," Holland wrote.

"Prospering, Hardesty added to his holdings and ended up with 370 acres of good farmland. In the middle of his land, he improved his farm, fences and built an eight-room, two-story frame home, "a nice and modern home," Holland said.

Throughout his 40 years near Tulsa, he relied on wheat. "Growing wheat through these years has raised him from tenant farmer to be the owner of 370 acres of fine Arkansas River bottom land." Wheat averaged 20 bushels per acre. But he grew oats, corn hay and raised some cattle and hogs. He killed and cured his own meat and grew fruit and vegetables. "Mr. and Mrs. Hardesty have four children and a number of grandchildren. Their home has always dispensed true Southern hospitality," Holland wrote in closing. "They are now enjoying a well-earned rest, although Mr. Hardesty still manages his affairs and keeps abreast of the times. His descendants still live in the area, as recent as 1998, Southwest Tulsa News interviewed one of his daughters.

Garden City was settled in the early 1900's and incorporated in 1924. One of the original settlers was George Schmitt who farmed along what is now Elwood Ave. It is thought that the original settlers were the Winchester family. The first residents lived on Galveston St. and gradually the community spread to the west. Garden City is bordered by 36th Street to the north, 41st Street to the south, Elwood Avenue to the east and Southwest Boulevard to the west.

From the beginning community affairs centered around the school. The original school was located at 3667 S. Maybelle. The original structure is still standing and has been the home of the Pleasant family since 1940.

In the late 1920's or early 1930's the McBirney family donated land for a school which was constructed out of brick. McBirney School was located on a tract of land bordered by Nogales and Olympia Avenues and 36th Place and 37th Street. It was not only a school, but the community center for Garden City. When the school census declined the school was closed to students and the community and it was used for storage by the Tulsa Public School System. It was burned to the ground in 1974 at the hands of an arsonist. At one time Garden City had its own mayor and jail. It was annexed into the City of Tulsa at 11:50 p.m on June 30, 1950. On the night of the annexation, Garden City Mayor Oris C. Hoffman turned the town's money, records and town's seal to Tulsa city officials, including Mayor George Stoner. Garden City's government was in the hands of a board composed of representatives of the three wards. The members of the board are Oris Hoffman, Frank Springer and Neal B. Tilley.

Newspaper reports indicate Hoffman went to the Tulsa city hall with an armload of books and records relative to the town's business affairs. "While I am here," Mayor Hoffman said, "I'll write out a check for the amount of cash our town has on hand." The check

was for \$2,437.98. Hoffman ended three years of service as Garden City Mayor when he turned over the records. He commented that he would be going back to his full-time job at the Mid-Continent Petroleum Company. The town's 793 residents had mixed emotions about losing their identity and becoming part of the City of Tulsa.

Among those supporting the annexation into Tulsa were Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Zeigler, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel O. Coffey and O. L. West. They circulated the petition for the annexation, supported by Carl Fite, who served as mayor of Garden City for four years. Opposing the annexation were Mayor Oris Hoffman and H.C. Schultz, who was mayor for 12 years. Schultz made a fiery speech against annexation when the first meeting was held on the question in McBirney School.

There are still families related to the original settlers residing in the community, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and even 5th generations. Even though the community has declined in recent years, there is still a strong bond between the residents.

## Berryhill

Due west of Red Fork, Indian Territory, was a beautiful valley. The valley was sparsely settled in the years before the oil strike. It served both as rangeland and farmland. The 1889 surveyors didn't record any individual large landowners in the area at the time of their survey. They portrayed the Berryhill area as prairie land, with a single fenced in area along what we know as West 41st Street and S. 65th W. Ave.

There is little but growing recorded history about the Happy Hollow/Berryhill community. Most of the history is still being passed down in stories from older residents. A small collection of those stories was gathered together by Pat Upton for the Tulsa World in an article on May 23, 1982, entitled "Community Grew Up Through Rough, Tough Times." The article appears below, with a few omissions due to bad copy.

"Berryhill's only real recorded historical legacy is catalogued colorfully in the memories of its generational residents.

"Lordy, I was here when there was nothing," clamors Mrs. Hade E. Bridges, born in 1905 in Berryhill. Then, though, Tulsa's bedroom community was called Happy Hollow by a smattering of immigrant settlers rushing to the future Dust Bowl between the time of the Cherokee Strip Run and the turn of the century.

"Tulsa was just one street with a commissary and when it would rain, Lordy, the mud was so deep. I guess they were happy, that's why they called it Happy Hollow.

Happiness, though, seemed to come with double doses of fear and hardship inherent with the rugged frontier times. Mrs. Bridges remembers

that as a 3-year-old, she and her family barely escaped in time to watch their home being swallowed by a swollen and violent Arkansas River during a raging rain storm that collapsed wide stretches of the river bank.

“I still can’t go near water after all these years because of that,” she said. “The man with the fastest horse and the fastest gun lived the longest.” She remembers, “Drunk Indians, real Indians, goblin’, hoopin’ and hollerin’ as they ran up and down outside our house. I remember I’d get so scared, cause you didn’t know what they were going to do. I’d try to hide and go sit on my momma’s sewing machine treadle.”

But there also were the days of a one-room house which served as a makeshift school for farmer children taught by a traveling teacher, just as religion was the circuit proposition of a traveling preacher man.

Most of Oklahoma’s new settlers, like Tom Berryhill, a farmer immigrant from St. Joseph, Mo. Were give 160 acre Indian allotments by the government. The most-often repeated story is that some time after 1910, Berryhill, an honorable and community-conscious man, gave, rather than sold, land to the community for the first bonafide school. In appreciation, Happy Hollow became Berryhill.

“There was a sort of Code of the West,” Mrs. Bridges said. “You were obliged to your fellow man. It seemed like you couldn’t do enough for each other. Everybody had to help or nobody would survive.” Early-day survival, especially as the Depression permeated the Midwest, depended largely on industry offered by a growing Tulsa. Blasting from a rock crushing plant atop today’s Chandler Park hill constantly shook the area, cracking residents’ homes.

The growing oil boom spawned Cosden Oil Co, which later became Mid-Continent Oil Co. And eventually DX Sunray Oil Co. The Ozark-Mahoning acid and chemical plant and, later, the Texaco oil refinery also provided early jobs.

“Before my family came here, we were starving on a farm in Missouri,” said Mary Lou Taylor, a Berryhill resident since the age of 5 whose father found work as a crane operator at Ozark-Mahoning in the 1930’s. The town had well water, but it wasn’t fit. Mid-Continent allowed Berryhill residents, many of who were employees, to siphon as much water as they could carry from a fresh water faucet on company grounds. One man, Valty Phillips, she recalled, filled his makeshift tank truck from Mid-Continent’s faucet and carried water free to his neighbors. “You just hung a white towel out and he’d know to come by and give you water,” said Mrs. Taylor, a research librarian for the Tulsa Library. “That’s the way people are when you grow up in a place like that.”

“The story is that seven people came out in a wagon to settle,” Mrs. Bridges said. “The story is they camped in those caves up in the hills and got lost sure enough. They supposedly found their skeletons. That’s why they call it Lost City.” Henry and Belle Starr once eluded lawmen by stopping at Mrs. Bridges’ mother’s cafe. Mrs. Taylor remembers that, “Rumors had it that Pretty Boy Floyd hid out in those hills. Us kids were always a little scared we’d meet up with him.”

The only notorious area of Berryhill now, Mrs. Taylor said, is 41st Street extending to Prattville--otherwise known as Lovers’ Lane.

“Nobody tells us what to do, we take care of ourselves. Everyone’s friendly. If anyone gets ill or has hard luck or someone passes away, your neighbors care. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Pat Upton, Tulsa World

Another government survey was done of the Red Fork, Indian Territory in 1911-1912. The printed map was done in 1915. This map showed a roadway (now West 41st Street) from east of Red Fork due west nearly to Fisher Creek west of Sand Springs. The surveyors recorded a north/south roadway (now S. 65th W. Ave.), a parallel roadway (now S. 49th W. Ave.), and a connecting roadway (West 31st St.). A trail is shown in a diagonal from the north side of Berryhill to an area on West 41st Street just south of Lost City. The 1915 surveyors documented about a dozen homes in the Berryhill area.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's large landowners in Berryhill dwindled. The Charles Page estate and Sand Springs Home were major property owners. As the area began to grow, ownership changed hands quickly. Tulsa View Addition was platted in 1906. Berry Hill Acres was platted on January 2, 1930.

Elsie Hargis Staires, retired elementary school teacher at Berryhill, provided us with an interesting look at the community in her History of Berryhill School story, written in 1986. The early days of Berryhill School in her story appear below.

“Berryhill had its roots before statehood. The school was then known as Happy Hollow, a one-room school across from the present day Berryhill Football Stadium which was built in 1954. The people who lived in Berryhill or Happy Hollow at the time were farmers and oil field workers. There was also a rock quarry and a sand plant. This community has always been a close-knit group who were interested in the school. A few of the teachers during that time that I recall were, Sadie Ray, Cora Jacobs Berryhill, Mr. Hines, Miss Pace, and Mr. and Mrs. Emerson. My in-laws, the Hargis family, usually boarded the teachers on the staff.

In the early 20's the two-room school was built just west of the present Junior High building on land donated by the family of Thomas Berryhill, who was a Creek Indian. After Thomas died March 24, 1915, Mrs. Berryhill donated the land. The community became known as Berryhill from that point. The fall of 1927 was exciting for me. I came to Berryhill to teach in my first school. I felt as if I had gone to a strange land, having spent my life in Broken Arrow. The houses were few and far between. However, we had approximately seventy-five students that year. Mr. Jim Yearout, Mr. George Miller, and Mr. Ray Hayes were my first board members. We had a three-man board up until about 1939. I was nineteen years old when I first started teaching.

Clint Lambert and I started the year together. Two months of school had passed by when Mr. Lambert became dissatisfied and resigned. The Board insisted that I take the principal's job and teach the upper grades. They promised to help me, which they did quite often that year. It was because of their encouragement and support that I was able to survive that year. I shall always be grateful to these gentlemen. In the spring of 1928, a new four-room brick building was constructed. My. Hyden came as principal and Mrs. Hyden as a teacher. We had three teachers that year. The two-room school building was sold to the Freewill Baptist Church and moved across the street.

In the early 30's, part of the Berryhill Farm was divided into acreage. People began to move to Berryhill. Many worked for Mid-Continent and Texaco Refineries. The school began to grow and more teachers were added. During Mr. Hyden's tenure as superintendent, the school continued to grow. He and the Board worked to make Berryhill a good school. In 1933 the present Junior High Auditorium and the rooms to the south were built. We had seven teachers. Athletics were initiated the first year. I was the first girl's basketball coach. In 1937 the gym and classrooms were added. A cafeteria was included in the building that was a W.P.A. project. At the same time, Mary McCray did two giant-sized paintings. That was also a W.P.A. project. These paintings are very valuable. Our school was fortunate to receive them. They're still there today."

Elsie Staires Hargis

Mrs. Staires story about the Berryhill school is one of the few documents available about early Berryhill. It gives us a small glimpse of the community and the people in it. Berryhill's pride and traditions center around their school and education system.

Out of Berryhill came rodeo trick rider Don Wilcox. He gained national attention with his wife Virginia beside him. They worked as a team for many years on the rodeo tour. Don was inducted in the Rodeo Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1994.

Homer Jackson, first Berryhill Volunteer Fire Chief, was on the school board. Russell Snyder was a neighbor of the Jacksons and recalled they had an old Air Force Fire Truck. When homes were destroyed by fire, the community would join to build a new one. Many of the Berryhill men worked at the Mid Continent Refinery or Ozark-Mahoning Chemical Plant. People either had well water, or got water from the Mid Continent truck.

In the '70s underground fires erupt at a landfill near Chandler Park. In 1984, a group of Berryhill people filed suit claiming they were exposed to toxic fumes and noxious odors from the fires. The EPA orders a clay cap put over the site. Sun Co. and Texaco Inc. spent \$12 million on the 46-acre site. The suit was settled in 2000. With help from city and county financial planners, the Berryhill fire district organized in 1977.

**1952**--The Berryhill School Board decides to buy land from the Ault Estate and build a football stadium. Then the field was sprigged with starts from Sand Spring Home Farm. The first game was in Sept. 1954 with Collinsville.

**Nov. 1957**—Mrs. F.J. Mouser in her Berryhill Bits column reports Johnnie Bacon is cutting wood off of the future ball diamond and selling it. He seeks volunteers to help plan the program.

**May, 1982**—Tulsa considers fencing Berryhill which would omit the majority approval requirement if the “fence” is drawn about three sides adjacent or contiguous to Tulsa

**June 3, 1994** – Sun Co. presents the keys of a fire truck to Bud Washburn of the Berryhill Fire Department.

**Nov. 19, 1995**—Empire Construction opens W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street after three years of construction. First 3A softball state title in 1997

**July 3, 1996** – David Leon Hood injured in accident on S. 49<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue, known as Thrill Hill. In 1994, three teenagers were killed after they were dared to speed down the hill at 100 mph. A motorcyclist had also lost control in recent weeks.

**May 14, 1997**—Berryhill third graders top suburban Tulsa school districts in test scores. Many remember the go-cart races, payday when the parents paid the grocery bill and the offspring got candy. The housing market remained tight, but families come, some staying through three and four generations.

**Dec. 14, 2000**—Jack Lollis ends a 25-year stretch as a Berryhill school board member. He was president 10-12 times.

**Dec. 14, 2000**—Leonard Wood was Superintendent of Berryhill Public Schools from 1984 to December 2000.

But, decades before, other events made the early newspapers.

**Sept. 4, 1904.** --Dr. Fred Clinton called to treat Eva and Margaret Cook who were thrown by a frightened team onto wire fences. Al Farber who accompanied the girls to Lost City had only bruises and scratches.

**Sept. 6, 1904** --Valley Grove Church to be built 2.5 miles north of Red Fork. Fourteen baptized in the Arkansas River with J.R. Chapman preaching the revival. Elder Chapman and Tom Weedman go fishing with A.R. Evans and Tom Berryhill and families.

**Sept. 23 1904** —The boll worm damages cotton crop. Cornelium Perryman builds a stone house on his farm. Lumber bought and delivered for building a schoolhouse. *Red Fork Derrick*.

**Oct, 14, 1904** --Thomas Weedman fed up with Indian Territory, moving to Idaho.

**Nov. 8, 1904** --New church is up. Rev. J.R. Chapman invites everyone. School started.

**May 27, 1905** --Mr. Steelsmith to drill an oil well on the C.B. Perryman place, west of Red Fork. Steelsmith claims to have a blanket lease to all land west of the Frisco right-of-way with the Arkansas River on the north and Oklahoma on the west and south.

**June 3, 1905** --Conelius Perryman's wife dies after childbirth.

**June 24, 1905** -- Children's Day postponed because of rain. Rev. E. N. Owen preaches.

**Oct. 28, 1905** -- *Red Fork Derrick*, hunting supplies, barbecues of opossum and sweet potatoes every two weeks

**Oct. 28, 1905** --I. M. Wheelan farming on the Berryhill place shipped a load of onions and potatoes. Lincoln Postoak ill.

**Nov. 18, 1905**--Some farmers do a lot of work on the road to Red Fork. Grading and culverts added. The *Tulsa Chief* reported July 21, 1908, that the biggest fish ever caught in the Arkansas River was caught near Lost City. It weighed 72 pounds and was 4 feet, 6 inches. It was on display at King's Meat Market on East Second.

**Jan. 13, 1906**—Rev. E.N. Owen, a Baptist minister, holding services at the schoolhouse. Plan to move his family to Lost City.

**June 19, 1906**—Tulsa Title and Trust dedicates a park for picnics and outings. Shade, pure water, rocks, flowers and picturesque scenery. Frisco agent F.E. Clark said a sheltered platform would be built at the park and the train would make regular stops there. The *Tulsa Chief* says this is a "prehistoric place."

**Feb. 23, 1906** --Injunction filed in Sapulpa by the Colter Construction against Theodore Berryhill. Colter is building the lines for the Pioneer Telephone Co. Berryhill allegedly

pulled a shotgun on the lineman. The line is to run from Tulsa to Pawnee. (*Indian Republican*)

**July 27, 1906** --Four men buy a 20-acre tract adjoining Lost City. They plan to install a rock crusher and furnish stone for curb work and paving of First Street. W.A. Stuckey has the contract.

**Oct. 5, 1906** – W.T. Berryhill and Peter Snyder bring more than 3,500 pounds of cotton to gin.

**Aug. 30, 1907**--Box supper at Berryhill School House

**Valentine's 1908** --Walter Gandy and Bessie Carter married and settling in Lost City. James Masters and Mrs. Emma King married Feb. 8, both of Lost City.

**March 6, 1908** --Valley Grove school box supper raises \$11 to equip the school with lights and a bell.

**Aug. 19, 1910** --Large cement plant going in at Lost City, on the A.V. & W. branch of Frisco, three miles from the city limits. Expected to hire 180-200 men and produce 1,200-2,500 barrels of cement a day.

**Oct. 4, 1907** —Office building finished for the big cement plant.

**Nov. 25, 1910** --*Tulsa Chief* reports nearly all the Berryhill farms are rented for the next year. The community had a Methodist preacher named Rev. B.A. Myles and had just started Sunday school.

## Carbondale

Carbondale remains a fine neighborhood

**4/25/02 AFB** Carbondale more current

Carbondale features the Perryman-Wakefield house, which has housed three generations of Wakefields. It is a beautiful Victorian showplace, which has been featured in articles and books featuring some of Tulsa's most outstanding homes. The house is located at 4702 S. 27 West Ave. **(Story about the house?)**

Bundy's Burgers opened in 1932 as a grocery store and gas station at 3213 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1950, Ruth Bundy turned it into a carryout restaurant. Willard Bundy said in an undated *Tulsa World* article that he had peeled 360 tons of potatoes. He and Jewell served 1.5 million burgers, that's about 400 a day. In 2003 Charlie's Chicken opened on the spot and prepared a photo/article display in their entry recognizing the Bundy's family and business at the same site.

The majestic First Apostolic Church is in the building that used to house the Carbondale Assembly of God. Fern and John McQuary recall watching movies projected on the Blackburn building's sidewall on summer nights in the 1920's. He and other boys helped Blackburn plant elm trees on Carbondale streets. Fans watched Blackburn's baseball team play.

McQuary got free cornet lessons from P.F. Peterson, the leader of Carbondale's 32-member band. In return for giving free lessons to community members, Blackburn built Peterson a house free. Peterson also conducted the Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. band.

Joe Admire Jr.'s Superior Lawn and Landscape was in the yellow brick building which his grandfather build. The grandfather had a dry cleaning business there from the 1940s-1980s.

Eddie Creekpaum, a Carbondale resident, became Robertson Elementary Principal later. He watched his father get ready for work at the Texaco Salt Plant in Garden City, which opened in 1932 and 1933.

Lewis Long, former State Senator, attended Robertson. Darla Hall, Tulsa first westside councilor, lives in Carbondale now. John Autry attended there and became the principal at Robertson. Alice Hallford Spears is a Robertson graduate and became a Tulsa Public Schools principal.

Carbondale emerged in 1921, a vision of beauty and progress. Many 1995 residents of the westside remember some things about early Carbondale, but to explore a little clearer vision, we need to turn the time back a few years, to 1938.

Mrs. Freda Aston, wrote a historical piece on Carbondale, November 6, 1938, entitled "Visions of Oklahoma's Future Brought Founding of Carbondale; Early Civic Pride Still Lives in Suburb." The article for the Tulsa World was sub-titled

"Area Once Incorporated as City; Swallowed in Tulsa Growth."

"Quite a few years ago I used to see a little trolley car teetering up and down the streets of Tulsa. It reminded me of the "Toonerville Trolley." On the front was the word: Carbondale." I was intrigued by the toy-like car and also by the name. I even went so far as to ask someone if they knew anything about it. "Some little town across the river," was the answer.

The years went by. No more did the little trolleys tilt along the streets. Even their tracks were taken up to make the pavement smooth for the softly running motor busses, which had taken their place. I had forgotten about my curiosity concerning Carbondale when suddenly I found myself living there. It was my home for five years and I came to know its story --

the hopes and the heartaches that went into the making of the delightful and charming neighborhood that it is today.

Two men stood on the highest point of a large gently rolling meadow. To the north and west swept the misty folds of the Red Fork Mountains. To the northeast, across the Arkansas River, the gleaming towers of Tulsa peered over the shoulder of "Pistol Hill." It was the last week in February and grass had not yet started to grow but the feel of spring was in the air. A wandering little breeze from the south brought the ghost-like memory of the scene of wild plum blossoms.

"There is no more likely site for a town in northeastern Oklahoma than this spot," declared M. A. Blackburn. "It is seven miles to Tulsa and across the river -- too far for the city to swallow it up, but close enough for easy transportation." But you forget that people have to have fuel and water to live," objected the more practical F. S. Brooks, friend and business associate of Blackburn.

"Well, you know, Brooks, that the city water of Tulsa is the worst in the world. Wells and cisterns over there are prized possessions. Why I know people who carry all their drinking water from a neighbor's well; others who have to buy distilled water the year round. With this high location, deep wells and well-made cisterns will only add to the already healthful aspect of the place. And fuel. We could easily connect with those wells to the west there on the next section for all the gas we need. The owners are anxious to sell it." Brook skeptically shook his head over the visionary plans of his friend but said no more.

This meadow, which in reality was a little prairie, bordered on the north and east by the wooded section lying along Red Fork creek and enclosed on the south by a heavy strip of timber, belonged to Winnie McIntosh, a Creek Indian,. Her people had drawn it as part of their allotment from the government.

On the first day of March 1921, M. A. Blackburn completed the transaction that gave him this tract of land that seemed, to him, ideal for his experiment.

The Sunlight Carbon company factory -- that inspired the name of Carbondale -- just west of Red Fork upon the Frisco tracks was the first of the many manufacturing concerns he hoped to interest in this new enterprise. He saw a humming business section and tall buildings rising out of this grassy meadowland always swept by a southerly breeze. He also saw residence streets bordered by luxurious mansions and comfortable cottages, the homes of prosperous and happy citizens

employed in the factories and the oil industry. He saw picture shows and playgrounds, schools and churches.

With this vision to guide and lead him on, the tract was surveyed and marked out into lots and streets. F. S. Brooks, the doubting friend, Lola Brooks and Blackburn, himself, were the first buyers. The formal opening was on March 31, 1921. One week later, T.S. Rice bought several lots and began building the home in which he still lives. J. H. Billingsley and Mark Cassidy soon followed. Building was brisk throughout that first summer.

Gas for fuel and lighting was brought from the wells to the west of the townsite. But due to the lack of pumping service the pressure grew so low in cold weather that many times men went to work and children to school without breakfast or with only cold food in their stomachs.

The next year electricity was secured and streetlights installed.

In June 1925, Carbondale was incorporated into a city under a trustee form of government. J. B. Haynie was the first president of the first board of trustees. J. S. Howell, B. A. Blackburn (the son of M. A. Blackburn), A. J. McCombs, H. R. Brox and E. L. Rice were members. T. S. Rice was the first justice of the peace, J. H. Billingsley, treasurer, and George Smith, town clerk.

Now launched as a first class city, the new town grew rapidly for two years. Stores, garages, picture show, town hall and post office formed a compact little hamlet. The founders, as well as the citizens, were very proud of their community. The civic pride they expressed by organizing a community church, a ball team, and a 32-piece band under the able leadership of P. F. Peterson. **Band Photo**

Meanwhile Tulsa had completed the huge engineering project for bringing spring water from Spavinaw creek into the homes of the city. In 1927 this limpid mountain water was flowing from the faucets of Carbondale also.

Thus on Thursday of July 28, 1927, the first edition of "The Carbondale News" recorded with pride,

"Carbondale has:

"A population of 1,400.

"An established post office.

"Spavinaw mountain water.

"Electricity furnished by the Public Service Company.

"Good schools and a Community church.

"Oiled streets.

"Gas furnished by the Oklahoma

Natural Gas Company.

"A real 32-piece band.

“A town hall.  
“A picture show.  
“A fine interurban and bus service.  
“And best of all, a future.”

But 1928 held two events that Carbondale had not counted on; the burning to the ground of the Sunlight Carbon Company's factory -- and the death of M. A. Blackburn.

A careless workman cleaning off the “right of way” on the Frisco tracks allowed the fire to spread too near the factory buildings and before the fire equipment could arrive from town the \$350,000 plant was a pile of ashes. The company sued the railroad but the judgement handed down was too small to rebuild and start all over again.

M. A. Blackburn's death followed not many months afterward. When his friends speak of him they all agree that disappointment as much as disease was the cause of his passing away.

No factories had been built on the sites that he had given to the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce for that purpose and although Julius Kahn had bought 20 lots and an investment company had built several houses upon them, no building boom had ever really developed.

So when the carbon factory was a thing of the past and the guiding spirit of the little town was no more, the trustees met to discuss what course to take. They decided to ask the city to accept the community as a suburb. A petition was circulated. The required number of signers was secured and Carbondale became one with Tulsa.

At once sewers were built and the streets put into better conditions, but that was in the latter part of 1928 and the depression struck before any of the real estate firms could start a building program out there.

Carbondale remains much the same in spirit as it did before its annexation to the city. About the only changes are those of physical growth. Trees, set out as withes and weedy saplings around the first homes, are now tall, or spreading, shade trees according to their kind

Children who began in the primary at the little frame two-room school are enjoying the commodious, ultra-modern Daniel Webster high school this year.

The smooth well-oiled streets lie tranquilly between rows of comfortable white cottages occupied by contented workmen who are employed in the various industries of Tulsa. It is possible to keep a cow and a few

chickens. If one doesn't have space enough of one's own, there is always a vacant lot handy to plow up for a vegetable garden.

One of the city's best grade schools, four churches, several groceries, and filling stations, a drug store and sub-post office, with city mail delivery are some of the conveniences enjoyed by these suburbanites. Nor is it a drudgery to be a commuter in Carbondale for the big luxurious buses whisk you back and forth from work or shopping in comfort and economy.

All of these things the citizens of that community will boast of and although it is hard to believe, they will also insist that no matter how hot the summer sun grows in the middle of the day a cover is always comfortable at night thanks to that constant southerly breeze.

After all his visions of empire and the death of those bright hopes, had the founder of the pleasant suburb survived, I think he would have found satisfaction in his handiwork.”

Freda Aston, Tulsa World

## Oakhurst

In the 1889 survey of the westside, notes were made of the stock pen between the Cushing to Red Fork road and the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad tracks southwest of Red Fork. There was no indication of a town at that time. On the east side of the Frisco tracks was another road. This one was called the Sapulpa to Red Fork road. Property owners noted east of the stock pen were Winnie and C. McIntosh. South of the stock pen was E. W. Morrison. **(Expand this to include Lenapaugh)**

## Opportunity Heights

For a little community born in 1926, Opportunity Heights made some important memories in near eighty years.

Did you know:

That Johnny Harden of Harden's Hamburgers and Chicken once lived here?

That retired Webster principal; Jerry Billings once performed at the Circle C Roundup rodeo here?

That three state-champion wrestlers came from here and an open division state boxing champ?

Monte Hancock wrote a history of Opportunity Heights. “The only building in the community that was identified with the community was Opportunity Heights Baptist Church which still stands at West 55<sup>th</sup> Place and South 45<sup>th</sup> West Avenue and is still active,” he wrote. The community reached a peak about 1950, and waned with the construction of the Townwest Shopping Center, I-44 and New Sapulpa Road

It was Oct. 12, 1926 when landowners H.C. Stahl and M. A. Younkman filed a plat for Opportunity Heights addition. April 19, 1929, several people filed a disclaimer to correct the original plat that the court accepted. Hancock traced the land back to the granting of the same land to the Creek Tribe Aug. 11, 1852.

On March 5, 1907 Pleasant Porter signed the allotment, of 120.94 acres to the heirs of Nachie Scott, 48. When she died Sept. 29, 1899, the land was left to sons Sunday and Andy Scott. They were the first owners, in today's sense. The Interurban came through here on its trip between Sapulpa and Tulsa, although passenger traffic stopped in 1933, according to Hal Miller, in an article in the magazine "Trains."

"Oklahoma Union Railway opened the line between Tulsa and Sapulpa in 1918," he said. A short street is still called Interurban. Residents generally accept that the Opportunity Heights boundaries include West 51<sup>st</sup> Street on the North to West 61<sup>st</sup> Street on the South and South 49<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue on the west and the Tulsa-Sapulpa Union Railway track on the eastside.

The addition is half way between Red Fork and Oakhurst. The Oak Heights Home Extension Club chose the Heights from here. At its peak, Opportunity Heights had about 1,000 residents, five grocery stores, three service stations and five motels. Three of the grocery stores were combinations with service stations and cabins to rent. The names of the grocery stores were Elias Grocery, the Burgess Grocery, the Cochran Grocery, and the Givens Grocery. Another one was at South 45<sup>th</sup> West Avenue and U.S. 66.

Motels included the Lone Star Courts and the Gravitt Motel. About those opening questions: The State Champion wrestlers were Everett Johnson who won state titles at 165 pounds in both 1949 and 1950. Waldo Sharp took state in 1950 at 120 pounds and Claude Rice won state in 1951 at 112 pounds. The Golden Globe boxer standouts included Earl Martin who won two consecutive Open Division State Championships at 135 pounds.

Johnny Harden lived in this neighborhood on West 55<sup>th</sup> Place when he worked as a fry cook at the Pig-N-Pen Restaurant in Garden City. The Circle C Roundup Club arena was located on Southwest 49th West Avenue and West 56<sup>th</sup> Street where TownWest Shopping Center is today. "We also had a reporter for a major city newspaper, two professional rodeo trick-riders, an airline pilot, a smoke eater in a national forest, one 30-year Navy veteran, a 36-year Air Force veteran, an assistant golf professional, several businessmen and our share of gangsters and bootleggers," Hancock wrote.

"Though very few of the old-timers remain, the memories will live on forever," he said. He attached a picture of the family home that was typical of the structures in Opportunity Heights in the 1930's and 1940's. The Hancock home address was at 4515 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Place. The state bought the property and the Hancocks moved in 1950.

Another photo showed the Baptist Church on April 9, 1950. The children were sitting on the front row and the adults standing. Pastor Rev. H.A. Aday preached that Easter.

## South Haven

In 1920, Tulsa pioneer Oscar U. Schlegel had 80 acres southwest of Tulsa platted as South Haven. He sold lots, but never built homes in the addition. In addition to platting the acreage, he donated land for a community park and churches. Schlegel's daughter, Mrs. Larkin Bailey of Tulsa, inherited 98 undeveloped lots when Schlegel died in 1955.

South Haven became a community for blacks and was never developed with water, street and sewer improvements until taken over by the City of Tulsa in the summer of 1966. Even then, the improvements were very limited.

A couple of the first settlers of the South Haven community were Barry and Willa Baul. They built a home in South Haven about 1923. Barry and Willa were featured in a Tulsa World article on October 31, 1983. The article includes a photo of the Bauls standing in front of their home.

Emerson Penn is another of the early settlers in the community. He moved to South Haven from Wichita, Kansas, where he was a deputy sheriff. Penn suffered a back injury and came to Tulsa to find work. Penn's family included Mrs. Penn and nine children.

The South Haven community never did take off and prosper. The few houses built early in the development were poorly constructed and that set the stage for a continuing path of poor construction. South Haven was eventually annexed into the City of Tulsa, but promises of improvements by elected officials have been few and far between.

# Chapter Four: Pioneer Families and People

It will be hard to sort out just who to include in this section of the book. There are a few names that really surface when we talk about the area. However, there are many others that could easily be included. I would like to include more of the families, than too few. We will always be able to expand this, or any section of the book when we publish a CD version in the future. If we have good information on a family, I say we should write it down, and let our members, as reviewers, have a say in just how much is included in the printed book.

We made a decision at our October 12, 2001, meeting that it is important for family histories to be made available. There will not be enough room to cover the histories at length in the written pages, so we are going to include a CD in a sleeve at the back of the book.

## Atkins Family

Providing beef for supper up north

10/24/01 AFB Cattle drives

The Creeks ferried their horses over the Arkansas River, but the longhorns swam. Non-Indian cattle owners had to pay for the cattle to pasture and have access to cross Indian land. The pastoral tradition of the Five Civilized Tribes forced to relocate in this area, mild winters and the ample short-grass prairies of eastern Oklahoma were forces that led to the cattle period in American history, Bill O'Brien said. In "The Presence," he said the first major cattle drive to the northeastern markets was in 1849 and came up the Texas Road.

In the 1850's, "this trail served a part of the great western migration and later cattle drives to Kansas," he said. The trail forked at Ft. Gibson, one branch going to Tulsey Town and the other to Ft. Scott, Kansas. Later, cowboys had names like Jim Tallon and Ely Epperly, H.E. Bridges, Bob Atkins, and Plez Yargee. Atkins had with him his horse Glossie and dog, Booze. They ate out of tin cups under the sky and slept on bedrolls hauled by a wagon. For company, they had thousands of cattle, which were brought from Texas and fattened, in the area of Turkey Track Trail before being shipped on trains north.

Atkins got his first experience at 16 working on the Three Bar Ranch, owned by C.W. Turner near Muskogee. Atkins rode the line on horses Black Diamond and Hame-Leg. In 1939, he told his niece, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader working on a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Land Run project, about seeing his first telephone, going back to the ranch, and being laughed at for

telling such a story. “In a few days my boss went into town, and came back and told the boys that he saw this ‘telephone’ operate and that I wasn’t yarning!”

He tended 3,000 cattle on a ranch near Elk City, then came to the Half Circle S. owned by Charles Clinton, 15 miles south of Red Fork. He next worked the Turkey Track Ranch on Sac-Fox land at what is today, Cushing. Clinton had a crew of 22 men, 20,000 cattle and 250 horses on land 18 by 20 miles long. The land was divided in four quarters.

There was a rodeo ground and roping pen there by today’s Unit Rig. Later John Hale had a stockyard in the pasture there. South 49<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue used to be known as Turkey Track Trail. There was also the Texas Trail. Bob Atkins’ daughter Cozetta Atkins said her dad missed cattle drives after he had turned to law enforcement.

Cozetta Atkins lived in Oakhurst from 1939 to 1970. She does not ever recall hearing people talk about the town of Oakhurst which was voted on in 1919. But, after her parents passed on and her marriage broke up, she moved to Sapulpa next to a nephew who owns **Mister Indian’s. What is Mr. Indians?** Bob Arrington is her nephew.

Also in Sapulpa is her niece Dr. Ruth Arrington who taught drama and history at Northeastern Oklahoma State at Tahlequah many years. Asked her if there was a favorite teacher from Red Fork High School, she said Miss Nowalski, a Czech, was ‘most precious’ She could be mean, but Cozy and she got along fine, she said.

Cozetta was born in 1914, making her 87 years old at the time of this interview in 2001. Dr. J.C.W. Bland and Mrs. Frank Brown delivered her in the house where the Atkins’ lived. Sue Bland’s allotment adjoined Cozy’s mother’s allotment. The Atkins’ lived in a big, white house near Park School. Cozy went to Park with Loyce Brown, Marvin Peters, Owen Buernwall, David Schumacher, and Pauline Kilgore. Goldie Watson lived on Pistol Hill. Other friends were Viola Allen and Wanda Fasholtz.

**Asked about the Red Fork Bank robbery that Marvin Peters told in an article about his mother letting him play outside during the shooting. She said he being a boy it was different. She being a girl, her father kept his thumb on his girls.**

Cozy told about being scared of heights and when they slept on the upper porch to be cool, Cozy slept next to the wall of the house, to be as secure as possible. Each person had a canvas sleeping pad with cotton ball stuffing. “They called me the dizzy one,” she said.

Pauline Kilgore told about spending the night with Cozy, sleeping in the yard one summer, and discovered her hostess had a knife under her pillow for protection. Cozy’s mother was a Perryman and their paternal aunt married Charles Clinton. Cozy and her sisters have both Clinton and Perryman genes.

## Berryhill Family

### BERRYHILL FAMILY

The Thomas H. Berryhill family arrived in this area of southwest Tulsa in 1889. The road over which they traveled was a wagon road that twisted and turned. In the early days the area was called Happy Hollow and Lost City. It is now called Berryhill and named for this family.

Thomas was one-eighth Creek Indian. On December 12, 1902, he was granted an allotment deed by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation granting him the NW/4 of Section 20, T19N, R12E, Tulsa County, containing 160 acres, which he farmed.

His wife, Sarah Ann (Johnson) Berryhill was a mid-wife and helped in delivering many of the first citizens. All her life she took people in who were down on their luck. Some of her family lived in the area, including her brother, Alonzo Johnson, and sisters, Mary and Liza.

Thomas and Sarah's children were Mary Ann Berryhill Russell, Theodore F. "Bud" Berryhill, John P. Berryhill, Cora F. Berryhill (Applegeet) Love, William T. "Tommy" Berryhill, and Della I. Berryhill (Fessler) Bozarth. Two younger daughters, Rosa Lee and Roda, died when they were children and are buried at Red Fork.

The Berryhill's first home was a log cabin. In 1913, the family erected a two-story home, which still stands at 3531 S. 61 W. Ave.

In 1913, Tommy married Miss Cora Jacobs, one of the first teachers. Their children were William T. "Bill" Berryhill II, Kenneth Berryhill, Charles Berryhill and Paul Berryhill. All the children are deceased, except Kenneth who lives in Red Fork.

Thomas H. Berryhill died at 72 years of age on March 24, 1915. It is believed he had the flu. Sarah Ann Berryhill died on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1926. She was 71. Both are buried in the Clinton Oaks Cemetery in Red Fork.

In 1929, the Berryhill family sold the Berryhill farm to F. B. Koontz, N. B. York, Harrison Morton and Ted Dickey. These men sub-divided the land into lots. It was designated Berry Hill Acres Subdivision and Berry Hill Gardens and offered for sale.

Thomas H. Berryhill's known brothers and sister were Littleton, Frank, Theodore and Mary Ann. Littleton Berryhill was never married. Frank's children were Roby B. Berryhill, Ada Glenn, Belle Smith and Lizzie Crosby. Theodore Berryhill's children were Maggie Howard, Dora Dymond and Flora Dymond.

Mary Ann Berryhill Snyder lived in Berryhill. Her children were Pete Snyder, John Snyder, Frederick Snyder, Mary A. Snyder O'Mara, Tena Snyder Berryhill, T. J. Snyder, Henry Snyder, Lizzie Snyder Hargis, Katie Snyder Sales, Joe Snyder, Emma Snyder Russell, Nellie Snyder Russell.

Many descendants of these families still live in this area.

## Blackburn, M. A. Family

Lafain Lee Blackburn Maxwell is the only living relative of B.A. Blackburn, and one of five surviving grandchildren of the father of Carbondale, Marshall A. Blackburn. M.A. Blackburn died when Lafain was 2, but all these years she has held on to two maps – one showing the lots and original street names of Carbondale.

Blackburn was marking off the lots as they sold. Also she has a blue-tone map of Southwest Tulsa which includes a penciled in Carbon Factory, Electric Park, Sunset Plunge, and a half-dozen refineries. The refineries included the Pan American, Cosden, Texas, Consumers, Constantine, and Mid-Co. The towns included Garden City, West Tulsa, Red Fork, and of course, Carbondale.

She also has photos of M.A. Blackburn and her dad, Byron Ambrose Blackburn. M.A. Blackburn's sister, Annette Blackburn married Fred Ehler of Hennessy. He was a banker and had fruit orchards there. She is listed in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame as a poet. She held national office in Eastern Star.

M.A. Blackburn attended every World's Fair, often taking son, Byron. Lafain's brother, Glenn Allen Blackburn was killed on Mother's Day, 1943. Joining the Air Force in July 1941, he was a World War II radio operator on a bomber and went down at sea. He had received the Air Medal. With the 45<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron, 40th Bomber Group. Glenn had been stationed in Puerto Rico and Panama and his last assignment may have been the Galapagos Island. He is remembered on the Tablets of the Missing at the West Coast Memorial at Presidio, California.

LaFain's sister, Betty Fain died at 15 months old. LaFain recalls that spring of 1943. She married Lewis A. Maxwell in April, she graduated from Webster High School in May and Glen was killed on his last mission May 9, 1943. Lewis also graduated that May from Webster High School.

Growing up in Carbondale, LaFain recalls the Blackburn building, 4802 South 31 West Ave. located on the southwest corner of 48 Street and 31 West Ave., having a community room on the second floor. Church meetings were held there, too. On the bottom floor was a drug store and sundries shop. She walked to Robertson Elementary and passed the building. She has a class picture of Glenn Blackburn at about 7 or 8 years old, but isn't sure if it was Carbondale School or Robertson. The year was probably 1929-30. Also in that picture is Robert Hickox's son, Bobby, and Lloyd Morgan. Lloyd and Norman were good friends. Lafain was in Girl Scouts and in high school she was a cheerleader. The family attended Carbondale Community Church. They lived one of her grandfather's houses after he died. He had used it for an office. It was on the northeast corner of W. 47<sup>th</sup> Street and S. 33 W. Avenue.

M.A. Blackburn married Maureen Glenn, a teacher. Byron was born May 23, 1883 and died in October 1971. He had three stepbrothers including Orlando, Louis and Frederick. A burly man, Orlando played football at Oklahoma A&M and in Hawaii. He worked as a newspaper reporter in Texas. Frederick Blackburn was named for Frederick Ehler. Lafain said Frederick Blackburn was handsome and wore a beard. He was an artist who as a youngster drew posters for the front of movie theaters and worked in early television production in California. He ended his career as Chief Communications Engineer at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. Lewis' family came from Spiro in the 1940's and lived in West Tulsa.

Well-known Carbondale residents included Judge Clarence Allen who lived near 4700 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> W. Avenue and the Vawter family. She recalls Earl Rice was a sportswriter for the Tulsa Tribune and lived on West 47<sup>th</sup> St. in the family home. He did a number of stories on Westside athletes.

## Bland Family

Dr. J.C. Bland was born in Centerville, Iowa on Nov. 7, 1859. He finished high school in Centerville and attended Washington University in St. Louis for Medical School, starting in 1883.

According to a 1937 WPA Interview by Effie S. Jackson, Dr. Bland came to the future state of Oklahoma and joined a camp of 200 "boomers" near where Stillwater is today. A Lieutenant Day with a company of soldiers was sent to move them out on Christmas day, 1883. The boomers ignored the officer and began preparing dugouts for winter. That winter they built the first wagon bridge across Stillwater Creek. Col. Hatch from Fort Reno came with 300 soldiers to send the boomers back to the Kansas line. Feb. 2, 1884 the group began wading through the snow back to Kansas.

In 1885, Mr. Bland returned to Oklahoma, this time to Red Fork. The railroad had come to Red Fork, and farming and stock country abounded. "Heavy corn crops found buyers from distant cattle ranches and hauls of grain for 50 miles were often made The Red Fork stockyards were enlarged and received pen-loads of cattle from Texas seeking a shipping point.

Trails from the south and west led to this shipping point for St. Louis," Jackson wrote. "My father felt that this place had a future," Vera Bland Stickler told her in 1937. As Dr. Fred Clinton mentions in the other article about Dr. Bland under Physicians, Bland married Sue Davis, daughter of W.T. Davis in 1887. The ceremony took place at the home of Dr. U. P. Newlon, who was Tulsa's first druggist and doctor, Mrs. Stickler said.

Newlon's home was on Main, between First and Second Street. In keeping with the reason he came to the Red Fork region, Dr. Bland had one of the largest cattle ranches in the district and kept "good breed horses and fancy race horses," she recalled.

"In the early days when horse racing was the chief Tulsa recreation, my father always had racing entrants," the WPA article said. "I think perhaps people remember more about his horses than they do about his work as a physician." Mrs. Stickler said lives of pioneer doctors were difficult, Claremore, Muskogee and Okmulgee were the centers of medicine, except for the Indian Agency. A friend or family member would fetch the doctor who traveled 50-75 miles in a buggy or on horseback to reach the patient.

When the Indian Territory Medical Association was formed, four of the Five Civilized Tribes had Boards of Medical Examiners. Dr. Callahan of Muskogee, Dr. Rucker, Eufaula and Dr. Bland were the Medical Examiners for the Creek Nation. Mrs. Stickler said Dr. Bland organized a Board of Health in Tulsa and was its first president. (Dr. Kempe will research) She said her parents lived on South Main between Third and Fourth, but because Dr. Bland was away from home so much, the mother was frightened to be so far out of town.

To feel safe from drunken cowboys and Indians, she fixed up a bedroom back of a drug store in town near the Frisco tracks. Vera Bland Stickler was born in that room in Tulsey Town near the Frisco track in 1888.

## Bridges, Hade Family

Hayden E. Bridges died Feb. 27, 1967 at 81. He led a remarkable life which included a term as District 2 County Commissioner, developing two Berryhill housing additions, helping to start the Red Fork State Bank, and serving for years as a director of the People's State Bank which succeeded it. He was president of Red Fork Bank in 1927 when it sold to the Walkers. (who are they) He was County Commissioner during the depression 1933-35. He was secretary/manager of the Tulsa State Fair for six years. He bought and sold real estate for 40 years.

The real estate sections were the Bridges and the Pleasant Additions. He was a member of the Berryhill Free Will Baptist. He was a native of Missouri, but came to Tulsa as a small boy, according to his Tulsa World obituary. Sept. 16, 1920, Bridges and John Bacon sponsored a roping contest at Shell Creek. Red Fork fans were many and Amos Partridge won first prize. A Red Fork contest was soon to be held.

Mary Hefty's mother took care of his first wife during the time he was county commissioner. She was Hattie Yargee, a niece of Pleasant Porter. The Chief listed the first name as Lorena. Her mother was the sister of the Creek Chief and her father was J.E. Yargee. She and Bridges were married Nov. 2, 1908 by Rev. E.N. Owen in an evening ceremony. They were well liked and had many friends, according to the Tulsa Chief.

Donna Houston said, "He and his wife, Aunt Sis (Hattie), were prominent people in the westside." Donna is the daughter of Don and Virginia Wilcox. Oct. 26, 1909 the Bridges went to Tulsa with the Frank Browns. (Was this significant, did they move there?)

Hattie's brother, Pleasant died at 24, after being shot at Keifer. He is buried at Clinton Oaks. His second wife, Martha R. Bridges, was the daughter of John and Nancy Bacon. She was born April 6, 1905 and lived to 97, dying July 21, 2002.

The children included Jim Wadley and Harold Wadley, Bonnie Wadley and Charlotte Welch. Doris Davis, Betty Lou Fortner and Ernest preceded Martha in death. Martha was a charter member of New Home Free Will Baptist Church

## Brown Family

The Remarkable Brown Brothers

9/15/01 AFB, Brown family

Red Fork resident Loyce Wilkins said Brown Brothers Francis Oscar Brown and Wrenar Marvin (Mug) Brown had a definite impact on early day government, law enforcement and commerce. Uncle Frank (Francis) was the first mayor of Red Fork and her dad (Mug) was on the Board of Trustees.

Loyce Wilkins said her dad and Uncle Frank were farm boys who came to the westside early after they heard of the Sue Bland No. 1 oil well coming in. They worked for the Uncle Sam Refinery. They also sang in the church choir at the Presbyterian Church across the river. That may be where Frank met Lillian Gillette.

After they married, she decided she didn't like marriage or Tulsa. Frank bought her gifts to change her mind, but nothing worked. He was heart-broken and disappeared. Eventually, Mug took the wagon to Carthage, Mo. and went around the town square whistling a special whistle both brothers knew. He finally found Uncle Frank drunk. He swung his brother over his shoulder and took him home.

Then Uncle Frank moved to Miami and got into real estate. He learned insurance and self-taught himself to be a lawyer. Mug met and married the oldest daughter of William Hannibal Foster. The Foster family lived in the building where they had a small grocery. Later Foster became a justice of the peace.

Later Uncle Frank was Street Commissioner for the town of Tulsa and held the job when Spavinaw was brought in for water and when Red Fork was annexed because of its need for water. It was during his term that the bonds for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge were voted. He was later police commissioner.

Ms. Loyce Wilkins owns a picture of Uncle Frank with his horse named Delaware. His wife's horse was Alewe. Loyce lived in Red Fork until she was six, but her grandfather died and her parents moved the family to Missouri to help grandmother with the farm.

Grandmother had 100 acres which was presented to the couple from her parents as a wedding gift.

They made the trip in a Rio Touring Car with Esin-Glass curtains in Sept. 1921. It rained so hard they had to close the curtains. On the farm, they had no electricity and her father dug a pit, lined it with straw and kept apples, sweet potatoes, potatoes and cabbage in there, covered with more straw and dirt.

Loyce came back to Red Fork in 1937, and lived with Uncle Frank and his second wife, Elsie. The house was on 29<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue across from where Red Fork Baptist is today. When she grew up, she rode the bus to Tulsa Business College and after, got a job with the railroad agent for the Fort Smith and Western Railroad Company.

The little railroad ran from Ft. Smith, Ark. to Oklahoma City. Loyce worked in the Kennedy building. Because of their connections, Tulsa Mayor T. A. Penney sometimes gave the Browns hockey tickets. As a child, Loyce and others liked to play a game similar to hockey with an L-shape stick and a tin can. Uncle Frank and Elsie and another couple went to see dog racing. Uncle Frank died in August, 1950. The Browns are buried in Carcoxie, Ark.

## Clinton Family

### Gomez, Cecil Family

Gomez family survives the depression

2/16/02 AFB Cecil Gomez story

Juan Guerrero Gomez from Villa de Reyes, Mexico left his native country in 1913. He worked for the Frisco, and in 1918 got a mild case of the Influenza that killed 20 million worldwide. He met his future wife, Edelia Almeida Flores at a Boarding House in Oklahoma City.

Edelia was born in Colotlan, Jalisco, Mexico. Her biological father abandoned the family. Her mother, Domitila, remarried a man who was physically abusive. In 1915, the grandmother left her husband and two sons and took the daughter. In 1916, Edelia left Waco with Angela Castro who became her foster mother.

In 1921, Cecil Gomez's parents moved to Sapulpa. In 1922, the first of their 12 children was born, Juan. Cecil was born in 1923. In 1926, the father got travel privileges with Frisco and the family took a trip to Mexico. In 1927, the Frisco abandoned Sapulpa and the Gomezs moved to West Tulsa's "Y." They had no electricity, no running water, and no indoor plumbing.

Cecil who wrote a book called “Mama’s and Papa’s 12 Children and the ‘Y” describes the Frisco roundhouse. Sister Nellie is born in 1927 and Edelia looks for her mother, Grandma Domilita. In 1928, Juanito died of typhoid fever. Brother Johnnie is born.

Papa puts an ad in La Prensa looking for the grandma. By 1930, hobos were frequent. Edelia would have them cut firewood in exchange for a meal. Cecil got to know Bob Glance and his two brothers who suffered “hunger and poverty at its worst.”

In 1931, the westside was less hectic than cities and more neighborly. Neighbors would still borrow a cup of sugar, or other ingredients. Cecil describes the Cameo Theater, Ozark Pharmacy, West Tulsa Loan Office, the West Tulsa Post Office, Cox’s Bakery and Café and Cox’s Dry Goods, Julius Jacobsons Shoe Store, the Skelly Service Station, and Fred Walker’s Grocery.

Cecil talks about Halloween on Quanah. He includes a three-section chart of the businesses on that major street. He writes about adding to the house and about wrestling at the West Tulsa Lodge No. 64. (what lodge? Masonic?) Also in 1931, Virginia was born and Cecil started school at Celia Clinton.

In 1932, Edelia takes up sewing and Juan mends the children’s shoes. The family attends Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Cecil meets Josephine. In 1933, Albert is born. Papa buys a 1929 Chevrolet car, and the family goes to see the Grandma in Sapulpa. In 1934, the Grandma moved to Oklahoma City. In colorful detail, Cecil describes the family getting on the wrong train and having to spend the night in Bristow before returning to rail travel to see Grandma. The children start attending St. Catherine’s which was built in 1925. In 1935, Nellie was hit by a car, but recovered. Cecil writes about swimming, sometimes at the Cosden Refinery pool. Dona Salome’s house burned down. Edelia was reunited with Angela, her foster mother.

Cecil talks about the street cars, prejudice against the Catholics and getting wonderful ice chunks at the Frisco Ice Dock during hot summers. When the family takes the train to Kansas City to see Angela, her husband buys Cecil a guitar. Juan’s mother died and little Albert was deathly sick. Lupe was born Dec. 12, 1937. With a growing family and the increasing amount of clothes, Cecil built a walk-in closet. (Clarify family relationships)

Bob Glance and Luther Todd joined Cecil to play music. Cecil went with Bob’s stepdad to sell watermelons up and down West Tulsa streets. The Mid-Continent Strike was on and 1939 was Cecil’s last year to attend St. Catherine’s. The ‘Y’ finally got city water and Cecil built the family a shower stall. A car (auto or train ?) fell on Juan, but he recovered. Cecil went to work selling seeds, running errands, handling a paper route. He chopped wood, cared for a cow, and distributed phone books. Phyllis was born in 1940, the year the “Y” got electricity. In 1941, Cecil discovered girls and enjoyed the electric radio. Brother Mike was in a car wreck.

Tommy was born June 16, 1943. Cecil volunteered in the U.S. Navy and reported to San Francisco. He spent three years in World War II, but married Josephine Dec. 6, 1943. Cecil got badly cut in a storm on ship. He and all his friends returned safely from the war. Juan was fired after 20 years with Frisco, but goes back later for \$1.75 an hour. Then Cecil got hurt in an industrial accident. He lost a leg. He and Josephine bought a house.

The family was evicted from the “Y” and while Cecil and brother build a new house, the family stays with the oldest brother. Cecil called finishing the house at 2427 S. Olympia in 1949, “the biggest accomplishment of my life.” It was pictured in the *Early History of Southwest Tulsa*.

In 1950, Grandma Domalito died. The new house brought many improvements. In 1974, the Papa died. Noble died in 1985 of cancer related to asbestos. The end of the book details the individual family members with many pictures of each.

The family had 38 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild when the book was published.

## Hardesty Family

Some may consider W. E. Hardesty the father of Garden City. Hardesty “sold 60 acres off of the northern end of his tract to be divided into town lots” for homes for the Texas Company refinery employees around 1915. These plots became known as Garden City.

In an April 18, 1938 Works Progress Administration interview by W.T. Holland, Hardesty said he arrived from Kentucky in Tulsa on Jan. 30, 1899. The area south of the train station was native oak woods. “Mr. Hardesty struck the Arkansas River on the way south, about where the 21<sup>st</sup> Street bridge now crosses it. Here he crossed the river on the ice,” Holland wrote. He leased 80 acres of farming land from a Creek Nation freedwoman named Anna Martin. The land was east of the West Tulsa business section on South Quanah, which was unsettled or open farming land in 1899.

Hardesty brought his family out and farmed the land for 12 years. His first permanent home was on 40 acres of timber two miles south of his first lease that he bought from Lee Clinton in 1911. “A few years later, he bought some more land adjoining his first tract from the allotment of Fred Clinton,” Holland wrote.

Prospering, Hardesty added to his holdings and ended up with 370 acres of good farmland. In the middle of his land, he improved his farm, fences and built an eight-room, two-story frame home, “a nice and modern home,” Holland said.

Throughout his 40 years near Tulsa, he relied on wheat. “Growing wheat through these years has raised him from tenant farmer to be the owner of 370 acres of fine Arkansas River bottom land.” Wheat averaged 20 bushels per acre. But he grew oats, corn hay and

raised some cattle and hogs. He killed and cured his own meat and grew fruit and vegetables.

“Mr. and Mrs. Hardesty have four children and a number of grandchildren. Their home has always dispensed true Southern hospitality,” Holland wrote in closing. “They are now enjoying a well-earned rest, although Mr. Hardesty still manages his affairs and keeps abreast of the times. His descendants still live in the area, as recent as 1998, when Southwest Tulsa News interviewed one of his daughters.

## McLaughlin Family

What do names like Virginia Dean, Effie Howard, Dan and Asa Howard, Virginia and Corky Maxwell, Glenda Watson Tweedy and Ruth Buck have in common? They are descendants of Henry Otis McLaughlin and John Calvin McLaughlin who was born July 14, 1867 in Darke County, Ohio.

The son of William Harrison and Anna M. (Finton) McLaughlin, John moved with his father and siblings, Harvey and Alberta Bell to Pennsylvania in 1875 when Anna died. John’s grandmother and uncles lived there. A family history by Glenda Watson Tweedy, says that in 1879, William remarried to Anna Belle Scott. The couple and son John traveled by covered wagon to Cowley County, Kansas and then to Commanche County in that state. William and Anna raised their family and lived their lives near Coldwater.

John McLaughlin’s obituary says he came to Tulsa down the Arkansas River on a raft with Sam Brooks. When Lincoln Postoak sold his ferry to the trio—Lee Clinton, Lon Stansbury, and Arthur Antle—McLaughlin operated the ferry for them until the toll bridge was built in 1904. Even with the toll bridge, McLaughlin became the toll tender.

On Aug. 31, 1898, John C. McLaughlin married Mary Maude Bush in Tulsa, Indian Territory. Officiating was Sylvester Morris. The bride was the daughter of Plattoff P. and Nancy Emeline (Box) Bush. P.P. Bush brought his family to Tulsa in the 1880’s when the railroad was extended here from Vinita. John and Maude lived in a house at the end of the bridge when it was built in 1904.

Family members recall that a band of gypsies passing over the bridge took a liking to the McLaughlin’s daughter, Madge. The mother was afraid the gypsies would come back and kidnap her baby.

In 1905, John bought property in West Tulsa, I.T. from early day mayor John O. and Alice M. Mitchell. On May 3, 1906, John resigned as toll tender to go into business in West Tulsa. Andy Stokes was appointed to the job. The *History of the Tulsa Police Department* lists John McLaughlin as an officer in 1906, and John C. McLaughlin as an officer 1910-11.

A picture shows McLaughlin with a horse-drawn paddy wagon. In 1911 and 1917, John was deputized by Tulsa County Sheriff William McCullough. The 1918 City Directory said McLaughlin was foreman of the West Tulsa Water Department, according to Tweedy. Also in his obituary is the note that during World War I McLaughlin worked in the mercantile store in West Tulsa.

After the war, John and family moved to Salina, OK where he farmed for many years. He then returned to Tulsa and settled in the Berryhill area where he lived until he died Feb. 8, 1937.

Maude lived the rest of her life in West Tulsa with family and friends, dying Nov. 26, 1956. They are buried at Clinton Oaks Cemetery. Nancy Anna (Madge) McLaughlin was born June 14, 1902 in Tulsa. As a small child, someone called her Midget. Later her name was shortened to Midge, and from there to Madge, Tweedy recounts.

Madge worked many years as a waitress in West Tulsa. (What restaurant.?) She worked for Mose Knight and Mr. Bartee among others. "She served so many Frisco workers that she knew their schedules, their favorite meals and would have their food ready when they came in," Tweedy said. She thought waitresses who could carry only one plate per hand were amateurs. Her last 25 years working, Madge was the janitor at the Tri-State, then named Silvey Building. She taught 6-year-old boys in Sunday School many years and was active at Phoenix Avenue Baptist Church. Madge died Jan. 6, 1977 and is buried beside Uncle Lon Bush, and grandparents P.P. and Nancy Bush at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Other children included

- Alonzo Harvey (Dude McLaughlin) was born Jan. 24, 1908 in Tulsa. Dude lived most of his life in West Tulsa and drove trucks. He married Ercell Beaver. He died Dec. 15, 1960 at the family home and is buried at Memorial Park.
- Bertha Ellen McLaughlin was born Nov. 20, 1911 in Tulsa and died Sept. 12, 1912. She is buried at Clinton Oaks Cemetery.
- Edith Frances (Tiny) McLaughlin was born April 11, 1916 in Tulsa. Tiny grew up in Salina and came back to Tulsa with her family. On Sept. 25, 1934, she married Glenn W. Watson in the Tulsa County Courthouse vault.

Glenn worked on the pipeline and lived many places until the birth of their daughter, Glenda in Gramercy, La. They came back to Tulsa and Glenn worked for Mid-Continent Pipeline as an office clerk downtown. Tiny was a homemaker until she went to work at St. John's Hospital in 1955. She was active at Phoenix Avenue Baptist Church and was devoted to G.A.'s and Missions. Tiny died March 7, 1964 at 47. Glen died Aug. 30, 1969. They are buried at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Madge McLaughlin provided a home for her entire family. "I, as the only child, grandchild, and niece, was raised in a house with six adults. I take great pride in my family's pioneer spirit and my roots on the West Side of Tulsey Town," Glenda said.

## Perryman Family

A big man, Cornelius Perryman was strong enough to help settle the Southwest Tulsa area and start a long line of family here. He ran a ferry that carried a name similar to his - the Corneal Crossing. He built a two-story frame house only to see it claimed by fire. He had 160-acre allotment near Chandler Park that he farmed. He lost his first wife when her clothes caught fire. He sent two daughters to Chilocco Indian School, only to learn that Bess had had her hand mangled and nearly had it amputated. He brought her home and saved her hand.

Cornelius, who lived from 1842 to March 3, 1909, was the son of Betsy Porter and Samuel Perryman, who made the trip on the Trail of Tears with Samuel's seven siblings in 1828. The pioneer remarried after his first wife's death. The second Mrs. Perryman had been Sarah Rosalee Moreland Hearn and had a son named Dempse and three daughters.

She was widowed when her husband was killed in a saw mill explosion. After Hearn's death, Sarah worked as a traveling jewelry seller. She met Cornelius at Rachelle Perryman's house.

The Morelands had a large plantation with 100 slaves in Alabama. Sarah Rosalee died at 41 in childbirth on June 2, 1905. Cornelius was building a two-story stone house which he finished after her death. Cornelius died from a heart attack at 57. He died when Betty Myers' mother, Sarah Ann, was three. Sarah Ann was raised in boarding homes, Betty said.

Sarah Ann lived with the Pete Snyders in Berryhill until she was seven and when he was killed she stayed with a Tulsa family. Unhappy there, she was sent to a Catholic boarding school. July 12, 1930, she sold her land to F.B. Koontz, N.B. York, and H.E. Bridges who resold it for housing lots. She married Lonnie Covington Nov. 2, 1925 and they had a son who died at birth and Betty Ann in 1926. They divorced and she married James Edward Lane.

Sarah Ann died June 17, 1993. Her obituary said, "At one time she was one of the wealthiest Creek Indians in Oklahoma." An uncle of Robert D. Atkins, Cornelius and Sarah Rosalee are buried at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

The Gilcrease Historical Leaflet No. 6 "The Arkansas: A River to Cross," was used in this article as well as comments from Betty Myers of Glenpool. Other information came from Norma Lannon of Berryhill.

## Postoak Family

Chief A. E. Postoak was the son of Lincoln and Lillie Postoak who are buried in the little Postoak Cemetery west of Sand Springs. Lincoln lived from March 27, 1868 to Aug. 21, 1948. Lillie was born June 10, 1870 and died Jan. They married in 1887.

Lincoln was the son of Taylor Postoak and Marie (Molea) Fisher, for whose family Fisher Bottoms is named. Her mother, Elizabeth Porter, was a sister of Pleasant Porter and A.E. remembers visiting Porter in Muskogee.

Chief A.E. Postoak was born Oct. 25, 1901 in the last house on the dirt trail that was to become W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street. He believes it was paved about 1930. When interviewed on video Feb. 28, 1993 by the Southwest Tulsa Historical Society, A.E. Postoak said his dad and oldest brother had 160 acres in the Creek Nation. He said Taylor Postoak ran the ferry boat until a storm blew the ferry aground. He thought Lon Stansbery, bought it, but he made the purchase with Lee Clinton and Arthur Antle.

Between 1908-10 A. E. Postoak started school at Park school when it was a little frame building on 40<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue. His older sister helped him adjust to school life. He continued classes there until eighth grade when he was sent to Chilocco boarding school. He played ball, pitched and played first base.

After school, he lived in Arizona a while. He was too young for World War I and too old for World War II. When he grew up he worked in the oil business, hauling rigs around. "Dad had good teams," he said. Over the years, he worked for Devoni, Sun Ray, Texas and Conoco refineries.

Recalling the community of Red Fork, Postoak said the flag pole in the street was on 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The commercial section of Red Fork had a hotel, grocery, drug store, livery stable and bank. He remembered the fire that destroyed the drug store. Oct. 12, 1909 a fire nearly destroyed the commercial district of Red Fork. [\(Find articles about the fire\)](#)

The Tulsa Chief listed five buildings burned, with owners' names and loss amount and appealed for better roads and mechanized fire-fighting equipment to replace the "bucket brigade."

Chief went to Tulsa about the time of the 1921 Race Riot. He said he saw guys loading people on trucks "like firewood" and fires burning. "That was awful," he said. Chief recalled his dad going fishing with Tom Berryhill. Chief's job was to stay on the bank with watches and other valuables. Once he forgot himself and jumped in with the items in his pockets.

Asked if he recalled the little train at Chandler Park, Postoak didn't. But, he did recall the rock crusher there.

Of Postoak's sons, one is Dale Postoak who has 130 head of cattle at Okemah and John who died in 1974. He said a granddaughter and his boy (John?) are buried at Floral Haven; that the Postoak Cemetery (located southwest of Sand Springs) is full. He persuaded the kin folks of those buried at Postoak Cemetery to contribute to installing a fence around it.

Chief had a picture of Park School from 1911 that showed the children and teachers in front of the imposing structure. He showed a Feb. 7, 1965 Tulsa World clipping with a 1910 photo of the Oklahoma Union Traction Company streetcar in it.

But, a possession so prized, Chief kept it hidden, was the tomahawk that had come over the Trail of Tears with Pleasant Porter's family. Grandfather Taylor Postoak also had made that trip. Taylor's life is detailed in a 1964 piece by a relative and a WPA interview.

A.E. said his father was head of the Horse Thief Association and someone stole his two horses and a buggy from a few feet from the police station. A.E.'s father was full blood Creek and his mother was half.

## Yargee Family

# Chapter Five: Oil Companies and Refineries

A broad brush view of the refineries can be the opening of this section, with the description of the stacks, smoke, traffic and production of so many refineries in one place during the 1920-1930's era. The area grew, and then diminished when the businesses moved or died.

## Oil's Influence

### Sun, Sunray, DX

The beginning was small in everything but promise.

The Tulsa Refinery had a humble beginning of one office building and a few pressure stills when opened in 1913. The development was great. Today the refinery spreads over 800 acres, and is one of the largest permanent labor employing institutes in the expanding city of Tulsa.

The years from 1913 to the present brought many changes...including changes in the name from Cosden and Co. to Mid-Continent Petroleum Corp. to Sunray DX Oil Co. to Sun Oil Co., to Sun Co., Inc.

First of many big changes came in 1916 when a lubricating oil and wax plant and 100 pressure stills were built, a big development. By 1925, Cosden and Co. had been renamed Mid-Continent Petroleum Corp., had expanded its refinery, built its first bulk and service stations, and began marketing its products under the name "Diamond Products."

In 1933, Mid-Continent introduced "DX Lubricating Motor Fuel" and called it "The Successor to Gasoline". Thus the present product brand name was formulated: the "D" for Diamond Products, the "X" for the exclusive patented manufacturing process by which the products were perfected.

Sunray, a production company, in 1948 had taken its place among the large independents. This was accomplished largely by the acquisitions of other producing companies such as Derby, Superior, Homaokla, Transwestern Oil and Barnsdall Oil.

In 1955 when Mid-Continent and Sunray consolidated and became known as Sunray Mid-Continent. It was a full integration of properties, plant, equipment and personnel. The consolidation united the assets of the exploration, producing, refining and pipeline facilities of Sunray with the thriving refining, pipeline, distributing and retail marketing

activities of Mid-Continent whose DX products were popular throughout a wide area of the United States.

October 25, 1968 signaled a significant event for the company. At 5 p.m. that day, a new corporate entity was born – Sunray DX (in its 55<sup>th</sup> year) merged into Sun Oil Company (in its 82<sup>nd</sup> year).

In 1992, the refinery was reconfigured to place greater emphasis on the production of lubricants. In 1998, the name was changed again to Sunoco, Inc., which remains in effect today. In 2001, the retail packaging operation was discontinued and the refinery has since focused solely on the production of lubricants to the bulk wholesale market.

Sunoco, Inc. (NYSE: SUN), headquartered in Philadelphia, is a leading manufacturer and marketer of petroleum and petrochemical products. With 730,000 barrels per day of refining capacity, approximately 4,100 retail sites selling gasoline and convenience items, interests in over 10,000 miles of crude oil and refined product pipelines and 35 product terminals, Sunoco is one of the largest independent refiner/marketers in the U.S.

Sunoco is a growing force in petrochemicals with over nine billion pounds of gross annual production capacity, largely chemical intermediates used in the manufacture of fibers, plastics, film and resins. Using a unique, patented technology, Sunoco also manufactures two million tons annually of metallurgical-grade coke for use in the steel industry. For additional information, visit Sunoco's web site at [www.SunocoInc.com](http://www.SunocoInc.com).

Merger of Sunray Oil Company and Mid-Continent

## Mid-Continent Strike

The Mid-Continent (D-X) Refinery went on strike December 22, 1938 and was finally settled on March 21, 1940. It grew out of differences between the Oil Field Workers union, a C.I.O. affiliate, and the Mid-Continent Petroleum Corporation, over vacation time and arbitration methods on seniority and other questions.

The local union at the time was under the leadership of its president, Jack Hays, and held its meetings in an upstairs union hall over a movie house in West Tulsa, just a few blocks from the Mid-Continent refinery main gates. After several weeks of long, heated meetings between union and company officials, a late night meeting of the union members was called. The union hall was packed and the members voted to strike. Immediately the wives and children of the union members began stockpiling food supplies, bedding, and set up a kitchen in the hall to take care of the union pickets who would serve in the strike.

Approximately 650 workers walked off their jobs and out of the refinery on December 22, 1938. The union then filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board. The refinery was shut down on December 24th, although there were some 300 workers who had stayed on the job inside the refinery. The company had, like the union, stockpiled food and bedding inside the refinery for the workers who stayed.

Union pickets went on duty in groups of 250 for eight-hour shifts around all entrance and exit gates of the refinery complex. Pickets were also placed in front of the Cosden Building in downtown Tulsa.

Violence quickly flared on all fronts of the strike. Fistfights erupted between strikers and non-strikers, and anyone attempting to cross the picket lines. A pipeline was dynamited near Kiefer with the loss of 1,000 barrels of oil, but the union denied any role in that act of violence.

During the early hours of the strike, Tulsa police used tear gas to move strikers away from the plant entrance. It became a tense situation as the hours passed with neither side giving an inch. More violence flared with rough gang fights when strike-breakers were brought into the plant.

The violence was getting out of hand and on the night of December 24, 1938, the National Guard took over control and occupied the Mid-Continent Refinery strike zone. Picketers were ordered (at bayonet and gun point) back three blocks away from the entrance. A few hours later, the 300 workers who had stayed inside the refinery were escorted by guardsmen past the picket lines home for Christmas.

Command posts and machine gun placements behind sand bags were set up by the National Guard troops at all entrance gates to the refinery, plus a ring of guard sentries posted at short distances completely around the refinery area. Traffic jams became everyday events around the refinery as curious Tulsans drove by to get a look at the guards on duty and the striking pickets. Periodic reports of violence continued until the strike was finally settled in March of 1940.

## Retired Oil Workers Associations

There are many active members of the Oil Workers associations in our westside. We should touch on them and their stories as we talk about the refineries themselves. Gear the refinery descriptions to first hand views when possible.

## Cosden Refinery

Born in 1880, Josh Cosden was a native of Maryland, who incorporated Cosden and Company in Delaware on July 9, 1917. He was 28 when he came to Kansas and then to Oklahoma in search for a source of turpentine other than pine trees.

Cosden started a refinery in Bigheart, which was twice destroyed --once by fire and once by a tornado. It was rebuilt a third time. According to Joe Howell, a Tulsa Tribune reporter who wrote about Cosden in the Jan. 25, 1994 edition of the Tulsa World, "Cosden moved to Tulsa in 1912, bought 80 acres on the southside of the Arkansas River in West Tulsa and announced he would build a 5,000 barrel a day refinery."

When it opened in 1914 it was the largest in the world. It was the first of several refineries for Tulsa. "Step by step, Cosden increased his company holdings to 800 acres," Howell wrote. Howell said Cosden was Tulsa's golden boy from 1914 until he left town in 1919. The Cosden building downtown was built in 1917 and finished Nov. 11, 1918.

Spending more and more time in New York, Cosden sold his home at 1700 S. Carson in 1919 and made New York his home. He lived with the Vanderbilts and Whitneys for neighbors on Long Island. He bought a 21-room apartment on Park Avenue, a 100-acre Virginia farm, an estate at Port Washington, a mansion in Palm Beach and a gold mine in Mexico. Cosden also had a farm in Kentucky, a yacht and a private railroad car.

After Cosden's empire crashed, he was forced to sell everything, Howell said. He then had the penthouse on the 16th floor of the Cosden building as his only home in Tulsa. It was furnished in European antiques. Howell wrote about Cosden's penthouse catching fire Aug. 29, 1922.

In the fire a pipe organ-piano and a Daingerfield painting known as "Cypress in the Wind" were destroyed. The fire started on the 15th floor amid brooms, brushes, and housekeeping supplies.

Early in 1923, Cosden spent \$100,000 remodeling the penthouse and furnishing it with antiques and art works. "The plant was enlarged year by year until it had a rated capacity of 45,000 barrels a day when he lost his company in 1925," Howell wrote.

Though his company and the Cosden Building were taken over, the penthouse was left and used by Jacob France, the Mid-Continent Petroleum head. Another source was Ralph Miller Doughty of Norman who wrote in 1948 a thesis, "The Mid-Continent Petroleum Corporation Strike of 1938--A Study in Oklahoma Industrial Relations."

Mid-Continent acquired the majority of Cosden stock in 1925-- in the Cosden Oil and Gas Co. and the Cosden Building company and the Process Company. Also Mid-Continent bought 100 percent of the Cosden Pipe Line Company.

In 1925, Cosden and Company became an operating company and its name changed to Mid-Continent Petroleum Corporation. About 1928, Cosden borrowed \$1 million and found oil in West Texas. His new company was worth \$100 million and Cosden's personal fortune was \$15 million.

The Great Depression 1933-39, cost Cosden that fortune. However, when he died in 1940, he had about \$4 million. France used the penthouse until he died in 1962, when it was converted to offices. Howell said Cosden launched the refinery development here and made Tulsa the "oil producing center of the country."

Cecil Gomez writing in his book, *Mama and Papa's Twelve Children and the Y*, talked about slipping into the Cosden Park private pool for the refinery elite at night for a swim, despite the guards patrolling the pool.

Consumers Refinery

Constantine Refinery

Mid-Co Refinery

Pan-American Refinery

Sinclair

Texaco Refinery

Uncle Sam Refinery

The Sue Bland No. 1 came in June 25, 1901 and the Ida Glenn No. 1 on Nov. 22, 1905. Producers were interested in refining and marketing oil here and avoiding further spread of Standard Oil. H.H. Tucker Jr. came to meet the Commercial Club from the Uncle Sam Refinery in Cherryvale, Kansas in February 1906. "The Uncle Sam wants to place a refinery here for the reason that Tulsa is an ideal location and this oil is on high gravity,"

Tucker told reporters. Brothers Francis Oscar Brown and Wrenar Marvin (Mug) Brown were farm boys who came to the westside early after they heard of the Sue Bland No. 1 oil well coming in. They worked for the Uncle Sam Refinery, according to Mug's daughter Loyce Wilkins.

"The proposition is for Tulsa to furnish a site of 15 acres located on the west side of the river near the Frisco railroad bridge, a switch which will hold 10 cars and an outlet to the river for carrying off waste from the refinery, and the Uncle Sam Refinery will sign a \$10,000 bond that it will have a 600-barrel oil refinery completed by July 1 at least." It was the first refinery on the in Southwest Tulsa. *The Indian Republican* April 12, 1907

Uncle Sam Refinery promoter and secretary, H.H. Tucker Jr. was arrested in Kansas City on a charge of defrauding investors. Headlines said, "Ten thousand is sum defrauded;" "Get Rich Quick" scheme is nipped in the bud; and "Uncle Sam Oil Company Defunct." April 9, 1907, Tucker announced he'd have the 100 signatures on his bond in four days. He said he had no fear "in regard to the criminal charges against him. The charges "only disturbed him because they cast a shadow upon the company."

In June a federal judge, denied Tucker's petition to postpone the hearing on discharging the Uncle Sam Oil Company receiver. Tucker got 90 days in jail for contempt, for a petition attacking several federal judges.

In July, (what year, what President?) the U.S. president declined to pardon Tucker for his contempt sentence. David Breed found a 1909 postcard of the Uncle Sam Refinery for sale at a show in 2002. In a Mystery Column published in the Tulsa County News May 16, 2002, David Breed said "The Uncle Sam paved the way for the pipeline industry and toward the later construction" of refineries. He referred to the Texas Company and Josh Cosden's Refinery, which later became part of the Mid-Continent, known as the "largest independent refinery in the World."

# Chapter Six: Railroads and Railworkers

## Atlantic and Pacific Enters Indian Territory

The first railroad to enter Indian Territory was the Atlantic and Pacific.

## St Louis and San Francisco (Frisco)

Before January, 1882, the Atlantic and Pacific was acquired by the Frisco Railway. The federal government then gave the Frisco right-of-way for a line south through Indian Territory.

Since 1882, the Frisco Railroad had chosen Tulsa for its terminus, according to a June 19, 1927 newspaper article. The first passenger train arrived Aug. 21, 1882. For several years, the Frisco line had ended at Vinita, but the cattle industry in the area of today's Southwest Tulsa, lured the Frisco to come further.

Soon after arriving in Tulsa, the Frisco decided to bridge the Arkansas River for ease in loading the cattle. The bridge was built in 1883 and soon after the railroad pushed into Red Fork. The Tulsa World produced an article headlined

“When the trains began to stop at Tulsa.”

“With the development of the cattle industry in the Tulsa district and rumors that the western Indian Territory would soon be open to settlement, the line was extended here, principally it was believed, to get the cattle shipping business,” it said.

The writer said the Frisco turned Tulsa from an Indian village to a cow town. That development brought H.C. and J.M. Hall who with Creek cattleman George Perryman and T.J. Archer started the first stores. By 1887, Tulsa had about 150 white persons.

Growth was slow because of the legal complications related to buying Indian land. “It was with difficulty that sufficient land could be secured on which to establish towns, while white farmers were unable to buy land for agricultural use,” the writer said.

Tulsa itself wasn't incorporated until Congress in 1898 created township commissions to survey townsites in the Creek and Cherokee nations. But,

it was the Red Fork oil discovery June 25, 1901 that jettisoned Tulsa to greatness and brought more railroad whistles to the town.

The year 1902 was called "Tulsa's Railroad Year." The FRISCO whose logo represents the old animal skin announced that year that it would build the Arkansas Valley and Western to Enid line.

Sapulpa was to have been the departure point, but Tulsa representatives got the departure changed to Tulsa without having to post a bonus. By 1905, Tulsa had nearly 6,600 people. A trade tour traveled by rail. On it were Will Rogers and the Eaton Band.

When the impact of oil in the Glenn Pool was felt northward, the railroads were poised. Both the Frisco freight and passenger facilities were inadequate in 1906. Citizens were agitating for less congestion.

The Frisco bought a large tract in West Tulsa and moved its freight yard there. The move reduced the switching and traffic delays in downtown Tulsa. Also right before Christmas, 1909, the Frisco got a building permit for a one-story 24 by 56 foot passenger station. The frame building was to cost \$2,500. "It is in compliance with the Jim Crow law and other railroad regulations and adds materially to the appearance of the Frisco property in West Tulsa," the Tulsa Chief reported.

Nov. 11, 1910, The Tulsa Chief reported that a large force of Frisco laborers arrived in West Tulsa Wednesday. "A great string of boarding cars were hauled in over the Frisco line from Springfield, Mo., and placed on a side track in the West Tulsa yards, where the laborers will be stationed." As many as 300 men would take a month to build the roundhouse for the Arkansas Valley and Western engines sitting outside. It was to have eight stalls and cost \$50,000. The Roundhouse was to be built in the Frisco-AV &W "Y." In addition, the West Tulsa beltline was extending from the Frisco main line in West Tulsa to the Texas refinery and Midland Valley road. Workmen were one third finished this date.

In 1927, the Frisco Division Headquarters was moved from Sapulpa to the West Tulsa Yards, ending bickering between the two towns. One by one the passenger trains stopped. The 16 Frisco daily Tulsa trains dwindled to 12, to 4 then two. In 1967, The Oklahoman made its last run between Oklahoma City and St. Louis. The West Tulsa yard is today called the Cherokee Yard."

Tulsa World

## Missouri, Kansas and Texas (Katy)

The Missouri-Kansas-Texas was the first railroad in Indian Territory and the route along the old Texas Road is still in use today. It is affectionately known as the KATY.

While the KATY came in 1903, the FRISCO reached Tulsa in 1882 and Red Fork in 1883. A Tulsa World article from Aug. 30, 1942, said Tulsans lodged protests when the KATY was going to pass through Mingo and Turley and miss Tulsa in 1902. The Commercial Club surveyed the land on horseback and asserted the railroad could save money by routing through Tulsa. “The chief engineer wouldn’t even give us a hearing when we tried to tell him about our survey,” C.B. Lynch recalled.

“But one day this chief engineer went to the company’s headquarters at Chicago.” A Tulsa delegation reasoned with the assistant. The new plan was sent to the Chicago railroad office. The chief engineer fired the assistant and the railroad company officials -- once they saw the new plan was wiser and cheaper-- fired the chief engineer.

That over, KATY officials asked for \$12,000 and 20 miles of right-of-way. A committee took weeks, but finally raised the funds. Among the committee members was Dr. Fred S. Clinton. William Stryker who founded the “Daily Democrat” was on the committee.

T.E. Smiley had worked on the Turkey Track Ranch and became a partner in the Dickason-Goodman-Smiley Lumber Company. A.F. Antle was on the committee. With Lon Stansberry and Lee Clinton, Antle bought the Ackley ferry where the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge is today from Lincoln Postoak.

The ferry had stuck on a sandbar, but the trio of new owners waited until the river rose and floated it off. “With the funds raised, work on the extension to Tulsa began, and early the following year, 1903, the first locomotive on the KATY line came into the city,” the 1927 article said. Two other projects developed in 1902, increasing the amount of rail lines. The Arkansas Valley & Western was started between a point on the Oklahoma division and Enid. “Tulsa voiced an eloquent and persuasive please with the result that this city was made the eastern terminus and no bonus was required,” it said.

The Midland Valley Railway announced a line from Fort Smith through Muskogee connect with Arkansas City. To get the railroad through Tulsa, \$15,000 and right-of-way was needed to clinch the deal. The KATY station caught fire in 1906 and for a while business was handled in a boxcar. A new station was built in 1909 for \$8,000.

Key dates for the KATY, include 1919 when it pioneered oil as a locomotive fuel for the Southwest; 1923 when it had 550 oil burners, the 1940s when the war stressed the aging engines, and 1946 when a contest indicated diesel engines were the type of the future.

## Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (Santa Fe)

### Oklahoma Union Traction Company

The early trolley cars were met with ready passengers, and some gunshots as the railroad tried to get going.

### Sapulpa-Union Railroad

#### Street Cars & Trolleys

Electric rail transport in general developed in the early 1900's mainly because roads were so poor. When roads improved sufficiently for rubber-fired vehicles, use of electric rail cars declined, then, with few exceptions, passed into history. *Note: the demise of electric rails was hastened by General Motors and other rubber-fire-gasoline engine companies which bought up electric rail systems in the 1930's and 1940's, sank them, and lobbied for funds to build roads. )*[*TIME* magazine, December 3, 2001, pp.64,65]

Southwest Tulsa and Red Fork were in the right place for trolley service. Tulsa and Sapulpa each had developed city trolley lines before 1917. Sapulpa's tracks extended to Kiefer and nearby oil fields. Tulsa had connections to steam-train lines throughout the country. Visionary men saw the possibilities for a link between them.

After much planning, a company known as Tulsa Traction began construction in January of 1917. In February of 1917, the company name was changed to Oklahoma Union Railway. Tulsans, oilmen J.S. Cosden and Harry Sinclair, G.C Stebbins, I.F. Crow, and a Mr. Leonard, were its owners and operators. Earlier, in 1915, the group had bought the Sapulpa city rail system.

Construction began one-half- mile south of the Tulsa terminal and proceeded on a one-hundred-foot-wide right of way. (**Present -day Tulsa Sapulpa Union Railway tracks follow the same route.**) Most of the route was single-track, with a short doubletrack stretch (to allow cars to pass) in West Tulsa and another about three miles south of Red Fork

Four bridges were needed, three 75-foot spans and one 40-foot span. All were built of concrete because of fire danger from the oil-polluted streams over which they passed. The bridges and tracks were designed for heavy freight-train service. Thirty-five-foot

white cedar poles, with 10-foot mast arms, were installed to support both the trolley wire and well-insulated high tension wires.

Electric power came from three sources. On the north end, 600-volt direct current, the standard power for the cars, was purchased from Public Service Company and fed into the Oklahoma Union Railway (O.U.R.) switchboard.

At Southwest Tulsa, 6,600-volt alternating current from the Sand Springs Railway generating plant flowed over O.U.R. high-tension wires to a substation midway between Tulsa and Sapulpa. The substation consisted of a rotary converter, which produced 600-volt direct current, and automatic controls. At the south end, 600-volt direct current came from a generating plant built nine years earlier by the Sapulpa Electric Interurban Railway, purchased by O.U.R. Supplemental power was available from a portable, manually-operated, substation usable wherever needed on the line by connecting it to O.U.R. high-tension wires.

The Oklahoma Union Railway began passenger and freight service on September 30, 1918 with twenty-two passenger cars, six boxcars, two flat cars, and one steeple-cab type locomotive. One of the boxcars was actually a motorized express car for express and small-lot freight.

After O.U.R. continued operation for a few years, the company ownership changed. T.B.Slick, who had built a rail line from Bristow to Okmulgee and Nyaka, merged his interests with O.U.R. in April and May of 1923. Slick became president and director, J.A. Frates, Sr. became vice president and director, J.A. Frates, Jr., became secretary-treasurer. Other men from Tulsa (and a few from Oklahoma City) filled the remaining positions.

Buses began pushing out the trolley in the early 1920's. Sapulpa's last city-line trolley ran on Oct. 25, 1924, replaced by buses. O.U.R. interurban cars from Tulsa continued to operate, entering Sapulpa and traversing a loop of Main, Dewey, Hobson, and Park Street tracks. At the Tulsa end, O.U.R. cars ran east to the fairgrounds, then around a loop inside the fairgrounds near 19th Street. Competition from busses, including independent "jitney" busses, plus Tulsa Street Railway trolleys, reduced O.U.R.'s finances for 1926 to show an operating loss of \$67,250, with only 2,093,530 passengers.

The end of Southwest Tulsa trolley service began in 1927 when O.U.R. interurban service ceased operating south of Sapulpa. Efforts to save the line included numerous discussions in Tulsa over a merger with Tulsa Street Railway (actually with its new owner, United Service Company). The talks finally broke down on April 10, 1929.

Oklahoma Union Railway was put into receivership, with J.A.Frates, Sr., and Felix A. Bodevitz as receivers, on July 1, 1929. By Dec. 31, 1930, O.U.R.'s mileage was down to 20.69, basically between Tulsa fairgrounds and Sapulpa, plus the Owen Park city line.

In 1933, United Service Company, which had acquired Tulsa Street Railway and city trackage in Sapulpa, stopped passenger service. Freight transport continued after negotiations by Oklahoma Union Salvage Company, which had acquired all former O.U.R. property not taken by United Service Company, led to the formation of Union Railway Company.

Union Railway Company took over former O.U.R. offices at 322 South Cheyenne Avenue in Tulsa. J.A. Frates, F.A. Bodevitz, G.A.Chandler, Ruth Clendening, and William Matthews were installed as officers. The company got the following former Oklahoma Union Railway rolling stock: the locomotive, the motorized freight-express car, and two work cars. It also got the electric power system.

The fate of much of the O.U.R. rolling stock is unknown. Sand Springs Railway bought two light-weight double-truck passenger cars which had been used between Red Fork and Tulsa. Some of the remaining cars were sold for scrap, or to individuals for use as diners, sheds, etc.

About 1997, one of the cars used in the Tulsa Street Railway or Oklahoma Union Railway system was donated to the Sapulpa Trolley And Rail (S.T.A.R.)group to be restored.

As of 2002, the car has been redone down to the floor, and a replacement "truck", which includes the motors, axles, wheels, and the frame to attach the truck to the car body, is well under way to completion.

When restored, the car will run on Tulsa Sapulpa Union Railway tracks in the Sapulpa area. Sources: Except as noted, material came from

- (1) A photocopy of a 1920 issue of Electric Railway Journal in Johnnie Myers Collection
- (2) THE SAPULPA TROLLEY SAGA, by Charles J. DeVilbiss, 1998.

## **Battle Ax, Planned, but Never Built**

Billed as the "Railroad to the Coal Fields," the Battle Axe railroad was to go from Red Fork to Mounds. Although some of the bed was prepared, the tracks were never laid.

"The well-known Stan Woody allotment, only four miles out to the south, is reputed to have a four foot vein of excellent coal, already developed," the Red Fork Derrick related in December 1903.

The coal vein was leased to Central Coal and Coke Co. of Kansas City. “The Battle Axe Road to be finished and operated at once,” the Derrick predicted. The finds on Coal and Nickel Creek were also leased and the railroad route was to cover those locations. “Thus it is that activities of all sorts are taking on new life in Red Fork,” it said.

Dr. J. C. W. Bland wrote May 28, circa 1928, that he and Dr. Fred Clinton help start a railroad scheme and commissary store in Red Fork to pump life into their home community after its pioneer store closed. Backers in Joplin and Nevada, Mo. made the Battle Axe grading possible. But, Dr. Bland wrote, “No mention is made of more active builders because the enterprise failed in the Battle Axe grade. The oncoming war with Spain spoiled the plan after many miles had been built and paid for.”

## Frisco’s “night move” from Sapulpa to Tulsa

One of the most remembered railroads in the Southwest Tulsa area is the Frisco Railroad, whose modern-day Cherokee Yard greets travelers from the east.

It was the winter of 1927 when Frisco moved its roundhouse and division facilities to the Cherokee Yard in Southwest Tulsa. While the physical moving of Frisco locomotives, lathes, machine tools and equipment seemed to happen suddenly, it couldn’t have been much of a surprise.

In the words of a Frisco machinist on duty the night of Feb. 10, 1927 “it was almost like stealing a railroad,” but the threat of the big Sapulpa roundhouse and division facilities moving had hung over Sapulpa for years.

In the months before the move, headlines told the latest in the legal wrangling to try to prevent the move. “Battle with Frisco just now started,” was page 1, Jan. 6, 1927. “Frisco Move Anticipated by Sapulpa” was the Jan. 13 headline in the Tri-City Democrat News. “Sapulpa Lost First Round with Frisco,” was Jan. 20, 1927. “Threats to remove the shops and terminals have been held over Sapulpa as a club for many years, and the fight Sapulpa is now making is to determine whether the Frisco can ignore its obligations to this city in the form of concessions accepted on the promise that the shops and terminals would remain here,” the news of Jan. 13, 1927 story said. Employees protested that the homes they owned in Sapulpa would lose value.

The late Charles T. Holman told the Tulsa Tribune in February, 1977 that the physical moving started after midnight Feb. 10, 1927 and was mostly completed by 8 a.m. “Workers scheduled to begin work at 8 a.m. were called and told to board an eastbound passenger train at 7:20 a.m. which would take them to the Tulsa yard. “For years many of them took this train,” to work, Bob Foresman wrote. “Then the railway put on a bus for the trip to Tulsa.” Some 300 Frisco employees lived in Sapulpa.

Prior to the move, the Tulsa roundhouse had been used mainly for switch engines and others used on the Tulsa-Enid-Avard branch. "The employees object to living in West Tulsa, where it is said the terminals will eventually be located. The low lying land, subject to overflow is their greatest objection, next to being compelled to abandon their homes here," the Jan. 6, 1927 news story said.

In April, 1932, the administrative offices, Southwest division of the Frisco Railways moved to Tulsa.

## Retired Railroad Workers Associations

Carl Malonee is the President of the Retired Railroad Workers Association and our contact for information. Marvin Peters was a retired rail worker for Frisco and a member of the organization before he died. He was a charter member of Southwest Tulsa Historical Society.

# Chapter Seven: Historic Route 66, The Mother Road

## Before the Road

Perry Kapple (deceased) described the early road as the Ozark Trail. It was of great importance to our area history. We have some information about the trail.

## Cyrus Avery's Influence

Cyrus S. Avery was born in Stephenville, Penn. on Aug. 31, 1871, coming to Indian Territory when he was 13. He attended college at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1897.

In 1909, Wood's Souvenir Directory said Avery was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and from 1898 to 1904, he had been the manager of the New York Life Insurance Company office in Oklahoma City. From there he moved to Vinita, where he "engaged in real estate, farm loans and the oil business." "From long residence in, and intimate association with the affairs of the Cherokee Nation, and Indian affairs generally, he has gained a thorough knowledge of the conditions surrounding the sale of Indian lands and the development of this country, together with a thorough knowledge of the Oil and Gas Business," Wood's said.

Avery moved to Tulsa in 1907, forming Avery Investment Co., and Avery Oil & Gas, which had been producing oil for four years, the directory said. It said he was married and lived 1501 S. Boulder. He belonged to the B.P.O. Elks, No. 946. In November 1918, Avery represented the Chamber of Commerce, with A.L. Farmer for the Red Cross and Tulsa Mayor C.H. Hubbard to mobilize against the deadly influenza epidemic. "Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Avery and Mr. Farmer were to provide through their respective organizations housing, necessary hospital equipment, such as beds, bedding, food, medicines, telephones, fuel, light, water, transportation and be paymaster for all unavoidable, necessary expenses." Dr. Fred Clinton was medical director.

In writing an article on the "First Hospitals in Tulsa," which appeared in the volume 22, number 1, 1944, *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Dr. Clinton thanked Avery and others for helping put together the article. In Southwest Tulsa, Avery is remembered by Avery Drive which is a scenic road from Southwest Boulevard to Sand Springs. It follows the Arkansas River. He died in 1963 at nearly age 92. Also, he is known as the Father of Route 66. The 1926 interstate artery comes through Southwest Tulsa because of Avery. Oklahoma holds 423 miles of U.S. 66.

As a Tulsa County Commissioner from 1913-16, he saw that Oklahoma got its first steel and concrete bridge at the Arkansas River and W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

In a Tulsa World story, by Randy Krehbiel, Oct. 21, 2001, Beryl Ford is quoted saying Avery told the routers that “they were going to have to cross the Arkansas somewhere and Tulsa already had the best bridge on the river.” In 1921, he was elected president of the Associated Highway Associations of America and in 1924 he became state highway commissioner, giving him great influence in selecting state roads for the interstate highway system. In 1925, he was an U.S. highway consultant. As president of the Chamber of Commerce, he was on committees that supervised the Spavinaw water project.

He was a many-faceted man who wrote about agronomy, loved poetry, headed a relief fund for Tulsa’s Greenwood District, designed Mohawk Park, and served on a committee that designed the first municipal airport. January 12, 1998, the Tulsa World Centennial Supplement, featured Avery as one of the 22 who put Tulsa on the map.

## Dust Bowl Thoroughfare

David Breed’s description of the westside leg of the historic road through Oakhurst is a very picturesque view of life on the road. It lends a great development perspective to the Taneha creation and transformation into Oakhurst.

## A Trip along the Southwest Tulsa Road

Several people have taken the time to describe businesses along Southwest Boulevard at different times. Cecil Gomez described the area in his book. Dolores Carlile and Glenda Tweedy also took a shot at it.

## Changing the Name and Face of the Road

The Sapulpa Road name changed in 1957, along with the Quanah Street designation. The new name Southwest Boulevard replaced the names. Maybe it came from Kansas City, where there is a Southwest Boulevard, leading out of the city in the same manner that ours does.

# Chapter Eight: The WPA's Impact on the Area.

We should open this chapter with a general discussion of the WPA in America, following with it's impact on Oklahoma, and then settle on the westside area projects and people. The chapter should close with the description of the historical society's joint venture with the Oklahoma Educational Television Association video.

## Westside WPA Projects

1932

The 23rd Street Bridge across the Arkansas River was dedicated. In the middle of the Depression, 1932-1936, business was rough. More than 7,000 were unemployed in the Tulsa area and soup lines were set up at the foot of the 11th Street Bridge in West Tulsa. It is interesting to note that the people on the west side of the river knew the bridge as the 23rd Street bridge and on the east side it was known as the 21st Street bridge.

## Known WPA Workers

Covey, Jack

Kapple, Perry

Lannon, Charles Edward

Maxwell, Sam

## CCC Workers

Coffey, Manuel

# Chapter Nine: Schools and Students

The westside revolves around the schools and churches. Maybe the introduction to the school chapter will set the stage for descriptions of each school, the beginning, and in a few cases the end of the school.

## Berryhill Schools

The October 14, 1904, Red Fork Derrick newspaper noted in the Lost City column, "The church and school building is completed and ready for occupancy". The November 4 edition stated, "There will be a box supper at the Berryhill school house, west of Red Fork. Everybody invited to attend." This one-room school was across the road from the present football stadium.

An early-day teacher in this school was Miss Cora Jacobs. She was fresh out of school when she started teaching. She quit teaching when she married Tommy Berryhill in 1913.

In the early twenties a two-room school was built further west near where the present junior high building sets. The land, donated to the school by Thomas and Sarah Ann Berryhill, was on his Creek Indian allotment.

In 1927 Elsie Faull, who was just out of school and 19 years old, came to Berryhill and was principal. Elsie Faull Hargis Staires would stay in the community to retire in 1971 after teaching 35 years.

The school board that year were Jim Yearout, George Miller and Ray Hayes. They sold the 2-room school building. It was moved across the street to become the New Home Church.

In the spring of 1928 a new four-room brick building was constructed. Mr. A. F. Hyden came as principal and his wife, Mrs. Alma Hyden, as teacher.

In 1933, the auditorium and the rooms to the south were built. The first high school started in the fall. Athletics were initiated the first year. The school had seven teachers.

In 1937, the gym, cafeteria and more classrooms were added. It was a WPA project.

Another WPA project was two huge murals painted by Mary McCray. One was of Uncle Remus, the other depicted Ichabod Crane of Sleepy Hollow. The murals now hang in the elementary school cafeteria.

Mr. Hyden left in 1943. Howard McCuiston became superintendent, followed by Floyd Thompson. Mr. C. C. Ogilvie came in 1946.

A football stadium was built in 1953. Football was started in the 1953-54 school year.

A new elementary school and cafeteria was constructed in 1954

A new gymnasium was built in 1960 seating 1200 on either side of the playing floor.

In 1971, a 20,000 square foot high school was built. The original school was remodeled and air conditioned and became a junior high school.

In 1975, Mr. Ogilvie completed 29 years of service to Berryhill. He was followed by Bill Collins, Darrell Wood and Leonard Wood.

In November 2000, Superintendent Leonard Wood, who served 16 years, retired. He was replaced by Dr. Clark Ogilvie, son of C. C. Ogilvie.

The Berryhill community and school district continues to grow and the administration continues to prepare for that growth.

## Jenks School (in Tulsa area)

Jenks school district come up into the western City of Tulsa area and some children from West Highlands addition attend there. Covering all grades, the first school was completed about 1909 on Main Street. Three years later, a grade school was finished to the west. The third building was built in 1914.

Jenks superintendent W.A. Stage lasted 1908-09, successor E.H. Lenox lasted until 1915. N.B. Henry was superintendent the next year. In 1917, the top floor of the east building was converted to a gymnasium, and surrounded by an indoor track. During Floyd Miller's superintendency, 1918-21, the auditorium was built in 1920 and the first building was razed and replaced.

## Red Fork Schools

### Clinton High School

Clinton High School opened in 1925, on the site of what had been the home of Charles and Louise Atkins Clinton. Mrs. Clinton was allotted land in Red Fork in 1884 as a Creek citizen. The site had a beautiful view. She worked to establish the first church and school in the community. When Webster was built in 1938, Clinton became a junior high school. In a school bulletin on April 8, 1952, an announcement said the outside view of the school expansion was on the bulletin board to look at, " but keep hands off drawing to avoid soiling." Officials added to the school in 1953 and 1971. Lenore Rough Mitchell donated a picture of the Girls Glee Club 1930-31 at Clinton.

In July 1999, Laura Undernehr succeeded Jim Hart as principal. Don Undernehr is principal at Webster, so between them they cover grades 6-12 on the westside. Clinton celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2001.

## Park School

According to the "Early History of Southwest Tulsa," the first frame school is Red Fork was built in 1905 near the corner of what is now 40<sup>th</sup> and South 33<sup>rd</sup> West Ave. In 1908, a four-room brick building was built at 3205 W. 39<sup>th</sup> for \$15,000. The building was made with red brick and limestone with a colonial look. Two large rooms were on the top floor and two on the bottom. It sat in a grove of large oaks where families used to picnic, giving the school the name "Park."

The first principal was W.M. Statgast. He supervised students from Red Fork, Berryhill, Garden City and later, Carbondale. The classes covered grades 1-10. Civic and social meetings were held there. When a new school was built it became a warehouse until 1954, until it was converted into a kindergarten and primary grade school.

In 1918, a larger two-story school was built just to the east for \$75,000. It had 11 classrooms, a gym and an auditorium, seating 450. With the opening of Eugene Field Junior High School in 1922 and Clinton High School in 1925, Park became solely an elementary school.

It served until 1972 when the two older buildings were razed and an open-space, air-conditioned Park was built which is in use today.

## Presbyterian Mission School

## Red Fork High School

## South Haven School

### South Haven

South Haven Elementary, 5409 South 40<sup>th</sup> West Avenue was opened in 1919 had an addition in 1953. It closed February 20, 1967 and students were assigned to Remington. It was named for the South Haven Addition surrounding it.

## Tulsa County Schools

### Addams, Jane

The original Jane Addams Elementary was a prefab school which opened Sept. 13, 1949 at 5401 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street. Abandoned as a school on January 30, 1961, the new Addams was opened on a new site at 5323 S. 65<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue. The original property sold in 1976.

The new Addams enjoyed an addition Oct. 14, 1966. The school is Tulsa Public Schools' most western campus. It is also the most rural, with pasture and cows grazing near by. It is close to the hearts of Oakhurst residents.

## Tulsa Schools

### Clinton, Celia

The school was named for the daughter of Lee and Sue Clinton. Celia died in early childhood. The original school was located at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Quanah Avenue on land donated by her grandfather, Charles Clinton.

The land was annexed into Tulsa Public Schools in 1909. The building was abandoned as a school in 1939 and razed in 1952. A school on North Harvard was named Celia Clinton to honor the agreement made with Lee Clinton.

### Clinton Junior High

When Webster was built in 1938, Clinton became a junior high school. In a school bulletin on April 8, 1952, an announcement said the outside view of the school expansion was on the bulletin board to look at, " but keep hands off drawing to avoid soiling." Officials added to the school in 1953 and 1971.

Lenore Rough Mitchell donated a picture of the Girls Glee Club 1930-31 at Clinton. The cafeteria was built in 1950 when Manuella Glore was in seventh or eighth grade. In July, 1999, Laura Undernehr succeeded Jim Hart as principal. Don Undernehr is principal at Webster, so between them they cover grades 6-12 on the westside. Clinton celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April, 2001.

### Covey School

According to "The Tune of a Hickory Stick," "the Covey School was a one-room frame rural school built around 1907. Facing 81<sup>st</sup> Street, it was 150 yards east and 75 yards south of the Union intersection.

The name came from the Covey family, many of whom had Indian allotments nearby. The school served the little community of Coveyville, near the bottom and side of Turkey Mountain at 71<sup>st</sup> and Elwood.” Early teacher, Mrs. Maude Gentis McLean rode to school on horseback from her home in Jenks.

The school consolidated with Jenks Public Schools in 1918, but was used for an elementary school then. The upper grade students rode the “truck” bus to town for school. (when did they stop using it?)

## Field, Eugene

Eugene Field is at 1116 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Designed with classes around a courtyard design, Eugene Field opened in 1922. It was named for the American journalist and poet who lived from 1850 to 1895. It was originally a junior high school.

In December, 1937, the Works Progress Administration undertook \$3,400 in improvements for the school, including drainage, grading, storm sewer connections and chatting, also reconstructing the roof drain. The school had an addition in 1998. One of its features is a roof-top custodian’s apartment used before boilers could be operated remotely.

## Park

According to the “Early History of Southwest Tulsa,” the first frame school in Red Fork was built in 1905 near the corner of what is now 40<sup>th</sup> and South 33<sup>rd</sup> West Ave. In 1908, a four-room brick building was built at 3205 W. 39<sup>th</sup> for \$15,000. The building was made with red brick and limestone with a colonial look. Two large rooms were on the top floor and two on the bottom. It sat in a grove of large oaks where families used to picnic, giving the school the name “Park.”

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It served until 1972 when the two older buildings were razed and an open-space, air-conditioned Park was built which is in use today.

## Porter, Pleasant

A beautiful classic building, Pleasant Porter opened in 1929. An addition was made in 1953. When it closed, May 23, 1980, its students were assigned to Park, Remington and Robertson. Leilah Logan had been a teacher at Porter and expressed a wish that it become a school again. Currently, it houses the Native American Coalition Head Start program. Porter was a noted Creek Indian Chieftain, who President McKinley described as “one of the greatest American Indians, a most progressive citizen in the Creek Nation.”

## Remington, Frederick

Remington Elementary opened at 2524 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South on February 20, 1967. It was hit in the May 3, 1999 tornado and had major repairs that summer. Classes were moved to Clinton Middle School and Robertson Elementary for the students to finish the school year.

An article published in the Tulsa World January 15, 1970, talked of two apartment complexes planned at 61<sup>st</sup> and Union and 57<sup>th</sup> Street and 37<sup>th</sup> West Avenue which Dr. Herman Lipe, director of Southwest Tulsans for a Better Community, said would overwhelm the school by 150 pupils.

Frederick Remington, 1861-1909, was an American painter, illustrator and sculptor, know for his portrayal of western scenes and figures. He had been a war correspondent and artist in Cuba in the Spanish-American War. His “Bronco Buster” is considered by some to be the best work of American western sculpture.

## Robertson, Alice

This school was Carbondale Elementary when it opened in 1929, even though Carbondale was annexed by Tulsa in 1928 after the Sunlight Carbon Company fire and the death of M.A. Blackburn.

Soon, the name of the school was changed to Alice Robertson to honor the educator, legislator and author. She was a clerk in the Department of Interior, secretary to the Dawes Commission and Supervisor of the Creek Schools. She started several schools, met seven presidents, and was a post-mistress, before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and writing for books and magazines. She was the second woman to be elected to the House, and the only women to be elected from Oklahoma, a record, she still holds.

Darla Hall, former City Councilor, and Lewis Long, former State Senator, helped Robertson celebrate a special birthday recently. Robertson Elementary’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in April, 1999. Former principals, Bun Wright, Elsie Rains, and Eddie Creekpauum attended and former science teacher, Twana Murphy, portrayed Miss Robertson.

The Works Progress Administration built a masonry retaining wall and steps for the school in 1937 and it received additions in 1954 and 1999. A major rebuilding project is underway in 2002.

## Taft, Howard

Named for William Howard Taft, the 27<sup>th</sup> president of the U.S., 1857-1930, Taft Elementary at 1020 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street opened in September, 1959 and closed June 6, 1977. Students were assigned to Robertson. The property sold in 1978 to Winnetka Heights Baptist Church. Winnetka Heights Christian School has operated there more than 20 years.

Taft was president from 1909-13 and in 1921 was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

## Webster, Daniel

## Colleges

### College of Osteopathic Medicine

In 1968 the Carnegie Report listed Tulsa and one of nine cities in need of a medical school.

Dec. 13, 1971, Dr. Lawrence Mills presented the Mills Report on the state of Osteopathic Medicine in Oklahoma. He described Tulsa as a major osteopathic center and that the area west of the river was a good site-- heavily industrial, lightly populated. State Senator James Hamilton discussed creation of an osteopathic college with State Senator Finis Smith.

Hamilton co-authored Senate Bill 461 that created the college. Smith and three other senators also signed. The bill passed the Senate Feb. 2, 1972 and passed the House a month later. The year that Dr. James Routsong was president of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, Gov. David Hall signed the bill creating the college March 10, 1972. Hamilton and State Rep. William P. Willis traveled the state to talk about an osteopathic medical college to ease a shortage of doctors in rural Oklahoma communities.

Although several sites were considered, Sen. Finis W. Smith promoted and did the groundwork to have the college placed at 1111 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, on land that once was an oil refinery. Dr. Bob Osborne in his book, *College of Osteopathic Medicine* said the site on the west bank of the Arkansas River "was far from being an ideal location for a

medical school.” Most would say it was “ugly,” but the “oft flooded tract owned by Urban Renewal near the 11<sup>th</sup> Street bridge was selected.”

Dr. Barson on the other hand said he was “absolutely awestruck,” “The site was beautiful,” he wrote. Dec. 1, 1973, Dr. James Barson was named president. Dr. Edward Felmlee donated space in his office 720 W. Seventh for Dr. Barson to work on organizing the new college.

Chancellor E.T. Dunlap secured the first home for the school at the Elliott Building at Ninth and Cincinnati. Dr. Walter F. Kempe, then on the board of the Tulsa County Health Department, offered facilities for the first students to be interviewed. Dr. Barson talked to Mayor Robert J. LaFortune who said, while he couldn't give the land to the college, the Tulsa Urban Renewal Authority could sell it.

A layer of naphtha left by the refinery was 30 feet under the soil, preventing much environmental impact. Dr. Barson wrote they were in the process of acquiring the land in a federal grant application.

The college received a \$5.75 million grant requiring \$1.6 in state matching funds. Nov. 22, 1974, Gov. Hall, Hamilton, Willis, Dunlap and Finis W. Smith were presented Distinguished Public Servant awards.

In June 1975, Tulsa Urban Renewal Authority sold the college 16.1 acres for \$125,000. Groundbreaking was Dec. 16, 1975. An uncovered beaker of ether exploded and bowed the roof of the Elliott building. No one was hurt.

May 21, 1977, the college was granted full accreditation. They received a full 5-year American Osteopathic Association accreditation in the 1977-78 year.

Oct. 10, 1977, the regents approved a \$1 million teaching and outpatient facility on land from Tulsa Urban Renewal Authority.

Sept. 18, 1978, buildings were named for the prime movers during a ceremony. In November the next year, the State Medical Examiner's Office moved to the campus.

In 1980, the college curriculum switched from three to four years, and the pass/fail system was dropped.

March 26, 1980, the College of Osteopathic Medicine acquires its own Board of Regents. The oil bust hit; OCOM suffered budget cuts and Dr. Barson trimmed nine professors. Dr. James Routsong was named acting director of the Finis W. Smith Teaching Clinic July 1, 1982.

Dec. 11-14, 1983, the Oklahoma House of Representatives ordered a review of OCOM finances. Then two respected professors, Dr. Paul D. Mooney and Scott A. Silver were killed in a boating accident. Due to reformatting, only one person graduated in 1984:

Cynthia Mackey. Dr. Barson stepped down Oct. 31, 1984. Dr. Rodney T. Houlihan was named interim president and then president. OCOM contracted with Tulsa University to provide laboratory space for TU nursing students. Dr. Houlihan stepped down in June 1987.

President Clyde W. Jensen led the college, but first found Gov. Henry Bellmon entertaining plans to cut state costs. Dr. Jensen met with the governor to state the college's case. Plans for consolidating didn't die, but May 29, 1987 Sen. Rodger Randle announced Bellmon's proposal was "a dead issue." Dr. Jensen forms an OCOM staff council.

Then the governor set an Oct. 1 deadline for the specifics on how OCOM and the OU/Tulsa facility could cooperate. The State Regents, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and legislators met, drafting a plan for OCOM to merge with Oklahoma State University. Afterward, they met with Dr. Jensen to get his blessing. on May 16, 1988. Dr. Jensen and OSU president Dr. Lawrence L. Boger announced the merger.

Berneice Shedrick in one day passed the bill making the deal real July 1, 1988. OCOM would be a separate budget item under OSU. In November 1989 Michelle Hagemeister disappeared from the campus after a late session. Her car was found burning on Lake Sahoma road.

A Dec. 4, 1989 Tulsa World article said that Finis W. Smith asked to have his named taken off the teaching clinic at Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital, as well as a westside park.

In 1992, college faculty and students raised \$5,000 for a reward for information leading to an arrest of Michelle's killer. An Enoch Kelly Haney painting was donated to the school by her class. Dr. Jensen saw stagnation and a cloud over the college due to diminished enrollment, reduced tuition revenue, and lingering rumors about closing the college.

In June 1990, Dr. Bob Osborne was appointed as an Executive Assistant. Dr. Jensen announced a plan to resign and suggests his post be abolished. The next leader should be a doctor of osteopathic medicine, he felt. He left June 30, 1991 and Dr. Thomas Wesley Allen took the office on July 1. Two OCOM doctors performed a tubal ligation on a Siberian tiger whose genes were over-represented in the gene pool.

The early 1990s included expansion, self-study to prepare for accreditation teams, computerization, and enrollment jumps. A 16-year old New York girl was admitted to the medical school. She had already completed four years of college. The medical college grew closer to the Osteopathic Founders Association.

## Tulsa Community College

On April 12, 1991, the Tulsa Junior College Board of Regents accepted an 80-acre land gift from the late Stephen J. Jatras to be the site for the West Campus. Jatras was a retired chairman of Memorex-Telex, a former chair of the TCC Board of Regents and TCC Foundation. He was then a member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

TCC West broke ground June 30, 1994 with \$22 million from the 1992 statewide capital bond issue. Half went to the West Campus first phase. Phase I included the Information Commons building and the Stephen J. Jatras Student Center, plus buildings to house liberal arts, business, mathematics, sciences and child development classes. Since, the Veterinary Technology Building has been finished.

The Information Commons held the administrative offices and the student computer lab on the first floor of the nearly 61,000 square foot building. The second floor held the library and videoconference center for distance learning. The student center is 31,000 square feet. It has multi-purpose meeting rooms, a campus store, gameroom, a gallery, dining rooms and a 100-seat auditorium. It also features the Child Development Center which is a working child care center which provides students an opportunity to learn the business.

Classes were held several weeks when the formal dedication was held on Oct. 18, 1996. Governor Frank Keating spoke. He praised Oklahoma voters for passing the 1982 capital bond issue. Sen. Lewis Long, Representative Shelby Satterfield, Secretary of Education Dr. Floyd Coppedge, Regent chair Montie R. Box, County Commissioner John Selph, and several others spoke. Anne Morgan, chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Dr. Hans Brisch, its chancellor, were on hand.

TCC President Dr. Dean P. VanTrease recognized the John W. Sublett Endowed Professorship and Dr. Peggy Dumas Dyers, TCC West provost, gave the closing remarks. Urban Design Group, Inc designed the buildings and Lowry and Hemphill built them. A barbecue lunch was served.

The first classes started June 5, 1996. Only three of the five buildings were finished. The change of name for the campuses became official May 30. It was Tulsa Community College. Since these exciting days, landscaping has taken place, additional parking paved, and brick entry structures built.

## Tulsa Technical College at Jones-Riverside Airport

Part of the Tulsa Technology Center network of campuses, this facility is addressed in Chapter 22, Jones-Riverside Airport.

## Private Schools

### Bible Fellowship

4915 S. Waco Avenue—445-1993

Bible Fellowship School started in 1977. The grades include kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>. The school has four teachers, and about 35 students. The curriculum is an accelerated Christian Education. There is a focus on Character Development and Biblical training. Assistant administrator Vera Mecham said she is working to expand the community service portions of character development.

The curriculum includes music theory and choir, art, and a budding sports program. Photography is another offering, and a student recently placed third in an international photo competition. The administrator is Rev. William Cook.

### Heritage Home School Academy

### New Life Christian Center

### Riverfield Country Day School

2433 W. 61<sup>st</sup>—3553

A group of parents and teachers working with Marty and Tom Clark founded Riverfield Country Day School in 1984. This group wanted enhanced educational growth and personal development for their children.

Riverfield opened Aug. 6, 1984 with 40 children from 3 months to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level. The long-range plan was to have a country campus with outdoor learning for 100 students in five years. However, the enrollment more than doubled in just five months. The first campus was near 71<sup>st</sup> and Lewis. With the program's success, leaders sped up plans to "move to the country."

In August 1991, Riverfield relocated to the current campus at 2433 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street. In 1992 an additional library wing with computer lab and music room was added to serve the growing demand for elementary grades. The middle school was opened in August 1994. That brought the facility to more than 40,500 square feet with more than 400 students.

In May 2002, Riverfield announced plans to build a high school, adding a grade a year. Riverfield Upper School will begin with a ninth grade class in fall, 2002. The first class will graduate in 2006.

Tim O'Halloran was named Head of the Upper School. He has been a science teacher at Holland Hall since 1989. It will be the only non-sectarian high school in the Tulsa area.

## St. Catherine School

St. Catherine's Church and School were at 905 W. 23rd Street. They were built in 1925, according to Cecil Gomez's book, *Mama and Papa's Twelve Children and the Y*. Clifford Lovell put the two facilities together on his sketch of old West Tulsa in the 1940's.

Gomez wrote of Father Landoll coming to their home to ask his parents why the children weren't in Catholic school. Cecil had attended three years at Celia Clinton Elementary when he got to St. Catherine's with Noble and Nellie. The first-through-fourth grade was in one class and 5-8 grade was across the hall. Cecil estimates the school then had an enrollment of 60. His class had four rows, each for a grade. The teacher was Sister Theopholus. He said discipline was important at St. Catherine's. His sister and brother clung to him, which helped him get through the first day. They ate their sack lunch under a large sycamore tree. By the end of the first week, the Gomez's mother arranged for them to eat in the cafeteria. Beginning at 8 a.m., class dismissed at 4 p.m.

Nellie collided with a car at 21st and Quanah when she darted into traffic upon seeing her mother of the other side. Although she narrowly missed a fatal accident, she was not badly hurt. Before long the Gomez's had as many as six students in St. Catherine's.

Cecil graduated from St. Catherine's in 1939. "St. Catherine's has been very good for me in many ways. And through it all, I sincerely believe that I absorbed a good deal of general education, besides a lot of basic religious instruction," he wrote on page 165. The church and school moved to 25th West Avenue because more room was needed, Albert Mills related.

## Westbrook Day School

## Winnetka Heights Christian School

1020 W. 49<sup>th</sup> St.—446-8356

In 1978, Winnetka Heights Baptist Church purchased the old Taft Elementary School building from the Tulsa Public Schools and began Winnetka Heights Christian School.

The school offers classes to students beginning at age three and up to sixth grade. The school is affiliated with the Association of Christian Schools International. It offers music classes, art classes, physical education and computer classes. It uses the ABeka curriculum in all classes. The school promotes five musical programs each year. The school's administrator is Randy Shaddox, a 1976 Webster graduate.

# Chapter Ten: Churches of Influence

Westsidens are very set on their churches, dedicated, and loyal. Many churches can tell of their generations of families that came early in the church history and stayed late

## Early Westside Churches

### Epworth Methodist (formerly Red Fork Methodist/Episcopal)

A history compiled for the Epworth United Methodist church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, said Sunday School was held in Red Fork as early as 1903.

#### History of Epworth Methodist Church

"The building was built principally by donations from cowboys around the area, and the land was donated by Charles Clinton, the father of the late Dr. Fred S. Clinton," it said. Sunday School was held every Sunday afternoon, and frequent services held Sunday mornings. Itinerant preachers from all denominations shared the pulpit.

Red Fork Methodists first met at the Presbyterian Church and School that was built in 1884, but organized their own Red Fork Methodist Episcopal Church South in August 1907. A large tent revival meeting was held on the mission grounds by Rev. W. M. McAlister, a Methodist pastor living in Tulsa, assisted by Rev. Joe Hudspeth, an uncle of Lorena Bonacker Steininger. McAlister came every other Sunday for the preaching services.

In 1908, they bought a building for their church that had been a public school before statehood. Rev. J. P. Cole was the pastor. The church was between S. 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue and S. 32<sup>nd</sup> W. Avenue on West 40<sup>th</sup> Street. Women were very active in the early church as reflected in the Home Mission Society records September 1910-1917 and the 1914-17 membership roll. "Mrs. Ruth Hudspeth Bonacker was the most outstanding woman in organizing the church. She was the first organist and was the backbone of the church," the history read, adding "She was probably the cause of it being affiliated with the Methodist Conference."

Rev. McAlister's health failed about this time, and the conference sent a minister to take his place and fill the Mounds pastorate. Rev. J.M. Luonsberry was one of the first to do this. Rev. Dana A. Dawson took the pastorate in November 1909, later becoming a Methodist bishop and retiring at El Paso, Texas in 1960. Rev. J.W. Curry, 1911-12; Rev. Rochford, 1913; and Rev. T.M. Moore, 1914-15 were early pastors. In Nov. 1916, Rev. Tom Anglin, a University of Tulsa student, came to fill the two pulpits. He bought a piano in addition to the pump organ. But, in 1917, he joined the Army. After a couple months, Rev. Jess Ryan was appointed full time to the Red Fork Church, serving one year. Rev. Porter, Rev. Bryce and Rev. Hedges who covered 1918-1919 succeeded him. In Nov. 1920, Rev. and Mrs. J. Preston Cole were assigned to Red Fork. The first parsonage was purchased.

The building was moved in the spring 1921 to the intersection of S. 28<sup>th</sup> West Avenue and W. 39<sup>th</sup> St. on a lot donated by Usher Carson, a Tulsa oilman and former Red Fork resident. Rev. H.G. Hearne came in Nov. 1921. He started plans for a new building started in 1923. Only the basement was ever built. Rev. Thomas Mitchell came in 1924 and stayed two years. Rev. J. R. Abernathy was sent as presiding elder in 1926, with Rev. S. W. Cannon and J.W. Oden completing the year. Rev. G.W. Martin led the parish in 1927 and Rev. John Garrison led in 1928-29.

Rev. C.W. Cantor was at Red Fork from 1930-32. It was during this time that the church name was changed to Epworth Methodist Church. Rev. Hearne was sent back for three years. Rev. W. A. Powers was in the pulpit from Nov. 1936-June 1940, when he was removed at the church's request. Rev. M.C. Abercrombie served until Nov. 1944. Around then, the Ladies Home Mission Society became Women's Society of Christian Service. It had four circles. Rev. E.J. Sloan served in 1944-45, but became ill. Rev. L.L. Bowles was a chaplain in World War II, and just out when he came to Epworth.

During Rev. L.L. Bowles term, the buff-colored brick church building at 4124 S. 26<sup>th</sup> West Avenue was built and first used in March, 1948. The first parsonage was sold and another bought. In June, 1948, Rev. A. D. Rea was assigned for one year and Rev. H. D. Patton served three years after coming in June 1950. Rev. Jess Ragan came in 1953 and Rev. T. Homer Trotter in 1954. Rev. Hugh Harrison served until June, 1959. A planned expressway caused the church to buy land and begin planning a new church. Rev. Oscar Fontaine served two years, and Rev. J.C. Harris a few months. Rev. John H. Keefe came in December, 1961. Rev. Abercrombie moved back to Tulsa in 1965 and worked as visiting minister for Epworth until he died in 1968.

In 1974, under Rev. John H. Keefe, the congregation built the present building at 4811 S. 25<sup>th</sup> West Avenue. Parsonages have been at 4113 S. 25<sup>th</sup> West Avenue and at 4212 S. 25<sup>th</sup> West Avenue. The present parsonage is at 2656 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The Little Parsonage for the Assistant Pastor is at 2333 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The Mansfields, Beth, Joe, Joan and Josh and the Mosses, Annette, Danny, Joanna and Matthew are remembered by parishioners from the early 1980's.

The Keefes were in Epworth's parsonage for 20 years. Rev. John Keefe was joined by Mary, Carla, John Jr. and Kathy. He was the minister at 7:16 p.m. June 14, 1974 when a tornado caused heavy damage to the church. The tornado ripped sections of the roof, hurled large beams into the back of the church, destroyed the sanctuary organ and a memorial grand piano. Windows were smashed. Heavy rain ruined carpet. A glass chandelier and mosaic cross survived. Some 111 attended a prayer service the next day despite the damage. Five young men went into ministry from Epworth.

In the late 1960's, more than 20 members served in the mission field for short periods. When the Methodist Church united with the United Brethern Evangelical Church, United was added to Epworth's name. The women's society became United Methodist Women. In 1975, the Roark Memorial Rose Garden was donated in memory of H.C. Roark.

## 1920-1930's Churches

### Carbondale

#### Assembly of God

Carbondale Assembly of God began as a mission established by the Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Hill of Red Fork and was chartered Sept. 4, 1933 by the General Council of the Assembly of God in Springfield, Mo.

Known as the First Pentecostal Assembly, the next year it merged with a group meeting in the upper room at the Carbondale Drug Store, 48<sup>th</sup> Street and South 31<sup>st</sup> W. Avenue. Led by the Rev. H.T. Owens, the congregation was established in Carbondale. In September 1936, the church board decided to purchase lots at the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> Street and 31<sup>st</sup> W. Avenue.

On April 20, 1937 Rev. Owens presented plans for getting a building going for \$1,400 from \$52.50 monthly pledges. The churchmen built a stone building with the Tulsa Gospel Center in the cornerstone. After moving into the church, the name was changed to Carbondale Assembly of God. Rev. Owens resigned June 4, 1939 to start new churches. Rev. F.C. Cornell was elected pastor and served from July 1939-November 1943, leaving to be Superintendent of the Oklahoma District Council. Finances were scant during this time and the balance carried over to 1940 was \$2.19.

In December 1943 Rev. George Newby was elected and stayed through part of 1946, succeeded by John Minor. In 1947 and 1948, serving were the Revs. Eric Johnson, and R.M. Crenshaw, who saw the building of the new education wing and pastored from October 1948 to 1950. Several supply pastors served a short time, including the Revs. Earl Davis, B.H. Caudle, L.R. Lynch, and H.T. Caudle.

The church moved in 1967 to its present 10-acre plot on 51<sup>st</sup> Street during the pastorate of Rev. H.D. Pieratt. He retired in August 1975 and Rev. J.L. McQueen was elected. In 1977, a new education wing and activities building was built. Brother McQueen retired in March 1985 due to ill health and Rev. Philip Taylor was elected as pastor in April 1985. He continues in the position today.

May 3, 1999 a tornado heavily damaged the church, which was rebuilt to serve more believers and reach out in new ways.

## Carbondale Church of Christ

Carbondale Church of Christ gets start in 1920s

10/30/01 AFB Carbondale Church of Christ

In December 1929, Carbondale City Hall was rented for the first service of Carbondale Church of Christ. That year there were 13 members of the Church of Christ in Carbondale, living in five homes that included a total of 23 people.

A Brother Conway and Brother Christensen got together at Tom Evans house. Also attending were elder Ernest Brown and minister John Allen Hudson from the Tenth and Rockford Street Church of Christ. The four men discussed starting a congregation in Carbondale. Conway and Evans took turns “giving talks” and Christensen led the singing. The host church later sent Brother Williamson to preach at the Carbondale church for about a year.

In 1930, a white frame church building at 11<sup>th</sup> and Rockford was bought, disassembled, hauled to Carbondale and rebuilt on a lot that the Evans’ donated. Tom Evans and his wife and Lester and Leoma McCombs were professional carpenters. They supervised the work and spent many weeks rebuilding. Those with steady jobs spent every evening and day off working on the building. “They were very proud of the new church home and the first service was held in it in December, 1930,” said a history by Ruth Williams.

“The Church grew slowly, but it was a steady growth. The ladies had a very active class,” she wrote. The ladies sewed for the Tipton Orphan’s Home, canned fruits and vegetables from gardens and sent clothes sufficient for one child. Spreading Churches of Christ to every community meant a Carbondale family would go to work with the new Tulsa area church. This practice often meant Carbondale had fewer than 50 in Bible classes. They added two classrooms to the frame building, but still needing space, bought two houses next door and used them. Then they sold the frame building and built a concrete block building in 1954. Seating capacity was 310 with eight classrooms.

They broke ground in 1965 for the present 600-seat auditorium. A larger foyer joins the two buildings and additional classrooms and offices were completed in 1966. When the history was written, four from the 1929 congregation survived. They were Lurline Christensen of Tulsa; Ruth Browning of Texas; Ora Delle Williams of Las Vegas and Ruth Williams of Tulsa. Ms. Williams is still a member at Carbondale.

As far as preachers, Albert Yowell preached from 1932-36 and Charlie Park was part-time after 1936. But, the other full-time preachers have been: Shaddon Edwards, 1946-49; Roy Lanear, 1950-53; Hoyt Thatcher, 1953-58; Jack Hill, 1958-87; Sam Sidders, 1987-91, and Marty Kessler, 1992-present.

## New Home Free Will Baptist

The New Home Church got started in September 1927 when a group of three or four families met to organize a Sunday school in the Berryhill School building. There had been a church and Sunday school in the community in previous years, but for some reason it had been disbanded. The group felt the need of a revival.

The revival was successful and as a result the church was organized in November 1927 with 13 charter members. They were: Mrs. Sage, Frankie Martin, Marie Martin, Kate Sale and her daughters, Katherine, Mary and Tina; Oscar Hargis and his mother, Lizzie Hargis; Rose "Granny" Bacon; Mrs. Nancy Ann "Nannie" Bacon and her daughter, Pearl, and her son, Johnnie. Melvin Bingham was the first pastor and Mrs. Lillie Faull, the mother of Elsie Hargis Staires, was the first superintendent of the Sunday School.

In the Spring of 1928 a new four-room school replaced the two-room frame structure. The New Home Church purchased the two-room school and moved it across the street on land that was leased for 99 years from the Sand Springs Home. In 1934 the church was chartered as Free Will Baptist in Washington D. C. In 1935 a basement was dug under the building for more Sunday school space. In 1952 a new sanctuary was completed to seat 225 people. The land had been purchased and the original building sold and moved.

On May 15, 1960 a new education building was dedicated. In the 1960s a new parsonage was built. his year, 2002, the church will be 75 years old.

## Phoenix Avenue Baptist

Seven members from Central Baptist Church and seven members from the First Baptist Church of West Tulsa met and organized Phoenix Avenue Baptist Church on June 10, 1930. Central's delegation included Mr. and Mrs. E.O. Elwell, Charles Curtis, D.E. Bettinger, Mrs. Anna Gaughran, Fred Anderson, and W.C. Myers. From West Tulsa were Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Strandridge, Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Feger, Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Richardson and Robert Anderson.

The charter membership was open for 30 days, then totaling 263 members. Ministers who took part in the organization were H.P. Wilsford, W.T. Scott, E.H. Owen, I.O. Hill, O.M. Stallings, the Rev. Todd, Dr. J.B. Rounds and Dr. R.J. Bateman who gave the dedicatory sermon. Owen was called as pastor.

The present building was completed in 1935 and the church has continued growing. In 1972, the membership was 821, with an active Sunday School, Church Training and mission programs. The church has established two missions, View Acres and West Side Baptist Church. Four of its young men have joined the ministry – H.M. Meadors, F.C. Wright, Vance Wiley and James Fair.

Pastors who have served: E. H. Owen 1930-1931; Marvin Cole 1931-1936; J.M. Sibley 1936-1938; Clyde J. Foster 1939-1940; Oscar Pigg 1940-1943; L.E. Stith 1943-

1949; Bill H. Eustis 1949-1950; Dorvell Tabb 1950-1960; Alvis W. Lindsey 1961-1964; David L. Land 1964-1968; M. S. Philbeck 1968-1972; Bill Sturm 1973-1975; Curry Juneau 1968-1972; Conrad Broadhurst 1977-1980; Thomas F. Branch 1981-1982; Jay Baswell 1983-1985; Conrad Broadhurst Sr. 1986-1992; Dwight Chancellor 1993-2000; James Fair 2001-.

Phoenix Avenue and Westside Baptist Church merged and held their first joint service on July 25, 1993. Information from Mrs. James R. Roop, Tulsa Baptist Association, Glenda Watson Tweedy and Leann Tweedy Huneycutt.

## Red Fork Baptist

When Red Fork Baptist Church celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> reunion, Aug. 18, 1996, Dan Manley wrote and edited a historical booklet called "The Making of a Diamond."

"In 1921. The Rev. S. B. Brinkley, set up a tent and held a revival in the then town of Red Fork, a community known for cowboys, railroad men, refinery workers and oil field roughnecks. From this meeting, 27 believers committed themselves to forming a church, though they had no building of their own, nor the means to secure one," he wrote.

The charter members were: Mrs. Bertie Arrington, Mrs. Blanche Austin, Mrs. Ethel Babb, Mrs. Eva Brown, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. J.U. Evans, Miss Loretta Edge, Mrs. Alice Goldsmith, Mrs. Lou Henry, Mrs. Mary Higdon, Mrs. Alice Hughes, Mrs. Eula Henricks, Mr. J.H. Keithley, Mrs. Lou Livingston, Mrs. Martha Sigler, Mrs. Jessie Scott, Mrs. Stubblefield, Miss Gertrude Weese and Miss Alice Weese, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. John Williamson and Mr. W.E. White. A charter member, J.U. Evans became the first deacon and was chairman of the deacons when he died in 1970.

"They called the Rev. F.A. Hill as pastor and began meeting in rented quarters in a school until a prominent Red Fork family, the Clintons, donated property in 1925. The church was then called Clinton Memorial, but in 1940, the congregation returned to the name Red Fork Baptist Church. It is the oldest Southern Baptist congregation in Southwest Tulsa. West Tulsa Baptist was formed as a mission of First Baptist Church of Tulsa in 1910, but later disbanded.

"Red Fork Baptist is still one of the most active in soul winning and missions support in the entire metropolitan area," he said. Although the Great Depression was a time of hardship and sometimes Christian wavering, in 1930 50 members withdrew from Red Fork to form Trinity Baptist Church, "another shining beacon for Christ in the westside community," Manley said.

Westsidiers saw the irony in the soup kitchen at the foot of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge on the westside, while east of the river the Phillips', Getty's and Gilcrease's built mansions. Rifts between families and friends developed out of the Mid-Continent Refinery Strike of

1938-39. National Guard troops were called out to secure the refinery grounds and protect workers crossing picket lines. In the 1940's, men were called to World War II, gasoline was rationed curtailing church work, but in 1944, Rev. V.L. Hopper came, staying until 1955. The church began a mission in Winnetka Heights in 1958.

“In the first 22 years, the pastorate of Red Fork/Clinton Memorial changed a dozen times, some men not lasting a year, but beginning with Brother Hopper in 1944 there have been only four. The other three are Rev. Joe Hubb Collier in 1956, Rev. Garnet Cole in 1960 and Rev. Tom Shaw in 1976.

## West Tulsa Christian

21<sup>st</sup> and Phoenix

In the spring of 1922, Sam B. Waggoner led a revival that was of the forerunner of Southwest Christian Church. The next pastor, C.C. Scitern and his flock located a building at 21<sup>st</sup> and Phoenix, assisted by the First Christian Church. The dedication was Sept. 13, 1923. The church was known as the West Tulsa Christian Church (Disciples).

The first elders were O.J. Chaney, R. Barsh, W. H. Harvey, W.R. Eoff and M. Roberts. Mrs. Olive Roberts Sullivan was the first Sunday School superintendent and was active in the early organization.

The church was renamed the Second Christian Church and became affiliated with the Independent Christian Churches. The first building was a place of worship for 46 years until 1969 when an Urban Renewal Project forced the congregation to another location.

On August 29, 1969, the new building at 2702 S. 65<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue in Berryhill was dedicated and the church renamed Southwest Christian Church. “We, who now worship in this place wish to express our gratitude to those Christians who labored to establish and perpetuate this body and who in doing so, allowed Christ to work in their lives and ours,” it said in a church history dated Nov. 11, 1976. A pencil comment in the lower margin thanked Mrs. Nannie Hensley.

## West Tulsa Methodist

The Wesley-Methodist Episcopal Church of West Tulsa began in the south side of the Hawkins Building where services were held May 3, 1914 by W. Leslie Henthorne, according to a Tulsa County News article from around September, 1957 about the church. Henthorne held services three weeks in a row and reported “growing interest and enthusiasm.”

In July 1999, West Tulsa Methodist celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bertha Hardesty Clark was part of that celebration. Born Feb. 2, 1905, she was the last surviving charter member. She died May 7, 2002

Sunday school was organized May 10, 1914, under the direction of Pastor Henthorne. On June 23, 1914, District Superintendent Rev. C.R. Robinson formally organized the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. Pastor Henthorne, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis, Mrs. M.N. Fox, Edna E. Hart, Ruth Hawkins, Mrs. W. L. Henthorne, Mrs. M. A. Hazett, Charles F. Lannon, Emery H. Lannon, Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Alma Yochum were on hand.

The first services were held in the Tabernacle or temporary building, built entirely by volunteer labor. "Here with the earth for a floor, a few rude benches, and a dozen praying hearts, this class began its work," the article said. Henthorne served 1914-15 and T.H. McCrory also came in 1915

In 1915, the Epworth League was organized. The charter members for that were Carre Freeze, president, and Mr. Murry, Miss Nichols, Miss Calvert, Lillian Huffman, Ruth Hawkins, Alva and Myrtle Hardesty, Bertha's sisters, Willard Fox, Ned Lannon, Mr. and Mrs. Scribner, Mr. and Mrs. Henthorne. Cook followed Rev. Gray and Rev. Prentiss in 1916. Then came Rev. Brill in 1917-18 built with his own hands nearly all of the second structure.

In November of 1918, Rev. Wilkie Clock came to continue the work. "Through his untiring efforts, prayers and supreme sacrifice, it is possible to view the work of past years realized. The church and whole community owe a great debt to him," the article said.

Asa Worn Buck hauled and donated the sand used in building the West Tulsa Methodist. His wife Laura Ollie McLaughlin Buck was a charter member of the West Tulsa Methodist, daughter, Effie Howard recalls.

Rev. Clock would take a syrup bucket and stand at the refinery gate on pay day to gather funds to buy cement and materials to build the church building. Bishop Oldham dedicated the present structure free of debt on April 29, 1923. The first branch of Goodwill Industry was incorporated with its own board, but fostered by West Tulsa Methodist Church in 1926. "In the bitter years of depression during the 1930's, long soup lines formed and people were fed because of Rev. and Mrs. Clock and the dedicated people of the church," the church history said.

Since Rev. Clock, L.L. Brannon was pastor 1933-34; Rev. Byrd, 1934-35; Rev. A.B. Hickman, 1935-39; Rev. W.C. Heaton, 1939-42; Rev. Moses Whittington 1942-43; and Rev. L.D. Burris, 1943-46. Others were Rev. D. Wesley Doak, 1946-49; Rev. J.D. Cunningham, 1949-51; Rev. Guy Millard, 1951-53; Rev. F.L. Einsel, 1953-56 and Rev. Nelson C. Galloway, starting in June 1956. Then, Rev. LeRoy Sebastian, 1959-60; Rev. Cornelius Bowles, 1960-62; both Rev. G.C. Cody and Rev. Guy C. Tetrick in 1962; Rev. W.H. Chaplin, 1963-64; Rev. John Eckenberger, 1964-67; Rev. Leslie White, 1967-68; Rev. Rupert Furr, 1968-82; Rev. Stephen D. Brd, 1982-88; Rev. Donovan McBroom,

1998-99; Rev. Jeanette C. Koch, 1989-1996. Since 1996, Rev. Dale E. Dyer is current pastor.

Rev. Clock April 27, 1933 and his funeral was April 29 in the church he loved. He had served West Tulsa Methodist 15 years. Rev. Rubert Furr served 14 years. In these years, the entire block around the church was purchased, a radio ministry conducted many years; a television ministry on Channel 8 aired two years; and several young men came to the ministry. Gene Stratton and Wendell Messenger built artful crosses.

A new parsonage was built. An Alcoholics Anonymous group met in the church and the church founded a halfway house in downtown Tulsa. Due to the heavy membership of refinery employees, Rev. Sebastian consulted with the Sunray DX Chaplin, Rev. Charlie Martin, and a miniature oil derrick was built on the front lawn.

## 1940-1950's Churches

### View Acres Baptist Church

On Oct. 16, 1994, View Acres Baptist Church celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Now it has also reached its golden anniversary. In 1994, Roy Glasco, a charter member, led a prayer in the morning service, which featured Dr. Robert Bayles as pastor, Paul Brooks as pianist, Malcom Nash as pianist and organist Wanda Sherwood. Stacy Attebury, Kenneth Jones, Joan Trainor, and Dr. Ted Comer were also part of that service. In the evening, former youth minister Randy Shaddox, gave a message, the Ron Martin family led special music recalling when he was music minister, and Verl Pharis led the singing.

In 1948, Rev. L.E. Stith, pastor of Phoenix Avenue Baptist Church, led an open-air revival in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Hilton, 6240 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Phoenix Avenue voted to sponsor a Berryhill mission, due to the revival success and a need to bring Southern Baptist witness to Berryhill. Bill Pullium sold the founders a plot of land in the West Tulsa View Acres addition, providing the name.

A tent was raised for the mission to start Aug. 8, 1948. The sponsoring church sent people to staff the new effort. Brother P.M. Minor was the first mission pastor. He is known to have walked from West Tulsa to visit in the community and for Sunday services. Charter members recall it was a cold winter and the spring rains ran through the tent. Brother Fred Hardin became mission pastor in July 1949 and parishioners moved a three-room house on the property for a parsonage. Elijah Glasco and W.C. Timbrook built much of the first building. It cost \$6,000.

The View Acres mission petitioned Phoenix Avenue Oct. 5, 1949 to let the mission become a self-supporting church. The organization date was Oct. 16 that year. View Acres Baptist Church had 60 members. The next month, the parsonage got a telephone

extension and soon the church loaned the pastor \$500 to buy a car. A building committee was appointed and the church petitioned to become part of the Tulsa/Rogers Association. Brother J.E. Outlaw baptized 18 in one day at the end of a revival. The church bought ½ acre with a house, next to Neil and Sarah Carson.

In 1951, house was moved closer to the church. The parsonage got a screened porch and a hot water heater. Brother Fred Hardin resigned, but was replaced by Brother George Stringfield. The next year Chester Woollard and Charles Hilton were ordained as the first deacons. Lester Hitchcock and W.C. Timbrook were recognized as active deacons. When Stringfield submitted a resignation, a 1-53 vote asked him to remain. The church discontinued the Baptist Messenger due to finances.

In 1953, the church bought a \$10 mimeograph machine and added a stool, shower and lavatory at the parsonage. Stringfield did resign, and Brother Ted Cromer came as pastor. The next year, the church re-subscribe to the Baptist Messenger, chose a building committee to consider building an education unit. H.L. Walker and Jarrell Rich were chosen as honorary deacons for 90 days, then were ordained March 20, 1955. The deacons authorized fundraising for the new building.

In 1955, the church applied for \$20,000 from the Baptist Foundation and borrowed \$20,000 from Fourth National Bank for the educational building. The church paid for two lots for a parsonage, but the money was returned. C.D. Patterson paid \$50 for a baptistry. A room was built for it and Nora Patterson's sister, Virgie Phillipa painted the scene on the back. Kenneth Jones was called as Music Director and Associate Pastor, then he was ordained. Melton Elliott and Fred Glasco were ordained as deacons. A committee began to remodel the nursery.

In 1958, the pastor appointed a committee to draft long-range plans for the building expansion. Ted Cromer resigned and Jones served as interim pastor. Brother Herb Jenni came as pastor. A committee began looking for land for a parsonage and voted to build an 1152 square foot parsonage in the Bridges Addition of Berryhill. Jenni resigned after nine months and Brother Roy Burkett came as pastor. Trustees borrowed \$7,800 for the land and built the parsonage for \$9,205 since much of the work was done by men in the church. The church borrowed \$16,000 from Community State Bank to add to the education space. C.D. Patterson bought the baby beds and mattresses for the nursery and the first organ.

Then 1961 appeared to be a tough year. Burkett was asked to resign and the contractor for the foyer materials defaulted. Liens were filed against the church. Bud Jenkins came and went as music minister. But, the organist and pianist were paid \$5 a week and the building committee recommended a new auditorium front. The pastor's study was the first to be air-conditioned when church members bought a one-ton unit. A building fund drive raised \$1,000 to finish the auditorium renovation. Men of the church began building pews in 1955, but in 1961 the pews were ready for sanding and varnishing. Brother Bill Glasgow was called as pastor.

In 1962, a by-laws and constitution committee was formed and an attorney asked to draw up incorporation articles. A 1953 Chevrolet was purchased, C.D. Patterson donated the tires and a bus ministry started. Don McGonigal was ordained to the ministry and Sammy Baugh became music and youth minister.

In 1963, the church voted to give one percent of their receipts for 10.5 years for the new Tulsa Baptist Association offices. Jody Wilson and Kenneth Ragsdale became deacons. Baugh resigned. In 1964, Lawrence Stith became music minister and Glasgow resigned. John Fite, Jr. was called to preach, but declined. An offset press was bought to replace the mimeograph. The survey/planning committee began to look into a new auditorium, and a building fund campaign started, but it didn't happen. Brother Thomas Dove came as pastor. Truman Robison volunteered to be the first Minister of Education and Promotion. A representative of the Oklahoma Baptist General Convention counseled members on the hope for a new auditorium. The constitution and bylaws were adopted, but a move to change the name to First Baptist Church of Berryhill failed. New Christian Praise songbooks were purchased. The church helped Darlene Cory attend Oklahoma Baptist. She was a mission volunteer.

In 1966, Bill Sauer came as Music/Youth minister, and was ordained to the ministry. Dove resigned. Fite this time did come to preach. Bill Sauer resigned. The next year, a committee checked the constitution and Gene Chandler came as Music Minister.

In 1969, Pastor John Fite and his wife became house-parents at the Baptist Children's Home in Oklahoma City. Bob DeBolt was called as pastor and a building committee made plans for a new auditorium and two-story building behind. C.D. Patterson and Paul Whiteis were ordained deacons and the new auditorium was dedicated Aug. 15, 1971.

The first pictorial church directory came out. Erma Bruncker became part-time church secretary. The church air-conditioned the parsonage. Church members borrowed \$2,000 to retrofit the old auditorium as a fellowship hall.

In 1973, Gene Chandler was relieved of his position as music minister and DeBolt resigned. Jack Carleton came as pastor and after Garry Nation was music and youth minister for the summer, James Evans came to fill that position. He resigned in 1974. That year, the church celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with "This is Your Life View Acres." The fellowship hall was named Elliott/Young in memory of two men who put many hours into its renovation. The Melton Elliott family donated a Kawai grand piano in his memory. Five air-conditioners were purchased and installed in the education space in 1976. That year a Hammond organ replaced the smaller one and Jo Ann Childers was elected treasurer. A floor vault was installed in the office.

In May 1977 Miracle Day brought 481 to Sunday School and an offering of \$18,076. The attendance set a record. Everyone ate fried chicken for lunch. A building committee began to look at a recreational building and Lonnie Wymer became the first full-time youth minister. In January 1978 a contract for a dome-roofed rec building was signed.

Commemorative plates with a short church history were sold, new Baptist hymnals were bought, and the property south of the church was bought from Roy and Edith Glasco for a parking area.

In 1979, a Dodge 15-passenger van was dedicated to Chris Hardesty, driver of the church bus, who was killed in a convenience store robbery. Wymer resigned. The rest of the educational space was air-conditioned. Randy Shaddox was called as Youth Minister and Verl Pharis as Music Minister. Jack Carleton retired and Brother J. Harold Bryan was called as pastor. Church members burned the King's Court loan note when it was paid off. Concrete block exteriors were covered with Mira-Cote. Shaddox became a fulltime youth minister and 47 baptisms broke the 1951 record of 36. The Long-Range Planning Committee began to think about remodeling and future building needs. An A.B. Dick press was bought.

In 1983, the church bought the Scott and June Ivey property and a building committee was elected. Lyle Washburn was hired as custodian and maintenance person. A 13-passenger Ford Van, an A.B. Dick copier and a Conn organ were bought. In 1984, the library started, a preliminary drawing for a new building produced, bids were let to re-roof the oldest educational unit, a motion approved to sell the parsonage and the old sound system donated to the Highway 10 Mission in Talequah. A 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee was elected. The church voted not to build the new building, but remodeled the auditorium with \$42,000. Charles Gaddy, Jim Ashurst, Floyd Francisco, and Bill Ward were the new deacons. Safety rails were added along the back entrance and the parsonage sold. Shaddox resigned and Bill Parker was called as Youth Minister. Stacy Attebury became Associate Pastor on a volunteer basis. When J. Harold Bryan resigned, Stacy was interim pastor. Louis Spears came as pastor.

In 1987, the library was up to 1,200 books. Todd Ragsdale was licensed to the ministry, and the blue van was given to Tulsa Baptist Ministry Center. In 1988, some of the uses of the buildings were changed, new roofing added and new wiring was installed in the preschool building. The pastor and three members went to Brazil on a mission trip and five members went to Denver.

In 1990, the preschool building was remodeled, the Dodge went to Lakeview Heights Baptist, and Pharis resigned as music minister. The next year the church bought the Ackley property, Todd Ragsdale was called as interim Youth Minister. The flat-roofed area and auditorium was reroofed. Four rooms and the conference room were re-carpeted.

In 1992, Phillip McConnell was called as Student Minister, two students and Phil went to Kansas City on a mission trip. Two young men were approved as Associate Music Ministers and Ragsdale, Greg Rice and Mark Sherwood became deacons. The Ackley house and garage got vinyl siding, a computer and printer and an outdoor sign were purchased. Daisy Johnson paid for the sign. The church sponsored "A Gift for You" for the community.

In 1993, the budget excess was donated to Meals on Wheels, Tulsa Baptist Ministry Center and Tulsa Baptist Women's Center. They tried an 8:30 a.m. worship service, but dropped it the same year. Dan Stiverson resigned as Music Minister and Louis Spears as pastor. Jim Brewer went to OBU as a ministerial student. Paul Brooks came as music minister and Dr. Robert Bayles as interim pastor. The church spent \$2,000 renovating the house next door. A plan of action was adopted for the church. Two students and Phil went to Charleston, S.C. on a mission project.

## Westside Chapel of the Air

As young boys, Gene and Pert Winfrey were always in rodeos and showing their pigs, cows and horses at fairs. They hauled groceries, feed and hay to customers for their Dad, too. When the boys were 10 and 11, Don and Virginia Wilcox, world championship trick riders made a deal. If Gene and Pert would let the Wilcoxs rope them, in return Don and Virginia would teach the boys to trick ride.

Don Wilcox has been inducted in the Cowboy Hall of Fame, and with his help, Gene got his first rodeo contract at age 14. Gene and Pert were trick riders in the rodeo circuit, appearing in shows all over the southwest. The brothers also worked at the DX-Mid-Continent refinery. In 1940, Gene, 17, became a Christian and was called to preach. He would preach on street corners, jail, John 3:16 Mission and in any church that would have him.

In 1942, Gene Winfrey married the daughter of Rev. D.C. Benton, the preacher at New Home Freewill Baptist Church in Berryhill. Also that year, he was called to military service, serving in World War II as a Supply Sergeant and Chaplain. He was with the Black Hawks 86<sup>th</sup> Division and served in Europe and the Pacific.

In 1946, Gene got out of the service and was ordained to preach at Trinity Baptist Church. He learned to fly an airplane, earning his license and instrument rating. He went back to work at the DX. He continued trick riding and roping with partner, Norma Holmes.

They thrilled crowds doing somersaults, and shoulder and tail stands. She became Mrs. Jim Shoulders. Gene's goal was to perform at Madison Square Garden. While Norma did go, Gene said it was time for fulltime preaching and gave up his Madison Square dream. About 1947, Gene and Wana took over Lawnwood Freewill Baptist Church on the Sand Springs Line. Wana's dad, Rev. C.D. Benton had been the preacher there. Gene enrolled at the University of Tulsa.

Gene went on KAKC, putting on the popular Western Chapel of the Air. Sister Billie Winfrey Mosley recalls buses with Western Chapel of the Air promotions on the side panels. Wana provided music, singing with Cab and Bertie Benton, Bob and Ralsey Roberts, Beverly Robertson, H.R. McCartney, Bill Martin, Johnnie Dewiese, Howard Gwartney, Helen Lane, the Gospelairees and others.

In 1954, Gene and Wana, with all their good singers, built the Crusaders Temple and also that year, Gene began conducting Holy Land and European tours. These continued until 2000, when the tours stopped. He believes the world trouble is bad now. The next year, Gene Winfrey and Felix Mouser, the Berryhill grocer who bought out his dad's store, went to the head hunting countries of South America where natives had recently killed five missionaries. While there, they spent time with the wives of the men killed. They also spoke at a conference and Mouser sent reports back to *Tulsa County News* about their experiences.

In 1960, Gene accepted a church in Chattanooga. In 1962, they moved to Marietta, Ga. where they built Antioch Baptist Church. There he founded the Antioch Bible College and has been president of the accredited campus since 1974. In 1970, Gene purchased a plane and began running in races. In 1974, he returned to Tulsa to preach and do evangelistic work. He started Shiloh Hill Church. In 1976, his dad, Wib Winfrey died. Three years later, he accepted a church in Booz, Ala.

In the 1980's, he was back in Marietta and ran in the Atlanta 10k Peach Tree Race for the first time. He has run that race every year since. He recently ran the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Race, 2001. After 21 years, he wants to run until he is 80. In 1983, he could be found at Cornerstone Baptist in Marietta and the next year he took Midway Baptist in Barnesville, Ga. In 1987, Cornerstone held a "This is Your Life" 65<sup>th</sup> birthday party for him. In 1992, Gene was honored to speak at Cadet Chapel at West Point, New York, to his 86<sup>th</sup> Blackhawk Division from World War II. In 2000, he retired from Cornerstone Baptist, but the Antioch Bible College is still going strong. Holding revivals and filling in for pastors, he preaches in various local churches in Georgia and surrounding states.

At 78, he's busier than ever, and his wife stays in stride. She is his musician, piano, organ, and accordion and singer. He likes golf and tennis, but due to time constraints is limited to running four to six miles a day.

# Chapter Eleven: Entertainment Areas

## Chandler Park

As a young married man “W.V. “Bud” Caffey had a dream of a large park off of today’s Avery Drive. As a little girl, daughter, Jerene would jump off the rocks there into his arms. When Claude Chandler donated the land he donated so many acres a year as a tax deduction, Chandler Park was created. Some 88.13 acres was dedicated as a park site in August 1958. The land had been owned by Chandler Materials Co., of which Chandler was president. County Surveyor Tom Collins filed a survey plat.

In 1931, a news story cited a rumor that Jesse James gang supposedly hid \$88,000 in cash in a leather cloth among the rocks. In a 1958 Tulsa Tribune story, Ed. S. Richards said pre-Civil War soldiers camped in the scenic woodlands, erecting tents and stables. They surrounded their camp with low rock walls which years later looked like the foundations of homes that looked as though they had been burned on blown away by a tornado. “There was no record or trace of a town having been there, so they called it Lost City.” Richards saw the land in September 1893 when he came to take part in the Cherokee Strip land rush.

Nine years later, in Sept. 1902, reporter J. Bob Lucas pointed out that the Twins Territories magazine, published for Indians of the Indian and Oklahoma Territories said: “Five miles north of Red Fork in the Creek Nation has been discovered a most remarkable piece of scenery which has been named the ‘Lost City,’ as it greatly resembles the ruin of some old city with its streets and alleys running between high walls of solid rock.” It called some of the rocks, “battered old buildings.”

But, Richards said he got the true story from an Uncle Holloway P. Richards of Springfield, Mo., who got it from friend Gen. George P. Custer. Holloway and Gen. Custer defeated Black Kettle and the Cheyenne near Fort Supply in western Oklahoma in 1868. “Lost City provided a good view for miles around to keep peace between the Cherokees and Osages,” Richards said. Soldiers camped there and used the rock to build walls for their tents.

In January 1960, a small relic was found by Johnny Vance of West Tulsa possibly from a dept of 20 feet during some excavating in Chandler Park. The relic was found on the surface after the excavating. Vance sold the piece to Don Burch. The eight-inch Stone Age-like figure was taken to Charles Proctor, the archaeologist at Gilcrease Museum to see if it had historical significance.

In July 1962, a miniature railroad was installed east of the new \$60,000 swimming pool. Earl Patterson who also operated the train at Mohawk Park was going to give the county 25 percent of his gross. He planned to expand the first phase of 800-1,000 feet into an extensive park network. In February, vandals hit the little train three times. In the third incident, the tracks were bent and three cars and the engine tipped over. The train weighed about 6,000 pounds. It was used only on unusually warm winter days. In another

incident a four by four was rammed through the ticket booth. The Chandler train is no longer in existence.

Skelly Stadium was used for the Tulsa Easter Pageant in 1958, but the project was abandoned because of noise and staging difficulties. Pageant members thought this was the end of a 23-year Tulsa tradition. Bud Caffey invited the Tulsa Jaycees to construct permanent staging on donated property. In 1959, an earthen structure 180x40x10 feet was built that is still called the "Mound" in Chandler Park. The next decade, the pageant drew crowds of up to 90,000. Local broadcasters, including Sy Tuma and Jack Morris, read live narration in the 60's.

Around 1970, the narration was taped and performances moved from sunrise to evenings before Easter. Johnny Cherblanc did the voice of Christ and Wes Studi the voices of Satan and Judas. Owasso resident Jerry Sparkman has played Christ more than 10 years. Directors are Tom Hicks from Sapulpa and Linda Ryals from Sand Springs. The 100-plus cast comes from Tulsa, Sand Springs, Berryhill, Terlton, Catoosa, Avant, Sapulpa, Glenpool, Cleveland, and Broken Arrow.

More scenes were added and in 2000 the narration was updated. A tornado damaged some of the costumes, so those were replaced. The Scottish Games & Gathering turned the Mound into a fort, and brings Scottish, music, dance, wares, and food to the park. The pool was refurbished recently and storm-warning sirens added.

## Crystal City Park

"Lovers courted there. Teens were skating waitresses at the Casa Loma. Area residents could hear its music from miles away. There had been a park on the Crystal City site for many years before 1928. The Park Addition Company had been operating a dance hall, concessions, boat rides, and had some entertainment items on the site before 1920.

In October 1920 Will T. Davis and I. D. Fleming purchased the park and leased the land from the Park Addition Company. They incorporated the park under the name of the Electric Amusement Park Company.

By 1921 the park was opened for business and had a dance hall, "Merry Widow" swing, Parker merry-go-round, a "Captive Air Plane" ride, a Circle Wave swing, boating, and swimming, a fun house, and the only miniature train in Oklahoma. They also contracted for an ornamental fence, and the entrance with arches. They also contracted for a large advertising sign consisting of 17 50-foot panels.

In April 1922, the park signed contracts with the Brodbeck Amusement Co. of Miami Florida to operate a carousel and Ferris wheel. Then in May

1922, they were negotiating with the J. W. Ely Company, Inc for a "Aeroplane Swing." The park ran successfully until late 1925, when it ran into financial difficulties and the owners signed over their shares to First National Bank of Sapulpa who held their loan. After negotiations, the new owners were announced in May 1927. The park was refurbished and reopened as Crystal City. The announcement was made in May 1928 and the park opened its doors later that month.

Again, the park ran successfully for many years. However, in February 1956 the old bath house burned and the owners announced they would raze the abandoned buildings. Two months later the Casa Loma dance hall burned. The site passed to investors in September 1958 to build the Crystal City Shopping Center. The Park Company continued to own the underlying land under the park (ground lease) throughout the life of the park(s). Thus it was a reopening of an existing park and not a new park as such."

*CEG Tulsa Assoc. of Pioneers*

## Electric Park

Electric Park was the predecessor of Crystal City.

The Park Addition Company had been operating a dance hall, concessions, boat rides, and had some entertainment items on the site before 1920, according to C.E.G. of the Tulsa Pioneers.

In October 1920, Will T. Davis and I. D. Fleming purchased the park and leased the land from the Park Addition Company. They incorporated the park under the name of the Electric Amusement Park Company. By 1921 the park was opened for business and had a dance hall, "Merry Widow" swing, Parker Merry-go-Round, a "Captive Air Plane" ride, a Circle Wave swing, boating, and swimming, a fun house, and the only miniature train in Oklahoma. The partners contracted for an ornamental fence, and the entrance with arches. They also contracted for a large advertising sign consisting of 17 50-foot panels.

In April of 1922 the park signed contracts with the Brodbeck Amusement Co. of Miami Florida to operate a carousal and Ferris wheel. In May of 1922 they were negotiating with the J. W. Ely Company, Inc. for a "Aeroplane Swing." An April 25, 1924 Tulsa Tribune article said that a district court decree causing Electric Park's doors to be padlocked, had been modified. "...The park may be opened this summer, provided no booze is allowed to flow about the place," it said.

Robert Atkins, Red Fork's first sheriff, was appointed a special deputy at the place. He was assigned to check for booze and make sure the park was run in an orderly manner. "The park was padlocked in January 1924 after an expose' of the wild New Year's Eve party and dance at the place," it said. The park ran successfully until late 1925 when it

ran into financial difficulties and the owners signed over their shares to First National Bank of Sapulpa which held their loan. Negotiations were undertaken and the new owners announced the new name in May of 1927.

## Howard Park (Oscar P. Howard)

### **Route 66 Park**

Howard Park was bigger before the expressway came through. In the 1920's people remember swimming, dog racing, even horseracing at the park. Westsiders remember its great baseball fields. A 1969 roster of Tulsa Parks says it was named for Oscar P. Howard, a former Tulsa oilman. It lists the location at W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Sapulpa Road. Some former West Tulsa residents believe Howard's will stipulated that the whole plot was to remain a park.

In the 1990's Howard was designated an historic U.S. 66 park. U.S. 66 was opened in 1926. The band "Asleep at the Wheel" performed during the dedication. They were enroute to Tulsa Mayfest. Lois Baker Davies donated a photo of Troy Baker standing over a small pool with the children in it to the Southwest Tulsa Historical Society. The children were Juanita, Bernice and Harold Baker and Lois herself.

In a Mystery Column written by David M. Breed it said, "Howard Park was also the site for a dog racing track and for horse racing. In the background of the picture can be seen part of the bleachers for the various events. Davies said during the Tulsa Race Riot in 1921, her father hid two black men under the bleachers there for protection.

When the Tulsa Skate Park was looking for a new home in 2001, Howard Park was briefly considered before the site in River Parks was chosen. Today the park is a quiet site with only occasional visitors coming to enjoy it. Pecan trees provide a lush canopy in contrast to the tank farm across the street.

## Mid-Continent Dog Racing Park

Feb. 10, 1921, the Mid-Continent Racing Park was about to open. It would have an electric track for the dummy rabbits. The stands were "mammoth," the Tri-City Record said. But the reporter didn't stop there, the track was to feature "the most noted hounds in the country." The race course "will be one of the finest of its kind in the entire Southwest." Further, the track "will afford a class of amusement not heretofore enjoyed by residents of this section."

It said the site was between Red Fork and West Tulsa. It was by the railroad track west of Howard Park. The cost was \$75,000. The greyhounds raced the first night in June 1921 in front of "an enthusiastic throng of fans." "The sight of the world's fastest racing dogs

bounding over the highly illuminated quarter-mile circular dirt track, offers all the excitement and thrills of horse racing.

The owners built a dance pavilion with a jazz band. Dancers moved on a maple dance floor. The Interurban agreed to charge five-cent fares for passengers bound for the dog races. The Magic City Kennel Club managed the dogs.

## Sunset Plunge Park

Sunset Plunge Amusement Park offered an array of entertainments. It sat on what became U.S. 66 at between 31<sup>st</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue. Truman Mikles in a 1988 article for Tulsa County News said Sunset had a “roller coaster, carnival attractions and two large swimming pools, which on summer days were filled with adults and children.” The roller coaster was called the Jack Rabbit.

Across the street was a small country grocery run by a Mrs. Denhall. Candy sold for two, three or four pieces for a penny. The Public Service Company Picnic in 1923 was held at Sunset Plunge. When Sunset closed, Mikles said, the property was owned by Guy Hall, an early day telephone exchange owner from Red Fork.

Hall “later worked for many years for the Tulsa water system at Mohawk. Hall preserved a complete and detailed record of water lines, taps, turnoffs etc.” Located at the railroad tracks by the road leading into Garden City, the Sunset Plunge Park has been very influential to many of the kids growing up in the immediate area. Records and photos of Sunset are rare. It probably didn’t have as much influence as the much larger Crystal City Park that emerged from the Electric Park.

## Turkey Mountain Park

It was June 1907 and big news in the Indian Republican was that H.H. Hamilton had bought Turkey Mountain and was putting in a \$3,000 amusement park. The leaders would promote the event as much as the newspaper. Trainloads of customers would arrive, then leave disappointed. According to news reporters, Hamilton left town at night with funds in his pockets.

It was to be “second to none in the great Southwest,” the article said. A Ferris wheel, scenic railway and all other forms of amusement was fast becoming a reality, because the realtor Hamilton wanted to have his grand opening July 4 – two weeks away.

“The scenery on all sides is the grandest imaginable. To the south lies the famous Glenn oil pool, all of which is plainly visible. Northward lies Tulsa seemingly at its very foot, every building and street of which can be seen as easily as if only a half mile distant. “Directly below is the Arkansas River so near that a stone thrown from the top of the mountain easily lands in the stream. Picturesque rocks, massive oak and water gushing from springs of clear crystal makes the park beautiful beyond description and an ideal spot for such a project as Mr. Hamilton has underway,” the writer said.

Work started June 21, 1907 and Hamilton expected a load of lumber June 22. He had summoned every available laborer to work at the site. “The Midland Valley will from now on stop trains at this point for the benefit of the Turkey Mountain crew. Soon a nice station will be built and the place advertised all along the line of the Midland Valley system,” the Republican said. Hamilton was headed to Kansas City and St. Louis the new week to be sure he had the best free and paid attractions for Turkey Mountain.

Security wouldn’t be an issue. “Nothing vulgar or obscene will be permitted. A special deputy U.S. marshal would be on duty day and night, to keep out all rowdyism and vulgarity and to make the resort a place where men may take their families with impunity from any kind of blackguardism.”

The sale was made in Muskogee June 20, 1907. “This mountain is located five miles south of Tulsa on the Midland Valley Railroad and upon its summit is 60 acres of level, beautiful and picturesque land,” the Republican said.

On Feb. 26, 1911 Game Warden Charles W. Estes went out on an illegal waterfowl hunting call on the eastside of Turkey Mountain. Estes 40, became one of an elite dozen of new Game Wardens and 56 days into his new job, he was shot to death with a Winchester 3340 rifle. Turkey Mountain was infamous for moonshiners and counterfeiters and was described as rough country.

In the 1990’s artifacts were found on Turkey Mountain indicating visitors or residents hundreds of years before Hamilton or Estes. June 7, 2001, a memorial to Charles Estes was installed on Riverside Drive, across from Johnson Park in River Parks.

## Other Named Parks

Just who were our westside parks named for?

### Bales, Cecille Park

William O. and Ruby Lee Bohnefeld sold 67 acres as the Turkey Mountain tract in 1953, according to Park Planner Clarence Ruby. Bohnefeld was a dry cleaning firm owner for 31 years, raised cattle, was District 2 County Commissioner from 1931-33, and dealt in real estate and business sales. He lived at 5265 S. Union Avenue. The tract became

Cecille Bales Park, which today has four lighted, ball fields, concession stand, parking and restrooms. A contract for installing the lighting was made in March 1975, Ruby said. Cecille Bales was the wife of City Attorney Waldo Bales. A vice president at Ackerman, Inc., she was elected chair of the Park Board in 1974. She was elected governor of the District 10 American Advertising Federation in September 1974. In June 1976, the Tulsa Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc honored her as a headliner. In 1978, Cecille was named director of advertising and public relations for Sipes Food Market.

## Camp Loughridge

Camp Loughridge, First Presbyterian Church's retreat southwest of Tulsa, more than tripled in size in January 1989 when church officials bought 86 acres adjoining the 40-acre camp. The Rev. Ernest J. Lewis, pastor, said the church's dream of expanding the retreat has just begun.

Church officials bought 86 acres Jan. 4 from the Ahrens family. In October, the church had bought seven acres on 71st Street, bringing the total expansion to 93 acres. The cost of the land acquisition was \$609,000, which was funded through \$300,000 from a bequest to the church left by the late Clarence Warren, \$300,000 from the Franklin Bernsen Foundation and \$9,000 from an anonymous donor who attends First Presbyterian.

The additional acreage would give the camp two more small lakes and an entrance on West 71st Street. "It puts us 20 minutes from downtown," Lewis said. In the past, the camp was accessible by going south on winding 57th West Avenue. The camp, formerly YWCA Camp Parthenia, has a 25-acre lake, a chapel, swimming pool, a lodge, a smaller dormitory and a caretaker's home. The camp is open to other area churches and religious groups, regardless of denomination. Lewis said that while plans for new facilities have not been drawn up, he does have dreams for the larger complex. He hoped to add a family camp featuring nature trails, an expanded summer youth camping program, a new road, repairs on the dam for the old Camp Parthenia lake and a year-round retreat center.

According to Tulsa historians, the city's first sermon was delivered in 1883 by the Rev. Robert Loughridge from the steps of Jim Hall's store on Main Street near West First Street. Loughridge was 75 years old, "a vigorous old warhorse of the faith," a newspaper article said.

In 1991, the wonders of nature were in December when members of the Unitarian Church of the Restoration hosted a Winter Solstice celebration and retreat at Camp Loughridge. The retreat, which included nature walks and crafts activities, began at noon Dec. 21.

A bonfire was held that night. Church pastor, the Rev. Charles Johnson, conducted a worship service Dec. 22 in the camp chapel. The solstice Dec. 21 is the shortest day of the year and through the ages "has been celebrated by all types of people," said Claudia Carr, a teacher at the church. "We are holding the services to illustrate the power that natural phenomena have on our lives and to restore to religion a respect of and relationship with nature," she said.

Camp Loughridge, the first YWCA camp built in Tulsa in 1920, hosted its first "Spring Fling" April 21, 2002 allowing the public to visit the 143- acre camp and talk with camp director Mark Ewing about the camp's philosophy, programming and staff. The camp is located at 4900 West 71st Street, 2-1/2 miles west of U.S. 75. Free activities included a Jupiter Jump for the children, ropes course activities, food, an arts and crafts cabana in honor of Earth Day, a scavenger hunt and giveaways.

Located in southwest Tulsa, Camp Loughridge was still owned and operated by the First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa. It includes hiking trails, lakes, cabins and outdoor recreation, and offers Kids Kamp during the summer for area disadvantaged children. Scholarships are available. By 2002, Camp Loughridge was near completing a \$6 million capital campaign to fund major expansion. The money was raised for an aquatic center, youth housing complex, amphitheater and recreational facilities. The campaign had raised \$5 million so far.

## Challenger Park

Challenger 7 Park is at 3909 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street. It is 19.2 acres with a playground, sports field, tennis court, and a junior pool. It also features a shelter, picnic tables and restrooms.

The park was formerly named Finis Smith Park. In December 1989, former State Senator Finis Smith asked the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Board to take his name off the park after he was convicted of mail and tax fraud. Residents had complained, but Parks Director Hugh McKnight said that Smith's request clinched the deal.

In a Dec. 6, 1989 Tulsa World story, it described Smith as a former Democratic Party powerhouse, and quoted the Smith letter in part, saying the "disgrace of the jury verdict should not be allowed to become a source of embarrassment for the Park Board or the City Commission." "Neither Doris nor I want the cloud that now hangs over our lives to directly or indirectly taint the potential of the Tulsa recreation system," Smith wrote. Park Planner Clarence Ruby said the land was bought from Harrison and Hester Morton in January 1964. It was initially listed as the Morton tract. Temporarily, it became the Red Fork Tract after Smith's name was taken off.

Some 73 seconds into its mission, Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded due to cold temperatures affecting faulty O-rings. The seven refers to the seven citizens who died in the explosion. They included teacher Christa McAuliffe. Because she was on board and her link to education, Tulsa Public Schools' principals were urged to show the launch in classrooms.

The others on board were Commander Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Ellison Onizuka, Ronald McNair, Judith Resnik, and Gregory Jarvis. The explosion video was shown

repeatedly on television. Many Tulsans saved the editorial cartoon, which showed an eagle with a tear in its eye and new stars representing the seven.

## Lake Parthenia

In the 1920s, the YWCA flourished. Branches opened in West Tulsa and on Archer Street. Job-placement services were busy, the cafeteria was serving 39-cent lunches and 53-cent dinners, and the Girl Reserves were giving health and physical education demonstrations in middies and bloomers.

With the Depression came a greater need - and collapsing resources. The West Tulsa branch closed and the main building was rented so mortgage payments could be met. Camp Parthenia, the YWCA's outdoor recreation area, became a residence for out-of-work women. They survived by doing make-work, anything from canning vegetables to making toys and harvesting pecans. By 1974, Camp Parthenia had been sold. Today, it belongs to the Prebyterian Church.

## Lubell, Benedict Park

Benedict Lubell Park is 16 acres that was bought from Bryce and Sharon Mae Smith in December 1975, according to Park Planner Clarence Ruby. Before becoming a park, it was known as the Remington Tract. Lubell has picnic tables and a shelter, which is behind Remington Elementary school. An area of Turkey Mountain, it is one of the areas archaeologists are researching.

Lubell was a Tulsa oilman who became involved in the arts. He was chairman of the Municipal Arts Commission that Mayor J. M. Hewgley Jr. asked the City Commission to form in January 1969.

The commission advised the city on the acquisition of art with public funds. The commission first selected art reproductions to decorate the new City Hall. The Arts Commission recommended to the City Commission works of art and possible display locations. Many members had been on a committee that selected the modern sculpture named "Amity" for the city hall front.

In June 1969, Lubell was named president of the Tulsa Arts Council, succeeding Mrs. Gerald Westby. Lubell received a Governor's Arts Award in 1982, according to Tulsa World articles. May 3-4 1999, Lubell Park was struck by a tornado, which ravaged a swathe of trees.

## Philpott Park

Philpott Park is 10.3 acres at 1114 W. 37<sup>th</sup> Place. It is named for Paul V. Philpott who died May 18, 1973 at the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Hospital. A retired rancher and veterans' leader, he was a resident of 1128 W. 41<sup>st</sup>. His son-in-law said that P.V. Philpott set aside the land for the park before he died.

A Tulsa-area resident for 57 years, Philpott owned a 128-acre farm near 41<sup>st</sup> and Maybelle Avenue. Much of it had been sold for industrial development between 1953-1973. He was an Army veteran of World War I, having served with the 36<sup>th</sup> Division. He was wounded in the Argonne action in France. Philpott was past commander of the Tulsa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 577. He was also former seam squirrel in its fun organization, Pup Tent 5, Military Order of the Cootie.

Philpott was a former member of the Carson-Wilson Post of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He had been a member of the Tulsa County Draft Board for more than 20 years. He attended West Tulsa Methodist Church. He came to the Southwest Tulsa area from Guston, Kentucky and was a Democratic candidate for Tulsa County Sheriff in 1954.

## Reed, Frank H. Park

Frank H. Reed was a pioneer attorney and philanthropist. He and wife, Isabelle S. Reed built some 50 wading pools throughout three states. They were in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. Oklahoma towns included Oklahoma City, Ardmore, Durant, Ada, Shawnee, Okmulgee, Grandfield, Lawton, McAlester, Eugaula, Muskogee, Sapulpa, Claremore, and Hugo.

The Reeds moved to Indian Territory in 1905, settling in Wewoka. Frank started his law practice there. He acquired large tracts of land on which oil was found, according to a July 4, 1951 Tulsa World article. The Reeds moved to Tulsa in 1917 and Frank was a Chamber of Commerce Vice President, a member of Tulsa Country Club and the 1922 Kiwanis president.

In 1920, Frank heard Park Board Chairman N.G. Henthorne talk about parks in California. Henthorne mused that wading pools would be a fine idea for Tulsa. Reed asked "How much?" Reed start a trust fund which was worth about \$130, 000 in 1968. The first wading pool was dedicated on June 18, 1931. It was at 14<sup>th</sup> and Cincinnati, in Tulsa.

Frank died in October 1931 in San Francisco. Isabelle died in Encino California on July 3, 1951. The Frank H. Reed fund is administered by the Tulsa Permanent Community Trust Dispersing Committee with First National Bank and Trust as trustee. John Zink's trust is also part of that fund.

The land for the park with his name was purchased in July 1930 from Fred and Jane Clinton. The 1969 park roster put the date of the park at 1931. Reed is 29.2 acres, which can be seen from the light at 41<sup>st</sup> and Union. Its towering trees provide cooling shade for walkers long hours of the day. The address is 4233 S. Yukon. Reed has a playground, a swimming pool, water playground, and a community center with in-door basketball courts, meeting room, craft room, and a meeting area. It also has a weight room and a gymnastics studio. Reed has picnic tables, disc golf, rest rooms and sand volleyball. Its baseball facilities are the home of Webster softball and baseball programs. Reed sponsors Halloween activities, a Christmas Party and Easter Egg hunts.

In 1992, the Reed Recreation council commissioned a chain saw sculpture of the Working Man. A poem by Marvel R. Fish was read at the dedication. The gymnastic center was dedicated May 2, 1997. On hand were City Councilor Darla Hall, and architect Ed Jones. The Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce Board was almost overlooked, but was invited. Representing the Reed Council were Sharon Garrison, Bill Pittman, Grace Hassler, and Candy Jones.

## River Parks

Picture overgrown riverbanks, trash dumps, and rats. Some 40 years ago River Parks had all that. Today it is miles and miles of green with events, memorials, and even a floating stage amphitheater. River Parks is home of Oktoberfest and a summer concert series. It hosts a rowing team. Thousands flock to it for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Boom River. A Lights On ceremony centers around the Pedestrian Bridge around the holidays.

The building of the Keystone Dam in 1964 ended the common river flooding allowing this favorite recreational area to develop. Other key dates include:

- 1963—City delegations visit River Parks in other cities.
- 1973—Mayor Robert J. LaFortune appoints a committee to frame a River Parks concept
- 1984—Mayor Terry Young appoints a task force which developed the River Corridor Task Force. It suggested blanket agricultural zoning for the land on the banks of the river, to replace the mishmash of various zones there.

Katie Westby in the 1970's helped raise money to buy public parkland. In the mid-70's, former County Commissioner Burkett Wamsley saw that Tulsa County bought land

outside the Tulsa City Limits and urged city officials to buy more within the city. The joint effort brought about the River Parks Authority, which is headed by Jackie Bubenik.

Other land the Authority owns includes the 147-acre Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area at 61<sup>st</sup> and Elwood and 47 acres that the county operates as a Soccer Complex on Elwood. John Zink, who grew up within walking distance of the river, is on the River Parks Board of Directors. His family donated \$1 million for the Urban Lake and Low Water Dam.

In April 1986, a Tulsa World article by Kathy Griffin said, "River Parks would not be what it is today without private donations. As of 1985, a little more than \$7.5 million, in money, land, labor and equipment was donated to River Parks by the private sector." She quoted Bubenik as saying that for every federal, state or local tax dollar donated to the Authority, \$1.14 in private donations has been received.

In 1991 the late philanthropist Stephen Jatras gave Park Friends \$180,000 to buy land on the southside of Turkey Mountain, extending along Elwood to 71<sup>st</sup> Street. The land had been foreclosed on. In a more recent presentation to the Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, he said that the different parks departments could work together more efficiently if they weren't so many. Then the pendulum had swung to minimal development for the parkland.

Today that pendulum is more the other way. Advice from a Hudgins, Thompson, Ball and Associates report in 1968, still rings true. "Recreation land must be set aside before increased competition for available land makes acquisition even more difficult and expensive.

## River Skate Park

The skateboarding facility at McClure Park had to be moved early in 2001. Several sites were considered. Tulsa Park and Recreation officials considered Dawson Park, but park users complained. Dawson is used for baseball games extensively. Then Howard Park was considered, but lacked parking or restroom facilities. The Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce was committed to a westside site, but Howard was too close to the bank, officers felt.

With the help of District 2 City Councilor Randi Miller, a site was found off of West 23<sup>rd</sup>, adjacent to the West Tulsa Maintenance Yard. Arkansas River Levy official Frank Keith complained that the structure would be on the levy, and could damage it. However, the city prevailed, and in late summer adults, teens and children were rolling down the ramps, doing spins and jumps. Parking and restrooms were added. Some participants came from other towns to experience the thrill of the ride. The view included the river

and lush banks of vegetation. Some families picnicked next to the Skate Park. The park is one small victory for youthful recreation opportunity.

### Schlegel, Oscar U. Park

When Oscar U. Schlegel, a pioneer feed store owner and real estate broker, put down plans for the community of South Haven, he also included plans for a public square which is today the Oscar U. Schlegel Park. It includes a playground and is 8.9 acres. Today the former school is used for a community center.

Schlegel came to Tulsa in 1904 from Eudora, Kansas. Schlegel had a farm and home at 1506 N. Union Avenue. The feed store was near First and Boston Avenue and minority customers were among those with which he traded. He operated the store until 1917. He was a Tulsa benefactor.

June 20, 1917 he bought 80 acres for \$100 each, west of S. 33<sup>rd</sup> West Avenue, near W. 51st. The community of South Haven for African-Americans would hug the commuter rail line. The community gained more residents when the Tulsa Race Riot hit, May 31, 1921. He died in 1955 and his daughter Mrs. Larkin Bailey inherited 98 undeveloped lots there

### Smith, Finis Park

Was named for Senator Finis Smith. Later renamed as Challenger Park, when Senator Smith ran into some political trouble.

### West Highlands Park

Located at 2626 W. 61<sup>st</sup> Street, West Highlands Park is 34 acres with a playground and sports field, wading pool, outdoor basketball, and picnic tables and shelter. The park has .8 miles of trail.

West Highlands was purchased in September 1990 from the Mary Margaret Page estate. The four heirs sold the land for \$340,000. The park has the same name as a nearby housing addition.

## West Tulsa Park

West Tulsa Park is 23.2 acres at 1002 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. It has a playground, sports fields, outdoor basketball court, and restrooms, according to a Tulsa Parks and Recreation map. West Tulsa is at the bend of the Arkansas River between the river and U.S. 75. On the map, it appears on the north side of 21<sup>st</sup>. The property is believed to be evaluated at \$44,225.

One of the older westside city parks, it was purchased in 1924. City park planner, Clarence Ruby did not find information on how the land was acquired either on the computer or in a file of deeds and contracts. The 1969 Tulsa Parks and Recreational Centers roster listed West Tulsa Playground at 21<sup>st</sup> and Nogales.

## Golf Courses

One of the great sources of pride for many westsiders is the entertainment courses. Page Belcher is a public course, and The Oaks Country Club is a private course. Both are known throughout the area. The Oaks is a much older course. It would be good for people to know when they were built, and for the golfers, who designed the course. That is a big source of pride for the golfer.

## Page Belcher Golf Course

## The Oaks Country Club

## Westside YMCA

## Westside Libraries

In 1923, the Tulsa Public Library opened a “school deposit” at the Celia Clinton School. During Dan W. Patton’s term as mayor of Tulsa, the Red Fork Library opened July 15, 1929 on the second floor of the former Red Fork City Hall, 2628 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Place.

Red Fork had been annexed to Tulsa in 1927. Mayor Patton presented the keys to the new library. In the early 1930s, the West Tulsa Library was built at W. 22<sup>nd</sup> and S. Olympia. Glenda Tweedy said it was “a beautiful brick building with large dark wood tables and a courtyard in back. She recalls Marjorie Aulum was librarian. Onawake Bradshaw, a retired Berryhill teacher, worked at the West Tulsa Library,

Some years later, the electrical wiring was in such bad shape that unless repairs were made, City Electrical Inspector Glenn T. Jones said the Red Fork building would be condemned and the library closed. The situation was “extremely hazardous.” The city commission was expected to vote \$400 for repairs.

In 1929, the Clinton family donated land for a new library on W. 41<sup>st</sup> St. In 1942, voters approved \$15,000 in bonds to build the new library building, but due to World War II the job was put on hold. The city commission approved \$6,000 addition to complete the building.

Sept. 8, 1951, a dedication was held in which Mayor George L. Stoner presented the keys of the new building to L.C. Clark, president of the Library Board. Leon Sentor was architect and Larry T. Brooks was contractor. “The Red Fork branch, in its new home gives Tulsa something different in the way of library architecture. It has been built to permit future expansion, colorfully decorated and is air-conditioned,” said a Sept, 1951 *Tulsa World* article. At the dedication, Clyde Morton, McBirney Elementary principal and former president of the Red Fork Lions Club was to speak. The article said Morton “was largely responsible for starting work on the new building after calling a meeting to discuss library plans last year. Rev. Doran F. Myers of 41<sup>st</sup> St. Christian Church gave the invocation and Mrs. Paul Reed, longtime member of the Tulsa Library Board emceed. An open house was held during the Saturday dedication. Clinton family members were special guests.

The library opened the next Monday, after 9,000 books and furniture traveled down 41<sup>st</sup> St. to the new building. Librarians included Marjorie Ahlum, who helped plan for the expansion, Violet Williamson, Helen Ware, Lucile Wallace, Rose Eggers and Mae Swofford. Swofford was librarian from 1951-1972. Betty Kennedy succeeded her. Red Fork was the third branch library in the Tulsa Library System. In July, 1962, it became part of the Tulsa City County Library System, one of its 20 libraries.

A note on a history from the West Regional Library said there was an expansion that opened Feb. 3, 1963, too. It brought the space to 2,480 square feet. In 1968, Red Fork became Southwest Regional Library. Mary Ann Williams was regional librarian and the collection included nearly 19,000 books.

“Red Fork is sort of like a small town,” wrote Mae Swofford, “some have lived here for years. I have lived in this community for over 30 years, and have really never understood why some people do not use the library more. “Some young people start as avid readers and then after they are married, we never see them until they bring their children in for easy reading books.” She was writing in a January, 1966 report.

Tulsa County News Nov. 19, 1981 had a lead story about West Regional Library opening. Imel & Graber Architects designed it and Riley Construction built the 9,554 square feet. Richard Bohm designed the stained glass. The \$548, 625 building on W. 51<sup>st</sup> St. was paid for with City of Tulsa Revenue Sharing Funds and Capital Improvement funds. Tulsa County provided the landscape design and installed the parking lot.

The Dogwood Garden Club, including Linda Cott and Barbara Markwardt made nine flower arrangements, worked five hours, and members donated two dozen cookies each. Performances include Mickey Joyce, balloon pilot; the Achleys singing group;, Steve Ramsey, caricaturist; “Happiness Is...Puppeteers”; The Society for Creative Anachronism and the Tulsa Recorder Consort.

A time capsule was sealed and balloons were launched. In 1999, West Regional was damaged by the May 3-4 tornado. It was repaired since, however.

# Chapter Twelve: Businesses and Manufacturing

The westside has quite a variety of businesses. It is interesting to look at the early mom and pop businesses, then look at the modern ones. Many of the westside businesses grew from small operations right here, into the much larger ones they are today.

## Early Businesses

### Hall Stores

Among the first recorded businesses were the Hall stores, run by the Hall brothers who followed the railroad to Tulsa and set up shop to serve the railroad workers. They stayed in the Tulsa area and had a big influence on early businesses.

### Red Fork Bank

### Red Fork Drug Co.

When Tulsa Attorney Bert and wife Judy Jones donated a safe in 1993 from the old Red Fork Drug Co., they opened a door on a bit a Red Fork history. In addition, the Jones loaned an album, which had a picture of the Drug Co. on W. 40<sup>th</sup> St. taken in 1918.

In front of the store, was an ad for Tanlac, bragging that “seven million bottles sold in 2 years.” This store was located in the main commercial area of Red Fork in the days of the late 1800s and early 1900’s. Red Fork remained an incorporated city until 1928, when it was annexed to Tulsa.

Bert’s father was Bertie Mortimer Jones who after a few years in the oil business, decided to study to be a pharmacist. Bertie originally came to Red Fork from London at 10. Although the Red Fork Drug Co. was first, he eventually owned six stores. The album included shots of old Red Fork and the Cosden Refinery fire.

In 1993, the late Lahman Robinson recognized the elder Doc Jones’ photo. Pharmacist Bill Pittman worked at the Red Fork Drug as a young man. Fresh out of pharmacy school, his first Saturday, a deliveryman for Ray Rice, the bootlegger, came in to use the pay phone. While the man was on the phone, the car was put in neutral and pushed around the corner to Epworth Methodist Church. There the opportunist emptied it of its bottles for resale.

Orville Brown owned Red Ford Drug during this time. Pittman was there between 1959-62. For some reason, Brown permitted Rice to keep his receipts in the Red Fork Drug

safe, which was sunken in concrete. Pittman mentioned he didn't judge Brown for that. Red Fork Drug sold prescriptions and over-the-counter remedies and didn't sell much in the way of gifts, Pittman recalls. The big department stores across the river had the gift market.

In 1967, Dooley Drug purchased the Red Fork Drug Co. customer files. Today Dooley's customers include remnants of that early drug store, too. Pittman met Pauline Lambert, Cleo Epps, and Rice. "They were all nice people," despite what they did for income, Pittman recalled.

## Emerging Industries

### Mid Continent Rock Crusher

#### Mills Brothers Dairy

Joseph "Jody" Mills started a dairy on Mid-Co Road 2.5 miles from West Tulsa in 1921. His brother came in 1924 and together they ran the Mill Brothers Dairy. Alfred Mills and eight other siblings helped with the family business. Five other brothers died. Alfred said he arose at 3 a.m. daily to milk some of the 120 cows they kept. The dairy distributed throughout Tulsa.

In the mid-1950's, the City of Tulsa banned raw milk sales. People could still buy it by the gallon at the Mills dairy. It was at what would be today 44th W. Avenue and 21st Street. When Alfred was 22 or 23, he and another person went to drilling water wells, but the business wasn't too good. From 1945-49, he worked at the Mid-Continent Refinery. Then he spent 2.5 years at the Texaco. Then he established the Alibi Tavern in West Tulsa for 20 years from 1952-72. His work career ended with driving trucks for two different firms. "I don't regret one bit of it," he said.

## Worldwide Businesses

The westside area became famous for its heavy manufacturing businesses for many years. Operating out of Garden City were several heat exchanger fabrication companies.

In the area of TownWest were major businesses that produced goods for shipment around the world.

## Mom and Pop Surviving Community Bank

On Feb. 21, 1917 West Tulsa State Bank was organized, and for six months did business in a small frame building. But, soon a new brick bank building was ready at 17<sup>th</sup> and Quanah. It was nicknamed West Bank by the community. According to a historical feature about the bank by Katherine Andrews, "Throughout the economic boom of the 1920s, and even the Great Depression the small, home-town West Bank proudly served its small, but active community. "The financial condition of the bank dated Dec. 29, 1929 showed resources totaling \$442,751, almost a 632 percent increase over the \$70,041 in assets recorded on May 1, 1917."

Curtis F. Bryan, W.E. Green, Ed E. Hughes, F.S. Kallmeyer, France Paris, R.E. Smith and F.C. Tompkins were directors about then. The growth brought investors who bought it and rechartered the bank as Community State Bank of Tulsa on Jan. 14, 1952. In October 1952, board chair Bryan stepped down and Ed E. Hughes was elected, serving five years. C.L. Northcutt was elected to the Board of Directors and became president of the bank, served 13 years until his death.

Oct. 28, 1952, Community Bank moved to a new brick building at the site where it remains today. The building is only seven blocks from the original West Tulsa State Bank. Hughes stepped down as chairman of the board in 1956, and Bryan was elected to his place. In April 1957, expansion nearly doubled the bank size. A second floor was added to the west side of the building.

In 1966, the bank president job went to C.A. Hall. He became board chairman in 1968 and saw the completion of the Community Drive-In Television Bank on Aug. 13, 1969. Hall's death in 1972, left the position of Board chairman open for Finis W. Smith and Bill J. Lee became president. January 1977 the bank celebrated its Silver 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ground was broken for expansion, remodeling and renovation. Two years later, October, 1979, Community Bankshares of Tulsa became the principal owner with bank directors serving as holding company directors.

Then President Don Anderson recalled some area improvements, such as the Red Fork Expressway getting people to the bank quicker, west bank urban renewal, River Park's Zink Lake. South Bank was added in 1993 and East Bank in 1999. "The bank remains committed to being a good neighbor to its customers and to the beautification and progress of the area," Andrews said in closing. Wesley Harmon is now bank president.

## Crow's Grocery and Drive-In

Frances and Alvy Clinton Crow bought the corner lot on W. 41<sup>th</sup> where Crow's Drive-In is today in 1947. It was Crow's Grocery on the west half and the family living quarters on the east half. Uncle Joseph "Jody" Crow built the building where L&S Specialty Co. is now—2923 W. 40<sup>th</sup>. Built in the early 1950's, it served as Crow's Grocery. For a period, A.C. rented from Jody and paid Jody to be the butcher. The W. 40<sup>th</sup> site was leased to George Elder who had retired from MeadowGold Milk.

Robert Crow thinks George probably operated it as Elder's Grocery for 10 years. Back in the 1940's and '50's grocery stores offered credit for customers to buy groceries between paydays. Crow Grocery was full service – fresh meat, produce, canned goods etc. Then in the middle of the 1960's, the old store/residence was demolished and Crow's Drive-In was built. Edwin Suber laid the block bricks in the new structure.

Robert Crow graduated from Webster in 1957. He attended Porter Elementary and Clinton Junior High. Ninth grade was moved to Clinton in 1954, causing Robert to spend an extra year there. He said he didn't mind; he was having fun there. Clinton had enough students for the boys to have their own cooking class. The W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street overpass dampened the traffic to the grocery. The bonds were passed in 1948, but the overpass wasn't built until 1968, Crow said. Jody died in 1968.

Norma Lannon recalled the route to the store before the overpass. "You drove over the tracks and down 40<sup>th</sup> Street to 33 W. Avenue, turned south and then turned west again to 41<sup>st</sup>," she wrote. Her dad, Fred Lannon "always stopped there on the way home from work to pick up a loaf of bread, milk or other item," she said. Where Berry Mechanical is today used to be Crown Drug.

In 1988, Robert Crow and wife, the former Estella Suber, took over Crow's Drive-In. Robert retired from the Tulsa Police Department. He joined Red Fork Masons in 1966. Estella is active in Eastern Star. In 1919, when A.C. Crow was six months old, his father, John Crow was killed in a boiler explosion at the Cosden Refinery. Robert Crow called the westside "a pretty closeknit community." He agreed there was something special on the westside. He pointed out that the side of W. 41<sup>th</sup> with Clinton Middle School on it, is Carbondale. The Crow's Drive-In side, north, is Red Fork. Crow said he learned in school that it is called Red Fork because wagons carrying red dirt from west of here used to sift red down onto the dark soil here.

## Ed's Garage and Ed's Auto Parts

From the late 1950's to 1967 Ed Hicks operated Ed's Auto Parts at 4073 Southwest Boulevard. He had run Ed's Garage on the westside. for many years prior. According to daughter, Daisy Marie Hicks Harper, her mother would help in the store some and Ed would hire a young helper, too. The Hicks children would help with inventory. The

children graduated from Webster, Edwin Lavern in 1943, Daisy in 1946 and Geraldean Hicks in 1949. Ed Hicks was born near Oklahoma City and met his future wife in Avant. Daisy recalled that her dad had a leg amputated and her mom ran the store while he was in the hospital. When dismissed, they sent Daisy to rent a wheelchair. Ed had Daisy take him by the store and he stayed finished the day and didn't miss any work thereafter. Ed Hicks died in 1996. His son died in 1997.

## Fell Oil Company

Fell Oil Company started in 1941

5/8/02 Monte Hancock Morris B. Fell

Morris B. Fell is the founder and owner of the Fell Oil and Gas Company located at 4451 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street. The firm has been at that location since 1941. Fell has always been in the shadows of Southwest Tulsa and never sought to be a community leader nor tried to steal the spotlight. He has established himself as a permanent fixture and one that, "we on the westside can be proud of, just saying thanks for being here." He never gave up on the westside.

Morris Fell's dad was in the used pipe and supply business and the son was around the oil and gas business since he was a small child. His dad did a lot of business in the Osage country and would take him with him out into the fields. Morris got acquainted with the people and terminology in the oil business. He learned a lot about drilling hanging around his dad. The father helped him become a contractor and drill his first oil well when he was just 15 years old. Morris kept going from there to where he is today.

His company grew and he now has five different companies that he established for his children and wife. He has four daughters and founded the Four Queens Petroleum Corp for them. He managed the companies free of charge and supplied the funds to get them started. When asked about how he ended up in Southwest Tulsa, he said it was because he wanted to get into the pipe coating business and it was an ideal location with Route 66 and the Frisco Railroad running alongside the property, so he bought it.

World War II broke out soon after starting his pipe coating business and he was soon inducted into the Army. He thought his business days were over, but he was injured in a training exercise and came home on crutches. He got a release from the Army and started his pipe coating business again. His first job was a government contract coating pipes for a POW camp here in Oklahoma.

Fell has constructed several buildings on his property and is planning on improving them. He also plans to build a new warehouse. His big dream now is to turn one of his buildings into a museum where he can display some of his old oil field equipment so people can see what it took to produce oil and gas in days gone by.

Maybe school children of today will learn to appreciate more of what they have in their day and time. He also has a nice collection of Indian art that line his hallways and office walls. The art helps to preserve the culture of our Native Americans.

## Frank's Supermarket

### **Frank B. Baker remembered for supermarket**

Frank Bressley Baker was born Aug. 15, 1906 and died June 9, 1981. He was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery. He owned Frank's Supermarket in West Tulsa for nearly 30 years. Baker, 74, of 2505 W. 50<sup>th</sup> St., was born in Texas. He came to Tulsa with his family as a child. Following graduation from Central High School, he immediately went into the grocery business.

In 1932, he bought the original site for the grocery at 21<sup>st</sup> and Southwest Boulevard and operated there until in 1943, he moved the store west to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. A 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason, he was a member of the Red Fork Masonic Lodge. He also held positions locally and nationally in the International Order of Oddfellows. He was a member of West Tulsa United Methodist Church. He was survived by his wife Yvonne, and three brothers, W.G. Baker, Mason Baker and Harry Baker, all of Tulsa, according to an obituary.

## Hopkins Hardware & Variety

Robert J. "Pat" Hopkins and his wife, Margaret operated Hopkins Hardware and Variety. It was next to Red Fork Drug originally. Later, it was an L-shaped building that featured fabric as well as notions and hardware items, and extended behind the drug store. Also working there was Rudy Elaine Offield who retired from there. She was a member of the Dogwood Garden Club and Trinity Baptist Church.

The Oak Heights Home Extension Club used to exhibit their creations in the Hopkins display window for a period in the spring. The Hopkins's lived in the house on 40<sup>th</sup> Street, fourth lot from Union. Sandra Cott Beall remembers Hopkins was in place in 1952 and expanded to include fabrics by 1955.

Norma Lannon said the store was first run by Whitener, and the Hopkins era was after. She drew a sketch showing the fabrics and dry goods was behind Red Fork Drug and the hardware was between Red Fork Drug and a bar, all three on Southwest Boulevard. It was across the street from where Ollie's Station Restaurant is today. Born in Alabama, Margaret Hopkins had come to Tulsa at a young age with her widowed mother and two brothers. They lived in the original Widows Colony sponsored by the Sand Springs

Home. Margaret had attended Cottey Girls College in Missouri and taught high school for a few years. She also worked for Ford Motor Co. She and Pat were married 50 years. Pat Hopkins retired from the Tulsa Fire Department. He died first. She died Feb. 26, 1995. Their daughter Patty had a pet store in Crystal City.

### Alberty's feeds hungry Webster students

Lillie (Talley) Alberty started Alberty's Lunch Room in 1938 at 1916 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street, in Red Fork, across from Daniel Webster High School Auditorium, shortly after the home was built in December, 1937.

The first location was in the Sun Room, separated from the living room by French doors. Later it was moved to the basement entered from the west side. Mrs. Alberty served sandwiches, snacks, sodas, candy and cupcakes. The meat used was top grade. She purchased it in person at the wholesale meat warehouses in Tulsa where it was fresh ground. The menu consisted of hamburgers in the earlier years, then, other sandwiches were added to the menu.

Ground roast beef, ground ham, scrambled egg and her famous *hot meat* sandwich, which consisted of freshly ground round roast, onions, tomatoes, potatoes, and chili--all of which was baked. A liberal portion was served on a bun. Mrs. Alberty administered advice, counseling, discipline and affection, along with her delicious sandwiches.

Mrs. Alberty never allowed students to linger between classes in order to skip school. As a former schoolteacher that was not an option. The lunchroom was open for lunch only, but if a student should run across the street to buy a snack to go while she was working in the lunchroom, she would accommodate him. At various times Webster had a closed campus. Some of the faculty, such as Mr. Propps, who went on to be principal of Clinton Junior High, looked with suspicion at the students crossing the street.

Mrs. Alberty ordered a number of students out of the lunch room, banning them from ever returning, if they used foul language or misbehaved. At her daughter's 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion in 1996, a former classmate who had been banned for life, asked Mrs. Alberty, who was the daughter's guest if she were still mad at him? At 90, she still bristled over the incident 50 years later.

She was an honored guest at various class reunions. The last reunion Lillie attended in 1996, she was given a standing ovation. The class of '46 sent a final tribute, a wreath, to her funeral in July 1997. Former students often stopped by the Alberty house to visit. There were hundreds of requests for her hot meat sandwich recipe. A copy was furnished to those who asked and to various class reunions. The class of '53 served the "hot meat" sandwich and showed a video of Lillie Alberty, her home and other neighborhood businesses one year.

Other businesses:

Coulter's Funeral Home

The funeral home was located next to 41st Street Christian Church.

Carlton Florist was in Carbondale.

Cookie Jar Bakery was in the 1950's. It was on Southwest Blvd. between Beard's butchery and cold storage and Cantrell's Feed Store. Flossie Smith owned the Cookie Jar—she lived on W. 40th on the southside between 23rd W. Avenue and Zenophen.

# Chapter Thirteen: Westside Newspapers

## Early newspapers cover the Westside

The *Indian Chief* was the first newspaper of Tulsa established in 1884 when Tulsa was still a tent village. Ott Boone was the editor and operated out of a tent at Third and Main. He sold it to J.L Winegar, according to a history written by J.M. Hall and quoted by Nina Lane Dunn in “Tulsa’s Magic Roots.” Winegar made it a weekly and changed the name to *The Indian Republican*. Some early fathers thought he covered “lawlessness and violence” too much and didn’t promote the town’s advantages.

“Out of their dissatisfaction, he said, came the newspaper that is now known as *The Tulsa Tribune*,” she said. Jan. 24, 1886, *The New Era* printed a piece on the best advertising policy, saying “The better and broader policy is not to leave the labor and trouble of bringing people and business to your town to a few, but for all.” He wrote of Red Fork agent Barnes finding a hog cholera cure and H.C. Hall doing a booming business in Sapulpa. In 1895, Hall and 11 others pooled their resources and bought printing equipment. They started *The Tulsa New Era* and hired A.A. Powe as editor. The owners failed to make a profit.

They sold their equipment to R.L. Lunsford who published the paper under the name *The Tulsa Democrat*. Lunsford sold out to Dave Jessee in 1902 and Lunsford moved to Cleveland, I.T. Then William Stryker bought it and then Charles Page.

From 1903-1908, the Red Fork Derrick published newspapers that are on microfilm at the Southwest Tulsa Historical Society archives at 51<sup>st</sup> and Union. There are missing copies, however.

The first years of the 1900’s saw the *Tulsa Chief* staff working hard to cover Red Fork and West Tulsa. The Central Tulsa City-County Library has microfilm of newspapers back to 1906.

In 1907, the *Democrat* wrote that neither paper was making ends meet and that merchants should shell out to improve the situation. Richard Lloyd Jones bought the *Democrat* in 1919 and changed the name to *the Tulsa Tribune*.

The *Tri-City Record* was producing newspapers between 1920-21 and the archives has copies on microfilm.

Also in 1920, the *Inter-City Record* was in production and the Society has film.

## Gusher

### Red Fork Derrick

We have a couple of rolls of microfilm with early editions of the paper. There should be some interesting things to pull out for the readers.

### West Tulsa News

The West Tulsa News was a business paper, that later grew into the Tulsa Business News and The Tulsa County News.

### Tulsa County News

The name *Southwest Tulsa News* was given to the Southwest Tulsa weekly some 11 years ago. Bill Retherford bought *Tulsa County News* in 1965 and in 1990 renamed it. *Tulsa County News* had served the community since 1922. The News was the first of what became Neighbor Newspapers which has grown to some 20 newspapers.

*Southwest Tulsa News* covers news and features about government, crime, church, society, hobbies, schools and sports. It prints obituaries and letters to the editor. From January, 1997 to August, 2001, Anna F. Brown was editor and reporter. Prior to January, 1997, David M. Breed was editor. Ralph Schaefer, now a member of Retherford Publications administration, was also a former editor of Southwest Tulsa News.

### Community World, Westside

#### **Westside has feel of small town newspaper**

Targeted local, community and neighborhood-level coverage of Southwest Tulsa, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Mannford, and sections of Tulsa, Osage and Creek counties by the Tulsa World began in 1993 with the creation of the *Westside* section of the metropolitan area's largest daily newspaper.

Each Wednesday the *Westside* section, inserted in the Tulsa World newspapers sold throughout the western section of the metropolitan area, provides news and information tailored to the zone's readers. Information about activities in schools, churches, businesses, nonprofits and local governments, among others, fill each week's pages.

*Westside* provides the feel of a small-town newspaper by keeping readers informed on those local events that directly affect their lives.

The *Westside* staff does not step away from writing about controversial public issues, but it builds and advances community spirit and development. Our success as a newspaper rests upon the economic successes of the neighborhoods and of those people who live in them.

The *Westside* records the history of the zone in each story that it publishes. By tracking each year's school classes we give readers a window into the lives of students who will make up our new generation of leaders. At the same time, publishing such feature stories underscores the challenges faced by *Westside* educators. Similarly the *Westside* maintains an active dialogue with the zone's seniors. They know that the area's society would not be where it is today, without the sweat and blood of the generations that have preceded us. Publication of the stories about our elders helps preserve our past and provides readers guideposts for the future. The Tulsa World dedicates reporters and editors to providing news and information coverage of specific interest to *Westside* readers.

In addition, the main newsroom of the Tulsa World assigns reporters to keep track of events in the zone that affect people throughout the metropolitan area. This combination assures a broad sweep of stories ranging from breaking crime stories to personality profiles of beloved residents who live in the *Westside* zone. The *Westside* section recognizes the friendly rivalries that exist among residents of west Tulsa, Sand Springs and Sapulpa. Our emphasis is on following the news where it leads us. We neither target nor favor one political entity over another in our coverage.

Readers are encouraged to write, call or email our reporters and editors about events and news that occurs in the zone. Communication and cooperation between the newspaper and its readers assure that stories published in the *Westside* section are timely and relevant. We know that our future in this new millennium depends upon meeting the needs and interests of our *Westside* readers.

From Delbert Schafer, Editor  
Community World of the Tulsa World

## Southwest Tulsa News

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From January 1997 to August, 2001, Anna F. Brown was editor and reporter. Prior to January 1997, David M. Breed was editor. Ralph Schaefer, now a member of Retherford Publications administration, was also a former editor of Southwest Tulsa News. In late 2001, the publisher changed the name again to Tulsa County News. Don Hayden is now the editor.

## School Newspapers

School newspapers have long been a part of the education system. Many aspiring writers started their career covering sports, news and education at their school under close supervision of faculty staff members charged with keeping the content readable. Westside schools have had publications at various times dating back to the early high schools of Red Fork High and Clinton High.

### The Clintonian

Clinton High School's paper was called "The Clintonian". A few of the copies still exist in the hands of the society and former students.

### Webster

Webster High School has also had printed school news since the early years after it opened in 1938.

### Berryhill

## Church Newspapers

Westside churches have produced many styles of newsletters over the years. Most of the newsletters were started in the days of the mimeograph, with winding cranks to churn out the weeks news. The newsletters, when retained, often tell a very interesting history of the church as people are born, grow up, get married and pass on. Westside churches have a long standing population that seems to stay put more than other areas in the region.,



# Chapter Fourteen: Elected Officials

## Early Leaders

### **Brown, Frank and Mug**

The Brown brothers were well known.

Loyce Willins' Uncle Frank was the first mayor of Red Fork and her dad was on the Board of Trustees. The Red Fork resident said her dad and Uncle Frank were farm boys who came to the westside early after they heard of the Sue Bland No. 1 oil well coming in. They worked for the Uncle Sam Refinery. Francis Oscar Brown and Wrenar Marvin (Mug) Brown had a definite impact in early day government, law enforcement and commerce.

Later Uncle Frank was Street Commissioner for the town of Tulsa and held the job when Spavinaw was brought in for water and when Red Fork was annexed because of its need for water. It was during his term that the bonds for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge were voted. He was later police commissioner. Because of their connections, Tulsa Mayor T. A. Penney sometimes gave the Browns hockey tickets. Uncle Frank died in August, 1950. The Browns are buried in Carcoxie, Ark.

### **Atkins, Robert "Bob"**

Cozy Atkins dad was involved in early politics. Robert Atkins was lot of fun around his family and had lots of friends, but could be a stern. His daughter recalls that he was pronouncedly a law-abiding citizen. "Dad was honest about everything," she said.

In the early days, he was an U.S. Marshall's deputy. He was also Red Fork's first sheriff. Up until the 1940's others in law enforcement would come to him for information. He knew all the outlaws. Her mother would serve food to some of the outlaws sometimes. The outlaws liked Bob. "Things were just too wild, then," she said. Sometimes, people said he was a bounty hunter.

Asked if her dad missed cattle drives after he had turned to law enforcement, Cozetta Atkins said he did. She recalls when her dad was called out and her mom and the kids stayed upstairs, sometimes several days and nights. Her mom had a kerosene stove up there and plenty of potatoes and oatmeal.

### **Bland, Dr. J. C. W.**

Dr. John C.W. Bland was born in Centerville, Iowa on Nov. 7, 1860. He graduated from Missouri Medical College in 1883, and located in Dodge City, Kansas in 1884. Later that year, he moved to Tulsa, Creek Nation, Indian Territory.

In 1887, Dr. Bland married Miss Sue A. Davis, daughter of W.T. Davis of Tulsa, a well-known Creek family, according Dr. Fred S. Clinton. They had seven children: Vera, Era, Owen, Hazel, Arlies, Davis and John. In 1895, he moved his family to Red Fork where he raised stock and had a country practice. Dr. Clinton and Dr. Bland began practicing medicine together in 1895. "Dr. Bland was a courageous citizen, a good neighbor and a distinguished physician and surgeon," Dr. Clinton wrote in the Chronicles of Oklahoma. The article was "First Oil and Gas Well in Tulsa County."

Dr. Bland was appointed postmaster of Red Fork when James A. Parkinson moved his store. In 1900, Dr. Bland established a large, successful, general store in his town. In June 1901 Dr. Bland and Dr. Clinton brought in the first oil well in Tulsa County on his wife's allotment. The Indian Republican reported Dec. 1, 1905, that Dr. Bland's home and its contents were destroyed by fire. "This makes the third time in the past few years that such a calamity has befallen Dr. Bland."

In September 1907 Dr. Bland was looking into a waterpower plant on the Arkansas River. Dr. Bland, Drs. J.O. Callahan and G.R. Rucker, made up the first Board of Creek Nation Medical Examiners. Callahan was of Muskogee and Rucker of Eufaula.

Dr. Bland was also a member of the Indian Territory Medical Association and of the American Associate. He was a charter member and the first president in 1906 of the Tulsa County Medical Society. He was a member of the Oklahoma State Medical Association and a local surgeon for the Frisco Railway. For many years, Bland served as a member of the U.S. Board of Pension Examiners.

Feb. 25, 1910, the Tulsa Chief reported that Mrs. Susan Bland died after a short illness. She was buried at Oak Lawn Cemetery. "She was an estimable woman and universally admired," the article said. Her husband consulted at and operated at the original Tulsa Hospital. Dr. Bland assisted in treating influenza patients in the 1918 epidemic. Also buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery in Tulsa, Dr. Bland died Jan. 2, 1923.

## **Bland, Owen**

## **Clinton, Dr. Fred**

## **Patton, Dan W. and J. Gus**

J. Gus Patton was a government townsite surveyor in early day Tulsa. His brother, Dan W. Patton, came to assist his brother on Aug. 11, 1901. Together they came up with the alphabetical plan for naming streets. Later Dan Patton was Mayor of Tulsa from 1928-

30. As mayor, Dan W. Patton signed a 1928 agreement outlining purchase of land for a new paved boulevard. Frank O. Brown also signed it. “The Tulsa Hospital was located at the west end of Fifth Street in Grandview Addition to the City of Tulsa. “However the rapidly increasing traffic on this highway through West Tulsa had a narrowing bottleneck which was arresting the progress of Tulsa, increasing the danger of fire trucks and creating fire hazards in West Tulsa,” Dr. Fred Clinton wrote. He said Tulsa Hospital and Oklahoma Hospital of which he was president were only a block apart and that he owned property on West Fifth – so he supported and aided the plan.

A Tulsa Tribune article about the time of Dan W. Patton’s death, said, “Until the little town outgrew the system, the general plan was for all streets east of Main to be named after cities east of the Mississippi and streets west after cities west of the river. “Streets north also run through the alphabet and many are named after notable person’s in Tulsa’s history,” it said. “To the south numbers are used.”

It said the older Patton surveyed Red Fork and “there named a street after himself.” It said the street is in the path of the Red Fork expressway and has been abandoned. However, a block does remain near the railway overpass between Southwest Boulevard and W. 41<sup>st</sup>. Some streets are named for states and some for Indian tribes. A Coffeyville, Kansas contractor, W.A. Stuckey, got the job of paving First Street with brick in 1906.

From 1903-1907, J. Gus Patton was city engineer, and from 1944-48, Dan W. Patton was city engineer.

## **Hall, Guy**

### **Guy Hall, Jr.**

Guy Hall first ran for public office in 1956 and was Tulsa’s Street Commissioner until 1964. He also served as Tulsa County Election Board Secretary from 1969 to 1974. He had operated Hall Development Company since 1964, through it building many westside homes and subdivisions.

In 1975, he became property manager for the State Office Building in Tulsa, retiring in November 1984. He died Feb. 28, 1986 at the age of 68. His funeral was held at St. Catherine’s Catholic Church and he was buried in Calvary Cemetery. Hall was born in Baird, Texas and moved to Red Fork in 1924, where his parents owned and operated the Red Fork Telephone Exchange.

In 1930, Guy Hall, Jr., his dad and J.W. Evans, a Red Fork builder, constructed and operated Hall's Court on the site of the old Sunset Camp, a recreation park and pool. The motel operated for 38 years at the site.

Hall was a 1935 Clinton High School graduate and completed studies at the University of Tulsa in 1939. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1940-45, becoming a Master Sergeant. He married Lillian Gaudet on Oct. 29, 1942. The Halls had five children, Dennis and Ellen Hall, and Guy Ann Miller, all of Tulsa and John and Phillip Hall of Norman. Guy Hall, Jr. was survived by 12 grandchildren.

In 1956, Hall helped organize and was the charter president of Southwestulsans, Inc., a Westside Chamber of Commerce organization. One acquaintance said if Guy Hall wasn't emcee at the annual banquets, people were disappointed. "He didn't miss many of them, however, and knowing he was going to emcee helped in getting a good turnout," the person said. He was a member of Red Fork Lions, and had served as president. He was on the Westside YMCA Committee on Management.

He was a lifelong Democrat and served a first district Democratic Party chair. "He was a conservative, unassuming man, content with the simple things in life. He had great interest in government, his country and his community, but most of all he had great interest in his family and friends," a family member said.

He was instrumental in clearing the way for Westside expressway improvements and organized the first street advisory committee of civic and professional groups representatives—a forerunner of the Tulsa City County Bond Advisory Committee. "*I think in preceding years, the voters had been unwilling to approve street improvement bond issue because they felt they were voting bonds for certain sections of the city and many of them felt left out,*" he was quoted as saying. The committee proposed an \$8 million bond issue and got 75 percent approval. "I think the people were made to feel they had a part in the government and I'm proud of that." He said he pushed too hard sometimes and could have been more diplomatic, but he got things moving that way. Even after four terms as street commissioner, he left the post with no bitterness.

## **Hoffman, Oris**

At one time Garden City had its own mayor and jail. It was annexed into the City of Tulsa at 11:50 p.m. on June 30, 1950. On the night of the annexation, Garden City Mayor, Oris C. Hoffman, turned the town's money, records and town's seal to Tulsa city officials, including Mayor George Stoner.

Garden City's government was in the hands of a board composed of representatives of the three wards. The members of the board are Oris Hoffman, Frank Springer and Neal B. Tilley.

Newspaper reports indicate Hoffman went to the Tulsa city hall with an arm load of books and records relative to the town's business affairs. "While I am here, Mayor Hoffman said, I'll write out a check for the amount of cash our town has on hand." The check was for \$2,437.98. Hoffman ended three years of service as Garden City Mayor when he turned over the records. He commented that he would be going back to his full-time job at the Mid-Continent Petroleum Company.

The town's 793 residents had mixed emotions about losing their identity and becoming part of the City of Tulsa. Among those supporting the annexation into Tulsa were Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Zeigler, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel O. Coffey and O. L. West. They circulated the petition for the annexation, supported by Carl Fite, who served as mayor of Garden City for four years.

Opposing the annexation were Mayor Oris Hoffman and H.C. Schultz, who was mayor for 12 years. Schultz made a fiery speech against annexation when the first meeting was held on the question in McBirney School. There are still families related to the original settlers residing in the community, second, third, fourth and even fifth generations. Even though the community has declined in recent years, there is still a strong bond between the residents.

## State Senators, District 31

The westside area of Tulsa was represented by senate district 31 during the early years of the legislature in the state of Oklahoma. In 1965, the legislature added new districts, and the westside senate district was split between district 33, covering the area of West Tulsa, and the lower areas by district 37.

**1907-1910, P. J. Yeager (D)**

**1911-1914, A. F. Vandeventer (D)**

**1915-1922, R. L. Davidson (D)**

**1923-1926, Wash E. Hudson (D)**

**1927-1930, C. H. Terwilleger (R)**

**1931-1934, S. M. Rutherford (D)**

**1935-1942, Henry C. Timmons (D)**

**1943-1946, Clyde L. Sears (R)**

**1947-1958, Arthur L. Price (R)**

**1959-1962, Yates A. Land (D)**

**1963-1964, Dewey F. Bartlett (R)**

State Senators, District 33

**1965-1972, Ed Bradley (D)**

**1973-1988, Rodger Randle (D)**

**1989-2001, Penny Williams (D)**

State Senators, District 37

The senate district probably had more earlier senators, but I wasn't able to find them yet. We should include their years of service and a photo of each.

**1965-1982, Finis Smith (D)**

A member of the state senate, Finis Smith had some big goals in the 1960's and early 1970's. He worked hard in the senate to create Tulsa Junior College, the Tulsa branch of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, the State Office Buildings located in the Civic Center complex and the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Believing thousands of Tulsans were missing college for lack of a low-cost facility at home, Smith was working on a junior college in Tulsa from the 1964 election.

Tulsa was the largest city in the U.S. without a public higher education facility within commuting distance. He authored legislation for a study of the need and benefit potential in a Tulsa County junior college as a freshman senator.

The community colleges in Dallas and Maricopa County, Arizona became the model. In 1968, he was a member of a committee putting together a statewide building bond issue.

He asked that \$5 million be included in the bond issue for a Tulsa college. With Smith poised as the next Senate President Pro Tempore, the committee accepted the amendment.

The TJC portion was only a small part of the total bond election. Some of the other legislators thought that something for Tulsa, could help pass the bonds.

The goal was a multi-campus facility, distributed geographically. "I wanted to be sure that a campus would eventually be located on the west side of the county so the enabling legislation was written to require that satellite campuses had to be located in the North, West, East and South sections of the county in that order," he said.

"History teaches us that the promises to extend public facilities to the North and West areas of Tulsa County were often ignored," he said.

The Tulsa Urban Renewal Authority published a plan for revitalizing the Westside. It set aside a 40 acres tract near the west end of the 11<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge for use as a campus.

The Tulsa Junior College legislation required the local community to donate the campus land.

TURA estimated the cost would be \$150,000 and it would be a year before the land could be offered to TJC.

The junior college opened in temporary quarters. In February, 1968 the Tulsa Tribune published an editorial asking that TJC become a reality at the "earliest possible date."

"And no where in Oklahoma are there more high school graduates unable to attend college than in Tulsa," it said.

Smith challenged Southwestulsans, Inc. in June 1968 to form a fundraising committee to buy a westside track for TJC. Guy Hall, former street commissioner was chair.

Clyde Butler, a realtor, and Community Bank owner Curtis Bryan were committee members. Bryan pledged the first \$25,000.

One of the Regents of Higher Education, G. Ellis Gable, said that once a site or sites surfaced, the local regents would select the actual site.

The committee met its goal in a few days. Smith spoke to Rotary, Lions, Sertoma clubs, P.T.A meetings and Chambers of Commerce to keep up interest in a local junior college. Voters approved the bond issue Dec. 10, 1968.

As the 1969 legislature opened, Smith felt the college was on good footing.

He worked closely with Dr. E. T. Dunlap.

The enabling legislation passed both legislative houses in the original form. The governor signed the bill in 1969 and appointed a Board of Regents for TJC that hired Dr. Al Phillips.

The temporary quarters were set up in the vacant Sinclair building. Rep. Bill Poulos tried to block the opening of the college there, preferring a site in his district near the airport.

The House passed the Poulos measure supported by rural legislators. Smith pledged to have the TJC doors open in 1970. He put \$750,000 operating funds plus \$230,000 in the Higher Ed appropriation bill where it was safe. The doors opened in fall 1970. It was thought that we might proceed with funding a new school on the 40 acres in the future after TJC was open.

It developed that Dr. Phillips was able to negotiate a purchase of the building.

It was obtained at a bargain price and became the core building for TJC. While this was being done, we started the ball rolling to get the Osteopathic College located on the 40 acres.

This was done by the use of money from the capital improvements bond issue. Dr. Barson, president of the Osteopathic College wanted and used all the 40 acres.

The only facility of OCOMS that is located off the campus is the Teaching Clinic near Community Bank that was first named the Finis Smith Teaching Clinic.

One of the side benefits of the change of schools to be located on the 40 acres is that the local community did not have to buy the land for OCOMS.

As it turned out, the committee of Southwestulsans did not have to put up any funds for establishment of either school.

## Osteopathic College

Early in 1970, Dr. Dunlap told Smith that he thought the Regents were ready to open a Tulsa branch of the medical school, but wanted the legislature to pass a resolution to request they do it.

A concurrent resolution passed. In 1971, Smith became a lame duck President Pro Tem and was looking for a safe harbor for some of his biggest projects.

“The key to establishing a new public institution...is to get an operational appropriation or a line as we called it in a general appropriations bill,” he wrote. Bureaucracies live forever, he mused.

“I knew I could get the start up money for the college because of my position as President Pro Tem, but I felt I should get another Senator to take the lead on the enabling bill...” he said.

He picked Jim Hamilton, the next President Pro Tem.

“Senator Hamilton was not only politically strong, but he was dedicated to the proposition of creating an Osteopathic College in Tulsa,” Smith said.

## State Offices

Smith had been working on a State Office Building in Tulsa three years. He sought \$10 million in revenue bonds for constructing the building in the Civic Center.

The bill passed the Senate, but in the House, it was assigned to the Municipal Government committee chaired by Poulos.

The committee approved the bill, but it hadn't been put on the House docket for final action.

Poulos wanted a tax break for small oil producers in exchanged.

Smith let it appear the bill had been defeated, then attached it in an amendment to a housekeeping measure on a bill changing interest rates on revenue bonds.

Since it was a conference committee report, it couldn't be amended, Smith said.

## 1981-1986, Robert “Bob” Hopkins (D)

Robert E. Hopkins served in the State Senate from 1981-86. See more information about his career under Robert E. Hopkins in the State House.

## **1987-1988, David Riggs (D)**

David Riggs was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1970, and in 1986 was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. He served 18 years in the State Legislature, retiring in 1988 to practice law full time.

Now he is the senior partner of the Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison & Lewis law firm which has offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Muskogee and Denver.

He maintains a general law practice with an emphasis on civil litigation. He and three other TU Law School graduate established the firm in 1972.

David and his wife, Arleen, live in Osage County north of Sand Springs. They have five adult children and seven grandchildren. He remains active in civic affairs in the Tulsa area and is a board member on various public service organizations.

His public service has generated awards from more than 25 organizations, including the ACLU, the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission, the Oklahoma Press Association, and the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

He was born in Sand Springs in 1937. He attended Sand Springs Public Schools, graduating in 1955.

He received his Bachelor of Arts from Phillips University in 1959, majoring in English and philosophy and earned a master's in philosophy from Oklahoma University in 1962.

David worked at the Tulsa County Juvenile Court from 1960-70, first as a counselor of delinquent and neglected children and later as an administrator and referee of the court.

He attended law school in the evening division of the TU School of Law during his time at Juvenile Court, obtaining his law degree in 1968. He ranked first in his class academically and was editor-in-chief of the Tulsa Law Journal.

## **1989-1999, Lewis Long, Jr. (D)**

## **2000-2001, Nancy Riley, (R)**

In November 2000, Nancy Riley was in a race for elected office and was elected to serve in Senate District 37.

She is on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Social Services, Education, Tourism and Recreation, Transportation and Wildlife.

A former teacher, Riley taught first grade at Hoover Elementary in Tulsa.

Born June 20, 1958, Riley is the daughter of Charles and Sabrina Nix Moore.

She attended Holmes Elementary, Wright Junior High and graduated from Edison High School in 1976.

She attended Oklahoma Christian College for three years, got married, had two children and was a fulltime mother and homemaker.

Then her first husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. During his 18-month illness, the family had to take food stamps and welfare.

When he died, she got a job as a teacher assistant and went back to college at University Center at Tulsa.

After a year and a half, working and going to college, she received a teaching degree and met and married Jerry Riley.

She and Jerry had three children, Daniel, Robin and Patrick. They live in Rolling Oaks.

Members of Highland Park Christian Church, Jerry and Nancy helped start Stonewood Park Christian Church near Berryhill.

In campaign literature, she was concerned about the availability of illegal drugs; domestic violence and child abuse, and worried for today's families and children in foster care.

She has been president of the Rolling Oaks Homeowners Association.

She unseated Lewis Long, D-37, 12,641 to 12,376.

Long filed a libel suit against the Oklahoma Christian Coalition for its Voters' Guide that he felt may have cost him the election.

## State Representatives, District 68 (North of West 61<sup>st</sup> St)

There had to be more representatives. I think there was a split in districts that gave the westside their own district 68 about the time Bob Hopkins started in office.

### **1959-62 and 1965-82 At Large, Robert E. Hopkins (D)**

Robert E. Hopkins served in the State House from 1959-62 and 1965-82, in the State Senate from 1981-1986, and on the Corporation Commission from 1986 until Aug. 1, 1991.

He retired from the Corporation Commission, during investigation of allegations that he took a \$10,000 bribe from a Southwestern Bell attorney.

In 1994, Hopkins and former Southwestern Bell attorney William Anderson received 33 months in federal prison each and both were fined. Hopkin's fine was more than \$71,000.

The Associated Press quoted him as saying, "I certainly disagree with what the judge said. I disagree with the findings of the jury. And I apologize for the embarrassment it's caused to my family and friends.

Robert was the son of former Tulsa County Commissioner Harry Hopkins and Mildred Ida (Kitchen) Hopkins. He was born Feb. 3, 1929.

As a young man, he loved the rodeo and was a bareback rider, bull rider, rodeo clown and entertained with his trained mule. He later became a rodeo announcer which he continued doing until the 1970s.

Bob Hopkins graduated from Webster High School. He was a treasurer and president of the Tulsa County League of Young Democrats.

He worked at the Texaco refinery and served in the Marine Corps from 1946-48. He was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, belonging to Red Fork Lodge 505 and the Scottish Rite Foundation.

He had married Elsie M. Scoggins on Nov. 15, 1947 in Bristow. They had two sons, Marvin Lee and Michael Leon Hopkins. The couple divorced in 1951, although Hopkins remained attentive to his sons.

During his first campaign for the House, he met Frances Yandell. They married July 28, 1967.

His Senate District included parts of Tulsa, Creek, and Pawnee Counties.

“In 1986, Hopkins ousted a fellow Democrat in a surprise runoff victory for a seat on the Corporation Commission,” a Tulsa World obituary said. He died May 15, 1997.

He was proud of accomplishments on the Roads/Highways Committee and assisting police and fire fighters. He listed statewide 911 access, victims rights and compensation; extended area telephone service; a Tulsa office for the Corporation Commission; and measures to prevent pollution and computer piracy.

He was survived by widow, Frances; sons, Marvin and Michael; a brothers, John L. Hopkins and wife Billie; and Harry L. and wife Joan.

The grandchildren were Shawn Smith; Kara Denae Hopkins; and Michelle Woods. The great-grandchildren were Brody Smith and Maranda Hopkins.

He was buried in the Veteran’s Section at Memorial Park Cemetery, following a funeral at West Tulsa Free Will Baptist.

## 1983-1988, Jay Logan (D)

### **1989-1998, Shelby Satterfield (D)**

A native of Tulsa, Shelby Satterfield moved to the Berryhill community in 1959.

He graduated from Berryhill High Schools, attending both Tulsa Junior College and Oklahoma State University.

He served four years in the U.S. Navy as an airplane electrician during the Vietnam War.

Shelby and his wife, Beverly, have three children, Thad, Shelly and Jan.

The former Representative is president of Big 8 Real Estate, which he started in 1976.

He has been active on the westside. He is past president of the Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and he is a 1995 graduate of Leadership Oklahoma.

In 1988, Westside YMCA Executive Director Jay Logan defeated Satterfield by 130 votes in the House Direct 68 race.

In a rematch two years later, Satterfield won by 500 points, citing the Sand Springs vote as the deciding factor.

Satterfield served through the 1990’s, but was beaten in 1998 by Republican Chris Benge.

Satterfield helped in securing the Oakhurst Fire Station, helped equip the Berryhill Fire Station, school reform and worked on the expansion of highways on the westside.

In a 1998, questionnaire, Satterfield was asked what would enhance the economic potential of Southwest Tulsa.

“Complete the (Gilcrease) Expressway and Sand Springs and the westside’s economic development will be unbelievable,” he said.

Asked about special qualities of the westside, Satterfield said, “Southwest Tulsa is a close-knit community that still takes pride in its schools, churches, and sport activities.

“This must be preserved by controlled growth, both in residential and commercial, so the qualities we most love, will not disappear.”

## **1999-2001, Chris Benge, (R)**

Chris Benge is moving fast. He managed a small family owned painting and construction business, is a sales representative at Cintas Corp., and was elected to the Oklahoma Legislature in 1998 as representative of House District 28.

Benge currently serves on the General Conference Committee for Appropriations to Education, Vice Chairman of Retirement Laws committee, also serving on committees of Economic Development, Career Tech Education, and appropriations subcommittee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

He worked on a special legislative task force to restructure hospital funding formula in order to bring more Medicaid dollars to Tulsa hospitals.

Benge also introduced and worked on legislation to put more funding into road maintenance and construction, to provide tax relief to lower and middle income taxpayers by raising the state standard deductions, and impose stiffer penalties for sexual predators.

The Benge family was established on the westside in 1927 when his grandpa, George Benge came to Tulsa by train from Lawton, after serving in the guard.

Grandpa Benge had to spend his first night in Reed Park sleeping on the ground. He later was married and raised eight children in old West Tulsa and Red Fork.

Chris Benge is married to Allison. They have two children: Garrett age 8, Hayden age 5. Chris is a graduate of Daniel Webster High School in 1980

“I am honored to be able to represent the community in which I was raised in the Oklahoma Legislature.

“I am grateful for being raised on the Westside, and also for living in this country,” he said.

“I would like to submit a newspaper article I wrote on some thoughts I had after the September 11, 2001 tragedy in New York City:

**The horrific events of September 11<sup>th</sup> have brought a surge in patriotism to citizens of our country. The violation against life and property which occurred on our soil that day has caused many to reflect on what our nation is all about, and to take inventory of our priorities.**

**This would be a good opportunity to teach the younger generation what it means to live in a nation that highly values the liberties and rights of its people. It would be a good time to revisit and appreciate the ideas put forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.**

**Another document which has often been overlooked would be a statement entitled, “The American’s Creed.”**

**On April 3, 1918, the U.S. House of Representatives officially accepted this statement, which has been referred to as “ the best summary of American political faith.” The statement reads as follows:**

**“I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the**

**governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.**

**I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.”**

Thank God for America. It is my hope that we all will understand what it means to be an American, and never take for granted the blessings and liberties He has given us to enjoy.”

## State Representatives, District 71 (South of West 61<sup>st</sup> St)

**1965-1976, Warren E. Green (R)**

**1977-1982, Helen Arnold (R)**

**1983-1988, Bill Clark (R)**

**1989-1992, Rob Johnson (R)**

**1993-2001, John Sullivan (R)**

Elected to United States House of Representatives on January 8, 2002, to fill the seat of Congressman Steve Largent. Congressman Largent ended his term to run for Governor of Oklahoma. Many think the special election was maneuvered by Governor Frank Keating to support his wife’s run for the seat. Kathy Keating started the campaign with a big lead in name recognition, but was defeated in the primary election by John Sullivan.

## Tulsa County Commissioners, District 2

**1930-1932, Bohnefeld, W. O. (D), Tulsa**

William O. Bohnefeld served two years as District 2 County Commissioner, serving from July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1933. He lived almost three decades after office.

He died March 14, 1961 and is buried at Rose Hill. At his death, he was called a “dry cleaning pioneer.”

Bohnefeld operated Bohnefeld Cleaners and Hatters from 1905 to 1937. It was housed at 314 S. Cincinnati in a building he built.

Born in Guadeloupe County, Texas, he lived in Abilene and Waco before coming to Tulsa in 1905.

Bohnefeld, a widower, married Ruby Lee Wells in Broken Arrow in 1934. The children were Betty Lou born in 1936 and William Oscar, Jr. born in 1938.

In 1944, he organized the Tulsa Cleaners and Hatters Association and was made its executive secretary and business manager. He served until 1953.

Also in 1953, he and Mrs. Bohnefeld sold 57 acres to be the future Cecille Bales Park. It was originally Turkey Mountain Tract. Improvements were made in 1975.

Bohnefeld was also past president of the National Cleaners and Hatters Association. He also had interests in loans, real estate and oil.

In 1960, he sought commercial zoning for 12 acres on the south of W. 51<sup>st</sup> St., part of his ranch. Guy Hall, Jr. opposed the plan. The City Commission finally refused.

Part of the decision was the plan of Tulsa Public Schools for a future middle school, Henry Clay Middle School.

Today that site is listed at 25<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue and W. 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Also an interchange between the then U.S. 66 bypass was on federal plans for that site.

His hobbies were breeding and raising Registered Jersey Cattle, hunting and Boy Scouts. He attended Phoenix Avenue Baptist Church and Immanuel Baptist Church.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Akdar Temple and Hi Twelve Club.

As County Commissioner, he urged widening of Charles Page Boulevard and construction of the Sand Spring levee, both of which began in his term.

In a Tulsa Tribune questionnaire in June 1940, he wrote,

“There are two projects in District No. 2 which would have my support, one one of them is the completion of the levy road to Sand Springs with an overpass over the railroad at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, so as to make this drive a continuations of our present River Side Drive. The other would be the widening of the Sapulpa Road to a four lane traffic highway from West Tusla to 51<sup>st</sup> Street, possibly to the town of Oakhurst, provided sufficient federal and state aid could be obtained.”

He lived at 5265 S. Union Avenue.

## **1932-1934, Bridges, H. E. (D), Tulsa**

By the time H.E. Bridges was elected District 2 Tulsa County Commissioner 1932-34, he already had reams of experience in real estate and banking. He served one term, but left office before it expired.

One of the things he apparently addressed was the make-work call. The federal government wanted to put people to work in November 1933.

District 2 men were to report to the West Tulsa Police Station at 7 a.m. Monday, the Tribune reported Nov. 19.

Part of the Make Work was drainage work in Red Fork and West Tulsa. Laying lines under the Arkansas River was another project.

The workers were to get at least \$12 a week. The city, county and school board were all vying for the free labor, according to a Nov. 23, 1933 Tribune article.

His wife, Hattie, was ill during this time.

He succeeded William Bohnefeld and was followed by Harry Hopkins.

Hopkins during the Depression was named federal relief administrator and directed the Civil Works Administration.

Discord and unrest during 1933 included a City Water Commissioner indicted for embezzling, and the U.S. Senate was investigating insider profits made without cash, involving Sinclair Oil.

Some people were tired of Prohibition and efforts were being made to have a bill ready for Congress in January 1934 to throw it out.

General Hugh Johnson was coming to town to explain the National Recovery Act.

## **1934-1938, Hopkins, Harry L. (D), Tulsa**

Harry L. Hopkins was the Tulsa County Commissioner for District 2 from 1934-38.

He was a Democrat who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of H.E. Bridges and was beaten by George Shepard in 1938.

He died at 45 of a cerebral hemorrhage before he could run for sheriff in 1940.

He had been inspecting pigs for possible purchase when stricken. Ten days before he died, he suffered what the newspapers called "a serious back injury trying to lift a heavy pump from a lake near his home."

Hopkins' term was in the height of the depression when soup lines were in place at the West Tulsa Fire Station, and 11th bridge.

Harry L. Hopkins achievements in office included building the levee along the Arkansas River between Tulsa and Sand Springs and laying the groundwork for the levee on Polecat Creek near Jenks.

Hopkins had come to Tulsa in 1916 to work for the late Charles Page, Sand Springs philanthropist.

He fought in World War I and then worked for Public Service Company.

Hopkins married Mildred Ida Kitchen. Their son Robert E. Hopkins was a State Representative and State Senator. Other children were sons, John L. and Harry L. and daughters Lillian Gray and Gerry Spivey.

He belonged to the Masonic Lodge, White Shrine, Knights of Pythias, Dokeys and the Odd Fellows Lodge.

He had at one time been a Methodist.

Son Robert was buried at Memorial Cemetery in 1997. His sisters and parents had preceded him in death.

Son John said the father was an outgoing, amiable man. Even with five kids of his own, Harry would buy children shoes to wear on their feet instead of gunnysacks. Their parents were "tickled to death."

He would take a family two or three bales of hay to feed the livestock.

In a tribute written by Nella Gentis Short, she gave incidents where he offered to pay the medical bills for those seriously ill and for a funeral plot for someone who was broke.

He bought groceries for another family and provided glasses for one of their children.

"If he had an extra dollar he would give it away. When he died the money died, too. My mother, myself, and my two younger brothers started to run the farm because we had no money at all," John wrote.

"After about three years, we sold the farm. I worked at odd jobs and my mother found a job in defense work and somehow, we made it fine."

His father was a strong union man who had worked at Mid-Continent Petroleum before he was elected to office.

During the refinery strike, Harry would visit with the picketers to see if they needed anything.

The county budget was meager and most of the roads were dirt or gravel. "The times were very, very difficult," John said. Hopkins, with J.B Gray and John Miller, would "rob Peter to pay Paul."

Pay for a county commissioner was \$200 a month. John said that was "fantastic," especially when you consider WPA wages were \$1 a day.

John and his two older sisters graduated from Webster. John was class of 1944.

After leaving office, he was a farmer and cattle buyer.

The family lived three miles west of Red Fork. They later bought land and moved to a house at the deadend on W. 41st. The children walked to Red Fork to attend Park school.

## **1938-1940, Shepard, G. H. (R), Tulsa**

George H. Shepard was County Commissioner in District 2 from 1938-40. He was Republican.

He had been an oilfield contractor and owned the Tulsa Tourist Courts. "George Shepard ran for county commissioner and was elected," Truman F. Mikles quotes Crit Schmidtt as saying in a Sept. 7, 1989 Tulsa County News article.

Shepard was a resident at 3445 S. Santa Fe, his daughter Ida Shepard Crow recalled.

The Interurban stop at 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue was called Fuller-Walker Junction. Truman Mikles recalls that Shepard lived just south of the hotel, had a tourist court, a camping ground and a pig stand.

In an autumn 1928 boating accident, Shepard's wife, Minnie, her brother-in-law and four of his daughters--Dannie, Imogene, Georgie and Charlotte- drowned. Willie and George had been in the boat, but survived. The four girls who died were under the age of 10.

Surviving children were Willie and baby twins, Ida and Ina who had stayed with a grandmother that day.

George later remarried a woman named Gussie who had cared for the twins. George and Gussie had two sons, George and David.

Ida grew up and married J.L. Crow. In 1988 she headed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Webster High School. From her childhood, she recalled gypsies would rent camping space her dad had. She was fascinated by their culture.

Ina died several years before the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June, 1988. "She would have loved being here. Ina loved people and had a lot of friends here. Yes, she certainly will be missed," Ida wrote in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary newspaper supplement.

In that supplement, Willie Shepard-Dodd wrote from Laytonville, Calif. "Miss (Claire) Nowatski never married, but gave her love to her students. She was always ready to take me to a ballgame or wrestling match and more often than not, to her home for the night."

"My mother had died in 1928 and I very much needed someone to love, too."

McBirney Principal George Shipman and wife, Neva, lived with their children in a house owned by George Shepard.

## **1940-1946, Greer, Curtis (D), Sand Springs**

Democrat Curtis Greer served three terms as District 2 County Commissioner. Having succeeded G.H. Shepard, Greer was in office 1940-46.

In 1946, John Couch replaced him. Greer championed the Sand Spring levy that prevented Arkansas River flooding, and said he took District 2 roads from deplorable to "second to none in the state."

He was born in Versailles, Ky.; he went to school there and worked in his father's tobacco plantation with his three brothers. He had five sisters.

Greer came to Oklahoma in 1907, with his father who had contracted to operate the Lost City Rock Crusher.

The children attended school at Berryhill. Curtis sold newspapers and magazines, worked at a dairy, clerked in a grocery store, at a laundry and in the oil fields.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1910 and was posted to Fort Logan, Col. and Fort Yellowstone in Wyoming. The cavalrymen escorted stagecoaches to protect them from assault by robbers. While in the Army, he met Elizabeth Tracy of Superior, Wisconsin. They married in Tulsa, Oct. 23, 1913.

He was discharged in 1913 and returned to operate the rock crusher at Sand Springs Lake. He became Chief of Police. He was six feet tall and 240 pounds.

In 1918, Greer started an Auto Supply business. Three years later, he bought the ice factory, renaming it Greer Ice Co.

The Greers had three daughters. They were Ollie Ray, 1919, Mary Elizabeth, 1921 and Margaret Esther in 1928.

In 1923, he sold the ice firm and tried the oil business. Returning to Sand Springs in 1925, he and W. C. West went into the grocery business. In three years, he bought out his partner. He opened second and third grocery stores.

He owned a ranch in the Osage Hills that provided eggs, poultry and meat for his grocery stores. He also liked to camp there.

Greer was chief of the Sand Springs Volunteer Fire Department four years. He belonged to the Lions' Club, the American Legion and the Baptist Church.

One of his brothers was killed in action at St. Mihiel, France in World War II.

As a county commissioner, he got crosswise with the other two commissioners when he bought \$284 in draperies, rug and a desk for his new courthouse suite. He gave his old desk to his secretary, Mrs. Clara K. Smith.

The other two commissioners refused to pay the bills. Greer was quoted in the Tulsa World on Oct. 31, 1941 as saying, "It will be safer for both of you to mind your own business."

He said Commissioner Ralsa F. Morley was conducting his private business from his courthouse office.

January 31, 1942, Pigskin Davis Furniture and Tulsa Stationery Store filed suit to receive payment for the office furnishings.

Common Pleas Judge Grady B. Cornett awarded the uncontested claim against the county, however, Commissioners J.B. Gray and Morley weren't summoned. The judgement was vacated.

They accused the county attorney of falling down on the job.

He said in 1942, that 124 miles of dirt roads were oiled, 600 large and small culverts were built, rebuilt or repaired and traffic improvements were made to the “vital industrial areas of Sand Springs and West Tulsa.”

He was a smoker. Sept. 26 1945, he was taken to Hillcrest hospital following a heart attack at home.

He retired to Corpus Christi in 1947, and died there at 65 years following a stroke. Mrs. Greer died in Sand Springs April 10, 1982. She was 88.

## **1946-1950, Couch, John (D), Glenpool 1946 Jenks 1948**

John O. Couch was born Feb. 13, 1895 and died March 5, 1974 at the age of 79. He was District 2 Tulsa County Commissioner from July 1947 to 1950, serving 3.5 years.

He was a stockman for 51 years and lived at Glenpool for part of his life. He was living in Sapulpa on Skyline Circle at the time of his death.

He was a member of the American Legion for 40 years, belonged to the Masonic Lodge and was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason and a Modern Woodman. He was a Democrat.

He married Fay Luree Kelly on Sept. 1, 1919 and they had two children. The son, Gene E. Couch was killed in World War II.

The daughter, Wynona Jenkins, had sons, Darrell, Wesley and Larry Jenkins, who in 1974 all lived in Tulsa. Couch's first great-grandson was Allen Jenkins.

Couch had several brothers and sisters –Olive Cordonnier, Eva Moreland, Maxine Wells, all of Tulsa, and Joe Couch of Ponca City, Roy Couch of Ardmore and Pryor Couch of Pryor.

## **1950-1964, Caffey, W. V. “Bud” (D), Tulsa**

He rode a boxcar from Western Oklahoma when he was 18. His mother had a hotel on Southwest Blvd. at the time.

As a young man the family called him “Bug.” But, later people called him “Bud” so much, he changed it. His full name was William Volney Caffey.

As a young married man he had a dream of a Chandler Park. As a little girl, daughter, Jerene would jump off the rocks there into his arms. When Claude Chandler donated the land he donated so many acres a year as a tax deduction.

Avery Drive was also Caffey's project. People thought it couldn't be done, but Jerene drives now all the time. When the Okmulgee Beeline was dedicated, the governor said in the ceremony, it ought to be named Caffey Beeline. When he became County Commissioner there were few paved roads in District 2 (west).

Bud had been a policeman for 19 years, and their home was a polling place. He ran for sheriff and lost. He was active in View Acres Baptist Church and the Mounted Patrol. He was a large man and had a large horse named Trigger. He and Trigger rode in parades.

He was a Boy Scout official of some sort. But, recently the Boy Scout Service Center wasn't aware of what title he held and referred the caller to Neva Jennings. She thought Bob Sitter would know. He said he knew the Caffey's were from Phoenix Avenue Baptist Church where they had a Boy Scout troop. Caffey was involved with scouts before Sitter started in 1957.

The County Commission was a three-man board and District 2 had part of north Tulsa. When a baby sibling died, she recalls going to a black family's home to take the baby clothes for their use. The commissioners managed the Tulsa County Retirement Home. Jerene believes they had more power then.

Bud was president of the Oklahoma County Commissioner Association, a Mason, and a Shriner. He is buried at Floral Haven.

## **1964-1974, Wamsley, Burkett (R), Tulsa**

Burkett Wamsley was born in Tulsa County in 1914. He attended Bixby Schools, Oklahoma Military Academy, and the University of Arkansas. He was a farmer and raised cattle in Bixby in the late 1960's.

Aghast at the state of Tulsa County government when he took office in 1964, Burkett Wamsley, District 2, paired with Lew Harris to eliminate many practices.

Hiring of friends and relatives was replaced with a Tulsa County personnel office. Black market sales of commodity foods for the poor were halted. Grade A beef was one of the products sold up by the Kansas line.

"Mainly we worked to straighten out corruption," the Republican Bixby resident said. He served from 1964-74.

Asked if he made a lot of people mad at him, he said it did for a while. "But, they adopted our belief that tax dollars are paid into the county by the citizens, and those tax dollars should be spent on county services."

A couple of years later, County Commissioner scandals hit and the governor ordered an investigation of all Oklahoma counties. Wamsley recalls that Tulsa County came out clean, due to the changes.

He and Harris started the new county administration building during their period in office. Wamsley said it was much needed.

"Running county government honestly was my biggest accomplishment," he said.

He had worked in advertising including at Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville before running for office.

After the decade in office, he moved to Prescott, Arizona where Wamsley and a son bought a radio station, which they ran for six years.

They sold it for a price "enabling him to retire," Ralph Marler said in a Dec. 10, 2000 Tulsa World article.

He began writing for "Wild West Weekly," "Popular Western," and "Farm and Ranch," and then he drew on his county commission experience.

"Pro-County Government" was a little red book supporting home-rule for the large Tulsa and Oklahoma counties.

"Following the revamp of the court system, Wamsley argued it only made sense to make the court clerk a post appointment by judges, and that county commissioners, the

treasurer and assessor should be allowed to operate the large counties as a governing body," Marler wrote.

County officials are still elected at large and guard fiefdoms, Wamsley lamented.

Wamsley has published a book called "Savage Vengeance," drawing on experience growing up with Creeks. It has been published by Howell Publications of Ennis, Mont.

Now he is working on a children's book and compiling "Centennial Tales of Oklahoma."

Tulsa World writer Marler captured the change in Commissioner Wamsley, from politician to writer, a change that seemed natural for Burkett Wamsley.

*Burkett Wamsley, a Republican Tulsa County commissioner from 1964-74, has turned to his Oklahoma roots to write a novel of Indian justice in the days when civilized tribes warred with plains tribes.*

*"Savage Vengeance in the Indian Territory" is Wamsley's tale of one Creek's quest to enact justice in a lawless land before the Civil War*

*"It's true to life, but fictionalized," said Wamsley by telephone from his home in Prescott, Ariz., where he is retired with wife, Elizabeth.*

*And fiction works best to tell such stories over often, dry historical accounts, said Wamsley.*

*He used the novel "Gone With the Wind" as an example of a book "that gave me a better concept of the Civil War than any history book could."*

*Wamsley, 86, retired as the west Tulsa county commissioner in 1974 after 10 years.*

*In Arizona he operated a radio station six years before selling for a profit that "enabled me to retire." Wamsley's writing started years before with pulp magazines such as "Wild West Weekly," "Popular Western" and "Farm and Ranch."*

*His "Savage Vengeance" book developed from family ties to the Muscogee Creek Nation.*

*His parents and grandparents moved from Illinois to the Bixby area where they bought a farm.*

*"I grew up with Creek Indians," Wamsley said. "I always resented what had been done against the civilized tribes, the broken promises" by Congress.*

## **1974-1976, Oakley, Floyd (R), Tulsa**

The *Tulsa Tribune* carried a front-page story July 31, 1976 on Floyd Oakley, Tulsa County Commissioner, District 2, dying in a Tulsa hospital following abdominal surgery three weeks before.

A Republican, he was elected in 1974 and was chair of the three-member board in 1975.

Before being elected, he was head of the Tulsa County engineering department for five years.

Oakley was a native of Helena. He attended Oklahoma State University and was an assistant professor in engineering in 1940-41.

Following graduation, he worked for W. R. Holoway and Associates, and there was in charge of the \$20 million Grand River hydroelectric project construction.

The *Tribune* also reported he was in charge of designs for the \$30 million Markham Ferry Project. He also had his own company for a while.

During World War II, he was a Marine officer on the Pacific front and prepared training courses for the Marine's new engineering section.

His wife, Ruth, survived him. They lived at 611 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. He had three daughters, Ella Dean Bess and Mrs. Gary Clement, both of Tulsa, and Mrs. J.C. Warner of Sand Springs.

The stepchildren were Bonnie Gragert and Robert Schaeffer, both of Houston. At the time he had three surviving brothers, Mark, of Cleo Springs; George of Garden Grove, Calif.; and Delmar Oakley of Sayer.

## **1976-1984 Terry Young (D), Tulsa**

Terry Young was the first person to serve as Tulsa County Commissioner and City of Tulsa Mayor.

Also he was mayor from 1984 to 1986 and was the first second generation Tulsan to be elected Mayor.

Today, he works for the Cinnabar Companies, known for its role in negotiating right-of-way for the west leg of the Gilcrease Expressway.

At age 34, he was the second youngest mayor elected and was the first second-generation Tulsan to be mayor.

He was District 2 County Commissioner from 1976-84. Listed first among his commissioner achievements is the 71<sup>st</sup> Street bridge.

He was its "most vocal advocate," and brought city, county and state together to fund its construction.

More specifically, Young got the county to fund 71<sup>st</sup> Street right-of-way acquisition and paving west of the river to U.S. 75.

The state put in structural supports for a later addition of River Parks pedestrian path on the north side of the bridge. The state did not have sufficient funds to build the path at the time the bridge was built.

"The pedestrian path was added by the River Parks last year at significantly less cost," he said.

He acquired land for the Turkey Mountain Wilderness Park, part of the River Parks system.

For citizens' sports activities, he obtained a lease for the PSO Soccer Complex and funded improvements for it and the Chandler Park Softball Complex.

Young took steps to create the Berryhill Fire Protection District, purchasing the first two fire trucks for the fledgling fire department.

He funded improvements to the Berryhill water distribution system, including placing some fire hydrants.

He acquired a grass fire fighting truck for the Keystone Volunteer Fire Department.

Also for Berryhill, he "overcame legal obstacles associated with performing maintenance on Berryhill Creek and funded clearing and straightening of creek to reduce local flooding," he said.

He funded construction of West Regional Library, closed an illegal land fill operation between the Arkansas River and Jones/Riverside Airport.

He funded many flashing school zone speed limit signs for public school locations.

As City of Tulsa Mayor, some of his westside accomplishments included:

- Funding major drainage and storm water management projects for West and Southwest Tulsa.
- Funding new tornado and flash flood alert system.
- Funding significant Reed Park improvements.
- Funding light at Turkey Mountain softball complex.
- Advocating locations and funded South West Tulsa Fire Station.
- Funded Southwest Tulsa Police Substation.

One controversy plagued him. A letter from a typewriter in his office included an appeal for the Finis Smiths. He denied writing the letter.

## **1984-2002, John Selph (D), Sand Springs**

A native Tulsan, John Selph has been District 2 County Commissioner since November 1984. He was re-elected in 1986, 1990, 1996 and 2000.

Selph let office in 2002 to be executive director of Volunteers in America.

He has served as chair of the Tulsa County Commissioners. He has been honored for his work in county government including receiving INCOG's Robert J. LaFortune Award for promoting coordination and cooperation between government entities.

He serves on board for the Salvation Army, Metropolitan Human Services Commission, the Air Quality Committee of Tulsa and the Riverfield Country Day School.

Selph is chair of the Indian Nations Council of Government and the Juvenile Justice Trust Authority. He is on the State Juvenile Justice Council.

He's been instrumental in the Tulsa Trails master plan, the County-Wide Adopt A Road Program, and the Home Consortium which led to construction of several 40 unit elderly housing complexes.

He was Tulsa Association for Retarded Citizen's Elected Official of the Year and was recently elected to the Patrick Henry Hall of Fame. He graduated from Edison High School in 1965.

He has a bachelor's degree and a master's from University of Oklahoma and another master's from Tulsa University.

He was employed by the Tulsa Boys' Home as Executive Director when he was elected. He worked there 15 years.

He and his wife, Claudette, have two children. She is Executive Director of The Parent Child Center of Tulsa.

## **City Councilors**

**In 1989, the voters of the City of Tulsa passed a charter change that changed the Mayor-Commission form of government to a strong Mayor-Council form.**

**The first election for Mayor and nine City Councilors was held in 1990.**

**Local independent insurance woman Darla Covey Hall defeated long-time City Commissioner J. D. Metcalf, to become the first city councilor to represent the westside in the District Two, city council seat.**

**The district originally encompassed the entire area of the westside, inside the city limits, and the area just west of downtown to the city limits at South 65<sup>th</sup> W Ave.**

**It was changed several years later to eliminate the Sand Springs Line area north of the Arkansas River, in favor of adding Republican voters on the east side of the Arkansas River to the south.**

**Darla Hall served ten years on the city council, gaining a reputation for no-nonsense government.**

**She decided to stop running for office in 1999, and bowed out of the frontline political circle.**

**In a move that offended a few of the staunch Democrats, she threw her support behind a longtime westsider Randi Miller, who ran for the seat as a Republican and won.**

**Randi Miller immediately gained support of many westsiders loyal to Hall, and quickly established herself as a positive force in city government.**

**She and Hall teamed up to continue with the positive strides being made for the westside, after many years of being neglected.**

**The change from city commissioners, to city councilors has proved to have many benefits to westsiders who have been promised many things over the years since statehood, and who have continually taken back seat to others east of the river.**

## **1990-2000, Darla Hall (D)**

Darla Hall attended Pleasant Porter, Clinton Junior High and Webster High School. A generation later her daughters attended the same schools.

Darla has said she was raised on common sense, good judgement and telling the truth. She has been a Farmer's Insurance Agent since 1978.

She retired in 2000 after being a Tulsa City Councilor for a decade.

She has been the Townwest Sertoma president, Webster Alumni Foundation president and president of the Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce.

Accomplishments during her 10 years on the City Council include:

- Cleared license agreement through the City legal department to build a \$600,000 gym onto the Salvation Army for West Tulsa kids. The project had been stalled two years.
- Revised the Animal Ordinance which took six years.
- Added the Turkey Mountain Water Tank.
- Got a gymnastics addition built at Reed Recreation Center, along with adding lights on the Reed walk path.
- Negotiated with the Creek Nation to save 27 mobile homes in Southern Hills Mobile Home Park from condemnation for the Riverside Parkway.
- Saw that signal lights were put in at 71<sup>st</sup> and Elwood for school buses to cross the four lanes.
- Had S. 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue four laned from 51<sup>st</sup> to 61<sup>st</sup>.
- Stopped commercial encroachment at 71<sup>st</sup> and Harvard and 7300 S. Lewis.
- Removed medians on Southwest Boulevard and at 51<sup>st</sup> and S. Union.
- Smoothed the railroad crossing for motorists at 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue and Southwest Boulevard.
- Helped citizens vote down the Tulsa Project.
- Got funding for sanitary sewers for Garden City and Winnetka Heights.

- Saw funding set aside for the bridge over Mooser Creek at 53<sup>rd</sup> and Union.
- Found funding for straightening 61<sup>st</sup> and Union, adding signal lights and turn lanes.
- Saw painting of the Lookout Mountain water tank.
- Got funding for streets and stormwater flooding improvements in Carbondale.
- Sidewalks on West 48<sup>th</sup> Street and 6500 to 7100 on S. 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue.
- Added walking path on West 61<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Fought for First Response by the Fire Department and better equipment for its members.

## **2000-2001, Randi Miller (R)**

Randi Miller, District 2 City Councilor, was elected Chairman of the Tulsa City Council on April 1, 2002.

In April, she experienced a changing of the guard as Bill LaFortune became mayor and Susan Savage left office after 10 years.

She operates Grand Design Clothing at the Farm Shopping Center. Miller is a third generation westsider.

She attended Eugene Field, McBirney and Porter elementary schools and Clinton Junior High.

Miller is a Webster High School graduate, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi, majoring in accounting.

Randi is the daughter of James and Shirley Richardson.

Councilor Miller is married and has three children. A former city employee for 10 years, Miller knows firsthand how the city operates.

She worked as a traffic matron, dispatcher and supervisor of the meter maids. She also worked on public events and was telephone system coordinator.

In the 1980s, she worked for Mississippi Power Company as supervisor of the district warehouse.

In 1990, she moved to Middletown, N.J. and worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation listening to surveillance tapes. She also worked for ATT.

Between 1994 and 1996, she worked for Merrill Lynch in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Miller's hobbies include walking and fishing. She is also a coordinator of the United Way Adopt-a-School programs and an instructor for "Choices," a dropout prevention program.

After Darla Hall stepped down, Randi Miller and Linda Jordan campaigned for the post. Miller was elected March 13, 2000.

She lives off of W. 71<sup>st</sup>. A Republican, she said before her 2000 election, "I feel I can represent District 2. I am familiar with what has gone on and the problems facing the westside now," she said.

District 2 generally covers the area west of the Arkansas River and another area east of the river. In May 2001 public hearings were being held on the possible realignment of the district.

The new map was to be available by July 2001.

## Tulsa School Board (District 1)

### 1953-62 Armon Bost

Reading Tulsa World and Tulsa Tribune news articles, one finds in military lingo that the Bosts have a fifth child.

Col. Bost is a seadog riding in a nuclear submarine. The Bost family clusters around the dad when he gets elected president of the Tulsa Board of Education.

Bost is featured as part of a family dynasty at Oklahoma State University. Mr. and Mrs. Bost tell about their trip to Beirut.

He must have been a fun guy to interview.

Although the Bosts lived at 122 East 25<sup>th</sup>, he worked for Midwesco, formed in March 1946.

In 1947, it was 105 N. Boulder, but in a March 1977 article from the Tulsa World, Midwesco had moved to 4645 Southwest Blvd.

In June 1947, he was named vice president and general manager of the firm. When elected head of the school board, he was president of Midwest Engine and Equipment Co and two subsidiaries.

His name is on an Up with Trees plot to the side of the I-244 spur as it passes through Southwest Tulsa.

Bost was born in Alva and was educated in public schools there. He attended Oklahoma A and M College for two years and then worked several years for Cities Service Co. in Hammond, Ind.

While there he met Jeanine Fabian and after they married they returned to A and M to attend college. Bost receive a bachelor's in economics in 1933.

They returned to Indiana a short while, before coming to Tulsa to work for Gulf Oil Corp. until 1941.

He served five years with the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was director of military personnel for the former Eighth Service Command at Dallas.

He was also executive officer at Camp Barkeley. He was a colonel in the Army Reserve.

In May 1957, he was a past president of the Tulsa Boys Home and the Oklahoma Reserve Officers Association.

Armon was first elected to the Tulsa School Board in 1953. He was uncontested. In March 1959 he ran for his last term.

Baby boomers were starting school in the 1950s and Tulsa was building schools fast.

He visited an U.S. Navy carrier in 1957 and a nuclear sub in August 1960.

In June 1960, he was chosen president of the Tulsa Board of Education, a title he also held in 1957-58.

Bost's parents were among the early graduates of Oklahoma A & M. His father was in the first preparatory class in 1891. His mother was the first woman graduate.

Armon Bost, one of his sisters and a brother killed later in World War II went there, four of the Bosts' five children attended OSU, and a granddaughter, Christy Cline started the fourth generation to attend the campus in 1977.

Daughter Merrilee graduated from University of Tulsa. The other four children are Beverly, Jim, Bob and Cheryl.

In April 1977, Armon Bost was inducted in the OSU Hall of Fame.

He was a member of Rotary, a Boy Scout committeeman, and a vice chair of the Community Chest.

## **1912-1919, Fellows, Ray**

## **1920-1923, Upp, O. E.**

## **1923-1929, Courtney, Raymond**

## **1929-1935, White, Luther**

## **1972-1976, Turner, Curtis**

Curtis Turner was the Tulsa Public Schools' District 1 Board of Education member from 1972-76, but it was the roles he held earlier that were dearest to his heart.

He was born in Binger Feb. 15, 1907 and died March 31, 1988. He graduated from Drumright High School in 1927, Oklahoma University with two bachelor degrees in 1933 and University of Tulsa in 1947 with a master's degree.

In 1968 he was inducted in the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1972, he retired with 39 years in education.

He introduced wrestling at Sulphur High School, 1933-35; Mannsville, 1935-36; and Bristow High School, 1936-42. He came to Webster High School in 1942, and stayed until 1955.

In a ten-year period Coach Turner's teams at Webster ranked first in the state three times; second three times, and third in the state twice.

Bill Borders was the most outstanding wrestler of the State Tournament in 1948, and was first at Webster to win his weight for three consecutive years, 1946-48.

In 1952, the team placed second in state. Jerry Patrick earned a first place; Jim Weston, Bill Brown, Kenneth Berryman placed second and Jerry Billings placed fourth.

The next year with the state tournament held at Webster, Bill Carter and Billings placed first, Howard Powell and Weston placed third and Eddie Miller and Phillip Morris placed fourth

In 1954, Carter placed first and Ken Grissom placed fourth.

In 1955, Paul Aubrey was the most outstanding wrestler at the State Tournament and fourth place went to Bill Scott, Ernest Summerall and Grissom.

In 1950, Turner was secretary of the Oklahoma High School Wrestling Coaches Association and represented Oklahoma on a NCAA rules advisory committee.

He was an elementary school principal at McBirney, Eugene Field, Burroughs and Mark Twain between 1955-72.

He was president of the Tulsa Elementary principal's Association in 1963-64. Turner was president of Southwest Tulsans, Inc. and the Red Fork Men's Club. He was appointed by Mayor J.L. Maxwell to the Westside Citizens Council and by Mayor J.A. LaFortune to an Urban Planning advisory council.

Turner headed the 1975 YMCA membership campaign and was a life member of Phi Beta Kappa and Lion's Club International.

He was a charter member of the Half Century Club and the 1972-73 District Governor District 3-M Lions International.

As a member of Epworth United Methodist, he was Church School Superintendent many years.

## **1976-1979, McKenzie, Helen**

## **1979-1995, Hushbeck, Walter**

Walter D. Hushbeck first ran for the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education in 1979. He served on the board 16 years.

His dedication showed in his many visits to his schools. He spent many hours considering the closing of schools on the westside.

Hushbeck went on to join the Oklahoma State School Board and was president for a year. He was also a delegate to the National School Board Association.

He was born in Tillimook, Oregon and moved to Buffalo, Wyoming when he was very young. His father died when he was seven years old.

He graduated from Johnson County High School and went into the U.S. Army shortly after. He served in the Battle of the Bulge in Normandy, France.

After the service, he went to the University of Wyoming on the G.I. Bill. graduating in Civil Engineering. He got married in 1949 and they had a girl and five boys. Hushbeck came to Tulsa in 1967, working for Texaco.

"Walt loved football! He played in high school and one year at the University of Wyoming. When he moved to Tulsa, his oldest son was a senior at Webster High School, so Walt was a Webster fan," his widow wrote.

He started two of the boys in Clinton Junior High and into the Blue-T football program. "It wasn't long before he was coaching ninth graders, When basketball started, they needed a coach, he coached basketball, too. His favorite was ninth grade football," she said.

Hushbeck coached for Blue-T 10 years and "loved every minute of it." He coached even after his own boys had gone on and he was elected president of Blue-T.

During the time his youngest son was going to Remington Elementary, Walt coached baseball there. When they had a coaching vacancy several years later, he helped coach again.

He was a member of Southwest Rotary Club and served as president for a year. Hushbeck belonged to the Westside Salvation Army Board, serving when they built the day care center. He was on the board of the Riverwest Credit Union.

He enjoyed, after years of coaching, to have a young man he had coached, greet him with, "Hi, coach."

Walter Hushbeck died in 1999.

### **1995-1999, Logan, Lelia**

A retired teacher, she had been a kindergarten teacher at Pleasant Porter Elementary.

She felt her four years on the board were very progressive ones for Tulsa Public Schools. She was elected in 1995, serving until February 1999.

The 1996 Bond Issue passing meant new textbooks, library books, computers, new roofs and much more.

She was visible at many school events, and in stepping down thanked principals, teachers, and personnel for the "dedication, love, enthusiasm and caring for our children."

In a Letter to the Editor at the end of her term, she said, "The real challenge facing us is that of determining how to prepare our young people so that they will be best trained, best equipped, best prepared or best educated to meet future changing conditions."

She died in December 1999.

### **1999-10/02/2000, Barcus, Mark**

Mark Barcus was appointed in February 1999 as Tulsa Public Schools' District 1 School Board member.

He was chosen to fill the District 1 board post for which no one filed. He was sworn in Feb. 16.

Barcus resigned Oct. 2, 2000 to take a judicial appointment that he saw as a conflict of interest with serving on the School Board.

When he applied for the position, he said he was active in community projects and a parent. The school board was where he could have a voice in important issues affecting children and families.

He worked with Neighbors Along the Line, serving on the board since 1992 and as president from 1997. He was president of the West O' Main Improvement Association from 1993-95 and chaired the Charles Page Plan Steering Committee.

He said in 1999, he is a homeroom parent and returned to Tulsa from Texas because he wanted to raise his daughter here.

### **2000-2002, Moore, Louie**

Louie was one of the first four black people to attend Central High School in Tulsa. He was an outstanding athlete at the University of Tulsa. Louie retired as a homicide detective from the Tulsa Police Department.

Louie B. Moore was selected to be Tulsa Public Schools District I Board of Education member in November 2000. He had been a real estate buyer with the City of Tulsa 12 years and served 23 years as a police officer and homicide investigator.

He has strong computer skills and enjoys talking with students.

Moore was one of the first four black students to integrate Central High School in 1957.

He was one of the district's first security guards in the 1960's and has volunteered with the Police Explorer Program.

Also he is the father of four whom graduated from Tulsa Public Schools.

He lives on West Newton in the Central High attendance area.

## **2002--2004 Williams, Charles**

The Reverend Charles O. Williams was elected to the District One School Board office on Feb. 12, 2002.

His regular occupation prior to being elected was pastoring the Hilltop Baptist Church.

Williams ran against a relatively new school board member Louie Moore for the post. When the votes were tallied, he moved past Moore to take the office.

He claims he is a "no-nonsense, direct person" in an interview with the Tulsa World after his election.

Williams worked for the Tulsa Public Schools as a maintenance worker for 12 years gaining knowledge that he claims will help him to know more about the school system's operation.

He set about learning more about the area schools right after the election, touring Central and Webster High Schools.

Williams promises to be a person for change in the system that he feels has a lot of room for improvement.

He promised to stand up for the schools in his district to see that they get what they deserve.

## **2004—Percefull, Gary**

# Chapter Fifteen: Sports Figures

## Professional Athletes

### Bowling, Steve

Steve Bowling, Webster Class of 1970, is considered by many to be one best all-around athletes ever to come from the Westside.

The son of Allen and Norma Rudd Bowling, Webster Class of 1948, Steve was a 3-sport star for the Webster Warriors from 1968 – 1970.

He went on to star for the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane, being elected to the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988.

After college Steve played major league baseball for the Milwaukee Brewers and the Toronto Blue Jays.

As a young child he was always involved in athletics.

His elementary school years were spent at Park School during which years Steve began to develop his athletic ability.

His early baseball years were spent playing for the Park Warriors in the PeeWee and Midget leagues.

While at Park School, his Physical Education teacher, Sam Hester, became Steve's basketball and flag football coach.

Steve tells of their basketball practices in the basement gym where they used a space behind some hanging pipes and the ceiling as their basketball goal.

Coach Hester began Steve's development as a multi-sport athlete. In fact, Coach Hester convinced Steve to participate in gymnastics to help his coordination.

Coach Hester always had Steve and his classmates playing some kind of sport – be it kick ball, speed ball or a variety of other games which helped develop speed, agility and quickness.

Steve's family moved down on South Union due east of the Webster Auto Shop and the high school practice fields at the beginning the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

It was during these years at Clinton that the local youth sports club, the Blue-T Panthers, became instrumental in his continued development as a top-notch athlete, especially football and basketball.

Only having 17 players forced them to practice half the line against the other half, then switching sides.

Still these young Panthers competed for Championships every year defeating their larger counterpart schools, from across the Arkansas River.

Basketball was even more successful. Under the excellent coaching of Tom Jurney and Greg Morgan, Steve and his teammates won over 45 games against 5 losses during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years.

They won the City-Wide Championship over future Booker T Washington and college football stars Reuben Gant and John Winesberry.

Baseball found Steve playing for former Pittsburgh Pirate pitcher, Wayne Caves, representing the Red Fork Lions Club in the Tulsa Pony League later playing in the Tulsa Colt League for Oklahoma Natural Gas.

It was during these Junior High years that Steve's competitive spirit and athletic ability began to be recognized in the city youth leagues.

Steve became a 9<sup>th</sup> grade starter on the varsity football team. His high school years were spent honing Steve's athletic skills to be a *Triple Arrow Award* recipient for lettering in 3 sports his junior and senior years.

Steve's senior year in high school was most memorable as he garnered All-State honors in football and baseball while being named Honorable Mention All-State in basketball.

His determination and grit were never more greatly demonstrated than by his returning from a broken ankle in two places to play in the State Basketball Tournament after only 2 weeks in a cast, scoring a career high 22 points in the state semi-final game.

The spring of 1970 set the tone for Steve's baseball future. Playing for Coach Gene Hart, he hit home runs in 7 of the Warrior's last 9 games leading Webster their 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive State Baseball Championship.

Capping off his Webster athletic career, in addition to being named All-State, Steve was named the Oklahoma High School Baseball Player of the Year and was the recipient of the *Jack Charvat Award* presented to the City of Tulsa's top player.

The summer of '70, Steve was playing once again for the Malone Metals team coached by Warren Perry, Jim Hart and Steve Pate.

The team made it to the American Legion World Series in Klamath Falls, Oregon going undefeated through the District, State and Regional tournaments.

Steve was named the Most Valuable Player for the Regional Tournament in Memphis, Tenn.

At the World Series, Steve pitched the second game of the tournament striking out 8 of the first 9 batters, finishing with 16 strikeouts for the game.

Parents gathered around the radio broadcast at W.G. Bushyhead's house.

Malone Metals finished third and Steve was named to the American Legion All-American Team at the conclusion of the tournament.

A highlight of Steve's senior year came while playing in an exhibition game against the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane who were headed to play in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Against his future college teammates, Steve hit a home run while playing for the City High School All-Stars.

Steve attended the University of Tulsa on a football and baseball scholarship where his freshman year he also played basketball.

During his freshman baseball season in 1971, Tulsa won the Missouri Valley Championship in St. Louis.

In the championship game, Steve hit a game winning home run to send Coach Gene Shell's Golden Hurricane into the District Playoffs and eventually to the College World Series. They finished third.

Steve was named to the All-Tournament Team after batting .478 with 2 home runs.

During his four years at Tulsa, Steve started two years for the Hurricane football team at tailback and quarterback while starting all four years for the hurricane baseball team at centerfield.

Although not returning to the World Series again, Steve and his teammates captured four straight Missouri Valley Conference titles.

His University of Tulsa baseball career culminated in Steve being named to Collegiate Baseball's All-American Team.

Steve's Tulsa career ended with his holding the single season and career home run records.

The Milwaukee Brewers drafted Steve the summer after his senior season at Tulsa. He signed and was sent to Newark, New York to play for the Newark Co-Pilots in the New York Pennsylvania League.

His first season as a professional was successful as he led the Co-Pilots in home runs and was the recipient of the league's *Player to Go the Farthest Award*.

Steve spent the next two seasons in Triple A for the Brewers Sacramento Salons and Spokane Indians teams in the Pacific Coast League.

He was named *Rookie of the Year* in Sacramento and was named the *Most Valuable Player* for Spokane leading the Indians in home runs and RBI's while playing for former Major League Player, Frank Howard.

At the conclusion of the season in Spokane, Steve's second full season of professional baseball, the Brewers called him up to the "big leagues".

In his Major League debut, Steve doubled in his first Major League at bat against the Cleveland Indians.

For the game, he was 3 for 3 with 2 runs scored and a RBI while recording an assist throwing a runner out at third base.

The next day, the Brewers went to New York where Steve would play in historic Yankee Stadium, "The House That Ruth Built."

Playing the remainder of the season in Milwaukee, Steve's most cherished memory was being able to play alongside baseball's Home Run King, "Hammering Hank Aaron" during his final active season.

During the winter, Steve played for the Caracas Lions in the Venezuelan Winter League.

He played for former Cincinnati Reds manager, current Major League coach and former Tulsa Oilers catcher, Pat Corrales.

Continuing his consistent play, Steve led the Lions in home runs, runs scored and RBI's finishing second to the Pittsburgh Pirates Dave Parker in the home run race and the league MVP voting.

It was during that winter season that the American League was expanding to Seattle, Washington and Toronto, Canada.

Toronto Blue Jays manager Roy Hartsfield, having seen Steve first-hand for the previous two seasons in the Pacific Coast League, used the Blue Jays sixth pick to select Steve in the expansion draft.

He was the starting right fielder for Toronto's inaugural game. Used primarily as a spot starter against left-handed pitching and a late-innings defensive specialist, Steve was named Toronto's Most Valuable Player for the month of September.

During the Blue Jays first season, Steve's exceptional defensive ability and strong right arm allowed him to record 3 assists in one game from his centerfield position, the first time it had been done in almost 50 years.

For the season, Hall of Fame outfielder Carl Yastremski with the Boston Red Sox led all American League outfielders in assists, only 2 more than Steve although Carl had over 100 more chances.

After playing winter ball in Caracas again, Steve came to Spring Training looking forward to competing for a starting outfield position.

Late in the spring the Blue Jays moved Steve to third base, one of his old high school positions, which meant he would start the season at Triple A Syracuse.

After the opening game, he was notified he had been traded to the Chicago White Sox who sent him to Knoxville of the Southern League to play for current Major League manager, Tony Larussa.

Promoted to Triple A Des Moines of the American Association, Steve played sparingly the latter half of the season after suffering a separated shoulder on his throwing arm.

After rehabbing in Tulsa that winter, Steve went to Spring Training prepared to challenge the road back to the big leagues.

Too many players and not enough spots caused Steve to obtain his release from the White Sox.

Contacting Cincinnati head scout Chief Bender, he worked out a deal to play for the Reds Triple A affiliate, Indianapolis where he would play for former Tulsa Oiler manager, Roy Majtika.

Steve began the season for Indianapolis by hitting a pinch-hit bottom of the ninth home run to send the game to extras innings, which the team eventually won in 17 innings.

Although hitting well, Steve's shoulder injury from the previous year prevented him from throwing effectively from the outfield.

This relegated him to a designated hitting role and some first base. While in Indianapolis, he decided to retire from the game he had always dreamed of playing.

Baseball and being involved with sports didn't end in Indianapolis.

Remembering what his Webster High School basketball coach, Bill Allen, once told him; "just remember, when your playing days are over – give back to the games God has blessed you with the talents to play," which Steve did.

Married to the former Alice Baker, Webster 1972, Steve was intimately involved in coaching youth sports for over 15 years with sons, Steven, Ben and Jared.

He and Alice live in Jenks where they are actively involved in their church and spend their time watching Ben and Jared play College Football after watching them help Jenks capture 5 consecutive State Football Championships

In his "spare" time Steve umpires Tulsa City youth baseball in the spring. In the fall, he officiates High School football when he and Alice are not traveling to watch their sons play.

He was the speaker at the Webster Letterman's Banquet in April 2002.

## Calmus Dynasty

Pauline Calmus still gets weekly fan mail for her boys. Often its baseball pictures that the sender wants autographed.

Richard and Myrle Calmus were Webster graduates – Myrle in 1959 and Richard in 1962. In high school they played baseball and basketball.

Both boys won Boy of the Month at Webster and Richard was the recipient of the Billy Don Walker award. They played basketball for Bill Allen. The Calmus family for

years went to the Allen's for the weekly get-togethers. Paula at two years old was the team mascot. Myrle was All-American at Northeastern State.

They were signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers went Richard graduated from high school.

At 19, Richard was on the Dodger team that won the national championship. Both were pitchers.

When Paula was seven, she and Pauline took the train west to California and the Dodger game. Richard won number 34; Myrle won 17.

A few years later, Richard was sold to the Cubs. In the off season, he was working out at Webster, when a representative of Oral Roberts University approached him, offering to pay for bachelor's and master's degrees and pay for an apartment for him.

Pauline said Richard thought about it several days and then, broke his baseball contract, to attend ORU.

When he completed he was an art teacher and coach at ORU, then finished his career at Jenks High School.

Myrle got an arm injury and after the Dodgers went into teaching. He taught at old Central High-- his subjects were history and physical education.

Myrle and wife Linda are the parents of Rocky Calmus, the University of Oklahoma quarterback. Rocky's brother, Lance, is on the Cleveland Indians.

Pauline and husband also, Myrle, also had a daughter, Paula, who lives in Houston with her family. She works in the area of kidney dialysis.

The other grandchildren are Mandy and Richie.

Pauline said her husband had played basketball as a teenager. He was a foreman for CRC Pipeline Equipment, but died 20 years ago.

Richard and Myrle Calmus started with the Park Sooners. Richard and Carl Morton were strong pitching team.

Myrle is remember for hitting a ball over a 20-foot fence at the old Driller Stadium when he was on the 13-14-year old OK Kids League.

Mike Brown, former prep writer for the Tulsa World, said Calmus and Morton launched a "golden age" in pitching for Tulsa.

Another newspaper writer said, "With Los Angeles gilt-edged pitching staff operating so effectively, a youngster who hadn't reached his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and with one season's experience in the lowest pro competition, had rare opportunities to work.

"However, Calmus made the most of his chances and is regarded as a bright prospect. The Dodgers signed Calmus, brothers, Dick and Myrle, at the same time after Dick's graduation from high school in Tulsa." In two scholastic seasons, Dick had had an 18-1 record.

Richard and Morton were on the Little League team that won the Little League World Series in Seattle. Carl pitched the next to the last game; Richard won the last. Dennis Hall was catcher.

## Calmus, Richard

*(The following information was taken from a copy of the Jenks Journal dated March 5, 1987)*

Richard Calmus, Jenks High School baseball coach, hurled his first pitch in organized baseball at the age of eight and hasn't missed a season since.

Calmus was born in Los Angeles, but his family moved to Tulsa when he was two and he considers it his hometown.

But destiny would lead him back to Los Angeles one day to wear the Dodger blue.

Calmus's older brother Merle, also played baseball and, under the tutelage of Webster High School coach Gene Shell, they were both selected to the All-State team.

In 1962, Richard Calamus's senior year at Webster he was voted Oklahoma Player of the Year in both baseball and basketball, a feat he admits would be much more difficult today.

The Dodgers drafted Calmus straight out of high school and he played his first professional baseball in Iowa, for the Keokuk Dodgers. As fate would have it, his brother, Myrle, played on the same team that year.

After three months in Iowa, Rich Calmus was moved up to the big club in Los Angeles as a relief pitcher.

Although the prospect of pitching in the major leagues a year after graduation would probably unnerve even the most confident high school athlete, Calmus says he was too young to know any better.

"You don't realize where you are when you are that young," says Calmus, who came to realize how tough it could be to get where he was and stay there.

But the transition from minor to major league baseball was not that difficult for Calmus. He says that pitching in the majors was actually easier since there was so much talent around him.

"When you are around good players, you pick up good habits," he says.

Calmus's locker, in fact, was located next to one occupied by the legendary Sandy Koufax.

The highlight of Calmus's career came in 1963, he says, the year the Dodgers defeated their arch-rival, the New York Yankees, in four straight games.

Calmus recalls many times when the throng of reporters around Koufax blocked the path to his locker.

"I guess you peak out at 19," he says with good humor.

Calmus stayed with the Dodgers into 1966, when, in an almost comical situation, he was traded to the Chicago Cubs.

The trade was announced the same week the Cubs were in town to play Los Angeles and Calmus recalls what a peculiar experience it was to pack up his gear, walk across the field and play his former teammates.

After three years in the Cubs' system, Calmus was traded to the then new Kansas City Royals. He was loaned back to the Dodgers for a time in 1969, and by then Steve Garvey was coming up with the organization.

Calmus wasn't happy with his trade to Kansas City and, in 1969, says he "had to make a decision" to "go a different direction."

Calmus retired from major league baseball at the ripe old age of 26. He says he has never regretted his decision.

"I would do the same thing today," says Calmus, who played with and against some of the most revered players of all time.

Among those was Stan 'the man' Musial - whom Calmus struck out once- and all-time home run leader Henry "Hank" Aaron, who never struck out against Calmus - nor reached him for a hit.

Calmus's baseball career had taken him to Mexico, Canada, Hawaii and both coasts.

After retiring, he worked for a time as an assistant coach at Oral Roberts University before attending Northeastern State University to complete his masters degree in education.

Calmus has been coaching in Jenks for six years and says the thing he likes most is getting "a chance to try and develop kids and help them get scholarships."

He says that aspect of his job is much more meaningful than winning a State Championship. "That makes it fun," he says.

The greatest frustration in coaching high school baseball, Calmus says, is working around the weather. The problem is compounded somewhat by Jenks' lack of an indoor practice facility.

Jenks is in a very tough league, according to Calmus. He says "there are a very few laggards," and adds that "if you can beat .500 you are doing good."

He thinks his team is fairly strong at just about every position this year and hopes for a successful season. The Trojans were to have opened Wednesday against Memorial.

"I don't beat them to be great," he says, "they have to want it."

The easy-going Calmus has been around enough great players to realize an athlete has to have a strong desire to make it in the major leagues. That is especially true since so many others are waiting in the wings.

"Kids aren't hungry like the ones in the Dominican Republic," Calmus says of a country that has produced more than its share of major league players.

Baseball, he says, is taken more seriously by Dominicans since it is often their only way out of poverty.

Desire is the core of Calmus's advice to youngsters who want to play professional baseball.

Start at age eight, he says, and play every season - including summers, Just like he did. And who knows who will turn up in the locker next door.

## Calmus; Myrle, Richard, and Rocky

by Monte Hancock

Myrle and Richard were the sons of Myrle and Pauline Calmus of Red Fork and both graduated from Daniel Webster High School, Myrle in 1959 and Richard in 1962.

Both were selected to the All-State baseball team in their senior years and Richard was All-State in basketball also and was voted Oklahoma Player of the Year in both baseball and basketball by the *Daily Oklahoman*.

Both Myrle and Richard signed professional baseball contracts with the Los Angeles Dodgers as a package deal upon Richard's graduation from high school.

They were both assigned to the Keokuk, Iowa Dodgers where they played their first professional baseball games.

After three months in Iowa, Richard was called up to the Los Angeles Dodgers as a relief pitcher and the highlight of his career came in 1963 when the Dodgers defeated their archrival New York Yankees in four straight games to win the 1963 World Series.

Some of his teammates in that series were Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Johnny Padres, Maury Wells, and Frank Howard. His locker was next to Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax.

Richard stayed with the Dodgers into 1966 when he was traded to the Chicago Cubs. After three years in the Cubs system, he was traded to the then new Kansas City Royals.

He was unhappy with the trade to Kansas City and decided to retire from professional baseball at the ripe old age of 26 years old.

His career had taken him to Mexico, Canada, Hawaii and both coasts.

He had played with and against some of the most revered baseball players of all time. Among those were Stan "The Man" Musial, whom Calmus struck out once, and the alltime leading home run leader Henry "Hank" Aaron who he never struck out but never gave up a hit to him either.

Richard became an assistant baseball coach at Oral Roberts University and later became the head baseball coach at Jenks High School.

Myrle, also a pitcher, played with Keokuk, Iowa; Salem, Oregon; and the Albuquerque Dukes of the Texas League.

His professional career ended with an arm injury and he returned to Tulsa and entered the teaching and coaching profession where he taught history and physical education and was the head basketball coach at the old Central High School when it closed downtown.

He became the first head coach at the new Central High School on West Edison Street. He retired from the Tulsa Public Schools in 1997 after 28 years of service.

Rocky Calmus, son of Myrle and Linda Calmus, was a high school All-American in football at Jenks High School and the Player of the Year in the State of Oklahoma.

He went on to the University of Oklahoma where he was a two-time Consensus All-American, All Big-12 Conference first team, and runnerup for the Dick Butkus Award his Junior year (given to the nation's outstanding linebacker) and was named the Dick Butkus Award winner his senior year.

He was drafted and signed by the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League.

## Dawson, Sue Ann

Sue Ann Dawson was born in March 1947 and lived in Berryhill.

Sue Ann Dawson grew up in Berryhill. She was an outstanding basketball player according to classmate Jack Lollis.

Jack remembers that Sue Ann left Berryhill to play basketball for the All American Redheads.

In 1965, she graduated from Webster High School, and that May she joined the All-American Red Heads basketball team a woman's team that mimicked the style of the very popular Globetrotters Exhibition Team.

She toured with the Coach Moore's Red Heads from September 1965 to March 1966.

All Red Heads members had to dye their hair red.

The girls were paid a salary, but proceeds from their games were split between their schools and other pre-determined organizations.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, they played half of their games west of the Mississippi River and the half east.

Her team played two to three games a week, travelling virtually non-stop in a converted, stretch limousine. They toured all over the United States, according to information provided by Cecil Gomez.

They wore a red-striped satin uniform.

Red Heads would do a half-time show, featuring “special baseball tricks and antics,” according to the Red Heads web site. It is estimated they won 70 percent of their games and they signed autographs.

Other teams were the Texas Cow Girls and the Ozark Hillbillies, the latter being the Red Heads farm team, according to the Internet site.

She was married in October 1967 to Thomas Gomez and they had two sons, Robert and Richard. She also had two granddaughters.

Struck by cancer, she died in February 1987.

Sue Ann’s brother Danny Dawson lives in Beggs, Oklahoma.

## Fine, Jimmy

Fine part of strong baseball environment

1/14/02 AFB Jimmy Fine

Jimmy Fine found baseball in second grade while in elementary school at Park. He played Little League and was on the 1959 Babe Ruth League Team that went to Stockton, Calif. to the World Series and won.

The team included Carl Morton, Rich Calmus, Tommy Maxwell, and Dennis Hall. Carl, Rich and Jimmy got to meet Steve McQueen while in Calif. The coach was Ralph Huntsman.

Fine said recently that was the best team he was ever on.

In 1961, Fine hit a home over the lights at the Knothole Stadium at the old Texas League Park. In high school, he played mostly third base.

He graduated from Webster in 1962 and signed with the Philadelphia Phillies Farm Team. He played mostly short stop and third base in the minors.

“I had a good arm, but I didn’t hit so well,” Fine said.

His son, Tommy Fine played 5-6 years with the New York Mets. He also attended the University of South Carolina and still lives in that state.

## Koontz, F. B.

He was born July 14, 1889 in New Martinsville, W. Va. and when he died Oct. 29, 1953, the story was on the front page of the Tulsa World.

The lead called Fred B. Koontz, a pioneer oilman and vice-chairman of the Mid-Continent Petroleum Corp. board.

It said, “Mr. Koontz was credited with expansion of the firm from a 3,500 barrel skimming plant to one of the largest refineries in the world.”

The story talked about his rise in the oil world, but it referred to him owning “Paulfred,” one of the finest horse farms in the area near Berryhill School.

“As vice-president in charge of manufacturing during World War II, he set Mid-Continent up with one of the best defense systems of any of the nation’s industries. “He often said his plant was so tight “you can’t even get in here by parachute.” He urged others to set up 100 percent defenses.

He suggested games, except baseball and football, should be cancelled, but those two sports should be kept “because they toughen us up.”

A friend asked him if raising and breeding horses should continue during the war.

He countered that they were necessary. “I told the army to come get my stallions and mares if the country needs them. Give them to the cavalry.”

As a boy, he attended Bethel and Staunton military academies.

Koontz started in oil as a chemist with the Waters-Pierce Oil Co., subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey. That was in Tampico, Mexico in 1908. In California, he was a chemist for Union Oil Co., Shell Petroleum Corp., and Standard Oil Co. between 1911 and 1917.

He came to work at the former Cosden Refinery in 1917.

In 1922, he became refinery superintendent and in 1928 was named vice-president in charge of manufacturing.

In 1946, Koontz became president of the firm. In 1949, he became vice-chairman of the board.

He was a big Tulsa University backer and had been a member of the Tulsa Quarterback Club for 20 years.

For a time, he directed the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association. He was a member of the American Petroleum Institute Chamber of Commerce and Trinity Episcopal Church.

He joined the Elks Lodge, the Tulsa Club, and was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason. He was listed in “Who’s Who in America.”

His widow was Marjorie of the home of the 1700 block of S. Norfolk, and a son, Frederick Bowers Koontz, Jr. who died Feb. 17, 1976. The daughter was Mrs. Max Teale and the elder Koontz had six grandchildren.

Fred B. Koontz was hospitalized Sept. 28, 1953 with a heart ailment and died a month later in a Tulsa hospital with a heart attack, the Tulsa World article said.

He was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery. Mid-Continent offices closed for the funeral and a section of Trinity Episcopal was sectioned off for employees.

## Layton, Tom

From Berryhill, Oklahoma  
1978 Toronto Bluejays

## Morris, Dennit

The oldest of three brothers, Dennit Morris was born April 15, 1936. He attended Park Elementary, Clinton Junior High and was a 1954 graduate of Webster High School.

He and brothers Victor and Dewayne lived with their parents off of S. 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue. One brother became a teacher and the other was a police officer.

In high school, Dennit was an All-State player in football two years and was named high school All-American in football.

He went to University of Oklahoma on football and baseball scholarships. He played catcher and outfielder in baseball and they won the conference.

He was on two national championship teams as a fullback. His coach was Bud Wilkinson. He was part of the 48-game winning streak at OU.

Dennit worked for Phillips Petroleum in Tulsa.

Dennit played five years in professional football – two years with San Francisco 49ers and three years with the Houston Oilers.

They also won the AFL championship. He was 6-foot, 1 inch and 225 pounds at 25 years old. He was named to several All-AFL teams. He was known as a reliable linebacker, a sure tackler.

Bud Adams was the owner of the Oilers and Phillips Petroleum. He hired Dennit to help in training and opening new Phillips stations in Houston.

Dennit was a police officer for 20 years with Tulsa Police Department and served almost three years with Tulsa County Sheriff's Office.

He married and had two sons and a daughter, still westsiders.

Dennit retired at 49.

People all over the United States send him pictures to autograph and return. People writing books call him.

Asked if one event or achievement stood out, he said it would take 30-40 minutes. There were too many to isolate one.

## Morton, Carl

Born Jan. 18, 1944, Carl Morton was adopted by a couple who taught school. He had no siblings, and his parents who lived on W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street have died.

Residents have reported their shock when Carl Morton died too young of a heart attack in his parents' driveway.

Richard Calmus and Morton were on the Park Little League team that won the Little League World Series in Seattle. Carl pitched the next to the last game; Richard won the last. Dennis Hall was catcher.

Mike Brown, former prep writer for the *Tulsa World*, said in high school Richard Calmus and Carl Morton launched a "golden age" in pitching for Tulsa.

Originally signed by the Braves, Morton spent two years playing for West Palm Beach in the Florida State League and Kingston, Carolina.

Although an outfielder, he tried pitching at Kingston in 1967. He won ten games. In 1968, he pitched 13 wins. He led the Texas League with 722 pct. that year.

The Expos drafted him in October 1968, but he lost three games and was farmed to Vancouver, finishing 8-6. On April 11, 1969 he pitched so well that the Cubs were scoreless for nine innings.

A highlight of 1970, was an 11-inning 1-0 game with the Cardinals Sept. 27. He was 7-0 against the three West Coast teams. In 1970, Carl was named Rookie of the Year for the National League.

In the majors, he pitched 528 innings in 87 games, winning 28 and losing 32, for .467. He had 264 strikeouts, 208 walks and a 4.14 ERA.

Morton liked golf, bowling and fishing,

Efforts to reach his son, Brett failed. A Brett Morton in Plano has an unlisted number, and although he is reported to be a high school baseball coach, Plano Public Schools doesn't show him on staff.

## Rogers, Jimmy

James Randall Rogers was born Jan. 3, 1967 and graduated from Webster High School in 1985. Ten years later, on July 30, 1995, the 28-year-old played for one season with the Toronto Blue Jays and ended his big league career in 1995.

As a pitcher he won 2, lost 4, for .333. He struck out 13, walked 18. He played 23.2 innings. He was a right hander who batted right. His jersey was No. 47.

## Wilcox, Don and Virginia

Don and Virginia Wilcox were outstanding rodeo trick-riders who traveled throughout the United States, entertaining people in small towns and large metropolitan areas.

Don was one of the first people inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Don and Virginia Wilcox met while attending Clinton High School. She was his high school sweetheart. They married when Virginia graduated in 1933.

They bought a home in Berryhill and lived there all their lives, even though their rodeo act took them far from home.

Don Wilcox was born in Arkansas City, Kansas in 1913 and moved to Tulsa when he was too young to remember.

At age 5, he saw a man doing handstands on horseback and he knew he wanted to do that when he grew up.

At age 15, Don went on tour with the Boy Scouts' Mounted Troop of America through the states in the Southwest.

In the 1930's, they practiced roping with the Winfrey brothers being the ropees in Berryhill. Wilcox signed a professional contract with producer Homer Todd in 1932.

He was known as the Oklahoma Whirlwind, and his natural talent and drive to improve took him to work with Gene Autry, Everett Colburn, Jim Askew and Tommy Steiners.

In 1936, Don performed at the Texas Centennial. He taught Virginia in 1937 and they found they could make it financially if they worked together.

When daughter, Donna, was born, Virginia performed mostly in the summers. Donna performed, too, up until college. They entertained the crowds as chutes were loaded and between events.

A modest horse trailer and an un-air conditioned car, hauled the little family in the summers.

Don wowed the crowds in Denver, Houston, Boston and New York. At Denver the first time, he broke some ribs, but had to keep performing.

Virginia rode with him at Denver, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Baton Rouge, El Paso and Ft. Worth.

A rodeo would last three days or as many weeks.

From 1936-47, Don performed in New York City's Madison Square Garden, top of the line rodeos.

There were few men trick riding, and even fewer women at the time.

A quiet man, not flashy like some of the others, he would see another rider do a trick, and Don would master it. Also he created his own tricks. He would practice hour after hour.

His wife said he would ride a horse upside down better than walking on the ground.

"It was so natural for him. I had to struggle to do anything," said Virginia in a 1996 *Tulsa World* article.

Virginia quit in 1956 and Don quit the rodeo circuit in 1960, after 40 years riding.

They raised champion quarter horses. In a 1994, article by Nicole Marshall of the *Tulsa World*, Clem McSpadden said Don was a horseman first and foremost, not just an athlete who could do tricks on a horse.

He was inducted in the National Rodeo Hall of Fame in October 1994.

Virginia accepted the medallion for him. McSpadden said it was long overdue.

Don died of cancer in 1984. Virginia has died now, too.

## York, Bob

Bob York, the son of Luther and Lillian York, graduated from Berryhill High School in 1953.

Just out of high school and age 18, he made his professional baseball debut as a pitcher for Sherman-Denison of the Sooner State League.

Then he went to Florida with the farm team of the Milwaukee Braves. He did quite well and won several awards.

He had to give up pitching when he had problems with his arm.

## Amateur Athletes

### Allen, Bill

Bill Allen for whom the Webster Field House is named was at Webster's 2001 basketball opener Nov. 20, 2001. At 75, he still loves the sport, and he and wife Nancy, get a regular diet of it.

For 25 years, he was the Warrior head coach starting in 1951-52 and for 24 years was athletic director. He was an Assistant Principal nine years.

The Webster field house was named for Allen in ceremonies on Father's Day, 1976. KTUL's Jerry Webber emceed. Father's Day was significant for Bill and Nancy, Webster basketball players and coaches are extended family to them.

“Webster kids don’t forget you,” Nancy said. They have tried to keep up with the players from his teams.

He retired from Tulsa Public Schools in 1985.

He told Ted Owens that he would go to Oral Roberts University one year, and then in 1987, Bill began working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes where he helped with a coach’s ministry. “He would get in the car and go to different schools,” Nancy recalls, even to places such as Olive that she had never heard of.

The Allens have been in their house near 21<sup>st</sup> and Fulton 44 years. Many times, they would have the team over to the house for a meal.

Bill didn’t want to coach his own children, three boys and a girl. Bruce and David were All-Staters at Hale High School--David in basketball and Bruce as a distance runner. Edie, the girl played basketball two years at Oklahoma State University. She is now a 22-year coach with Union Public Schools.

William is a doctor in Oregon, and Bruce manages a cleaning firm in Norman. David has been a special education teacher and elementary physical education teacher in Jenks.

Bill has developed a sideline, going to high school and college basketball practices and writing a handwritten critique of the strengths and weaknesses. He’s critiqued at NEO, and at Toledo where Larry Gibson was coaching.

After retirement, Bill was a paid lay coach for Robert Sprague at Hale, making something like 25 cents an hour.

At Webster, the Warriors helped him win 364 games and a state championship in 1966. The Warriors beat the 3,000 student Norman High School that year in Oklahoma City.

Some 100 fans from Webster were overwhelmed by sections of black and orange Norman fans doing coordinated cheers across the gym, but the player won the AA championship.

Steve Caves had an emergency appendectomy and missed the game, but Danny Simpson, Dan Hensley, Sam Owens, Mo Radford, Tom Johnson, Larry Lane, John Autry, Jack Tudor, Don Cooper, Kelly Legnon, and Chalmus Turner were there. Team Managers Mike Brown and Richard Franklin, Coach Jack Rice, and Allen pulled it off.

As a boy, Bill attended Riverview, Horace Mann, And Central. He was the first sophomore starter in basketball at Central, which had so many strong players.

His sophomore year they beat Rogers twice, before Rogers won state that year.

Graduating in 1943, he went into the U.S. Navy’s V-12 officer training and was stationed at Milligan College in Johnson City, Tenn.

They had a basketball team with Allen and two or three other Oklahomans and a couple from Illinois. The multi-state crew won its first 15 games in 1944 and upset Duke and North Carolina.

They were ranked No. 1 nationally for a week. They qualified for the NCAA tournament, but were not allowed to leave the base that long.

Allen transferred to North Carolina where the team went 19-6 and won the Southern Conference title. The next year, he transferred to the University of Colorado. There during summer school he met Nancy who was from Denver.

When he got out of the service, he worked for the R.G. Berry Oil Company, but began volunteering for the Tulsa Boys Home team because he missed sports.

He went back to school and got a teaching degree, working one year at his alma mater, Central. When Paul Merchant left Webster, Allen got hired. "I was very fortunate to get that job," he said. He was also blessed with a good team that year. Although Webster was kind of an underdog, they went 16-6 and beat Sapulpa.

The next year, T.H. Broad made him Athletic Director.

Through a friendship, Broad helped to integrate Webster a year ahead of the rest of the district. High school students from South Haven were being bused to B.T. Washington. Once that was changed, Bill and Nancy helped transport some of the South Haven kids home from games.

Allen remembers when the athletic directors met, Webster was running so smoothly, he had nothing to report. "They are just good working class people," he said of the Westside.

"I like the school and the civility of the kids," he said.

He learned about working with assistant coaches, and is grateful for them, Rice, J.V. Haney, Gene Shell, Robert Sprague, Alan Axley.

He and Curtis Turner ran a summer program before Reed Recreation Center was built. Allen supervised the swimming and conducted basketball. He made a little extra money doing that and being a sports official.

Allen was 1966 Daily Oklahoman Coach of the Year, and the Tulsa World and Tulsa Tribune picked him in 1969. He helped form the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association and was its first president.

## Apker, Virginia

### Race Car Driver

Virginia Apker grew up attending the midget auto races at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. Her mother was an avid fan. So she had always been more or less a motorsports enthusiast.

After marrying Rex, they had friends who were in the local sports car club. When they purchased an Italian Fiat, they invited us to participate in their club activities. After selling that vehicle, they purchased a MG sedan and she was asked to drive it in competition at an autocross.

That is an obstacle course set up on parking lots. The object is to miss every pylon lining the course and finish with a time better than your competition. She placed third the first time out and said, "I was hooked on driving fast."

"I went on to win the Oklahoma SCCA ladies class. After doing so well in the autocrosses, I was offered the opportunity to actually drive a race car on a road course," she said. The place was Warbonnet Raceway in Mannford.

She actually raced for only two years, but she said it was a very exciting time in her life.

"I found that not only was I a pretty good driver, but I really liked the competition. At that time, there were only four women who raced in Oklahoma, so I was somewhat of a trailblazer I guess," she said.

"I drove again in the 70's at Hallett, but as the costs of racing started climbing I could never really justify my passion for speed."

Her husband Rex and children Mike and Karen have always been her greatest supporters. They loved the sport as much as she did. Both the kids have driven in competition--Mike raced a Corvette and a restored Dan Gurney Eagle Formula 5000 car and Karen drove in autocrosses as soon as she got her driver's license. Rex has always been the wrench that made us all go fast.

If asked if she would drive today if given the opportunity, the answer would be "You bet I would."

"Rex and I continue to support races around the Midwest Division of the Sports Car Club of America, by working in the timing and scoring part of the sport. It has been a very rewarding hobby that gave us the privilege of meeting some wonderful people. We are glad we had the ride."

## Arrowood, Larry

Larry Arrowood graduated from Berryhill High School in 1964 and was a four-year letterman in baseball and a three-year letterman in basketball.

Larry entered military service in 1968 and was stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala. where he played fast-pitch softball of the post team.

Also in 1968, he was named to the fourth Army All-Star Team.

He graduated from Tulsa University in 1972.

Larry became head baseball coach at Union High School in 1975 and stayed 21 years before retiring from coaching in 1995.

During his tenure at Union, he had a record of 516 wins and only 189 losses. Under his coaching he accomplished:

- 46 tournament and/or conference championships
- 3 state championships
- 1 state runner up
- 12 regional championships
- 11 conference championships
- 16 All-State players
- 15 Sunbelt Classic All-Stars
- 13 players signed professional contracts

More than 100 Union graduates furthered their education by playing baseball at the collegiate level.

Arrowood won several Coach of the Year awards including:

- 1979 Oklahoma Coaches' Association District Seven Coach of the Year
- 1979 Tulsa Metro Baseball Coaches' Association Coach of the Year
- 1989 ATEC Sporting Goods Oklahoma High School Coach of the Year
- 1990 United States Baseball Federation State Amateur Baseball Coach of the Year
- 1990 American Baseball Coaches' Association District Seven Coach of the Year
- 1979, 1989, 1990 Tulsa Tribune Coach of the Year
- 1989, 1990 Tulsa World Coach of the Year
- 1990 Daily Oklahoman Coach of the Year

Larry Arrowood became a charter member of the Union High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987.

“He is a true representative of what westsider baseball is all about,” said Monte Hancock who researched Arrowood’s achievements.

Arrowood is still affiliated with Union High School athletics and still lives in the Berryhill community.

## Axley, Alan

Alan Axley was a 1962 graduate of Webster High School. At 6-feet 5-inches he played basketball--both guard and forward. Axley won All-State honors along Rich Calmus in 1962.

After graduation, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he played basketball and got a master’s at Northeastern State.

He returned to Webster as an assistant coach with Bill Allen and coached some 10 years.

After assisting four years, he was head coach at Bishop Kelley and then at Mason. He guided Mason to the state Tournament in its second year.

“I also coached AAU and we played all over the country,” he said.

He was Oklahoma Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1975.

## Billings, Jerry Joe

Jerry Joe Billings won a state fourth in wrestling in 1952 and won first at state, as did Bill Carter, in 1953.

He was the quarter back of the football team and captain of the track team.

At Oklahoma State University where he started in 1953, Billings was part of the national championships in 1954, 1955, and 1957.

He began coaching at Sapulpa High School where he had 16 state champions. He coached at LaMar Junior College and they too, won the national junior college wrestling tournament.

In five years coaching at Webster, he had two who were wrestlers of the year in the Tulsa World, Ray Morrison and Dicky Turnbull.

In 1965, he was selected to take an American wrestling team to Japan, many were Oklahomans, he said. Asked how they did, he said, “We won all of them.” Sponsored by Japanese television, NHK, they were always on television.

Jimmy Sloan of the westside was on that team.

He thanked his coaches in June 16, 1988 Tulsa County News supplement for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Webster High School.

“I was influenced by Curtis Turner who coached wrestling and Gene Brown who was the football and track coach at Webster,” he said.

“Those two men instilled in me the desire to want to be a teacher. They always liked kids and people.”

He didn’t stand out only in sports, however, Billings was president of the sophomore class, the first youth court judge, and Boys State Lieutenant Governor.

In 1965 he returned to Webster as a teacher and coach, and in 1983 he became principal of Webster.

He was principal when the district talked of closing the school to deal with dwindling enrollment.

Webster didn't meet the high school minimum enrollment the administrators set. The final plan moved the ninth grade to all the high schools and made the junior highs, three-year middle schools.

He was only the fifth person to lead the school. He followed D.M. Roberts, T.H. Broad, Carl Ransbarger and Ed Coffey.

He stressed the two-way support at the school. Billings said in 1988, that teachers generally have the support of parents.

"Students here don't resist instruction and generally are on time for classes. All that us due to the reinforcement at home," he said.

But, the faculty and staff need to be able to listen to the student, hear the hurt, and be firm and consistent in dealing with situations.

"I was really fortunate as a student," Billings said in the supplement, "I was helped when I needed it."

He talked about the stability and about challenge for those who were looking for pre-college classes--Physics, Chemistry II, calculus, trigonometry, and advanced foreign languages.

On the other hand, the Cooperative Education classes were strongest in the state. He was concerned the colleges continue to turn out future teachers.

He coached at Sapulpa 12 years and had a period at Hale High School in Tulsa.

Billings was inducted to the Webster Hall of Fame in 1990. Recently, he has moved from the westside and is building a house in the Skiatook area.

He is raising Beagles now.

## Fine, Jimmy

Fine part of strong baseball environment

Jimmy Fine found baseball in second grade while in elementary school at Park. He played Little League and was on the 1959 Babe Ruth League Team that went to Stockton, Calif. to the World Series and won.

The team included Carl Morton, Rich Calmus, Tommy Maxwell, and Dennis Hall. Carl, Rich and Jimmy got to meet Steve McQueen while in Calif. The coach was Ralph Huntsman.

Fine said recently that was the best team he was ever on.

In 1961, Fine hit a homerun over the lights at the Knothole Stadium at the old Texas League Park. In high school, he played mostly third base.

He graduated from Webster in 1962 and signed with the Philadelphia Phillies Farm Team. He played mostly short stop and third base in the minors.

"I had a good arm, but I didn't hit so well," Fine said.

His son, Tommy Fine played 5-6 years with the New York Mets. He also attended the University of South Carolina and still lives in that state.

## Gray, Kenneth

Kenneth Gray's sports at Webster High School from 1962-64, were football, baseball and basketball.

He received a partial scholarship and went to Northeastern A & M in Miami, starting in football. But, after an injury, he played baseball.

He transferred to Northeastern State where he also played baseball.

At Webster, Gray was a second baseman, but played third and second at times during college.

As a youngster, Gray attended Alice Robertson Elementary and Clinton Junior High. He participated in Blue-T starting in the seventh grade.

At Webster, his coaches were Harold Bisell in football, Gene Schell in baseball and Bill Allen in basketball.

His older half brother also played football. Ken had a scrapbook, but has since lost it. He doesn't recall his stats off hand.

## Kennemer, James

James Kennemer was born in Yale, Okla. on July 13, 1931 and came to Tulsa in 1936 when his father came to pastor the Westside Assembly of God Church.

James graduated from Daniel Webster High School in 1949 and his wife Mickie Ennis Kennemer graduated in 1950.

Webster didn't field a baseball team during those years and young men who wanted to play baseball had to wait so they could play sandlot baseball in the summer leagues.

So James went out for wrestling and the Warriors were coached by one of the finest wrestling coaches the state has ever produced, Curtis Turner.

Since Kennemer's father didn't approve of playing ball on Sundays, James had to sneak out his ball uniform to be able to play.

This started a career of playing ball that surpassed most young westside men who had a desire to play the game.

After high school, unless you were able to turn professional, there was nowhere else to pursue the game of baseball. So many players turned to fast-pitch softball and James started playing softball for local church teams.

He played for Phoenix Avenue Baptist and then for Trinity Baptist in Red Fork who at that time dominated the top church leagues.

For a while he would play baseball on weekends in a semi-pro league and then play fast-pitch softball on weekdays.

James was a catcher and played in the Tulsa Softball Association in the City League, which was the top league in town.

The City League was an open division, which meant you didn't have to play for the company that sponsored you.

Most games in the top league were played at Newblock Park on Charles Page Boulevard, although many exhibition games were played out-of-town or out-of-state.

Kennemer said he and well-known westsider Billy Don Walker rode to games in an old Chevy grocery store from Walker's Grocery.

The Tulsa Softball Association was affiliated with the International Softball Congress (ISC) and the winner of the annual state championship got an automatic bid to the ISC World Tournament that was played in different states and Canada.

Kennemer played for several top teams in the state including Q's Mobil Service, Manning-Maxwell-Moore, Newman's Inc., D&L Ford, Sertoma Club and the Tulsa Teamsters Union.

He started his career in the early 1950's and played until the early '70's.

Kennemer caught for some of the best pitchers around including All-Americans Arno Lamb, Jack Neely and Howard Heuston.

Heuston went on to become the Athletic Director for Phillips 66 and still lives in Bartlesville, Okla.

Kennemer played in several International Softball Congress World Tournaments from 1955-65 and in 1963 won the World Batting Title and made the World All-Star Team five times. This automatically made him a five-time All-American.

He was inducted into the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame in Kimberly, Wis. in August 1994. The ceremony was held in Canada, but James was unable to attend.

He was honored locally at Forche Field (formerly Newblock Park). The field was named after Paul Forche, the late fast-pitch softball commissioner.

Carl Wilson who succeeded Paul Forche, championed the adding of Kennemer in the Hall of Fame. Kennemer joined the two former Teamster teammates, Dude and Dutch Ausmus, who were inducted into the same Hall of Fame during the 1980's.

When the International Softball Congress celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary a few years later, James and wife, Mickie attended the celebration.

James Kennemer was an unselfish person and well liked by all who played with him and against him.

The Tulsa Softball Association awarded him with the Sportsmanship Award, their highest award given annually to the player who best represents local softballers, both on and off the field.

Howard Childers, who lives in Berryhill, called Kennemer, the "best fast-pitch catcher in Tulsa."

"He is an outstanding athlete and an outstanding gentleman." Childers, the manager of most of Kennemer's teams said, "We've known him and his family 50 years and he's a prince of a guy."

## Kilgore, Rodney

Rodney Kilgore is still remembered at Webster for his sports performance, but he was also fourth in his class in 1972 academically.

He was Warrior Chief at homecoming and was All-State and high school All-American, both in football.

In wrestling, he was a three-time state champion, ranked fourth in the nation.

Kilgore was named the outstanding wrestler for the State of Oklahoma also.

He was named high school All-American in wrestling, but at his home school, he was chosen for the Billy Don Walker award.

Upon graduation, he signed baseball and wrestling scholarships with the University of Oklahoma and was OU's first wrestler to win 100 matches.

Kilgore was two-time Big Eight Wrestling Champion and twice the NCAA Wrestling Champion.

He was ranked the eighth best wrestler in Sooner history.

Recently, he was the speaker at the 2001 Webster Letterman's Banquet.

## Martin, Onions

Onions Martin wrestled, played football, ran track at Webster. He was the first four-year letterman. His favorite coaches were Marshall Milton and George Broad, brother of Principal T.H. Broad.

He loved sports. "Sports kept the biggest part of us in school," he said.

At least three photographs show Onions as a young man. Photos of the 1943 Webster football team are around, including one on display at Ollie's Station Restaurant.

In a Southwest Tulsa Historical Society video by Roy and Sherrie Heim of Velma Huntsman, she shows some photographs. One of these shows Onions and Ralph Huntsman at a restaurant.

He is in a shot with Wilford Houser and Papa Joe and Mildred David, owners of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Service Station located at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Lawton in 1940.

David was Martin's brother-in-law. That picture is in the Community Bank collection of historical photos.

He was a member of the undefeated 1943 football team, and graduated in the Class of 1945. Martin thinks that may be the only State Champion football team ever.

Martin said he was born and raised in West Tulsa by the refineries. Asked if everybody knew each other and took care of each other, he said, "They fought together and everything else."

Martin worked for Texaco for 34 years.

In 1952-53, Martin, Jimmy "Cootie" Arnold, Wendell Cluck, Jack Walker, Bill Jarrett, and Jack Pertle, members of the 1943 football team, started Blue-T to improve the Webster sports programs.

They had football, basketball and wrestling. The first president was Lee Kennon.

The men spent "years" coaching. Martin said back then, Blue-T didn't cost the kids anything. He said after Blue-T started, Webster didn't have a losing season for 10 years.

Martin was widely respected and admired wrestling official for high school and college matches for years.

Martin attended Clinton Junior High and Webster. After he had a family, his two girls and a boy attended the same schools.

## Merchant, Paul

At one time, Paul Merchant was one of the two best point guards in the nation, according to Bill Allen, a former Webster coach and athletic director who succeeded Paul Morris. Merchant was the assistant coach at the time.

In Merchant's senior year, 1942, Webster had one of its best seasons ever. He was an All-American.

He was head coach at Webster one year. He played in the AAU and has been inducted in the Webster Hall of Fame.

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## Milton, Marshall

When Daniel Webster High School opened in 1938, Marshall Milton came in as Athletic Director.

It was a big step from him to work in a “new modern school that was properly equipped to do his job,” Tulsa County News reported September 28, 1961. Lewis Hays, Jr, wrote the article.

Milton knew the state of other schools. He started as his alma mater, Elk City, Kansas. In four years, he had two undefeated football teams.

In 1930, Milton became football and basketball coach at Sand Springs.

He won one football and two basketball championships in the Verdigris Valley conference.

Then he tried his hand at Sapulpa a year.

In 1933, he took over coaching at Clinton High School. “Coach Milton recalls those years at Clinton, his toughest, but most memorable,” Hays wrote.

The players used castoff equipment and had little external support, but they played hard. For tournaments, the Clinton faculty gave donations, and Milton made up the rest from his pocket, so the boys would “have a chance.”

In his second season at Webster, Milton’s team had a 7-3 season.

Though retired in 1960. Hays wrote, “The evidence of accomplishments as a man and a coach are all around us for to see in the form of countless men whom he taught the qualities that make a fine athlete and good citizen.”

As a young man he was in the backfield on the football team at his high school. He also played well at Kansas Wesleyan in Salina, Kansas.

For Marshall Milton night, the Pep Club and cheerleaders roped off an area in the football stadium for Milton and former players and friends to sit for the game.

The Parent-Teacher-Student Association and Letterman’s Club served refreshments.

His daughter still lives on the westside. She is Mrs. C.D. McElhaney.

## Peninger, Grady

In high school, Grady Peninger was the state champion at 103 pounds in 1945. The same year he was a NAAU champion at 115 pounds. He went undefeated his senior year.

After his U.S. Navy enlistment, he was an NAAU champion at 115 pounds in 1947, a runner-up at that weight the next year, and was an third place alternate for the 1948 Olympic team.

Peninger was runner-up in the NCAA 121-pound class in 1949.

He was undefeated in dual meet competition at Oklahoma A&M 1946-50 and was a freshman coach there in 1950.

He began his coaching career at Ponca City Junior High and from 1952-60 was at Ponca City High School. There the overall record was 64-14-4 and the team won two state championships and earned three runner up awards.

From 1960-62, he was assistant wrestling coach at Michigan State University. He became head coach and became the first Big Ten coach to win seven straight Big Ten titles.

Then he won the 1967 NCAA team championship –another first.

He was named Rookie of the Year, in 1963, by the Amateur Wrestling News and in 1967, he was voted Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. He was voted Coach of the Year by the Association Student Organization of Michigan State University in 1966-67.

The awards kept coming. In 1968, that group voted him Man of the Year. Also in '68, he was inducted in the Helms Hall of Fame for Achievement in Amateur Wrestling.

Peninger was president of the National Wrestling Coaches Association 1970-71.

In 1977, he coached the Chinese in Taiwan and from 1975-85 was a member of the NCAA Rules Committee.

He was the first Big Ten coach to have a three-time NCAA finalist in Pat Milkovich.

Mike Potts scored the fastest fall in 43 seconds in the Big Ten Championships in 1984.

Another Peninger student, Shawn Whitcomb, scored the fastest fall in Big Ten Championship history in 25 seconds in 1980.

Peninger was the first in history to not lose against the two big Oklahoma campuses – Michigan beat Oklahoma University and tied OSU.

He was “the only Oklahoman in history to leave the state and win an NCAA team title,” he wrote in a record of his career in the Webster 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary supplement.

Two of his former high school wrestlers won the 1960 Olympics. They were Shelby Wilson and Doug Blubaugh. In the 1968 Olympics, Don Behm, one of Peninger’s college wrestlers won the silver.

That year he was offered a head wrestling coach job at Oklahoma State University, but declined to stay at Michigan State. In all he had 43 Big Ten champions and 90 who placed.

In the NCAA, he had 11 champions and 46 place winners.

## Tomlin, John

As a boy, John Tomblin played flag football and baseball at the Westside YMCA. That was the 1950s. The coaches were John’s father, Bill, and Frank Slatton. One of his friends was Don Undernehr, current Webster High School principal.

Undernehr remembers Tomblin as a tremendously promising athlete, who sustained a tragic injury while quarterbacking the Warriors against Memorial in the fall of 1963.

Tomblin died a couple weeks later. The teammates angished over the loss of their friend, but decided to finish the season.

Tomblin’s jersey and number are on display at Webster High.

The former Health Center branch on W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street was named for him. It closed some years back, and today the building is used for a sound studio

## Turner, Curtis

Curtis Turner was the Tulsa Public Schools' District 1 Board of Education member from 1972-76, but it was the roles he held earlier that were dearest to his heart.

He was born in Binger Feb. 15, 1907 and died March 31, 1988. He graduated from Drumright High School in 1927, Oklahoma University with two bachelor degrees in 1933 and University of Tulsa in 1947 with a master's degree.

In 1968 he was inducted in the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1972, he retired with 39 years in education.

He introduced wrestling at Sulphur High School, 1933-35; Mannsville, 1935-36; and Bristow High School, 1936-42. He came to Webster High School in 1942, and stayed until 1955.

In a ten-year period Coach Turner's teams at Webster ranked first in the state three times; second three times, and third in the state twice.

Bill Borders was the most outstanding wrestler of the State Tournament in 1948, and was first at Webster to win his weight for three consecutive years, 1946-48.

In 1952, the team placed second in state. Jerry Patrick earned a first place; Jim Weston, Bill Brown, Kenneth Berryman placed second and Jerry Billings placed fourth.

The next year with the state tournament held at Webster, Bill Carter and Billings placed first, Howard Powell and Weston placed third and Eddie Miller and Phillip Morris placed fourth

In 1954, Carter placed first and Ken Grissom placed fourth.

In 1955, Paul Aubrey was the most outstanding wrestler at the State Tournament and fourth place went to Bill Scott, Ernest Summerall and Grissom.

In 1950, Turner was secretary of the Oklahoma High School Wrestling Coaches Association and represented Oklahoma on an NCAA rules advisory committee.

He was an elementary school principal at McBirney, Eugene Field, Burroughs and Mark Twain between 1955-72.

He was president of the Tulsa Elementary principal's Association in 1963-64.

Turner was president of Southwest Tulsans, Inc. and the Red Fork Men's Club.

He was appointed by Mayor J.L. Maxwell to the Westside Citizens Council and by Mayor J.A. LaFortune to an Urban Planning advisory council.

Turner headed the 1975 YMCA membership campaign and was a life member of Phi Beta Kapa and Lion's Club International.

He was a charter member of the Half Century Club and the 1972-73 District Governor District 3-M Lions International.

As a member of Epworth United Methodist, he was Church School Superintendent many years.

## Walker, Billy Don

Billy Don Walker was a likeable guy who had a heck of a kick. He was the Webster quarterback and Warrior Chief for 1949-50.

His sports career included playing football for the 1950 University of Oklahoma national championship team and being dubbed in the newspapers "Webster's gift to the University of Tulsa."

He was invited to go pro, but declined to stay with his family and be a fireman.

He was a fireman five years and worked for a swimming pool company three years, when a cave-in on the job killed him. He died at 29 on Oct. 25, 1961.

An award was started in his name after his death and presented until 1976. With the help of Mark Benton, the award was reactivated in 2000 and is now presented to a well-rounded sports-playing boy and girl.

“Walker, regarded by Bud Wilkinson as one of the best punters he has coached, was a member of the North Squad in the 1950 Oklahoma High School All State Game,” wrote a newspaper sportswriter named Lew Johnson.

In his first TU season, he was called “Tulsa Webster’s gift to the University of Tulsa.”

He played briefly for Cameron, one year for OU, and two years for TU.

In February 2000, the 1952 Tulsa University Gator Bowl Football Team on which Walker played was inducted in their Hall of Fame.

It was the eighth team to be inducted in the special honor team category.

The team posted an 8-2-1 season and led the nation in rushing and total offense by averaging 321.5 rushing yards and 466.6 total yards per game.

The Hurricane had seven straight wins before meeting Florida in the Gator Bowl.

Season-wise, TU outscored the opposition 341-197, gaining a 6-0-1 home record and a second place 3-1 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

The Hurricane was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationally in the Associated Press poll at the end of the season.

One clipping in Walker family scrapbooks is headlined “Walker of TU Among Nation’s Punt Leaders.”

“Fullback Bill Walker, former Daniel Webster star, ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation in punting in the latest figures of the National Collegiate Athletic bureau.

Walker has booted the ball 22 times for an average of 38.9 yards a kick,” it read.

Another article was headed “Tulsa Product Gives TU Kicking a Big Lift.”

“Walker showed up on the TU campus this fall after a season of play with the Cameron Aggies at Lawton and has demonstrated that he can still boot the pigskin a mile. Bill is a left-footed kicker and he can send the ball flying 50, 60 yards consistently.

“Kicks of 70 yards aren’t unusual for the former Daniel Webster star,” it said.

Another clipping told about an 87-yard kick at Sapulpa.

He also had a winning personality. “Everyone like my grandpa,” a granddaughter wrote in a school paper. “He was an all-around good guy.”

## Younger, Ralph

Ralph Younger was a golden gloves boxer who worked out with the best of his time. He traveled through the United States on the circuit.

Ralph Younger was a native westsider who graduated from Clinton High School in 1936.

He played football, able to kick 70 yards and also excelled at baseball, but he was especially proud of his boxing achievement.

He said Clinton wrestling coach Frank Briscoe was “the greatest in the world,” and had a hand in Younger competing under coach J.C. Gallagher at Oklahoma A& M, Stillwater.

In 1938, Younger traded wrestling for boxing which took him as far as Chicago and New York.

He had three knockouts and had distain for the quality of Chicago boxers. Oklahoma had a better crop.

In Chicago, he had a technical knock out against Richard Hagen. Hagen became a sparing partner for Joe Louis, a job Ralph turned down.

He joined the U.S. Navy and served at Pearl Harbor. Coincidentally, Ray Cochrane, welterweight champ, was the base chief. Cochrane ordered Younger to get back to boxing, but Younger felt he lost a physical edge during his time on the ship.

But, on the GI Bill, he returned to Stillwater and began wrestling again in 1946. Oklahoma State won the national championship for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in 16 years that year.

He wrestled with broken bones –ribs and hands. He beat Roy Hannah twice with a broken hand.

He was a retired Unit Rig salesman.

His scrapbook is full of clippings. At six feet tall, 175 pounds, he always made an imposing picture.

He brought his pictures to the Southwest Tulsa Historical Society meeting in the summer of 2000. He died Aug. 17, 2001 at 83.

## Standout Teams

The westside was home to outstanding softball teams, football teams and others.

## Sports Organizations

### **Blue-T and Warriors Athletic Clubs**

For 50 years, dads and others have operated Blue-T, an elementary and middle school level sports program.

It has offered programs for girls and boys. At times, it has been free for the children.

It is even rumored to have inherited property adjacent to Reed Park.

Blue-T is an achievement, operated with volunteers for half a century. They send squads to cheer competitions and hold homecoming ceremonies and get teams in the playoffs.

When Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Dr. David Sawyer made middle school athletics school sponsored, Blue-T found ways to serve westside children – including elementary teams and cheer squads.

In 1952-53, Onions Martin, Jimmy “Cootie” Arnold, Wendell Cluck, Jack Walker, Bill Jarrett, and Jack Pertle, members of the 1943 football team, started Blue-T to improve the Webster sports programs.

They had football, basketball and wrestling. The first president was Lee Kennon.

The men spent “years” coaching. Martin said back then, Blue-T didn’t cost the kids anything. He said after Blue-T started, Webster didn’t have a losing season for 10 years.

Walter Hushbeck coached and now his son, Charles coaches and is an official. John Weygandt, Randy McClellan, Lee Venetoff and Robert Black are among those who have done their share.

At the high school for a Blue-T event, Weygandt aided a boy who was hurt at Webster jumping in cable trenches.

In February 1998, Kevin Crow and Kevin Dolan bought a large ad in *Southwest Tulsa News* labeled “Blue-T Wrestling: The rumors of our death were greatly exaggerated.”

“The Blue-T Club, and especially the wrestling coaches, would like to publicly thank those who did not believe the rumors and wrestled with us this season. We know it would have been easy to have wrestled elsewhere. We appreciate you very much and are already looking forward to bigger and better things next season,” it read.

Pictures of the beginner and advanced teams were included. “No Blue-T funds were used,” it said.

Randy Fowble and now Mark Benton have led Blue-T recently.

In April, 1998, Vernon Ryan provided pictures of the beginners, beginners novice and junior high wrestling groups in the West Tulsa Warriors which ran in *Southwest Tulsa News*.

“The West Tulsa Warriors closed out a great wrestling season with their end of the year wrestling banquet. It was attended by over 85 people, made up of wrestlers, family and supporters of the Warriors,” the story said.

Ryan thanked the parents, coaches, sponsors and wrestlers, and facilities at Remington Elementary, Southwest Baptist Church and Reed Recreation Center.

His son, Mike Ryan, was wrestling coach at Webster at the time.

Ryan left Webster and nothing was run in the *Southwest Tulsa News* about the West Tulsa Warriors after that.

In 2000, a Blue-T basketball team coached by Black and his wife, Sheri, was attacked by a Hamilton Middle School crowd at an away game at Rogers High. Property damage and injuries resulted.

Blue-T officials protested to the Tulsa Junior Athletic Association.

How long the Warriors existed, why it was formed, why the death of Blue-T wrestling was rumored are unanswered questions.

## YMCA, Young Mens Christian Athletes

The Tulsa area YMCA boys baseball teams dotted the landscapes of the city as winters broke and spring leaves started turning in the city.

Boys turning 8 years old reached the playing age and took to the field to learn the great American sport. The westside launched many teams during the 50’s through 70’s.

Many of the teams adopted the names of powerful animals for their own. So it was, that lions, tigers and bears spread out on the green grass fields with dirt-lined base paths and infields.

# Chapter Sixteen: Long-lasting Organizations

Every town has its organizations. The communities and towns of Southwest Tulsa were no exception. Many of them were formed, and died after the initial spark or leaders moved on to other things. A few of them became institutions that have continually made an impact on both the people and the community.

## Early Organizations of Note

### Church Sponsored Organizations

#### Epworth League

Mentioned by Rev Clock

### Women's Clubs

#### Homemakers Club

#### Oak Heights Home Extension Club

Oak Heights was organized May 15, 1953 in a meeting at the home of Mrs. E. P. Hahn, after community women surveyed at the first meeting indicated an interest in forming a club.

Records show Gladys Thompson, Home Demonstration Agent, thanked Mrs. Marie Sittler for holding that informational meeting in her home.

Early programs were on Decorating with Assurance, and framing and hanging pictures. July 30, 1953, they held an ice cream social to raise funds to send a delegate to the farm home conference in Stillwater and bolster the treasury.

Oct. 1, 1954 Oak Heights won third in canning, fourth in a family life poster and a green rug, and first for an attractive booth and full budget of entries at the Tulsa County Fair.

Another westside club, Norman Club on first in canning and first in an emergency meal competition in which they prepared a meat, cooked vegetable and dessert from five jars of food.

Jan. 14, 1954, the Oakhurst Heights Club decided to work in support of Jane Addams Elementary. In meetings, the members learned about making patterns, drapery and making clothing alterations. In May, they learned about flower arranging.

Oak Heights members displayed their creations in the window of Hopkins Variety Store in May 1954.

Aug. 7, 1954, the club and their family members held a watermelon social at Reed Park.

In December, they held a Christmas party in the home of Mrs. Cecil Rodgers and exchanged gifts with secret sisters. They prepared a "White Basket" of food for a family in the Jane Addams School community.

April, 1955, the meeting at Mrs. C.C. Dunbar's featured a program on "Better Meals for the Family."

In August that year, Mrs. Sittler and Mrs. Guy Baehler of Oak Heights represented their club at the Farm Home Conference at Oklahoma State University.

March 15, 1956, Tulsa County News showed Oak Heights ladies making drapes for the Frank H. Reed Recreational Center. In April, nine ladies and three children modeled Easter outfits in the home of Mrs. Gerald Simmons. Nov. 5, 1956 officers were installed with Mrs. LeRoy McConnel as president.

In January 1957, members announced they would study home nursing under the American Red Cross for seven weeks. "What Children Need," was the program in March 1957.

Two women attended the District Mental Health meeting at Bixby.

In May 1957 the members celebrated 35 years of homemaking progress. Also five from Oak Heights attended the fashion revue at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds in May.

"The tornado and rain didn't dampen the spirit of the Oak Heights Home Demonstration Club's fourth annual birthday party at Reed Recreation Center May 20," Tulsa County News reported in June 1957.

Two women were delegates to the Stillwater conference in August.

Nov. 14, 1957, the program was on "Understanding the Teenager."

Modeling at the Easter Fashion Parade at the fairgrounds was Mrs. Robert Wingate in March 1958.

In September, 1958, the club got more fair awards. A child's dress by Mrs. Wingate, fourth place; draperies, by Mrs. C.W. Sparks, fourth place; bedroom curtains by Mrs. Lloyd Partney won second; kitchen curtains by Mrs. Winger won third and an upholstered chair by Mrs. Sittler won second. A flower arrangement by Mrs. Sparks won fifth place and collectively the canned goods from Oak Heights won third.

## Garden Clubs

### Dogwood Garden Club

#### Still beautifying the westside

The westside had 11 Garden Clubs some decades ago. Today, the Dogwood Garden Club is the only one remaining. The others had names such as Red Rose, Blue Violet, Blue Bonnet, and Red Bud.

Dogwood traces its history from the National Council of State Garden Clubs in Sept. 1940. It is the oldest, continually meeting club in Tulsa.

Charter members of the Dogwood Club included Nellie Smith, Fern Etter, Velma Carpenter, Ann Howard, Hazel Hornsby and Mae Ware. At the club's second meeting, Chessie Howard joined and began co-chairing the membership committee.

Others who joined included Merle Morton, Lucille Vance, Velma Watwood, Georgeana Rusher, Nan Milton, Sevilla Schudder, Bell Colvin, Mae Swafford, Mrs. G. H. Blankenship, Mrs. Carl Etter, Mrs. W. H. Street, Mrs. Smith Barnes, Mrs. W.W. Harred, Mrs. H.W. Burlingame, Mrs. J. D. Wood, Zelma Huntsman, Vivian Smith and others.

In 1945-47, the Garden Clubs planted 300 redbud trees along old Route 66 as part of a larger Northeast District project which planted 3,600 trees. Locally, the redbuds ranged clear to Sapulpa.

The Dogwood Club also planted some 20-30 dogwood trees at Webster High School. Also two pink dogwoods were planted in honor of the Webster students who served in Operation Desert Storm. They are planted at the parking lot near the football stadium.

Members also made major contributions to the Tulsa Garden Center. Dogwood is the only club remaining of the seven that originally established the Tulsa Council of Garden Clubs. It took an "all-out effort" including gaining city support and funding.

In the June 19, 1997 issue of *Southwest Tulsa News*, an article on Dogwood said, "It is still rumored that the 11 Westside Clubs wanted this center placed in Southwest Tulsa." When a site and funds could not be found west of the river, members rode a bus downtown and transferred to another bus, just to spend a day volunteering at the Center on Peoria.

Dogwoods that line the entry to the Garden Center are a reminder of the efforts of the 24 Dogwood Club members. Ann Howard and Barbara Markwardt served a Tulsa Council presidents.

In 1964, Dogwood members landscaped Hissom Memorial Center, which helped them win a Sears Community Service Award.

Some other projects of the club include:

- Sherwood Manor Christmas Party
- Operation Military Cheer
- Operation Wildflower
- Oklahoma State University scholarship
- State Wildflower promotion to schools and Boy Scout troops
- Water Gardens
- State butterfly program
- Rose, violet and iris studies
- Murrah Memorial at the Turner Turnpike Gate and the Triangle of Lilies at the Murrah Memorial in Oklahoma City
- National Garden Week promotion

## Service Clubs

### Red Fork Lions

## Red Fork Masons

Red Fork Masonic Lodge has grown, in influence, usefulness and material wealth, maturing from 18 original petitioners to a Masonic body of more than 500 in less than 40 years.

A 1959 history, written by Worshipful Master G.W. Bowles, and members E.W. Morton and W.B. Weitz, talks about the new lodge hall.

This story “encompasses a period of approximately 38 years, from the time when a small handful of forward-looking Masons gathered in a rented hall in Red Fork, Okla. for the purpose of organizing a lodge, down to this present moment; this moment when we brethren of Red Ford Lodge No. 505 enjoy our beautiful new lodge building, erected in excellent style and accommodated with its well-chosen and attractive furnishings.”

They first met in the second story of the Red Fork City Hall Nov. 17, 1921. “Brother Finis R. Pope was elected chairman of the meeting and Brother Edward Schlicht was elected secretary,” the minutes said.

They elected officers with Pope as Worshipful Master. Others were Luther Garfield Denny, Arthur Middlekauff Rishel, James Newton Clark, Bernard J. Handlon, Walter S. Fasholtz, Clarence D. Steininger and Otto Young Smith.

Trustees were Guy Sheffield, Charles B. Taylor and Marl W. Wallace.

They met the second and fourth Fridays and set dues of \$6 a year and initiation fee of \$50.

They sought a “Warrant of Dispensation from the Grand Lodge empowering them to assemble as a legal lodge.”

Nov. 10, 1921, the Tulsa Lodge No. 71 recommended the new Red Fork Lodge. The site and officers were certified by Grand Lecturer F.V. Hurlbutt on Jan. 8, 1922. The Letter of Dispensation came Jan. 10, 1922.

April 24, 1922 the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma “constituted the lodge in due form.” The new lodge continued to meet on the second floor of City Hall, sharing expenses with I.O.O.F. and Eastern Star.

Among actions that year was a motion to build a board walk on the north side of the building and to meet regarding “to building a jail under the lodge. Sept. 22, 1922, a committee was formed to look into building a lodge hall of their own.

In May 1925 meeting nights were changed to the second and fourth Mondays.

The writers said the lodge was honored to be asked to lay the cornerstone in the high school building in April, 1925. A boundary quandary was resolved in 1927, the district deputy established W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in West Tulsa as the line between Tulsa and Red Fork lodges.

In 1926, the lodge acquired a lot in the Clinton Addition. The cornerstone was dated June 10, 1927. Some \$1,500 was spent, with \$9,000 borrowed. The lodge was on the second floor. The first floor was rented to a business, but in later years was a recreation hall.

From 1930, membership applications began to drop and brothers were unable to pay their dues. The lodge finances were pinched. After 1932, dues were reduced to \$6. The loan became delinquent in 1932, as did many others. It was placed in the hands of an attorney.

In 1934, the initiation fee became \$40, plus \$15 Masonic Home contribution. The office of trustee was abolished.

In 1936, the loan was refinanced. At last in 1937, with Eastern Star aid, the floor of the lodge was carpeted.

Dec. 31, 1938 members who were three or more years in arrears were suspended. Charles R. Harris died Feb. 17, 1939 and the custom of paying a tribute and dedicating a page in the minute book was started. In Feb. 1940, Walter Carpenter was elected vice-president of District 12 and W.H. Ware became District Deputy Grand Master.

The first floor was remodeled and painted as a recreation hall. When World War II came, the Red Fork Lodge helped with bond campaigns and gave the Red Fork Red Cross Chapter use of the lodge recreation room for sewing.

Len Yarborough and J.W. Boles were the first of several to leave for military training. The lodge voted to paid the dues of brothers in uniform and put them on a lodge honor roll. The lodge minutes mention food rationing affecting lodge social gatherings.

Red Fork Assembly Rainbow Girls was set up. The adjoining lot was bought and became a parking lot. A theater built west of the lodge paid \$500 to use the adjoining wall. The loan was paid off and Dec. 23, 1946 the cancelled note was announced. March 26, 1947 the mortgage note was burned.

The lodge bought a new fan and in 1955, an evaporator cooler was installed. In February, 1948. Treasurer Elmer Godown reported a surplus of \$1,114.12 that members decided to invest.

Several members died. Dues were paid for those fighting in the Korean War, and made Past Masters life members.

In both 1953 and 1954, members looked at sites and building costs. The Lodge kept buying government bonds. In October, 1955, Worshipful Master Edgar W. Morton spoke on the condition of the old hall and formed a committee to look into the finances of building a new one.

In January, 1957, they bought 1.5 acres at 920 W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Finis W. Smith, Paul H. Stark, Edgar W. Morton, D.C. Sigmon and T.A. Dooley and later Fred Lannon were the building committee. The first meeting in the new temple was March 10, 1958. They helped a new Brookside lodge get started. A DeMolay chapter was adopted in 1959.

The Lodge won many District 12 honors – most lodge officers, Past Masters and members present at the monthly District meetings.

“For the moment then, we cease from our historical accounting, with pride in our past with with confidence in our future, peace and harmony prevailing,” the committee concluded.

## Townwest Sertoma Club

Roy Collins started attending Townwest Sertoma six months after it started 20 years ago. It began June 30, 1981 as a sponsorship of the Southside Sertoma Club, Larry Coulson, project chair.

Back then, Townwest met at the Holiday Inn West near the Turnpike Gate.

He became a member when the club raised money to buy the Holiday Inn restaurant manager’s young son a wheelchair. He was getting around in a stroller when he got his new chair.

The president then was Floyd Hudson, a realtor. Mike A. Taylor is the only charter member still attending.

In June 2001, the group celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cookout at the Scissortail Group building on Southwest Boulevard.

Community Bank and Trust provided a birthday cake. Members brought lawn chairs, potato salad, sliced tomatoes, onion, baked beans and chips.

Some 25 persons attended the event under the trees on the Scissortail parking. Guests parked at the old Bell Gas Station three doors away.

The club has met at several locations on the westside, including 13 years at Ollie's. Now they meet Wednesdays at 7 a.m. at the Village Inn at 5949 South 49<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue.

The club sponsors Happy Hands, Sertoma Hearing Aid Repairs, and college scholarships. They have also supported the Brush Creek Youth Ranch, Sherwood Manor, the Law Enforcement awards and Berryhill Serteens.

Gene Griffith is the current president.

## Community Organizations

### Goodwill Industries

The Rev. Wilkie Clock wrote a report of the Christian outreach and the living conditions in West Tulsa for the 1921 Methodist Conference.

Conditions included dirt floors, inoperable toilets, sickness, dilapidated houses, and crowded conditions.

Six years later he incorporated Goodwill Industries of Tulsa in the basement of the West Tulsa Methodist Church.

Goodwill, celebrating 75 years in 2002, has a broad range of programs, but the premise remains the same. "People with barriers to employment need the skills and opportunity to help themselves."

According to Goodwill's Historical Timeline, "Goodwill Industry International chartered the Tulsa Goodwill to serve 12 counties in northeast Oklahoma. The focus was to feed and clothe the needy.

In the 1930s, volunteers constructed a three-story building out of donated brick next door to the church where Goodwill of Tulsa started.

They use the slogan "not charity, but a chance."

After the death of Rev. Clock, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa agrees to operate as a subsidiary of the St. Louis Goodwill for five years.

Then in 1941, Tex Rickard is hired as Executive Director and Goodwill industries of Tulsa is reborn as an independent Goodwill organization.

Later with many handicapped World War II veterans, Goodwill becomes known for providing jobs and job training for people with disabilities.

Goodwill buys the old Brady Hotel and spends several years renovating the eight floors.

The location is Goodwill's headquarters from 1944-71.

In 1946, Rev. L.D. Burris becomes Executive Director serving until 1961.

In the 1950s, Milton Caniff draws the cartoon Good Willy that becomes a well-known symbol of Goodwill's efforts.

In 1954, Mrs. William Neff organizes the first Goodwill Auxiliary with 246 members who set about raising funds to support the programs.

Four years later, Norman Rockwell donated his painting “The Paycheck” to Pittsfield, Mass. Goodwill.

In the 1960s, Boston designer Joseph Selame created the Goodwill logo, the smiling G.

Community groups collected clothing that is sorted by workers to sell in Goodwill stores.

Goodwill expands to several other cities including Bartlesville and Claremore.

In 1971, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa buys the former Stockton’s Discount Center building at 2800 Southwest Boulevard and relocated the headquarters there.

Goodwill contracts with state government and private industry to provide jobs for individuals.

From custodial services to assembly and packaging, Goodwill puts people to work.

In 1980, Goodwill ends a \$1 million capital fund drive to renovate the new building.

In 1988, the Goodwill territory gained Newton and Jasper counties in Missouri. A donation site and store opened in Joplin.

In 1992, Goodwill completes a \$1.85 million drive to renovate and expand the headquarters.

Four years later as the U.S. tries to move welfare recipients into the workforce, Goodwill adds training for disadvantaged clients.

In 1999, Goodwill gains 13 counties in southeast Oklahoma.

In 2000, Goodwill picks up the vocational training center from Children’s Medical Center and forms the East Campus at 10101 East Admiral Place.

The facility has 11,000 square feet in which in-house contract work is handled.

In 2001, Goodwill opened a facility in McAlester with a store, donation drive-thru and classroom.

A \$3.5 million capital fund drive is bringing a 40,000 square foot addition to the Southwest Boulevard headquarters in 2002. The new area will have offices and classrooms and permit more space for growth in the donated goods.

## Southwest Tulsans, Inc.

Lack of attention and unkept promises by the City of Tulsa were the motivating factors for the creation of Southwest Tulsan’s, Inc. There has always been a feeling by many westsiders that the east side of the river gets most of the attention, and funding.

The Southwest Tulsans had a steady group of leaders who actively campaigned for improvements to the westside. After many years of positive work, the group finally dissolved.

## Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce

The Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1990, to support community development on the west side of the Arkansas River.

Board members were elected from business and civic leaders.

Western Neighbors, Inc.

Westside Coordinating Council

## Scouting Troops

Troop 25, West Tulsa

### Troop 28, Red Fork

Nov. 7, 1998 Boy Scout Troop 28 celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary sponsored by Red Fork Lions with a reunion. The 50<sup>th</sup> is coming up in 2008.

For the 40<sup>th</sup>, all former scouts and leader were invited. A Charter Certificate was presented in a short program and refreshments were served.

Leader David Casey said the organizers were calling all the scouts and leaders they could reach. He invited those not called to come also.

Before the Lions sponsored the troop, they had more than 10 years when the group met at Epworth Methodist Church and the old Red Fork City Hall.

Since the charter lapsed in the mid-1950s, rules dictated that the numbering start over.

Casey was hoping for an audience of 75 at the Nov. 7 reunion. Bob Sitter was the first scout master who served 30 years. Casey took over in 1987.

# Chapter Seventeen: Law Enforcement and Fire Officers

## Atkins, Robert

In the early days, Robert Atkins was a cowboy, then a U.S. Marshall's deputy. He was also Red Fork's first sheriff.

Up until the 1940's others in law enforcement would come to him for information. He knew all the outlaws.

Her mother would serve food to some of the outlaws sometimes. Sometimes, people said he was a bounty hunter.

He had responded on a call on Pistol Hill when Pleas Yargee was shot.

He was appointed a Special Deputy to keep things in order at Electric Park in 1925.

Robert Atkins was lot of fun around his family and had lots of friends, but could be stern. A daughter recalls that he was pronouncedly a law-abiding citizen. "Dad was honest about everything," Cozetta Atkins said.

## Brown, Frank

Frank Brown was the first mayor of Red Fork and Mug Brown was on the Board of Trustees.

Later Frank was Street Commissioner for the town of Tulsa and held the job when Spavinaw was brought in for water and when Red Fork was annexed because of its need for water.

It was during his term that the bonds for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge were voted. He was later police commissioner.

Frank died in August 1950.

## Estes, Charlie

In the decades since Tulsa County Game Warden Charlie Estes was shot to death on Turkey Mountain, the case has never been solved.

Although he went out to investigate a duck hunter violating state gun law violators, he was killed with a high-powered rifle, not what one would use to hunt duck.

Estes, 40, was starting a new career. He was one of an elite dozen of new state game wardens. He told his wife he'd be back soon and rode off on his horse.

This was Feb. 28, 1911. It was just after 2 p.m. when his body was found with a Winchester .33 rifle bullet in the stomach.

A size-10 boot prints was found near his body—coming from the Midland Valley tracks to within 15 feet of the warden. His Colt revolver, ammunition and holster were stolen. His wallet was stuffed back in his pocket.

He was found by a man named Matt Lee who had heard shots. He found a horse later identified as belonging to Estes. Then he found Estes' body. A shell casing was at the scene.

Turkey Mountain was infamous for moonshine and counterfeit money making.

Although his murder is unsolved, Estes reputation grew last summer when a memorial was dedicated in River Parks in view of Turkey Mountain.

Great-great-nephew Robert Tipton dug into stories he'd heard all his life and found they were true. Tulsa County Game Warden Carlos Gomez was struck by the similarities of Estes situation to his own: both game wardens for Tulsa County, both 40 years old, both living in Jenks.

First Tipton went to the State Department of Wildlife in 1995. They didn't know a game warden had been killed in the line of duty.

Then he called Gomez. Gomez first got Estes added to a state memorial for fallen officers. He said he felt like that wasn't enough.

"All I ever wanted was for Uncle Charlie to be remembered and never forgotten," Tipton said.

Gomez and River Parks employees chose the site at 5800S. Riverside Drive.

The dedication was planned to coincide with the Oklahoma State Game Warden Association meeting. Donations were collected to install a sidewalk, spotlight, and flat-sided boulders for benches.

The Sunday morning dedication featured a colorguard of Tulsa County Sheriff's Office and Tulsa Police Department officers.

Tiny Dodson represented NatureWorks, Inc. Jack Zink attended as did more of Estes descendants. The Department of Wildlife was represented.

"Charlie W. Estes was a great-grandfather to our law enforcement division in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and a brother to each of us.

"He was the direct ancestor to all of us that care about wildlife and a link to our heritage from our past and into the future," the eulogy that day said.

## Hackathorn, Ed "Dimples"

Ed Hackathorn was a Tulsa Police Officer, working the West Tulsa beat in the early days. He was affectionately known as Dimples.

The Historical Society heard about Dimples a number of times before Tulsa Police Historian Ron Trekell produced a picture.

Ed Hackathorn was listed, with his picture in the History of the Tulsa Police Department, 1882-1992.

He was rather plump, and, one might say, the term "dimples" was an accurate description of him.

E.B Hackathorn is pictured with the 1924 police department. The index lists Everett B. Hackathorn serving from 1912-46.

## Hawkins, Stanley, Tulsa Fire Chief

Westsider Stanley Hawkins was named the eighth fire chief on July 1, 1964, and served until Tom Baker was appointed in 1985.

Hawkins, who also served as president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs during his tenure, said Tulsa has been a national leader in fire protection throughout its history.

He said the department was the first in the region to stop using the horse-pulled firefighting pump and start using motorized vehicles.

In 1901, the city obtained its first fire engine, a horse-drawn wagon with two large chemical extinguishers and 200 feet of garden hose to apply the chemical.

"We sold our horses to Kansas City. We were that much ahead of the larger cities," Hawkins said.

Training for Tulsa firefighters was also top-notch, he said. Due to these skills, the National Fire Protection Association selected the department to produce a training film titled "Fighting Tank Fires" that was used around the world.

"We had more experience with oil patch fires than other cities did," Hawkins said. "The Tulsa Fire Department has been a leader in fire service all along."

It's that history of training and dedication that has helped firefighters excel when faced with such modern-day fires as the Petroleum Club arson that lit up the skies of downtown in 1994 and the B&M Oil Co. Inc. explosion and fire that rocked west Tulsa in 1995, Baker said.

"I think we learned from those fires. We learned that we have an aggressive firefighting staff, we expect that and we train for that," Baker said. "It is all about protecting lives in our community."

He was born in Collinsville to Nannie Lou and Harvey Hamilton Hawkins. His brother was Tommy Hawkins.

Hawkins' parents left Collinsville when he was a baby, coming to Southwest Tulsa when he was five.

Hawkins attended Park School for about six months and finished elementary at Celia Clinton.

Edward Stanley graduated from Daniel Webster in 1939. He graduated from the Oklahoma School of Business.

He was senior class president and president of the student council. In World War II, Hawkins was in the U.S. Navy, serving on the USS Farenholt and the USS Isherwood in the South Pacific.

From 1985-91, he owned and operated an arson and hazardous materials company, testifying in courts for clients. In 1991, he headed David Walters' Northeast Oklahoma office.

From 1992-2001, he managed the Tulsa office for CompSource, a state insurance fund.

In 1990 Hawkins was inducted in the Webster Hall of Fame. He gave commencement addresses in 1988 and 1997.

He is a member of the American Legion, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason and Akdar Shrine member. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Royal Order of Jesters Tulsa Court 47.

## Jackson, Charles F. “Charlie”

Deputy Chief of the Tulsa Police Department

Charlie Jackson was a 1965 Graduate of Berryhill School. He hired on with the Tulsa Police Department in 1968 and rose through the ranks to become one of three deputy chiefs leading the department into the 2001 millennium.

## Peters, James S. “Pop”

Veteran Tulsa Police officer James Peters was shot and killed by burglars he found in the Dickason-Goodman Lumber Co. showroom. The homicide happened April 14, 1949.

Peters, 76, was making his rounds at 11:15 p.m. at the Red Fork store, 3514 W. 42nd Place.

Mrs. J.R. Burnett saw the flash of one of three bullets, which stuck the officer. Mrs. Burnett was returning home from a movie with her son and had stopped in front of the store to zip his jacket.

The burglars had wedged a steel punch under a window and bent security bars to gain entry. In addition to this tool which the burglars left at the scene, officers found new tools and thumbtacks strewn on the grounds. Footprints were by the back fence.

Despite intensive investigation, no one was ever tried for the murder. A reward was offered and the Federal Bureau of Investigation studied some of the clues. It is the only unsolved murder of a police officer in Tulsa, according to Police historian Ron Trezell. July 22, 1992 the murder investigation was reopened.

James was well liked in Red Fork and was known for taking kind of a fatherly interest in some of the youth of the time. His son, Marvin, and wife are still residents of Southwest Tulsa.

Peter's .32 caliber German gun was laying a few inches from his hand. He never got to fire it. The murder weapon was believed to be a .45 caliber Colt.

Among those arrested in the case was Clarence Junior (Chief) Stites.

The Feb. 9, 1952 Tulsa Tribune said a burglary charge pertaining to the Yellow Cab Gas Station theft was filed against Stites.

The Feb. 15, 1952 Tulsa Tribune reported that Stites was being questioned since being taken into custody Feb. 7 that year. Burglary charges from a May, 1949 burglary of the Deluxe Cafe on Quannah were dropped.

Peters joined the police force in 1928. He was one of two, foot patrolmen. His patrolling area was not far from his home. His son and wife moved home with his mom after his dad was killed.

Marvin said his dad first came to Red Fork before the turn of the century, but moved there in 1903. James grew up in East Tennessee. His wife was Nora Lee who lived in Kansas and Missouri as a child. Nora was a charter member of the Epworth Methodist church.

James and Nora had four children. Marvin was the youngest, and his two sisters and brother were older. A hit-and-run driver killed the brother in 1921.

James worked in the oil fields and the refineries, too. For five years, the Peters family moved to an oil lease out by Medford, where in 1913 Marvin was born. They returned to Red Fork in 1916.

Marvin said his dad was a good citizen who worked hard to provide for his family. He didn't have a lot of schooling, attend church often, or hobbies, but he was liked by those who knew him and called him, "Uncle Jim."

James Peters son, Marvin, has lived for many years on West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Carbondale. Marvin was a railroad worker who retired from service.

James Peters is buried in the Clinton Oaks Cemetery with his wife and one of his sons.

## Sherl, Jimmy D.

Jimmy D. Sherl was Deputy Chief of the Tulsa Police Department

Jimmy Sherl started at the Tulsa Police Department in 1970, one year after his older brother Jackie Sherl.

Jimmy worked the street for many years and was one of the original members of the police department's Special Operations Team. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in the early 1990's and served until his retirement.

## Tulsa County Law Officers Memorial

On a grassy plain at Chandler Park, a dozen red bud trees were planted in 2001 as part of a memorial to a dozen Tulsa County officers. The peaceful scene is in contrast to the violent deaths that befell 12 officers.

Several of the officers served or died on the westside. They include Red Fork resident Pleasant Yargee, 24, who died from gunshot wounds Oct. 26, 1909. He was a protégé of Robert D. Atkins. (See other information under the Yargee family.)

Also in the dozen are William Thompson Beasley, 52, who was killed in the attempted Red Fork Bank robbery Sept. 11, 1919; and Tulsa County Highway Patrolman Hugh Blaine Davis, 45, who died June 21, 1929, in a collision with a bus near Red Fork.

John Nelson Ernst, 39, was killed Dec. 24, 1910 after trying to break up a craps game at a dance in Fisher, known today as Fisher Bottoms. In August, 1915, three men were arrested, tried, and after three trials, released due to insufficient evidence on who was the shooter.

Two died in Newblock Park after stopping a car with three men possibly en route to Sand Springs to "pull off a job." One was wanted bank robber Dick Gregg. Killed were Tulsa County Highway Patrolmen Ross Munger Darrow, 42, and Abraham Lincoln Bowline, 37. They died Aug. 29, 1929. Gregg was also killed.

Wesley Green Cole, 46, was a Tulsa County Deputy Sheriff who tried to stop a man breaking into a car in the Camelot Hotel parking lot. He died June 9, 1972.

Cole's son, now a Tulsa County Deputy Sheriff, has spent countless hours researching the stories of the dozen men. Lyndall Cole's research was used for this article.

Although memorialized in Chandler Park, the others worked and died farther away:

- Dawson resident Charles W. Stamper, 23, died Oct. 9, 1910 after being shot by a man named Frank Henson and riding home. The site of the shooting was in a mining camp tent near Dawson, however, it led to the only legal hanging carried out by Tulsa County Sheriff's Office. Henson left a letter in his cell which he signed, "Amos Bell." Also when Stamper died, the case of Game Warden Charlie Estes who was killed on Turkey Mountain was old news and wasn't solved.
- Night jailer Dewitt Clinton Cooley, 54, died Sept. 22, 1915 of wounds received Sept. 15 when he was struck on the head with a metal pipe in the Tulsa County jail. Nancy Cooley there to have dinner with her husband was also struck on the head, but survived. A prisoner named Thomas Murphy, who released another prisoner named William Moore after the attacks, locked them in cells. Then Moore and Murphy, and Charles Smith escaped from the jail.
- Transportation Deputy James Alexander "Dad" Sewell was transporting Ernest Hughes, 20, and Howard Love, 16, to the Oklahoma State Reformatory in Granite when Hughes got his gun and shot him three times March 24, 1925 about 15 miles east of Chickasha. Both young men were caught. Hughes was convicted and received life in prison. Sewell, 56, had been a cotton buyer in Bixby before becoming a Deputy Sheriff three years before his shooting.
- Deputy Joe Cecil Clark, 59, had been investigating a burglary in Collinsville on Feb. 18, 1959. Returning to First and Boston, he was hit broadside and killed by a Tulsa Fire Department truck on a fire alarm. Clark had been a deputy only six weeks, having been a State Game Warden.
- James Ward died Aug. 20, 1919. He had been in a shootout with another deputy over men they had sworn in to assist them. Although the surviving deputy, Ed Neeley, was tried, the charge was dismissed.

A member of the Bowline family called Lyndall Cole asking that the boulder marking where the Highway Patrolmen were killed be moved where it could be seen.

Boy Scout Troop 10's Aaron Moody rode with Lyndall Cole and they talked about needing a fitting site for the fallen officer memorial. Cole consulted County Commissioner John Selph about a site.

Moody chose the memorial as his Eagle project. The boulder noting the 1929 Darrow and Bowline deaths was moved to the meadow. A marker indicates the actual site of their deaths now.

Those wishing to donate funds to develop the memorial further can contact Lyndall Cole at the Sheriff's Office at 596-5637 or James Lewis at the Fraternal Order of Police at 234-6445.

# Chapter Eighteen: Westside Maps

Survey Maps and Notes

Railroad Maps

Geological Maps

Community Maps

## Plat Maps

### **SUMMARY OF PLAT MAPS FOR SOUTHWEST TULSA**

Extracted from the Tulsa County Records, by Roy Heim, 1994

<u>Plat</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
508	Red Fork	Jan 25, 1902
518	Red Fork, Creek Nation	Feb 20, 1902
560	Tulsa, Creek Nation Town	1902
780	Bridges Park	Mar 26, 1906
790	Campbell Hills	May 24, 1906
794	Tulsa View Addition	Aug 24, 1906
147	Riverside Addition to West Tulsa	Apr 20, 1909
159	Taneha	Sep 18, 1909
7	Business Men's Addition to Taneha	Nov 19, 1909
27	Clinton Addition	April 1910
48	Freeland Addition to Red Fork	
210	Garden City	May 17, 1910
116	New Taneha	Jun 11, 1910
175	Sapulpa & Interurban Railway	July 27, 1910
118	North Taneha (3 plats)	Sep 26, 1911
510	Original Tulsa Townsite	August 1915
148	New Addition to New Taneha	Sep 27, 1915
182	New Taneha	Jan 24, 1916
63	Glen Pool	Sep 11, 1916
304	South Haven	
255	Fuller-Walter Add'n to West Tulsa	Mar 21, 1917
254	Clinton Heights Add'n to Red Fork	

July, 1917

221 Highland Addition to Red Fork  
Aug 13, 1917

284 Maple Park Addition to Tulsa  
Jan 29, 1918

331 Taneha Mar 11, 1919 Blocks 62 through 69 and Trackage Lots E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L

180 Addition to New Taneha May 21, 1919

376 First Refinery Add'n to West Tulsa  
March, 1920

391 Hilldale Add'n to Red Fork April 1920

403 Park Add'n to Red Fork May 1920

556 Amend Plat of South Haven May, 1920  
Crystal City Park

421 Roosevelt Addition Jul 26, 1920

435 Frisco Addition to Red Fork  
Oct 20, 1920

466 Red Fork (Resurvey)  
1921 Galb/Russ Addn..

455 Carbondale 1921

575 Garden City May, 1921 Amend

649 Osage Pipeline Dec 16, 1921

555 Waldall Addition to West Tulsa  
Mar 29, 1922

593 Red Fork (Resurvey) Oct 30, 1922

619 Brooks Add'n to Red Fork April 5, 1923

621 Clinton Home Add'n to Red Fork  
April 1923

654 Clover Lawn Add'n to Red Fork  
June 1923

665 Yargee Acres, Near Red Fork 1923

651 Bridges Third Sub near Red Fork  
Jul 10, 1923

613 Red Fork (Resurvey) Jun 10, 1925

741 Stovall's Re-Sub of West Tulsa  
1925, blk 23

750 Bridges Third Sub-Div Jul 17, 1925

760 Carbondale, 2nd Addition 1925

767 Tulsa View Addition 1925

807 Clinton Homesites Add'n of Red Fork  
Feb 7, 1927

809 Park Heights Feb 19, 1927

815 Westdale Addition Mar 3, 1927

817 Searcy Re-Sub of Blk 3, Red Fork  
Mar 22, 1927

823 Search Re-Sub of Blk 3, Red Fork 1927

825 Carbondale, Third Addition  
Apr 12, 1927

836 Oak Grove Add'n to Carbondale  
May, 1927

877 Bridges Heights 1927

612 Burgess Acres Addition Feb 23, 1927

876 Bridges Park, Second Addition 1928

963 Yargee Homesite Addition 1928

797 Opportunity Heights Jun 17, 1928

927 Toydel Addition Dec 1928

945	Opportunity Heights	Apr 12, 1929
	corr.plat	
981	Berry Hill Acres	Jan 2, 1930
1011	Oakhurst Estates	Mar 27, 1930
1011	Oakhurst Estates	Jul 18, 1931
1034	West Tulsa View Acres	Jan 27, 1931
1067	Second West Tulsa View Acres	
		Jan 11, 1932
1103	Plan of Ark Riv Levee	
	Across Sinclair Refinery Land	
1198	Bridges Acres	Jun 22, 1939
1306	Summit Parks	Oct 29, 1946
1322	Dokes Heights Addition	Feb 3, 1947
1331	Opportunity Heights	Mar 14, 1947
1348	Veteran's Addition	Apr 30, 1947
1352	Berry Hill Gardens	May 20, 1947
1398	Southwest Gardens	Mar 20, 1948
1403	Re-Plat of Veteran's Addition	
		Apr 15, 1948
1478	Lindavista Addition	Jun 1, 1949
1485	Park Grove Addition	Jun 6, 1949
1519	Valley Homes Addition	Oct 5, 1949
1520	Linda Vista, 2nd Addition	
		Sep 28, 1949
1544	Cameron Cline Acres	Mar 1, 1948
1548	Grant 2 Addition	Jan 9, 1950
1555	Robison Addition	Feb 13, 1930
1567	Park Grove Second Addition	
		Feb 14, 1950

# Chapter Nineteen: Stories from The Past

## Early Descriptions and Quotes

### Berryhill Home

## Significant Westside Events

### Floods

### 1918 Flu Epidemic

Dr. Fred Clinton called it “appalling.” “This fatal and frightful epidemic of influenza that swept into Tulsa in the fall and winter of 1918 demanded a united effort of all citizens in defensive measures to avert panic and restore confidence,” he said.

He was writing in his “First Hospitals in Tulsa” piece that was published in the 1944 in the Chronicles of Oklahoma.

Ultimately, public meetings were canceled, schools closed, churches, picture shows, billiard and pool halls, soda fountains, soft drinks stands and other places of amusement were stopped. Business was practically suspended.

The last three weeks of October 1918 were the worst. “The death rate for a few days was alarmingly high, setting a new high mark for this usually healthful city,” the Tulsa Spirit said the next month.

“The influenza seemed to be no respecter of persons, some of the most important and best known citizens of Tulsa, as well as those in moderate circumstance being numbered among the victims,” the writer of Tulsa Spirit said.

Mayor C.H. Hubbard, Cyrus S. Avery for the Chamber of Commerce, and A. L. Farmer for the Red Cross found space in buildings at First and Elgin Sts. for an emergency hospital.

Dr. Clinton was added as the Medical Director. The mayor, Avery and Farmer provided the equipment, supplies and services and Dr. Clinton worked on getting nurses, doctors, “and all patriotic people of any aptitude for caring for the sick or performing relief work, menial or otherwise, that would release a trained person for technical service to the sick.”

Tulsa school superintendent Dr. E. E. Overholtzer, had teacher volunteers report to their principals to help the cause.

At one school, teachers canvassed an assigned area and reported to the Emergency Hospital the new cases, deaths, increases in severity, improvement, need for medical supplies and those who had no one to care for them.

A teacher wrote that one day she will never forget.

“On that particular day there were seven deaths in my district, and after sending in this report I found a nurse (one who helped care for Mr. Bumgarner until his death) alone in her room in a critical condition with no one to do a thing for her,” wrote Myrta E. Maxwell.

“I did what little I could, but was unable to get her any real help until late that evening when I saw Dr. Ray Wiley about to turn in at the driveway of his home.

“I called to him and stated the situation. Immediately he went to her bedside and saw to it that she was properly cared for until the last. Death claimed her before dawn,” wrote Miss Maxwell.

She said she recalled the response “of the teachers in all parts of the City was very gratifying and helpful.”

Clinton Oaks Cemetery records show 15 burials that year, however, a number of current records aren't complete. Many are missing the death year category. The actual number was likely higher.

## Race Riot of 1921

### Train Wrecks

August 24, 1907

One of the worst train wrecks in printed materials about Southwest Tulsa history, happened Aug. 24, 1907 at 3 p.m.

*The Tulsa Chief* reported the east and westbound passenger trains collided on a curve a half-mile east of Red Fork.

The dead included an engineer, two and maybe three firemen and a Frisco employee from the Sapulpa yard.

The westbound engineer listed among the injured was W.H. Hilliard of Springfield, Mo. who regained consciousness and said, “The first intimation I had of danger, was a sight of the other engineer rounding the curve towards me at full speed. I threw on the air-breaks and reversed, but the distance was too short.”

The Chief said Hilliard was ‘horribly mangled.’

The engineer who didn't have a clue was Christopher Benz also of Springfield. Also killed were George Angars and George Granger, firemen.

Dr. Fred Clinton said Charles Mack, a fireman on train No. 7 was scalded to death. Angars was from Oklahoma City and Granger lived in Monett, Mo.

Wiley C. Snook was the Sapulpa yard employee killed.

“The engines struck with terrific force and dumped, both a battered mass of iron. Cars of both trains were telescoped and piled upon the wreckage.”

The article implied the collision was the result of “misconstrued train orders.” In addition to Hilliard others injured were:

- A.W. Burgarner, Maplewood, Mo., baggage man
- S.L. Sykes, Oklahoma City
- W.H. Mills, mail clerk
- C.A. Shipley, Kansas City, passenger
- A.W. Naro, Tulsa
- J.S. Glanfield, Tulsa, passenger;
- A.P. Taylor, Covington, Tenn., passenger
- R.W. Gruner, Pittsburgh, Pa., passenger
- Mrs. Margaret Bristow, Oklahoma City, passenger
- Walter Bovard, Sapulpa, passenger
- W.F. Landrum, Denison, Texas, passenger
- Joseph Woods, Broken Arrow, passenger
- Mrs. Nellie Henderson, Coffeyville
- W.D. Elgin, St. Louis.

The Chief said several were in critical condition and could “die at any time.”

They said that within minutes, Tulsa was telephoned for help and within 15 minutes 1,000 people were on their way. Some 25-30 doctors and nurses gathered supplies quickly and boarded a train at the Tulsa depot to the site.

The worst hurt were treated in an improvised setting at the side of the wreck. The other injured and maimed were sent to hospitals.

“At the place where the collision occurred is the only place it could have happened on this section of the Frisco system.

“At this particular spot the road makes a sharp curve around the foot of the hill and scarcely 400 feet of track is in view for over half a mile,” the Chief reported.

Dr. Fred Clinton was the Frisco local surgeon and among those assisting was Dr. J.C.W. Bland when Engineer Hilliard’s leg was amputated two days later.

Hilliard withstood the operation poorly because of extensive injury and loss of blood. Slowly he improved, was praised by the Frisco chief surgeon, and got to go home Sept. 23, 1907.

Sept. 24, 1907, a report made to the Frisco Medical Association in St. Louis said Hilliard jumped from the engine cab just before the collision.

Coincidentally, the day of the wreck, the Frisco general superintendent, J.E. Hutchison, was in the area and supervised the clearing of the wreck after the victims were moved.

Dr. Clinton said Brakeman Jim Amber returned to work as a passenger brakeman between Oklahoma City and Kansas City. A son riding on the same doomed train was later a conductor out of Tulsa.

Titled “The First Hospitals in Tulsa,” Dr. Clinton’s article was printed in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* in 1944.

## July 4, 1912 Crash

Dr. Fred Clinton said the July 4, 1912 train crash that killed three and injured 48 was one of the contributing factors, which gave rise to an improved Tulsa Hospital.

The accident was “incidental to the rapidly developing pioneer oil field, railroad and manufacturing center of Tulsa.”

The accident occurred adjacent to Sand Spring Park, home to large picnics and other gatherings on holidays. Dr. Clinton was the surgeon for the Sand Springs Railway Company.

“It was the writer’s responsibility to care for all of the 48 brought to the Tulsa Hospital.

“The injured and their relatives and friends took over all the spare space in the hospital,” he said.

Dr. Clinton said Charles Page offered to pay “all necessary expenses.” Dr. Clinton didn’t note what caused the crash or what was involved in the collision.

## Refinery Strikes

## Personal Stories of Westsiders

In the oil business, church and the Masons, Edgar W. Morton, 97, has lived in Tulsa since the 1920’s.

Morton went to work at the age of 18. He had an aunt who lived in Tulsa when he came. She now lives in Sallisaw, he said.

He first worked at the Cosden Refinery. He lived in a company house with a supervisor and walked to work the couple blocks. He worked in laboratories, testing oil. He was an assistant chemist, but mostly did analytic work.

When the Mid-Continent strike hit made a decision. “I didn’t strike. I had an infirmity with my eyes, they were not too good. I felt it was not in my interests to strike,” he said.

He joined the Red Fork Masons in the 1940s, he recalls and became a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason.

He has been active at the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Christian Church as well as a Jenks’ church. He was chair of the church board.

“I golfed a little, but I wasn’t too good at it,” he said.

He and his late wife, LaJunta, were married more than 40 years.

## Remembrances

### *Ed Ledbetter*

### *Carbondale, 1930 - 1943*

The Carbondale addition of Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 30's and 40's was pretty much isolated from the rest of Tulsa as we knew it at the time. We lived on a hill that some folks called, "Carbondale Hill".

From a tree house in a Chinese Elm in Mrs. Comers front yard 4 houses north of the Community Church, we could see the Texas Company and Mid Continent Refineries. We could gaze across the river and view the Mayo Hotel, Philtower, First National Bank, and the (at that time) red spires of Holy Family Cathedral. A little farther south was the

Boston Avenue Methodist Church. Farther south yet, and east we could see the red bricked St. Johns hospital complex.

These were the "skyscrapers" of Tulsa in the 30's. This Elm tree perch commanded a view that acted as catalyst for the daydreams of young boys living in the neighborhood. We would lay on our backs in the field at the park at 48th and 28th W. Ave., and watch the sky writing planes spell out, "Pepsi Cola" and "Phillips 66". We concentrated on those fluffy, ever moving, rolling cumulus clouds all the while creating visual and mental images of people, places, and things, as they gradually changed their shape.

There was no bus service for Carbondale in the early 30's. There was however, an electric railway that ran from Tulsa to Sapulpa. Dad and I would walk north on 29th W. Ave to 46th Street. At that point, a footpath crossed a cow pasture then through some woods to the tracks behind the Casa Loma Ballroom. There we would catch a Street Car for trips to and from town. Later on that line became the Tulsa-Sapulpa Union Railway. It shuttled glass sand from the yard in West Tulsa to the Liberty glass plant in Sapulpa. On its' return trip, it transported glass bottles back to the yard for distribution. As Crystal City, Crystal City pool and the Casa Loma Ballroom met the wrecking ball, I guess the railroad line is long gone as well.

Lookout Mountain to the north was always in plain view. I recall a few nights after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when fire broke out on its oak-covered slopes. Being fed by a northwest wind, the fire created a large arrow shaped blaze pointing towards West Tulsa and the river. People said the fire was the work of saboteurs who purposely set it as a reference point for possible Japanese air attack on the Texaco and Mid-Continent refineries!

Looking east from 48th Street and 25th W. Ave, the view was obscured by a large red sandstone two-story home with columns on the East side supporting porches the width of the house on both the first and second floors. South and next to the big house was another sandstone home we knew as the Superintendents house. The most intriguing building on that property however, was the massive round stone lofted horse barn. We were told the barn was originally erected to provide stalls and fodder storage for those big Belgian horses that were used in the early oil fields. This property and that to the east sloped downward towards fertile Arkansas River bottomland. The homes and barn as well as the land at least to Union Avenue were all owned by "Old Man Sanders" as we used to call him. He was a recluse and a mysterious old gentleman. I wish I knew more about him. I have the notion there's a good story there somewhere.

I do recall sitting in class at Alice Robertson when one of the teachers, (Mrs. Washington/ McDermott, Mrs. Aiken, Mrs. Linebrock/Ward, Mrs. Luger, Miss Sappenfield, Mrs. Cottle/Thornton?) pointed to some new pictures hanging on the wall above the blackboard. They were paintings in large gilt frames. The teacher told us Mr. Sanders had given them to the school. (Wonder what ever happened to them?)

Directly south and east of Robertson was a parcel of land that adjoined school property. It was rocky and sloped downward towards 51st Street. An abandoned powerhouse sat at

the edge of the soccer field, while an old rusted oil field steam boiler nestled among some scrub persimmon trees near a draw. They were remnants of oil field activity from another age and before our time.

In 1935, Carbondale's Kindergarten class activity was conducted in the Community Church Annex east and next to the church. Robertson at that time did not have the three additions added to the south for more classrooms, office/mechanical system, and cafeteria/library. Our Kindergarten teacher was Miss Bonar. She drove a neat little tan 34 Ford coupe. After our first day, Miss Bonar asked us to bring a small rug to class. We found out next day, the rugs were for our daily nap. Carl Christiansen, Nancy Rusher, Norma Dell Rudd, Mary Jo Harrell, Hugh Pierce, Gene Allen, Richard Wood, Wanda Fields, were my Kindergarten classmates. I know there were others, yet I can't recall them now.

Mr. B. E. Koonce was our principal and science teacher at Robertson. I recall one day the fire alarm sounded. We marched out and stood on the grass and gravel south of the school. Mr. Koonce pointed to the south and up approximately 30 degrees; probably towards what would now be 61st and Union. Here was this monstrous Dirigible lazily moving east, engines droning in and out of sync as it slowly went out of sight. We heard later that it was one of the Navy dirigibles we acquired from the Germans as a part of WW I reparations.

The drought and depression of the 30's as well as World War II had profound effects on the lives of those of us living on the "Hill". We carry them with us to this day. Many of our dads were out of work. Those who were lucky enough to have a job earned meager salaries for the most part. After all, we were "West of the River", and blue collar folks.

Alice Robertson patrons held "penny dinners". On given evenings, women of the community who had the means to provide extra food, prepared covered dishes to take to school. A complete meal cost a penny. A family of five could eat for a nickel. Folks who could not afford even a nickel were not turned away. At least bellies got filled once and awhile. Not one scrap of food was wasted. Leftovers were given to the poorer families. The proceeds from the dinners were dedicated solely towards the purchase of shoes, coats, and other apparel for the kids whose parents could not afford it. I can still remember one of my classmates being called out of class to get a new pair of shoes.

We had very little rain during those times. The Arkansas River was dry except for a trickle of Refinery fed water. Dad would say, " If it weren't for the Refineries and sewer system, the Arkansas River would look like the Sahara desert." Our streets were a combination of road oil and dirt. They deteriorated rapidly. We always knew when election time drew near. Dad would always say, "Well, its election time again, here come the road grading crews!!". They alternated street repair. If folks living on 25th W. Ave, 27th W. Ave 29th W. Ave, etc., roads were graded prior to the election in a given year, then the next election year, residents living on 26th, 28th, 30th, etc., got their roads graded.

It was after I left home for college and the service and returned when I noticed that some of the roads were asphalt and some poured with reinforced concrete.

It was a chilly December Sunday. Earlier that year Dad bought a used 1938 Dodge. It actually had a radio!!! He would let me sit in the car for 15 minutes on Sunday's to listen to it. If you recall, those old 6-volt systems drained the battery quite rapidly if the engine was not running. That's when I learned about the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. The next morning all Robertson students and teachers gathered in the cafeteria. We sat in silence while listening to President Roosevelt's speech and declaration of war. We had just turned 11 years old, some in fact whose birthdays fell later in December were just 10. We grew up in the depression, we knew about hard times. We were in the war now. Fathers, sons, older brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and acquaintances were suddenly gone. Many from Carbondale did not come back. We participated in scrap drives, rubber drives, bought savings stamps that led to savings bonds.

No longer could we go to Carbondale Grocery, Bundy's Grocery, Thomas Grocery, or Peters Drug Store for candy or gum. Forget about Levi's and Lee's jeans. We knew we were contributing to the war effort, no one complained. After all, Carbondale folks were overseas fighting for us! I know there may be others from the "Hill" who made the final sacrifice.

God Bless Lloyd and Norman Morgan, Glenn (Piggy) Blackburn, as well as all the men and women of the Armed Force of the United States in all wars, who lost their lives defending the rights and freedoms each and every one of us share to this day.

I've lived in Houston since 1969. I've made the trek from Houston to Tulsa many times. The longer I'm away, the more difficult it gets for me to come to Tulsa. Houston is home now. Things up there have changed so much. When one lives in a given area for many years, perceived change is gradual. It comes and goes almost unnoticed. When I do go back, I always make a point to drive the streets of Carbondale as well as Red Fork, West Tulsa, and Garden City. I recall good times as well as a few tearful ones. I look for places that no longer exist - - - The rolling wooded hills to the South and West are built up now - - - It saddens me - - - I get emotional - - - I come back home.

Ed Ledbetter Born at home, 4:30 PM, August 16, 1930  
4735 S. 29th W. Ave, Tulsa, OK

Merle Wilmouth  
Gene & Pat Winfrey  
Oxford  
Sheppard

“Billy Ray Hyden was to be in the 1935 Soap Box Derby in Berryhill, but the day before the race, he had a wreck coming down the hill and was taken to the hospital. Home the next day, he watched the race from the window.

On Saturday nights, former Berryhill school superintendent Alsie Hyden would go to the Coney Island downtown and buy a big sack of Coneys. They cost 6 cents each. “What a treat,” recalls Billie Winfrey Mosley.

“Mom” Effie Jenkins, Hazel Winfrey’s mother, was very active in church and community affairs in Berryhill. She was president of PTA. They had a special night honoring Mom Jenkins who gave an inspiring talk on the Value of Friends.

Miss Dean, a first grade teacher read a tribute to Mrs. Jenkins and the honoree was present a friendship quilt with the names of Berryhill people. They sang “I Love You Truly.”

# Chapter Twenty: The Census in Southwest Tulsa

Indian Territory Census

The Dawes Roles

The Miller Applications

1910 Census

1920 Census

Other Census Records

# Chapter Twenty-one: City Directories and The Westside

Many people are not familiar with the city directories in our country. They might be interested in the general description of the directories, and how many years they have been produced in our area. The jewels, are the street and community name changes, historical changes and a look at the businesses operating in the area.

## Early City Directories Organization

The earliest City of Tulsa directory in the Tulsa City/County Library is from 1909, just two years after statehood. It was published several years after Tulsa became organized as a city in Indian Territory.

The first city directories didn't list those living west of the river. As the years passed, they started picking up additional names of residents and businesses on the west bank of the Arkansas.

Residents of West Tulsa and Red Fork were listed as groups at first. As the years passed, street names and individuals started being published individually.

The original names of many streets were changed to reflect the growing city of Tulsa as it kept expanding its fenceline further out from the downtown area.

## Hidden Jewels in the Directories

### 1917, West Tulsa Residents

In 1917, West Tulsa has its own section of the Tulsa City Directory. Many of the names may be familiar to you. We hope that is the case.

J R Agnew  
Sol Arnold  
Marion Arp  
Elbert Arrington, grocer  
Mrs Ollie Atwood  
Mrs Annie Astin  
I L Davis, barber  
Mrs Laura I Babcock

B F Bagley  
John Baker  
R C Ball, drugs  
W C Ballard  
C W Barnes  
P E Beall  
G N Beasley  
David Becker  
Burt Belson  
A B Bergdorf  
Edward Bilby  
A B Birgdorf  
Samuel Eitterman  
J I Blaine  
A P Bliss  
G E Bodine  
J F Bohlander  
M L Bond  
C A Boumister  
J F Boyd  
F S Bozarth  
C C Bradley  
John Branham  
H G Brothers  
E B Bright  
E A Brown  
Henry Brown  
H A Brown  
W H Brown, grocer  
H H Bryant  
W A Bryant  
Clyde Buck  
Craig Buell ©  
G W Butler  
R G Collins  
Mrs Agnes Campbell  
Clarence Campbell  
G F Campbell  
J M Campbell  
M L Copenhaver  
W A Copenhaver, grocer  
D M Cannan  
Charles Carter  
E J Clark  
J E Clark  
J L Clark

Lige Clark  
R H Clark  
R L Coleman, grocer  
Constantin Refining Co  
Edward Cook  
Ralph Cook  
S L Cook  
G W Corby  
M C Corby  
Samuel Corby  
Robert Coyll  
W E Crawford  
John Crews  
Albert Crow  
John Crow  
W C Crussell  
E T Cue Feed Yd  
J S Cue  
E B Cunningham  
W L Cuningham  
Pink Curtis  
H G Dahlem  
George Dartois  
E F Davis  
J L Davis  
Fred Day  
L R Day  
Dorpha Delph  
G H Delph  
John Delph  
Jesse Demory  
Wm Desso  
D P Dodd  
F M Donovan  
O T Darley  
Charles East  
J M Edge  
C F Edwards  
H T Edwards  
Mrs Martha E Elliott, poultry  
W L Elliott  
M L ellis  
Sam Ennis  
J F Eyman  
L S Feasel  
J H Fleischer

Fred Feterly  
J O Flanagan, restaurant  
John Fleicher  
J M Fletcher  
Frank Foresman  
Frank Fowler  
C H Fox  
Alexander Frazier  
R E Freeman  
Frisco Hotel  
Thomas Frisenberry  
F A Fuller  
F A Fuller, real estate  
J W Gallagher  
Mrs Nettie Gandy  
W M Garbey  
E E Garrett  
Clifford Garris  
J W Garris  
R A Garrison  
O B Gasperson  
Earl Gatrell  
W H Gordon  
A W Guffey  
J W Hanks  
C W Hanson  
T L Hardesty  
W E Harris  
John Harrison  
Mrs Laura Haruff  
J A Hart  
Thomas Hortisty  
O J Harvey  
A D Hastings  
J W Hawkins  
H H Haworth, grocer  
Wm Hayes  
G L Haynes  
M A Hazlett  
S B Heath  
Donald Hendricks  
W S Hendricks  
Mariel Henson  
S B Hickman  
J E Higdon  
W T Hinch

W H Hinkle  
J L Hoffman  
M R Houghton  
C C Houser  
John Houser  
Mrs Lizza Hubbard  
R Q Huddleston  
Stephen Huff  
B E Huffman  
Daw Hughes  
J N Hughes  
Otis Hughes  
W E Hughes  
James Idol  
Roy Ingles  
J M Ingram  
Samuel Innis  
Adolph Jack  
N F Jack  
E P Jenkins  
Geroge Jennings  
D R Johnson  
Harley Jones  
A T Judy  
R J Justus  
O O Karn  
Charles Karns  
I M King  
T M King  
Homer Kirby  
Demoin Kirk  
John Kneidl  
S N Knight  
Frank Kumke  
Andy Lofton  
D E Lofton  
W M Lamb  
J C Lambert  
W G Lambert  
W T Langwell  
A L Lanning, restaurant  
C F Lannon  
S N Laughlin  
Lee Ledford  
W E Ledford  
R W Lentz

P G Leonard  
J D Letterman  
G C Lindsay  
G E Linton  
F P List  
Theodore List  
Wm Lutts  
W W Lynn  
J S McClure  
Phillip McCully  
John McDonald  
J F McGinn  
J M McGlasson  
H O McLaughlin  
J C McLaughlin  
J Y McMurtrey  
John Mc Wicker  
H F Mackler  
J A Mangan, real est.  
W A Markel  
Napoleon Martin  
Lucian Masters  
Nick Masters restaurant  
John Matthews ( c )  
W P Mayo  
Jacob Mazenam  
George Meador  
I R Merrill, blacksmith  
H L Miller  
Mack Miller  
Sidney Miller  
R H Milligan  
Mitchell Hotel  
J M Mitchell  
F A Money  
Taylor Montgomery  
A R Morrison  
Mrs Sarah B Muir  
John Mullin  
Peter Mulrean  
Harry Neal  
J C Nennery  
James Newton  
L L Newton  
E C Nichalson  
E A Norton

James Norton  
R C Nunnery  
H O O'Brine  
G L Osborn  
R L Osborn  
Palace Hotel  
Pan-American Refining Co  
J G Parker  
John Parrott  
Mrs Susan H Pease  
George Peterson  
Henry Peterson  
Arthur Phillips  
Edward Pool  
Postoffice  
Loyd Pryar  
T M Quisenberry  
I M Raibourn  
G B Rainey  
J C Rainey  
A D Parker  
P B Rawson  
Floyd Reber  
G C Reeder  
C A Reinhart  
A C Revels  
Chambers Rice  
A C Richards  
D E Ridenhour  
J J Ridenour  
R P Ridley  
C I Riggs  
J S Rist  
Riverside Hotel  
Mrs Alice Roberts  
L E Roberts  
J F Robertson  
R S Robinson  
Lee Rogers  
Sigmund Rothhammer  
H W Rutledge  
J C Pyle  
R H Ryon  
Edward Sanders  
W B Sanders  
Sanders and Sons, blacksmiths

L D Scribner  
R W Sears  
H C Sey  
D B Shannon  
John Sharp  
Claud Shaw  
Philip Shreck, dry goods  
W W Simpson  
M F Slaymon  
A T Smith  
C F Smith  
C H Smith  
Jack Smith  
O R Smith  
W C Smith  
G A Selander, billiards  
R H Spencer  
A L Stanley  
Earl Stanley  
H L Stanley  
Mrs Emma Stapp  
F P Starks  
C d Stevenson  
F A Stitt  
T J Storm  
G T Tam  
Mrs Louise Tam  
James Tate  
Willard Taylor  
B F Teales  
B C Thomas  
J G Thomas, restaurant  
M B Thompson  
W C Tilford  
A C Tipsword  
F J Tipsword  
Wm Tipsword  
T J Tipton  
H J Toups  
Tulsa Boiler & Machinery Co  
Uncle Sam Oil Company  
Samuel Vittum, grocer  
E A Whalene  
J H Warren  
W S Warrington  
C H Watson

Mrs Fannie Watson  
Watts & Jones, barbers  
M E Webb  
E A Wenk  
West Tulsa Baptist Church  
West Tulsa Hotel  
Mrs Florence White  
F L White  
L L White  
O L Whites  
S H Wilkerson  
W W Williams  
E C Wilson  
Jack Wilson  
E A Wine  
C W Wood  
P C Wood  
T E Woodard  
Henry Yochum  
W J Young

The 1919 city directory continues to list West Tulsa residents and businesses in one section, while others in the book are listed by address.

## 1921 Directory lists street changes

In 1921 the city directory started breaking West Tulsa businesses and residents out by streets. The streets, however, were not something that we see in 2002. Streets showing up in the directory for West Tulsa were; A, B, Bland, Brown Ave., Center Ave., Chesley, Clinton, First, Francis Ave, Frisco, Georgia, Hopkins, Jones, Lee, Moran, Nineteen, Oklahoma Olympia, Phoenix Avenue, Quanah Avenue, Second, Seventeenth, Sixteenth, Third, Twenty-Fifth, Twenty-first, Twenty-third and Virginia.

## 1923 Directory includes Carbondale, Frisco Y and Garden City

The 1923 city directory included the residents of Carbondale Addition as H R Brox and L E Hicks.

The 1923 directory also included the residents of the Frisco Y as; Henry Bailey, T L Clark, E S Cook, Montis Crenshaw, Thomas Davie, Albert Davis, James Evan, Irvin Hallman, James Harris, W D Horce, Mattie Login, Benjamin Nealy, Jesse Obregon, W M Strickland, C P Warmley and Walter Williams.

In 1923 Garden City residents were documented for the first time. Residents are listed below.

Fred Bachtenkirkin  
A H Beard  
M R Beaty  
Frank Biby  
L R Blankenship  
R A Blythe  
E E Brennerman  
Benjamin Bryan  
Benjamin Carver  
J M Cluck  
M s Chilston  
F D Chilton  
F W Chilton  
W R Cox  
C E Deek  
L A Vuvall  
J F Grigsby  
J W Hayes  
Ray Hays  
W W Hendrix  
Fred Jones  
G W Jones  
C E Lannon  
F W Latimer  
Lora Lewis  
H H Lisenby  
Jake Lynch  
W McLaughlin  
Mark Twain School  
W W Miller  
C W Peevey  
R E Purdy  
F E Porche  
Wm Radford  
Clara Rhodes  
J F Rickerson  
F O Rushing  
F P Starks  
J C Smith  
H R Snow  
M B Snow  
W J Turner  
J Wilson W I Wilson

J E Wincheser  
May Yearout

## 1925 Directory has street changes and adds Red Fork

In 1925, the westsiders began to be included in the regular format of the city directory. Street names began to change, and the changes were noted. (There are a few apparent discrepancies where streets were named the same. No explanation for it at the time of compiling this information).

A Avenue changed to 21<sup>st</sup> Place  
C Avenue changed to 23<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Capital changed to 17<sup>th</sup> Place  
Center changed to West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Chelsey changed to West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Clinton changed to West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Day changed to West 24<sup>th</sup> Place  
Davision changed to South Quanah Ave.  
Factory changed to West 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
First changed to South Olympia Ave.  
Floydell Station was noted on OU Rwy, 3 miles SW of city limits.  
Francis changed to West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Frisco changed to West 16 Place  
Georgia changed to West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gusher changed to Union Avenue  
Jones changed to West 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lee changed to West 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Louisiana changed to West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Marion changed to South Phoenix Avenue  
Martin changed to Santa Fe Avenue  
Martin Avenue changed to West 24<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mitchell changed to West 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Monroe changed to West 21<sup>st</sup> Place  
Naharry Place changed to West 16<sup>th</sup> Pl.  
Orchard Lane changed to West 17<sup>th</sup> Pl.  
Orcutt changed to 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rice changed to Tacoma Avenue  
Second changed to South Nogales Ave.  
Shirley Avenue changed to Tacoma Ave.  
Virgin Avenue changed to West 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Wayne Avenue changed to Waco Ave.

In the Frisco Y, in 1925 were the following people;

J R Ambrosio  
O H Brooks

Frank Brown  
Antonio Chaves  
Ernesto Estrada  
Patrick Lamb  
M E Matlock  
B R Neely  
W R Neely  
Wm Strickland  
Jno Nabaro  
C M Waits  
M H Watts  
Mrs Mattie Whitlow

Garden City Station listed a few people in 1925 including; Vilas Bachtenkircher, Mrs Susie G Billings and Benjamin Dutcher.

Red Fork residents and businesses were listed for the first time in the 1925 city directory. It was described as a village on the O U and Frisco railways, four miles SW of city limits. There had been an ongoing bragging rights campaign between Tulsa and Red Fork for several years. The description of Red Fork as a “village” was rather interesting.

Lee Adkins  
S V Adams  
T A Aggas  
C E Allen  
E D Allen  
S A Allen  
A M Anthamatten  
E O Arrington  
F P Arrington  
J W Arrington  
A C Askew  
R D Atkins  
J W Babb  
Roley Black  
J M Bairrington  
Bank of Red Fork  
F E Barger  
P D Barr  
G R Bartell  
C E Bassett  
R L Bell  
A R Beller  
H V Bennett  
Fred Berwald  
E V Bewley  
Frank Bixby

T J Beckell  
J H Billingsley  
B C Bishop  
B A Blackburn  
M A Blackburn  
P B Blackwood  
J I Blaine  
C J Bland  
O A Bland  
C W Blocker  
F T Bogar  
L M Bolton  
E J Bonacker  
O P Bond, lunch  
W D Boone  
Walter Bowden  
Wm Bowden  
Mrs Ann Bowers  
T L Brewer  
J W Broad  
O C Brooks, grocer  
B J Brown  
Crayton Brown  
F O Brown  
H A Brown  
J H Bruce  
R H Brox  
F E Burgess  
L S Burk  
I E Burton  
Edw Burris  
M G Burt  
O E Bush  
W T Byrd  
E A Caldwell  
I E Caldwell  
C F Calley  
W S Campbell  
W F Cannon  
Carbondale School  
B L Cardwell  
T L Carr  
J D Carter  
C D Casler  
G T Castle  
Chas Cathcart

E J Cathcart  
C L Chandler  
E O Childers  
W H Childers  
J S Chilton  
L M Churchman  
City Hall  
D H Clark  
J N Clark  
Clinton School  
F N Clute  
H E Clute  
A R Coats  
F G Cohea  
S L Colburn  
D P collins  
Mack Cookson  
H R Cooper S P Cordray  
Manuel Coronado  
Irwin Correll  
F C Cox  
F C Cox  
S E Cox  
J H Crabb  
M N Crabtree  
E L Crafton  
J T Craighead  
W G Crawford  
A H Cribbs  
S F Cromartie  
Chas Cron  
N C Crouch  
O D Crouch  
C H Crow  
Paul Crowder  
Sistos Cruz  
Harold Daily  
T F Daniels  
W H Darr  
D H Davidson  
W G Davidson  
J D Davis  
Chas Decker  
W A Dees  
B J Dement  
L A Demory

Demory & Bogar, grocers  
H D Derrick  
R W DeShane  
H A Devine  
J R Devine  
Dickason-Goodman Lumber Co  
R H Dickerson  
W G Dinkens  
C C Dolan  
Wm Earlie  
Orville Echelberger  
Electric Park  
O S Elkins  
Ernest Ellis  
J M Ennis  
J N Ennis  
Ernest Enyert  
H F Evans  
J E Evans  
C O Fagg  
W S Fasholtz  
W W Ferguson  
F T Feterly  
O V Field  
O V Field Candy Co  
J R Figart  
Chas Fillingame  
R K Fisher  
W F Fleming  
J M Fletcher  
H J Foorman  
S O Ford  
G W Forester  
L M Forney  
W H Foster  
E L Fowler  
H H Frencken  
J M Friedman  
C C Garbey  
R E Baretson  
E D Geer  
J M Gill  
F L Goddard  
Bennett Graff, physician  
H F Graves  
J C Graves

A J Green  
J N Green, grocer  
J T Green  
L E Gregory  
R W Grubb  
Boyd Grubbs  
J E Guthary  
Anastacio Gutierrez  
J H Haddock  
A J Hall  
Guy Hall  
J B Hall  
J J Hall  
J O Hall  
J W Hall  
Jas Hall  
Velentine Hall  
Mrs Anna A Hallet  
C A Hamilton  
L B Hancock  
B J Handlon  
C M Haney  
T M Hapton  
Samuel Hardesty  
Wylie Harper  
G W Harris  
B B Harrison  
J D Harrison  
Mrs Beulah L Hart  
J M Hart  
R L Hart  
R E Harton  
F F Harvey  
O J Harvey  
W S Haverfield  
K D Haynie  
L B Haynie  
Mays Haynie  
J O Heinritz  
Clyde Henderson  
D E Hendrick  
J P Hendrick  
Guiford Hendricks  
J W Henings  
J R Henry  
Mrs Lou R Henry

R S Hickox  
R F Hicks  
H H Higdon  
S A Higdon  
C R Hillhouse  
G P Hill  
Israel Hill  
T W Hill  
Albert Holland  
Frank Holland  
W T Holland  
B L Hollingsworth  
J C Hollis  
J O Hollis  
J F Holt  
Frank Horton, contr  
W E House  
J S Howell  
Jno Howes  
W E Howes  
J J Hughes  
G A Hunt  
W M Huntsman  
W E Hutchings  
J J Ireland, lunch  
R L Irwin  
Chas Jacobs, blacksmith  
Mrs Frances E Jacobs  
M D Johnson  
H T Jones  
Harold Justice  
F E Keatley  
J W Kellogg  
Mrs Annie L Kendel drugs  
Geo Kennedy  
V L Kennon  
B F Kent, restaurant  
A L Kerbow  
Elbert King  
I J King  
J C King  
Samuel King  
T B Knapp, filling station  
A J Lair  
O C Lampp  
T B Landret

C R Lane  
J A Lane  
R H Lane  
A J LaRue  
Herman Lauen  
Mrs Harriet M Lawhorn  
Fred Lawrence  
J F Lawrence  
W M Layman  
Fred Layton  
E P List  
Lee Ledford  
C A Lee  
J M Lee  
Mrs Joseph Lee  
A B LeGrande  
J E Lewis  
H M Lilly  
Ugnacio Lopez  
G W Loving  
Freeman Lovings  
G F Lovings  
T J Lumpkin  
R H Lunsford  
H T McAlister  
C A McClure  
A L McCombs  
W O McDaniel  
A L McDonald  
Eugene McDonald  
I B McFarland  
J A McMurtrey  
Elmer McNeeley  
W L McReynolds  
J H McVicker  
C C McWaters  
W P Mahoney  
Brooks Manners  
T E Martell  
A G Martin  
Mrs Ora A Martin  
T S Martin, auctioneer  
Wm Martin  
H J Hathews  
E E May  
Clyde Mays

E C Mays  
F B Mays  
H A Mays  
H C Mays  
N E Mays  
R H Mays  
Weslcey Mays  
Mrs Pauline Merritt  
Henry Miller  
J H Miller  
T E Miller  
W C Miller  
C L Milligan  
J H Mitchell  
O T Mitchell  
M H Moore  
Omar Morgan  
J W Morrison, billiards  
Beecher Moss  
Mrs Mollie E Mullin  
R H Mullins  
Mrs Neaty Norton  
D L Nicholson  
Robert Nole  
Dewey Norsworthy  
B F Norton  
Frank Noyes  
E H Nunnery  
P J O'Brien  
Rev J W Oden  
Okla Eastern Oil Co Whse  
Oklahoma Union Railway Station  
T R Palmer  
C H Parker Jr  
J L Parks  
J M Parrott  
A B Patrick  
A F Patterson  
H B Patterson, garage  
Daniel Payne  
Nabor Perez  
J R Perske  
W E Peteet  
J S Peters  
J L Phillips  
Mrs Leon M Pidd

J W Pilgrim  
N R Pinney, grocer  
M M Pitts  
Post Office (Red Fork)  
E E Patter  
R N Potts, barber  
F R Pope  
B B Prater  
J R Pringle  
Edw Proctor  
H W Purcell  
J W Qualls  
H M Raifsnyder  
R A Rains  
H M Randall, restaurant  
Gee Raper  
Red Fork High School  
Red Fork Tel Exch  
V H Reedy  
Nelson Reheard  
H D Renfro  
D A Reynolds  
D W Rice  
T S Rice  
J H Richardson  
R A Richardson  
W P Richardson  
A M Rishel  
J S Rist, shoe repr  
Mrs Eva Roberson  
C M Roberts  
Frank Robinson  
Isaac Robinson  
J J Robinson, grocer  
Cabrino Rocha  
Geo Rose  
J D Rose  
Jefferson Rose  
Jerry rose  
R R Rose  
Roger Rose  
C A Rothammer  
W C Rudd  
C M Russell  
Frank Russell  
J A Ryan

Jno Sage  
S E Sage  
Edw Sanders  
Murgin Santiago  
C J Sawyer  
Rev Jas Scarborough  
F F Scherffins  
Edw Schlicht  
T F Schumacher  
G E Scott  
Jas Scribner  
L D Scribner  
P V Sercy  
A P Selsor  
Selsor's Garage  
H P Settlemoir  
J M Shaddox  
Chas Sheddric  
Jos Sheddric  
Mathew Sheeley  
H D Sheffield  
Kenneth Shepherd  
C L Sherrill  
Mrs Ethel M Short  
A G Sigler  
Claude Sigler  
F L Sikes  
Mrs Mary Singleton  
J L Skaggs, barber  
H O Slavens  
B B Smith  
C E Smith  
F A Smith  
G B Smith  
G W Smith  
J W Smith  
Jos Smith  
N B Smith  
Roy Smith  
W H Smith  
Weaver Smith  
A E Snodgrass  
B O Sowash  
F G Stanford  
A L Steeples  
D L Steinberg

C J Steward  
Clave Stewart  
B F Stone  
M E Stroup, garage  
C A Sullivan  
J L Sullivan  
H C Sunderman  
J C Taber  
J A Tait  
J O Tait  
G E Tenney  
Murry Thames  
R M Thalman  
C D Thomas  
C L Thomas  
Le Roy Thomas  
Peter Thomas  
S H Thompson dry goods  
Thompson & Black, grocers  
Mrs Bell Thrasher  
Ray Thrasher  
Ples Todd  
C C Trail  
Jno Trail  
H C Trantham  
A G True  
G S Tucker  
C W Turner  
E E Turner  
J H Vance  
G L Vanwhy  
F M Vaughn  
Vernon Verete  
M F Vernon  
Mrs Elizabeth Vore  
A J Vowels  
Whitter Vrett  
E E Wadley  
G G Wadley  
G E Walker  
S J Walker  
W H Walker  
J W Wallace  
H H Ward  
J R Warren  
J G Watt

B F Wayland, real est  
J I Weese  
F W Weldhaber  
C C Wells  
Otis West  
H E Wheeler  
J S Whitaker  
G W White  
C E Whiteman  
C E Whiteman, drugs  
C J Wilkinson  
J H Wilkinson  
G H Williams  
H C Williams  
W H Williams  
J A Williamson  
W H Williamson  
J A Wilson  
C A Winn  
R G Winsworth  
W C Winsworth  
R W Wolfe, grocer  
Mrs Addie Wood  
J B Wood  
A A Woods  
B H Woolsey  
W M Woolsey  
Roy Wortham  
C M Wright, grocer  
H Wright  
Mrs Lillie M Wright  
O L Yarbrough  
Mrs Susie Yargee  
G W Zink, physician

# Chapter Twenty-two: Jones-Riverside Airport

**Jones-Riverside is known as one of the busiest small airports in the country. It is home to Spartan Aviation, a very active flight training school. Spartan also trains mechanics at the Tulsa International Airport.**

The Tulsa County News reported that the Riverside Airport opened on July 4, 1958. However, there was a significant amount of air traffic at the airport prior to the grand opening due to the major professional golf tournament being played at nearby Southern Hills Golf Course. Governor Raymond Gary came to Tulsa for the ceremony. LeRoy Huff was named supervisor. Huff had been an employee of the municipal airport for eleven years. The 1958 article reported that a station wagon had to be brought in because the ramp for the planes was so large. The wagon would be used to ferry passengers to and from their planes.

The National Open tournament was the catalyst for Tulsa improvements including the airport. For that, the airport between 81<sup>st</sup> and 91<sup>st</sup> between Elwood and Elm opened June 1, 1958. According to Airport Superintendent Steve Mushrush, it was later rededicated as the Richard Lloyd Jones, Jr. Airport. Mushrush has been superintendent since 1985. It has the busiest movement of any airport in the region. “We have a lot of movement, and a huge economic impact,” he said. The airport has three concrete landing areas, including two runways each. It has a control tower and is lighted in all hours of darkness.

## Early Development of the Airport

## Expansions and Businesses

## Flight Schools

Flight schools started operating at Riverside Airport soon after it opened in 1958. The airport was a natural for the smaller air training operations.

## Tulsa Technology Center

Northeastern Oklahoma’s need for growing numbers of aircraft mechanics and pilots fueled the continuing growth of training for specialty skills.

Oklahoma government recognized the need for facilities and opened the Riverside Campus of Tulsa Technology Center.

The campus has a 283,000 square-foot facility on a 33-acre campus near Jenks and adjacent to R.L. Jones Airport.

The address is 801 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street, Tulsa, OK 74132-4008. TCC's Riverside Campus was established in 1999.

A TCC fact sheet on this site says it has a two-story Telecommunication building, space for the Tulsa Aviation Alliance, aviation labs and hangars, a dining facility, conference center, meeting rooms, warehouse, office and classroom space.

Another feature is the Oklahoma State University's Center for Health Sciences' hypobaric and hyperbaric chambers. These test the effects of high altitude and low seawater depths on the human body.

The Tulsa Aviation Alliance is a consortium of Tulsa Technology Center, Tulsa Community College, OSU-Tulsa and -Stillwater campuses, and the OSU Center for Health Sciences.

Eliminating duplication or needless classes and preventing students from having to leave the community to learn aviation, the alliance provides seamless aviation education for students from high school through university level.

The job placement rate is about 96.5 percent. They serve Tulsa, Rogers, Wagoner, Okmulgee, Creek, Osage and Washington counties.

The Riverside campus serves nearly 1,200 students a year, and current fulltime enrollment is over 1,000 secondary and adult students.

Kay Hamilton is the director and John Allison and Mike Highland are Assistant Directors. Alex Thurocy is Evening Coordinator.

At Riverside, they have 61 fulltime staff members, 22 of whom teach. To learn more call 918-828-4AIR or 1-877-AVIATE. The website is [www.tulsaaviationeducation.com](http://www.tulsaaviationeducation.com). To telephone the campus is 828-4000.

The telecommunication consortium involves Cisco Networking Academy, the newly created BICSI Academy, and the Nortel DMS100 Switch Trainer, the fact sheet said.

Partnerships include WorldCom, Williams Co., Sabre, Cox Communications, and Southwestern Bell.

Programs include Aviation Maintenance Technology, Cisco Certified Network Associate, Unix, Internet Architecture and Security Strategies, Telecommunications Technology, Telecommunications Network and Switch Technology, and Wireless Technology

# Chapter Twenty-three: Caregivers

## Doctors

### Baker, Dr.

### Billington, Jeffrey, MD

Dr. Jeffrey Billington was born about 1895 in Parks, Arkansas. He practiced in the Medical Arts Building in downtown Tulsa in the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

He was the Tulsa County physician from 1940 to 1952.

Dr. Billington owned a 280-acre farm in Berryhill at 5960 West 41st Street in the early 1920s. Virgil Duke lived on the property and farmed it until 1937.

In 1941 Dr. Billington and his wife, Cecile Harriett, moved to the property. They lived there until 1951. They had two daughters, Freda and Joan.

He moved to Waldron, Arkansas, for a short time in 1951 where his wife died. He returned to Tulsa.

He moved to Stigler, Oklahoma in 1953. He had remarried and in 1954, he and his wife opened a medical clinic there.

Dr. Billington died October 28, 1964, in Stigler, Oklahoma.

### Bland, J.C.W. , MD

Dr. John C.W. Bland was born in Centerville, Iowa on Nov. 7, 1860. He graduated from Missouri Medical College in 1883, and located in Dodge City, Kansas in 1884.

Later that year, he moved to Tulsa, Creek Nation, Indian Territory.

In 1887, Dr. Bland married Miss Sue A. Davis, daughter of W.T. Davis of Tulsa, a well-known Creek family, according Dr. Fred S. Clinton.

They had seven children: Vera, Era, Owen, Hazel, Arlies, Davis and John. In 1895, he moved his family to Red Fork where he raised stock and had a country practice.

Dr. Clinton and Dr. Bland began practicing medicine together in 1895.

“Dr. Bland was a courageous citizen, a good neighbor and a distinguished physician and surgeon,” Dr. Clinton wrote in the Chronicles of Oklahoma. The article was “First Oil and Gas Well in Tulsa County.”

Dr. Bland was appointed postmaster of Red Fork when James A. Parkinson moved his store. In 1900, Dr. Bland established a large, successful, general store in his town.

In June 1901 Dr. Bland and Dr. Clinton brought in the first oil well in Tulsa County on his wife’s allotment.

The Indian Republican reported Dec. 1, 1905, that Dr. Bland’s home and its contents were destroyed by fire. “This makes the third time in the past few years that such a calamity has befallen Dr. Bland.”

In September 1907 Dr. Bland was looking into a waterpower plant on the Arkansas River.

Dr. Bland, Drs. J.O. Callahan and G.R. Rucker, made up the first Board of Creek Nation Medical Examiners. Callahan was of Muskogee and Rucker of Eufaula.

Dr. Bland was also a member of the Indian Territory Medical Association and of the American Association.

He was a charter member and the first president in 1906 of the Tulsa County Medical Society.

He was a member of the Oklahoma State Medical Association and a local surgeon for the Frisco Railway. For many years, Bland served as a member of the U.S. Board of Pension Examiners.

Feb. 25, 1910, the Tulsa Chief reported that Mrs. Susan Bland died after a short illness. She was buried at Oak Lawn Cemetery. "She was an estimable woman and universally admired," the article said.

He consulted at and operated at the original Tulsa Hospital.

Dr. Bland assisted in treating influenza patients in the 1918 epidemic.

Also buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery in Tulsa, Dr. Bland died Jan. 2, 1923.

## **Boone, Wilmot B.**

4117 S 26 W Ave (1948)

Dr. Wilmot Boone's parents were Presbyterian missionaries. They worked in China and Dr. Boone was raised there. He was born about 1913.

When the Japanese occupied the area where the parents lived, the Boones buried their dishes to protect them. Both Eileen Barnes and Daisy Bartling inherited some of those dishes.

The parents and sister and husband were interned in two Japanese camps where they were malnourished. They had only the clothes they wore into the camp.

Eileen thinks Dr. Boone took all his college classes in the U.S., including his medical training.

"I think you cannot leave out his contributions to his country. He served in the Army as a physician, but also to the Intelligence with his knowledge of the Orient and his command of several languages, including Japanese," Eileen Barnes wrote.

After the war, the sister contracted polio. Dr. Boone brought her back to Hillcrest in July 1951 where she was in an iron lung. She died in January 1952. Dr. Boone also lost a patient to polio.

When the Salk vaccine was being studied for protection from polio, Dr. Boone did some of the trials at Clinton Junior High in Red Fork and at Addams Elementary in Oakhurst in 1952.

Dr. Boone had a brother who was a surgeon in Honolulu.

Daisy Bartling went to work for him in 1953 or 1954, thinks Dr. Wilmot Boone practiced in Southwest Tulsa from the 1940s. Boone practiced here 16 years.

Howard "Jiggs" Childers recalls Dr. Boone was working with Dr. Turnbow in 1945.

Childers later went to work for Mid-Continent Supply, "and we bought supplies and equipment from him," Eileen said.

Soon after he finished his military service, Dr. Boone first practiced with Dr. William R. Turnbow, but was in his own office when Eileen went to work for him July 1, 1951.

About then, he hired a receptionist who had some disability to her left arm from polio, she stayed four or five months. Then Mary Hoffman joined Eileen and Francis Jobe, the x-ray technician.

While Dr. Boone was on vacation, they painted the north wall bright red, and Mary painted a black and gold dragon on it. Dr. Boone was “delighted when he came back,” Eileen wrote.

Also Mary Anne Carsten worked for him a few months before Daisy.

He left in 1959, then came back briefly, leaving for good in 1961.

Dr. Boone sold the practice to Dr. Charles J. Lilly. Later Dr. Boone practiced in Guam.

He and his wife bicycled through China, with a group. Eileen Barnes said he and the group arrived at Tiainen Square at the time of the Chinese crackdown in 1987.

He told Eileen Barnes he never wanted to return to China after what he saw there.

He and his first wife and second wife Elsie divorced. He lived in Hawaii from about 1960 and married a third time in the 1980s.

There was a Bed and Breakfast in his home near Kona in his last years. He died in April, 2002.

He has a daughter, Bonnie in Portland, Oregon and a son Daniel in Arizona. The son has two children.

Daisy Bartling, 87, described the doctor as a jovial man who could be stern. He loved practical jokes. He was tall and robust and had a soft heart.

She agrees that Dr. Boone should be remembered in a history of Southwest Tulsa.

He assisted area businesses when an employee would get hurt. One, Eileen recalls, was when they were building the 51<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge; a man got his nose broken and was treated by Dr. Boone.

“The office was a busy place, with many industrial sites in the vicinity, there were many injuries to be treated. Family injuries were frequent and treated in the office, including fractures and lacerations.

“Several minor surgeries were done in the office including tonsils and adnoids and D&C etc.,” Eileen wrote.

Dr. Boone delivered babies in his office. He once set a broken leg and another time removed a cancerous breast of a woman with tuberculosis when the hospitals wouldn’t, Daisy said.

Eileen Barnes said he did some major surgery at Byrne Hospital on Peoria. It was a small hospital where very good care was taken of patients. He also did surgery at Hillcrest.

His office was at 4117 S. 26<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue, though its not there anymore.

Dr. Boone was “very compassionate,” he very much didn’t want to hurt anyone.

He was called to treat a lady who was dirty and her home was filthy, but she was so sick.

Dr. Boone went there and a friend said she knew in an instant she wanted him to be her doctor, because of the compassion in his eyes.

He told one of his patients, who was badly beaten by her husband, that he would lead the “lynch party” for the husband.

His mother, Grandma Nellie Boone, lived in old Red Fork near Reed Park.

The Wilmot Boones lived on Turkey Mountain. After his death, his wife sold the land to the YMCA at a reduced price.

Bowers, Dr.

Clinton, Fred MD

Dowell, Dr.

Hardy, Homer Jr., MD

The following are memories of Dr. Homer Hardy.

Dr. Boone wanted me to come to Red Fork because he was the only doctor on that side of the river and there were 40,000 people over there.

I officed with him about six weeks while we fixed up my office. I opened my office January 2, 1954, at 4116 S. 25<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue.

It was a two-bedroom house I converted into an office. It was across the street from Dooley Drug. I practiced there for five years.

Orville Brown, that we called “Brownie”, had a drug store across the street from Dr. Boone’s office on 26<sup>th</sup> West Avenue.

There was a Crown Drug Store on the corner across the highway. Across the street from the Crown Drug Store was a little café.

“There were wonderful people there – just absolutely wonderful,” Dr. Hardy said.

“I remember a lady that came in to meet me and talk about finances. It was going to be difficult for her to pay the usual \$3.00 office call fee.

“I told her, ‘Don’t worry. When you need anything, you come in and we’ll take care of it.’ She didn’t want to accept charity. We finally agreed she would pay fifty cents for an office call and that’s what she did.

“I remember making a house call one night going out in the country to a little one-room shack with a dirt floor. There was one coal oil lamp in the room. It was late at night and when I walked in all I could see was that coal oil lamp.

“I saw a shadow of somebody and they directed me over to the child. I checked the child over and stood up. By then my eyes had adjusted and all these eyes were looking at me.

“There were about ten people in there, but not a soul had said a word.”

Ollie and Frances Guin lived west of Union on 41<sup>st</sup> Street on the north side of the street across from the school. He worked for the Frisco Railroad.

I’ve known them since 1930 when I was five years old.

She used to make the best kosher dill pickles you ever put in your mouth. They were so good.

Mrs. Anna Root lived right next door to my office. When I moved out of that office, I bought her house. I tore down both buildings and built the little strip center, which is still there.

I graduated from the University of Oklahoma. I was president of Hillcrest Medical Center in 1966 and 1975.

During my medical practice, I delivered over 3000 babies. I had several named after me.

I have three daughters and one son. My son, Homer Dwight Hardy, III, is in practice at 81<sup>st</sup> and Memorial.

I retired in 1988 and I've missed it every day. I loved medicine. I still keep up. I go to medical meetings and I'm still a trustee at Hillcrest.

## Holland, Roberta, D. O.

2404 W 41<sup>st</sup> Street (1948)

The Hollands lived at 2609 E. Pine from 1926. Their mother had died in 1923 of peritonitis following surgery. Roberta was the oldest of five children.

She went to medical school at the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine. She put herself through college. "She had a hard life. We're real proud of her," sister, Ruth Evans said.

She began practicing in the 1940's. By 1949, she had built a clinic 2410 W. 41<sup>st</sup>. It was family practice. Roberta came to the westside because grandparents Frank and Etta Horton lived off of 25<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue. Frank was in the oil business. Ruth thinks the Hortons moved to the westside in the teen's or 20's.

Ruth recalls when Frank said the prayers at mealtime, he spoke as though he was talking directly to God.

For two years, Perry and Ruth Evans, and daughter Martha, lived behind Dr. Holland's clinic. Ruth helped in the office and with keeping the books and Perry was in class at TU. He would clean the clinic after his classes. He became a doctor and practiced 20 years in Owasso.

Roberta married Dr. C. J. Baker, although she kept her maiden name. Roberta's daughter, Pam as a baby, would sleep on a hospital bed at the clinic and Ruth would check on her. Pam Rushing now works for a Jenks doctor. Her brother is a doctor in Mannford.

Martha, then 3, was in the Webster High School childcare program schooldays. Once Martha flipped the light switch where Pam was sleeping and startled the baby.

Ruth recalled the Horton's house was a large, barn-like two-story house. She remembered the round barn at the Sanders place.

Ruth's son is practicing medicine in Cleveland.

## Kempe, Walter

## Taylor, John H

Dr. John H. Taylor's office was at 13041/2 West 17th Street. It was upstairs and next to the Cameo Theater. Cecil Gomez remembers how squeaky those stairs were.

Dr. Taylor was about 55 or 60 in the 1930's and was a general practitioner. The members of the Gomez family saw him often.

Dr. Taylor made house calls, always bringing his black medical bag. He drove a black, four-door Packard or Whippet.

There is a J.H. Taylor buried at Clinton Oaks Cemetery who died Oct. 5, 1951.

## Turnbow, William R., M.D.

2112 W 41<sup>st</sup> Street (1948)

Dr. William R. Turnbow, M.D. and his wife, LeNora delivered babies all over Turkey Mountain and had lots of babies named for them, their daughter Marilyn Turnbow said.

Her mother helped her dad in his practice, but he was a partner with Dr. Boone for many years. The doctor's office was called the Red Fork Clinic and was close to the funeral home that was owned by the Nichols'. Marilyn and Carroll Nichols played around the caskets, she recalls.

While initially living above the clinic, later Dr. Turnbow and family lived at 4010 Yukon. The house is painted yellow now. The Colpitts lived across the street. She knew Patty Hopkins, the daughter of the Hopkins Variety store owners. The family knew the couple who had the drug store.

Her father was born Sept. 26, 1908. He was a 1927 graduate of Drumright High School and he graduated from Oklahoma University Medical School in 1936. He was an athlete, lettering in football and track and going to state in boxing in high school and won his 126-pound class two years in the Oklahoma University Boxing Contest. Dr. Turnbow boxed in the Army at Ft. Sill. He had many professional fights, losing only four times.

He was in the Army in World War II, too. Dr. Turnbow was Chief of the Department Anesthesia, 56<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital, Baylor University Hospital Unit. He served at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas and in Africa and Italy. He earned a Legion of Merit medal.

He worked three years at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City while in medical school. He completed one-year internship and one year of residency at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa.

Dr. Turnbow had a general practice and surgery. He was president of the Tulsa Academy of General Practice in 1953. He gave presentations on Shock at Southern Medical about 1950 and Hysterectomy at the Clinical Congress of Abdominal Surgeons in New York City about 1965. Dr. Turnbow died in 1993.

He retired in 1981 after 46 years of practice.

Marilyn Turnbow recalls Saturdays attending the morning movie at Cove Theater. She recalls the Sweet Potato Plant at the café and some type of contest relating to the plant. Marilyn remembers getting to hand out Christmas presents at the Lions Club Christmas Party.

Marilyn attended Pleasant Porter School and played jacks and marbles on the side steps with Billie Jenkins and Pepper Standridge. They also slipped off to eat wild onions in the schoolyard.

Billie was her best friend and when she married Richard Cortez, Marilyn was a bridesmaid.

Marilyn and sister Martha went to Monte Casino for high school.

## Woodson, Fred

Frisco Railroad doctor.

## Dr. Elvin Davis

Dr. Elvin H. Davis is a 1948 graduate of Daniel Webster High School where he was an All-State player in both football and basketball. He attended Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) on a football scholarship.

Dr. Davis is a recognized physician in the Tulsa area, a member of Oklahoma and National Podiatry Associations, a member of the American Board of Podiatry Surgery, Chief of Podiatry at regional hospitals, and president of the Oklahoma and Tulsa Podiatry Associations.

He has also been a volunteer team physician at Daniel Webster High School for several years. He was inducted into the Daniel Webster High School Alumni Hall of Fame in the fall of 1991.

## Dentists

### Ingram, Robert E. Jr.

Dr. Robert E. Ingram practiced dentistry on the westside in the 1960's and 1970's according to Linda Cott.

### Larson, William H.

2415 West 41<sup>st</sup> St (1948)

### Shelton, Larry E.

Dentist Larry E. Shelton had an office on S. 25 W. Avenue near Dooley's from 1960-65 when he was just starting out.

Sister Pat Stone, now living outside of Mounds, talked him into coming to the westside.

In 1965, he returned to graduate school to study prosthetics. He now has a practice over on E. 31<sup>st</sup> in Tulsa.

Shelton grew up in Hominy, and attended Southwestern, Midwestern, University of Oklahoma, Kansas City and Baylor University.

He knew Dr. Larson and said Larson was getting up in years, and would send fillings over to Shelton to do during his Red Fork days.

He also recalled Dr. Robert Ingram who is retired.

## Voelke, Albert R.

2112 West 41<sup>st</sup> St (1948)

## Druggists

### Dooley, Thomas A.

2422 W 41<sup>st</sup> St

Dooley Pharmacy began in 1923 when it was known as Oklahoma Pharmacy located at 1716 S. Quannah. Charles H. "Doc" Selsor was the druggist. Thomas A. Dooley, who relocated the pharmacy to 2201 S. Quannah, close to 22nd Place and Quannah, purchased it.

Then in 1942, the pharmacy moved to 2422 West 41<sup>st</sup>.

Twenty years later Bill Pittman purchased the pharmacy. After a building collapse and subsequent fire, Dooley Pharmacy relocated once again to 4120 South 25<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue where it is today.

Some descendants of the original customers of the South Quannah location are customers today at Dooley Pharmacy. The slogan is "We Care for Your Health."

Customer service has been very important from the beginning, and "is probably responsible for the successful 74 years of operation," he said.

### Jones, Bert "Doc" and Red Fork Drug

When Bert and Judy Jones donated a safe in 1993 from the old Red Fork Drug Co., they opened a door on a bit a Red Fork history.

In addition, the Jones loaned an album, which had a picture of the Drug Co. on W. 40<sup>th</sup> St. taken in 1918.

In front of the store, was an ad for Tanlac, bragging that "seven million bottles sold in 2 years." This store was located in the main commercial area of Red Fork in the days of the late 1800s and early 1900's.

Red Fork remained an incorporated city until 1928, when it was annexed to Tulsa.

Bert's father was Bertie Mortimer Jones who after a few years in the oil business, decided to study to be a pharmacist. Bertie originally came to Red Fork from London at 10.

Although the Red Fork Drug Co. was first, he eventually owned six stores.

The album included shots of old Red Fork and the Cosden Refinery fire.

Back in 1993, the late Lahman Robinson recognized the elder Doc Jones' photo.

Bill Pittman worked at the Red Fork Drug as a young man. Fresh out of pharmacy school, his first Saturday, a delivery man for Ray Rice, the bootlegger, came in to use the pay phone.

While the man was on the phone, the car was put in neutral and pushed around the corner to Epworth Methodist Church. There the opportunist emptied it of its bottles for resale.

Orville Brown owned Red Ford Drug during this time. Pittman was there between 1959-62.

For some reason, Brown permitted Rice to keep his receipts in the Red Fork Drug safe, which was sunken in concrete. Pittman mentioned he didn't judge Brown for that.

Red Fork Drug sold prescriptions and over-the-counter remedies and didn't sell much in the way of gifts, Pittman recalls. The big department stores across the river had the gift market.

In 1967, Dooley Drug purchased the Red Fork Drug Co. customer files. Today Dooley's customers include remnants of that early drug store, too.

Pittman met Pauline Lambert, Cleo Epps, and Rice. "They were all nice people," despite what they did for income, Pittman recalled.

## Ken's Pharmacy

Dee Ridgway is a graduate of Webster High School class of 1968. He played violin in high school and still plays with a church orchestra.

Dee is the youngest of three boys. His brothers are Pat and James, also Webster graduates.

Their family came to the westside when the parents built a house on W. 51<sup>st</sup> in 1948.

Dee studied pharmacy at Southwestern State College in Weatherford. He married Dorothy Davis in 1973.

He was secretary at the Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce.

He bought Ken's Pharmacy Nov. 1, 1990. Since then he has expanded the facility three times. "We're here for service," he said.

In January 2000, he added a Healthcare office that rents medical equipment.

The pharmacy has pictures of the old Crystal City Amusement Park on display and a collection of antique medicine bottles.

Ridgway worked with Bill Pittman at Dooley's earlier in his career.

Kenneth M. Ragsdale started the pharmacy after working as the assistant manager of the Crystal City Med-X Drug store until 1981.

He started in the old Harris Lumberyard building on Southwest Boulevard, but when Bank of Oklahoma wanted the land for a drive-in facility, a new building was built at 3319 W. 45<sup>th</sup> St.

In 1988, it had the offices of Dr. Barbara Yates and a State of Oklahoma office.

Ragsdale attended Park, Clinton and Webster as did siblings Leon, Harrold and Loretta.

He attended Oklahoma State Tech at Okmulgee and University of Oklahoma School of Pharmacy, graduating in 1974.

He married Margaret Boyle and they had two sons and a daughter.

Terry who graduated from Tulsa University in Petroleum Engineering; Todd, a Oklahoma State University student and a daughter, Pamela who was headed to Tulsa University on a Bouvaire scholarship.

## Ozark Pharmacy and Reynolds, “Doc “

Ozark Pharmacy was at 1920 South Quannah and was owned and operated by Doc Reynolds and his wife. His full name was J. Leonard Reynolds.

He was a native of Elk City, graduated from Oklahoma University, but lived most of his adulthood in Tulsa.

He owned Ozark Pharmacy for 47 years. His obituary said “His was one of the last business establishments moved out of the area by the Tulsa Urban Renewal Authority.”

Cecil Gomez describes Reynolds as short, medium build, balding and wore glasses.

Customers could describe the symptoms and Doc Reynolds would go to the back room and mix up a bottle of “get-well” medicine, Gomez recalled.

The Gomez family had a charge account, and after Cecil signed the charge ticket, he’d be on his way.

“It wasn’t uncommon for Doc to surprise a customer by charging less than the amount owed for medication or sometimes making the medicine an outright gift, saying, ‘I had a good day today, and I want you to have one, too,’” the obituary said.

The pharmacy had household items, trinkets and novelties. In the center, were two black wrought iron tables and chairs for the soda fountain customers.

The malts and shakes were 10 cents.

Veda Kidd recalls that Doc Reynolds had a home on Union Avenue about where Park View Terrace Apartments are now. Following the death of his wife, Lera, in 1971, he asked the son and his family to move into his home. Doc Reynolds continued to come to Warren’s Restaurant in West Tulsa for breakfast. The obituary said the waitresses fussed over Doc Reynolds.

He worked awhile at a Jenks pharmacy and then at a western store at the Empire Shopping Center on S. 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Ave.

He was a member of Southern Hills Church of Christ and Red Fork Lions.

He died at age 84; Reynolds is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery.

He was survived by a son Roy Reynolds and a daughter, Carol Bray, both of Tulsa; a sister, Stella Reynolds of Elk City and five grandchildren.

“Doc Reynolds was truly an asset to West Tulsa. A real friendly man, who was always there for you in times of illness,” Cecil wrote in his book “Mama and Papa’s Twelve Children and the Y.”

## Rexall Drug Store

1716 S Quannah Ave. (1948)

G. Ellis Morhart grew up in the drug business and was in the same location from 1933 to 1963. The address was 1716 S. Quannah.

The Jan. 13, 1955 West Tulsa News carried a pg. 6 story titled “Morhart’s Drug named ‘Honor Store’.”

The program was “designed to aid Rexall druggists in their efforts to provide better public service by improving the appearance, efficiency and professional character of their pharmacies.”

The druggist was Gene Cates whom Morhart’s daughter says now lives in Klute, Texas. Morhart himself died in April 2002.

After the Rexall closed in 1963, Morhart owned and operated the Ball Rexall Drug at 20 North College St. until he retired in 1975.

A color postcard, showing densely packed shelves, includes “Good Health to All” as a slogan.

The store received an “honor store” plaque, insignia for store personnel and window decals.

The West Tulsa News article said Morhart was reading complicated pharmacy symbols when other children were learning ABC’s.

It said Cates worked in drug stores after school as a young man, graduated from University of Oklahoma and took a job in a Fort Smith drug store, and joined Morhart’s in April 1954.

An undated Tulsa County News article described the Automatic Product Service that Morhart’s apparently started.

“Twenty months ago working with Tulsa’s leading pharmaceutical distributor, we arranged to have the new pharmaceuticals shipped directly to us immediately upon their release...automatically,” it read.

At the time of the article, 32 drug companies were shipping their new medicines automatically.

Morhart knew his customers well, his daughter said, and encouraged the customers to buy in bulk to save money.

He worked with customers on what other medications they took, so the drugs wouldn’t interact badly.

“Customers always asked for his advice on over-the-counter medications for what ailed them and also asked if he agreed with what prescriptions the doctor had ordered for them,” the daughter wrote.

“Many of the customers in the neighborhood weren’t very well off and he was great at extending credit and running tabs for people in need.”

C.S. Reeves who also worked at Morhart’s compounded a salve that “worked wonders on canker sores.”

“Your prescription is always filed on your personal prescription record when you have it filled at Morhart’s Rexall Drug,” the postcard said.

The City Directory from 1941 lists G. Ellis Morhart and Mary E. living at 3011 S. Cincinnati. The 1955 directory lists the home at 2429 E. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Additional medical and dental people

Dr. Charles Lilly was partner with Dr. Boone for a while. Dr. Boone had a son named Danny Boone, Linda Cott said the Boone's donated the land for the new WestsideYMCA, in the same location it is today..

Dr. Euland Shelton was a westside dentist. Dr. Larson was a dentist whose office was by the Cove Theatre on West 41<sup>st</sup> Street.

Dr.Routsong

Dr. Robert E. Ingram Jr. was practicing in the 1960s and 1970s according to Linda Cott.

# Chapter Twenty-four: Westside Artists

## Visual Artists

### Geisler, Cindy

Mural Painter

### Hale, Gary

Gary Hale was born Nov. 24, 1951 in Springfield, Mo. He attended Oral Roberts University, majoring in psychology and minoring in art from 1970-75.

In 1976, he studied with the Scottsdale Artists School with Lincoln Fox and in Ruidoso, N.M. with Tom Knapp.

He was the manager of a foundry that produced “Appeal to the Great Spirit” in Woodward Park and sculptures for the Willard Stone Museum in Locust Grove.

Now he has the only fine art foundry in Tulsa, called The Bronze Image, Inc., 8182 E. 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

For more than 20 years he has been fascinated with falconry which has given him insight into animal behavior.

He also designed and produced a puppet to feed eaglets at the George M. Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville.

He is a member of the Oklahoma Sculpture Society and the Society of Animal Artists. At the latter he is a juried member whose record goes back to 1982.

His works have been exhibited in Oklahoma City, Topeka, Tulsa, Anchorage, Kansas City, Loveland, Houston, Philadelphia, Boston and Daytona Beach.

In 1990, Hale teamed with Tulsa Zoo Friends to produce five sculptures in five years. The smaller versions were to sell for about \$375. Large versions were available for \$1,500.

In 1990, his sculpture “White Thunder” of a rhinoceros won the gold medal in the Annual Allied Artist of America Show in New York City.

Today, a large pair of Hale’s Siberian tigers watching something in the distance sits at the gate of Tulsa Zoo.

In biographical information provided by Philbrook librarian Tom Young, it said GWS Galleries in Southport, Conn.; Breckenridge Galleries in Colorado, and the Berkley Gallery, in Scottsdale, Arizona are currently representing Hale’s work.

Hale was inspired to become a sculptor by his graphic artist father sculpting a leopard before his eyes. Hale told Community World writer Julie Alexander, “It was a magic moment.”

He uses the lost wax process that is 4,000 years old. It involves making the sculpture in clay, surrounding it with a rubber mold, encases that in plaster.

When cured, the plaster is separated, the rubber cut and the clay removed. Then the inside of the plaster is coated with wax.

A funnel and channels are cut in the wax; a ceramic shell is applied over the wax.

Cured in a hot oven, the wax melts and the ceramic mold contains a negative impression of the work.

After the bronze is poured, the mold is broken away and the bronze is inspected and cleaned.

Hale, his wife, and two daughters lived in West Highlands.

## Kenslow, Peggy Lowery

When Webster High School was a brand new school, the art classes got to compete to design a logo.

Frances Lowery designed an Indian brave with a feather in his hair, and a “W” molded into a diamond shape. She won the contest.

Her parents were Charles Lee and Dessie Belle Lowery. Frances was one of six children.

She was a 1939 graduate and left Webster with an art scholarship to Tulsa University, but gave it up. “I was so much in love I gave it back and got married,” she said in a 1980 Tulsa Tribune article. She married Bob Kenslow.

She lived on the westside from about 1936 to when she married in 1941.

About 1944, Frances drew a pencil sketch of an Indian brave and put it away for decades.

She studied landscape and portrait painting with Gerry Linker and Clarence Allen. Allen was a staff cartoonist for the Tribune and had sold a “Three Eagles” painting for \$4,000 at an Art-for-Heart auction.

Frances participated in several shows and sold a number of her own paintings.

But, when her children grew up, she had time to think about the Webster warrior.

Her husband was supportive and didn’t fuss about the canvasses she used trying to get what was in her mind painted. The Warrior was painted in 1980. An accompanying Maiden was painted several years later.

Kenslow laid underground pipelines and traveling with him Frances saw much of the United States.

His work was dependent on good weather and Frances and the children joined him when school wasn’t in session. “It was almost like a long vacation each summer,” she recalled in the Tribune July 1, 1980.

Frances and Bob had two children Gayla Reynolds and Gary Kenslow. A sister-in-law said Bob died about 10 years ago.

The relative, Peggy Hulsey Lowery, has an original Maiden painting. Both were sold in limited edition prints as well; Peggy also has a print of the Warrior and Maiden.

Her Tulsa home has a still life and a painting of a rose bush with a girl reading a note by Frances. One whimsical note, Frances painted a “Robert Kincade” for her relative.

It is in a Kincade style, but topping the massive steps and landscaping is a castle-like building.

Today Frances lives in Little Rock.

The Tribune article was written by Marian F. West who is Peggy's son in-law's mother. Marian died Jan. 9, 2002.

## Loyd, Daphne

Oil Painter, Art Dealer

## Luster, Mary Jo

Oil Painter, Teacher

## Miller, Jack F.

Jack F. Miller, a local artist, was born November 2, 1928, and grew up on the west side.

He attended Alice Robertson Elementary School and graduated from Webster High School in 1946.

Jack's father died when he was a small boy. His mother, Polly, married Julius Matthis, who raised him. He has a sister, Juliane (Matthis) Conrow; three sons, Jackie Frank, Joel and Jon; and a grandson, Nicholas Conrad Miller.

As a child, his home was not far from Crystal City. It was on the side of old Route 66 as 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue turns toward Carbondale. The house is no longer there.

Later they lived in a two-story house in the 3400 block of W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street.

His mother lived in the house for 50 years until her death. People still remember her love of flowers and her yard that was filled with iris.

After Jack graduated from OSU, he joined the Air Force and was a cartoonist for the Air Force newspaper.

The first job he had was as an artist in advertising for radio station KCEB, which became television station KTUL, Channel 8, on Lookout Mountain in 1954. He was Advertising Manager for Seidenbach's Department Store, and Asst. Advertising Manager for Otasco.

Jack was employed as an artist by Public Service Company of Oklahoma in September 1960. His talents were put to work in industrial design and in the layout and publishing of company reports and magazines.

Many times he made sketches of his friends upon their retirement. He retired November, 1986.

When PSO remodeled Central High School for their new offices, Jack made a drawing of the "Appeal to the Great Spirit", a statue of an Indian on a horse that was a gift of the Class of 1923 to the school. That popular drawing has been reprinted several times.

He also did a drawing of Webster High School. The original is hanging in Webster and the Alumni Association sells prints of it.

One drawing of an old Model T Ford that was broken down and abandoned in a snow storm was displayed in the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., for several years.

Among other things, his work included the Southwestern theme, Indian relics, cowboy relics, landscapes and religious paintings.

In later years, he was interested in the eagles that flew around his home in Prattville and at Keystone Lake. He did several paintings of eagles in flight.

Jack's work was shown in Zantman Art Gallery in Palm Desert and in the Centre International D'Art Contemporain, Le Salon Des Nations in Paris, France.

He was working on paintings for a show in the Soviet Union and Germany before he passed away. His prints appeared in feature articles, covers and advertisements in many national magazines.

Many people own his paintings and prints, including actor Bert Reynolds and entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens.

He was flattered in one home in England where two rooms were color coordinated to his prints that were hanging in the respective rooms.

## Snidow, Gordon

Artist Gordon Snidow, a 1949 graduate of Daniel Webster High School, is recognized as one of the major recorders and painters of the Western scene in America.

He is known for paintings of the contemporary American cowboy.

Snidow has won 19 major awards given by the Cowboy Artists of America. His artwork has been featured in major shows and galleries in the United States and Europe.

His first one-man art show was as a second grader at Red Fork's Pleasant Porter Elementary School. He drew little animals and cartoon figures.

Snidow's family moved to Sherman, Texas, and during Gordon's eighth and ninth grades, he painted a young boy selling popcorn at a football game. It won a blue ribbon at the Texas State Fair.

The family moved to Enid, Okla. where Gordon became serious about art.

His dad found him a teacher for private lessons. However, the teacher sent Gordon home and told his father that Gordon knew more about art than the teacher.

The family came back to Red Fork and Daniel Webster. Monte Hancock said at Webster "Gordon had a good teacher who taught him an awful lot before he graduated."

Snidow now maintains his home and studio on land below a wooded hill in a small valley just outside of Ruidoso, N.M.

Snidow was featured in "The Gilcrease," a magazine of American history and art given to Hancock in the mid-1990s by Snidow's mother. The article includes photos of Snidow's paintings.

Gordon was also involved in the Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Western Artists' Association.

## Performing Artists

### Emery, Jerry

A 1951 Daniel Webster High School graduate, Jerry Emery, has impacted the world of Country and Western Swing and has been inducted in the Western Swing Hall of Fame in Sacramento. He has fans across the country.

Emery is a talented musician who plays piano, keyboard, accordion, guitar and several other instruments. He was a regular guest vocalist with the Leon McAuliffe Band at the famous Cimarron Ballroom and has accompanied George Morgan, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson, Roy Clark, Johnny Mathis, Wanda Jackson, Spade Cooley and Bob Wills.

Emery has previously worked with Speedy West's band. In 1968, he played with the Johnny Lee Wills Band, according to the piece on Emery written by Monte Hancock.

Emery was photographed in front of Webster and the picture was seen in the *Gusher*.

### Ernie Fields

Ernie Fields was a nationally-known jazz band leader from Tulsa in the 1950's, but music-lovers were lining up to hear him in the south in the 1930s and 1940s. He retired from the road in 1966.

Several of his band members were from South Haven. They often came to South Haven and jammed together, in impromptu concerts outside their homes.

The Internet site [Oklahomajazz.com](http://Oklahomajazz.com) said that Fields "brand of music was typical of the territory band scene—exciting driving music that was designed to carry away the troubles of poor southern audiences at 10-cents-a-head tavern dances and open-air carnivals."

Fields himself was born in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1905, but raised in Taft, Okla. He studied piano and trombone, but after he graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1921, the trombone was his main instrument.

The first Tulsa band was the Royal Entertainers. Fields turned down a job with Cab Calloway, due to his reluctance to travel. But, he began to realize that traveling to perform was critical to his level of success.

The Fields band traveled particularly performing in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

In 1939, producer John Hammond auditioned the Entertainers and invited them to cut six songs for the Vocalion label. "T-Town Blues" from that group became a minor hit.

In the 1940s, the band had Rene Hall was a guitarist and arranger and vocalist, Melvin Moore from Oklahoma City.

In 1947, the band recorded for Frisco R&B label and also for Bullet Records, according to [Oklahomajazz.com](http://Oklahomajazz.com).

He began to feature R&B and blues numbers, and small group renditions of numbers like "Tuxedo Junction" and "Begin the Beguine" instead of Big Band treatment.

Finally in 1959, Fields got a gold record with the Glenn Miller hit, "In the Mood." It sold so fast as a "b" side hit, that it was re-released with that song on the "a" side.

After Fields retired from the road, Ernie Fields Jr. carried on the tradition as a bandleader, producer and talent agent, and daughter Carmen became a television journalist.

## Patti Page

Patti Page was born in Claremore Nov. 8, 1927 as Clara Ann Fowler, and moved to Garden City as a child. She recalls saving her one pair of shoes for Sunday.

While living in Garden City, she went to Clinton Junior High in the Eighth Grade and Webster High School, graduating in 1945.

She was an attendant on the Homecoming court that year. Her music teacher at Webster was Helen Hughes.

Her father, Ben Fowler, worked on the Midland Valley Railroad and her mother picked cotton to support the family that included 11 children. Clara Ann loved to sing and sang for the Lions, Rotary and Elks as well as the Church of Christ where she attended on W. 41<sup>st</sup>, according to Billy Winfrey Mosley.

Also, still in school, she sang with the Dick Abbott band at the After Five room at Hotel Tulsa.

The Fowlers lived at 705 W. 36<sup>th</sup> in Garden City.

Clara Ann had seven sisters, including Rema Ruth who lived on S. Elwood and worked at Amerada Hess, Margaret Ellen who worked at the Brown Duncan store, and Virginia Belle who lived with Clara Ann in 1946.

Other sisters remembered by residents include Ruby and Hazel. She also had three brothers.

She won an art scholarship to Tulsa University. To augment her income, she took a job at KTUL Radio doing advertising art, but when the Page Canned Milk Co. singer left, Clara Ann auditioned and got the part. She changed her name to Patti Page.

She told newswriter Earl Wilson that all the Page Milk Co. singers were called Patti Page. She took the name with her when she left.

The Jimmy Joy Orchestra was to be performing in Tulsa and the manager Jack Rael heard in his room at the Bliss Hotel the milk program with Patti Page singing.

He turned on the pay-to-listen radio because someone had left some time on it. He was impressed with the singer, and called her for an appointment.

Her parents talked her out of taking the offer. She remained singing at Bob Hammel's Bengalair. Two months later Rael called her again as they still needed a vocalist, and Miss Page opened in Chicago in December 1946.

Miss Page ended up on the Don McNeil "Breakfast Club" on the ABC network in Chicago, the Dave Dexter, Jr. article on Miss Page said. Rael was her manager. Ten weeks later she went out on her own.

After Clara Ann's singing took her from home, her parents moved to Carbondale and later to Red Fork.

She moved to CBS for her own program and had a recording contract with Chicago, Mercury.

When she went on to New York, a 1949 Tulsa World article said, she "is killing the customers at Café Society, a Greenwich Village night club."

Although her first 12 songs didn't take off, she had a hit single, "Confess," in which she sang a duet with herself, her television show, and two months before was picked by "Billboard" magazine as the "most promising girl singer of the year." The runner-up was Doris Day.

Rael got Mercury to try a record with three overdubs. "With My Eyes Wide Open Dreaming" became the first of 13 gold records.

She was destined for stardom and had a ready-made rooting section with her family and friends in Southwest Tulsa.

Page and Rael were a very powerful team in the 1950s and "Tennessee Waltz" became one of the best selling records of all time. It sold for \$20 in Red China, Rael noted.

She became known as "The Singing Rage, Patti Page." She and Frankie Laine, put Mercury up with labels such as Capitol, RCA Victor, Decca and Columbia, Dexter said.

Among other titles, Miss Page recorded "Doggie in the Window," "Old Cape Cod," "Go On With the Wedding," and "Allegeny Moon."

She switched to the Columbia label in 1962. "Hush, hush Sweet Charlotte" was one of her first hits for them.

She adapted to a change in the music taste, recording country, when pop became so competitive.

Today, she performs in Tulsa on occasion and lives in Solana Beach, Calif. She also has a place in New Hampshire from where she markets pure maple syrup and natural foods.

## Architects

### Clyma, Maurice

Maurice Clyma is an architect with the firm Coleman Ervin Johnston, Inc. He is a member of the OSU School of Architecture Professional Advisory Committee.

As an architect he designed the monument sign, the auditorium entrance renovation and the press box at Webster.

He received his bachelor of architecture from Oklahoma State University and is registered with the National Council of Architecture.

He is the president of the Tulsa chapter, the American Institute of Architects and is on the Board of Directors of the Tulsa Daniel Webster Alumni Foundation.

He has received a certificate from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

He has been president of the Kiwanis chapter and other civic activities.

Clyma is a member and judge for Northeastern Oklahoma Woodturners Association.

He attended schools both on the westside and elsewhere.

"We moved in with my grandmother in 1945 after World War II and I attended Porter Elementary School for the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades," he said.

"In 1948 my father became a Field Office Manager for Williams Brothers Pipeline Construction Co. and during the next two years, I attended eight different schools and traveled through 30 states.

"I studied the Civil War from three different view points. I missed many report cards because of moving about and took many tests over material that I had not covered in class," he recalls.

He stayed with his grandmother while he attended Webster High School and spent the summers wherever his parents were living at the time.

“I still consider the years spent attending Webster as the best years of my life.

“We were so fortunate to have the quality of teachers that served as our role models and inspiration. Coaches Bill Allen and Curtis Turner, by their example, had a strong influence in character building even though I didn't play basketball or wrestle.

“The school was small enough that I did get to play football and run track for all four years and even as an undistinguished athlete learned the value of teamwork and maximum effort.

“Muriel McDougal, junior and senior English teacher, provided the inspiration and confidence that I could succeed in college,” he said.

About love, he said, “I had only one girl friend in high school and we married a year after we graduated in 1956. We now have three children and four granddaughters and another grandchild on the way.”

“My mother's family, Lola and Newnan Crouch, lived in one of the less affluent areas south of Highway 66 and east of Union in the ‘bottoms’ not quite far enough east to be in Garden City,” he said.

His mother graduated from Clinton High School and Clyma thinks her older sister did also. Paul, Mozelle and Bill Crouch all graduated from Webster High School.

“Even though we were obviously within the city limits, we were in an area of large open fields that allowed us to shoot a gun, hunting rabbits and squirrels,” he recalls.

Clyma remembers cutting through an apple orchard on the way to a friend's house and perpetual "work up" softball and horseshoe games that included children, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins at a friend's house.

“This was a large family that had very little income and a small house, but I always remember them as happy,” he said.

Other memories:

- Catching either the Red Fork or Carbondale bus from downtown, either would get you home safe.
- Large Sunday afternoon dinners with all the relatives ...
- Early memories of the outdoor toilet until we got indoor plumbing.
- Tagging along after my uncle who was only 5 years older and being a nuisance to him.
- Summertime nude shower baths after dark, by hose out back before going to bed.
- Sleeping outdoors in hammocks in the summertime and my uncle waking me up to get back in the hammock.
- Going to Crystal City Amusement Park where I learned to swim and the first dive off of the high diving board ... diving deep and coming up under the "raft"
- Riding the streetcar to visit my grandmother in Sand Springs from downtown.
- The ice delivery truck and the card in your window telling the driver how much ice you needed and getting small chunks of ice off the back of the truck tasting a little like wood
- Riding a bicycle everywhere.
- Neighborhood spring floods before the levy was built along the river

On religion, he said, “I was baptized at Red Fork Baptist Church when I was in the sixth grade in 1948. I am proud to have designed a long range Master Plan for the church,

a future remodeling for the Auditorium and a new Fellowship building, which will be completed in a matter of days.

“I am now a Catholic and our firm has designed church facilities for many different denominations.”

# Chapter Twenty-five: Cemeteries

## Clinton Oaks (Old Red Fork Cemetery)

Clinton Oaks Cemetery has stones dating back to about 1883. Mary T. Beynes' daughter born in 1882 was buried there Oct. 22, 1883.

Also Erline Ivy, 1, was buried there in 1899. They are the two listed on the City of Tulsa's computer printout for burials before 1900.

When the City of Tulsa annexed Red Fork in 1927, the Clinton Oak Cemetery Association operated the cemetery. The cemetery holds 2,000 graves.

From 1893 to 1945, Dollie Hennings owned the section that runs along the west fence of what is today Clinton Oaks Cemetery.

She kept the records and took money for the lots until the City of Tulsa took ownership of the cemetery in 1945.

Records since 1945 are kept in the Oaklawn Cemetery office. David and August Schumacher compiled information on what was the old Red Fork Cemetery.

In 1985, a Girl Scout Troop led by Margaret Hawkins wrote a book called "Shadows of the Past: Tombstone Inscriptions in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, Vol. I and II."

Clinton Oaks is named for Charles Clinton who owned a home and farm on the land where Clinton Middle School and the cemetery are today.

The book, copywrited in 1986 by the Tulsa Genealogical Society, describes an informal cemetery where the graves are not laid out in straight rows, and people buried kin how they wanted.

At one time, the lots sold for \$1, but rose to \$5, \$8, \$40, \$50, and then \$500.

Schumacher told Stephen Gay of the West Tulsa Community World that it was practically impossible to purchase a plot there unless a person can buy a receipt from someone or actually has title to a plot there already.

In the March 5, 1997 article, he talked of several plots whose ownership isn't known. He mentioned the story of the Indian chief standing up.

At a 2002 Southwest Tulsa Historical Society meeting, Billie Mosley mentioned a City of Tulsa sewer line in her back yard jogs around graves. She wonders if one of them may be the chief.

Gay wrote of the Bagsby family who has six infants buried at Clinton Oaks, with parents F. Lary and Lindsey Bagsby.

The Bradford twins are there. A number of the Schumacher family is there, including David who died in 1999. Deputy Pleasant Yargee, a friend of Robert Atkins, is buried at Clinton Oaks along with five other members of the Yargee family.

John McIver was born April 4, 1889 and was killed in a dynamite explosion in Kansas Jan. 22, 1906. He and a Midland Valley Railroad co-worker were thawing the explosive when the accident occurred.

Sarah and Thomas H. Berryhill for whom Berryhill is named are buried at Clinton Oaks with eight other family members.

Schumacher was looking for the murderer who was electrocuted at McAlester and supposedly buried at Clinton Oaks.

## Covey-Rosencutter Cemetery

The three-acre cemetery is about half a mile southeast of 81<sup>st</sup> Street and U.S. 75.

The first person buried there was Fanny Covey, Darla Hall's great-great-grandmother. The Covey family provided care for the cemetery for many decades.

Donna Hart allegedly inherited the property in 1996. A 1997 suit sought to give Hall and her family the title to the cemetery, to have Covey family members buried there and a judgement for grief and distress.

Hall's father was buried there and the dispute arose when Hall attempted to put a double monument there for both parents.

The Rosencutters alleged that there was another grave there and not enough room.

Hall asked at one point for the gates to be open Mondays and Tuesdays for the maintenance crew she provides.

## Jack (Jackson) Indian Territory Cemetery

A small cemetery is fenced on three sides on West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, about a half block west of South Union Avenue. The north side is open to the street, and the other three sides are abut the former Ogden-Martin trash to energy facility.

The cemetery was established in 1883.

The land was originally owned by Creek Indian Alice Luvina Jack. She received land on the south bank of the Arkansas River where the main part of the Sun Refinery now stands. Another part of the allotment was located on the north and south sides of West 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

There are currently no stones for people buried in the old Indian Territory Cemetery, only a rusted steel pole and sign, with the inscription "cemetery".

Sun Oil Company newsletter writers researched the cemetery years ago and published names of the people buried there. The article didn't say where the names came from.

Looking back at the original Creek Indian land allotment map gives a clue about the identities of the people.

Sun Oil Company listed the following people in the cemetery:

- James Yargee "Confederate Army, 1<sup>st</sup> Husband of Lizzie Batcher"
- Caeser Burgess "2<sup>nd</sup> Husband of Lizzie Batcher"
- Lizzie Batcher Yargee "Creek Nation"
- George Washington Yargee "Husband of Elizabeth Taylor Yargee"
- Elizabeth Taylor Yargee "Died in 1883"
- Lee Burgess "Father of Aliquot Burgess"
- Aliquot Burgess "Born October 12, 1899, Died June 3, 1900"
- Jack (No other information)

The Yargee, Burgess and Jack families all received allotments next to each other.

## Meadowbrook Cemetery

The most recent cemetery to open in Southwest Tulsa is the Meadowbrook Cemetery, south of Berryhill, on the north side of the Old Sapulpa Road, or Southwest Boulevard through Oakhurst.

The official opening is Memorial Day Weekend 2002. It is the first new cemetery approved in the area in many years.

Cemetery owner Chuck Sittler is a lifelong westside resident. His family has deep roots in the area and he has developed the same community pride. His accomplishment of getting the cemetery zoned and opened is quite admirable, considering the huge amounts of red tape involved in this type of venture.

The other three westside cemeteries were all started in the late 1800's, before the westside communities really became organized.

The first burial in Meadowbrook Cemetery was on March 7, 2002. Buried was Emily Gail Brown of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, daughter of Mike and Anna Brown.

**BROWN -- Emily Gail**, 21, of Sapulpa was born August 29, 1980 in Tulsa. She was the daughter of Tulsan, Mike Brown and Anna F. Brown, Sapulpa. She died March 4, 2002. In her life, she attended East Central, Sapulpa and Webster High Schools and earned a GED. She played soccer in elementary school years and basketball during her Foster Middle School years. She completed a class at Tulsa Community College. She was a talented Writer and was interested in learning bass guitar. She struggled with bi-polar and other problems. Emily was raised at St. Mark's United Methodist where she was baptized and confirmed. One of her best achievements was December 25, 1997 when a son, Addison Christopher Buker was born. Survivors other than her parents include a sister, Susan Ruth Brown; grandparents, Chester and Ruth Brown, Sand Springs; and future fiance, David Lopez. She was preceded in death by: her maternal grandfather, Everett Black in 1997; grandmother, Clara Black in 1978. Her funeral is March 7, 2002 at First Methodist Church, Sapulpa. She will be the first to be buried at Meadowbrook Cemetery on S. 65st W. Avenue. Under the direction of Mobley-Dodson Funeral Service, 245-6644.

# CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX: BRIDGES

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge

## 71<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge

## Eleventh Street Bridge

Although Red Fork had its own Commercial Club, it was Tulsa's energetic club that Melvin T. Baird and G.T. Williamson belonged.

They, along with a J.D. Hagler, got a government franchise to build a toll bridge across the Arkansas River.

It was their bridge that had the sign on the Tulsa side: "You said we couldn't do it, but we did." This bridge opened in 1904, and directly impacted the ferry business.

The grand opening was in January, 1904.

They built it themselves after voters rejected the bond issue the Commercial Club submitted in 1903.

Baird got interested in bridge building. "Mr. Baird has built seven bridges in all, his two most important ones being that over the Arkansas at Tulsa and one over the Verdigris," the 1909 Wood's Souvenir Directory said.

Baird lived in Red Fork from 1883-85 where he was in the walnut log business.

Before the teens that century, major flooding hit, washing out access to this bridge.

"The approaches at each end of the bridge are washed out and no one can reach the bridge either on foot or in wagons," the Democrat reported.

March 16, 1917, a story by "The Oklahoma Critic," said the Tulsa County Commissioners were considering removing the old county bridge to Sand Springs.

"The bridge there would "give a road for the people living at Fisher and wanting to cross the river at Sand Springs on their way to Tulsa."

"This action of the board will be approved by a vast majority of the taxpayers of this county," the Critic predicted.

The article also said former County Commissioner Cyrus Avery wanted the current board to "blast down the bluff and fix the road from West Tulsa along the west side of the Arkansas River toward Keystone.

# Frisco Railroad Bridge

# CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN: IMPACT OF WARS ON WESTSIDE

Mexican War

World War I

World War II

Korean War

Vietnam War

Desert Storm

War on Terrorism, 2001-

# CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT: THE OTHER WESTSIDE STORIES

Bootlegging

Prostitution

# Appendix One: Family Histories from the Westside

## Admire Family

Major General John H. Admire, United States Marine Corps, retired in 1998 after a 33-year career.

As his last assignment, He commanded 20,000 Marines and sailors. Now he is head of the Oak Ridge Military Academy in North Carolina.

Spoken of fondly in many Southwest Tulsa conversations as Johnny Admire, his birthday is Nov. 28.

Friend John E. Jackson has known Admire since eighth grade at Clinton Junior High School. Jackson in 1998 offered to get birthday cards to Admire. "Send Admire a birthday card Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> and say thanks for keeping America safe."

Jackson's address was Route 2, Box 400C, Wagoner, OK 74467.

Johnny Hue Admire grew up on the westside in the 1950's and 1960's. He is the son of a DX Sunray Refinery worker and friends say, a generous, loving mother.

His dad still lived in the rock house where Johnny slept in what could have been the dining room.

Admire attended Alice Robertson Elementary, Clinton Junior High, and Daniel Webster.

He was quiet young man who liked basketball and related well to coach Bill Allen. Admire and Jackson graduated in 1960.

Allen helped Admire get a basketball scholarship, fulfilling Admire's father's dream that the youth would go to college.

Jackson said he and Admire both attended the Church of Christ. "Even an youngsters, he seemed to have something over the rest of us. He wasn't scared or didn't appear to be."

"He made good grades; he had a confidence we all envied. That confidence got him elected to various class offices.

He always served modestly. He was a gentleman. "He was a nice guy and just deserved it," Jackson said.

After high school, Admire attended Oklahoma Christian College in Edmond. He transferred to the University of Oklahoma where he eventually earned a Master's of Arts degree. He also attended the University of Tulsa.

Out of college, he didn't find a timely job, and joined the Marine Corps in 1965. "Some of us had short tours in various military branches, but not one of us did it as well or as completely as John did," Jackson said.

Admire served in Vietnam, having five tours in all, including the Gulf War.

Admire rose from Second Lieutenant to Major General with two stars during his 33 years in the Marines. In his spare time, he earned three more master's degrees.

His last assignment in the Marine Corps was to command the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. – that was the job in which he was in charge of the 20,000 service men and women.

“He has worked with men like President Jimmy Carter and General Colin Powell,” Jackson said.

He was on Powell’s staff at the Pentagon and was the Marine Corps’ legislative assistant to Congress, an article from the *News & Record* said.

“Despite all his accomplishments, John still prefers to give the credit for his successes to others, when he gets a chance.”

He always mentions the names of his fallen comrades, thanking them for the ultimate sacrifice that they made for their country.

Admire in 1998 accepted a position of president of the military academy in the Carolinas. He lives there with his wife, Susan, and daughter, Katelyn.

Susan holds a Masters of Business Administration and an advanced degree in environmental policy. She would like Jackson to sample water in lakes and streams near his home.

Jackson said the trustees of the academy are pretty proud of John. “Johnny Hue recently told me that the job was more work than being a Major General in the USMC,” Jackson said.

Admire, 6-feet, 2.5 inches, “really knows how to take care of business,” Jackson said, but in contrast is a modest, quiet, unassuming man.

Susan has family at Oak Ridge. Admire is the private boarding school’s 22<sup>nd</sup> president since being founded in 1852.

Admire said he continues to give leadership seminars for corporations.

He enjoys interacting with young people. He and his family had already decided they wanted North Carolina to be their retirement home because of their daughter.

The Admires enjoy watching her get to know relatives there.

Admire told Jackson, “You over-flatter me,” but Jackson explains, “I’m real proud of him.”

## Atkins family

Cozetta Atkins lived in Oakhurst from 1939 to 1970. She does not ever recall hearing people talk about the town of Oakhurst which was voted on in 1919. But, after her parents passed on and marriage broke up, she moved to Sapulpa next to a nephew who owns Mister Indian’s. Bob Arrington is her nephew.

Also in Sapulpa is her niece Dr. Ruth Arrington who taught drama and history at Northeastern Oklahoma State at Tahlequah many years.

Asked her if there was a favorite teacher from Red Fork High School, she said Miss Nowalski, a Czech, was ‘most precious’ She could be mean, but Cozy and she got along fine, she said.

Cozetta was born in 1914 and is 87. Dr. J.C.W. Bland and Mrs. Frank Brown delivered her in the house where the Atkins’ lived. Sue Bland’s allotment adjoined Cozy’s mother’s allotment.

The Atkins’ lived in a big, white house near Park School. Cozy went to Park with Loyce Brown, Marvin Peters, Owen Buernwall, David Schumacher, and Pauline Kilgore.

Goldie Watson lived on Pistol Hill. Other friends were Viola Allen and Wanda Fasholtz.

Asked about the Red Fork Bank robbery that Marvin Peters told in an article about his mother letting him play outside during the shooting. She said he being a boy it was different. She being a girl, her father kept his thumb on his girls.

Cozy told about being scared of heights and when they slept on the upper porch to be cool, Cozy slept next to the wall of the house, to be as secure as possible.

Each person had a canvas sleeping pad with cotton ball stuffing. "They called me the dizzy one," she said.

Pauline Kilgore told about spending the night with Cozy, sleeping in the yard one summer, and discovered her hostess had a knife under her pillow for protection.

Cozy's mother was a Perryman and their paternal aunt married Charles Clinton. Cozy and her sisters have both Clinton and Perryman genes.

## Ballard Family

When Haskell Ballard was between 3-4 years old, teenagers who lived in their apartment building near Cain's Ballroom took him to hear the music there.

He went home and told his mom, he was going to play the fiddle like Bob Wills.

Alice Ballard, who lives in Red Fork, said her son did learn to play the fiddle. He was a music major at Northeastern State University, a music director in schools, and played in various churches.

He started the band at Locust Grove Public Schools. A talented musician, Haskell and another man played together on the radio. Alice said to her girls music was a chore, but to Haskell, it was a gift.

When he died in 2000 of an aneurysm, he was playing at an Indian Church at Salina. The pastor there preached at his funeral.

Haskell was born in 1934. The Ballard family moved to Red Fork in 1938.

Sitting in their yard evenings, they could hear the music from Crystal City. When older, the children went to Crystal City sometimes.

One of Haskell's first jobs was a shoeshine boy at Snow's Barber Shop. Mr. Snow and his wife didn't have any children. The photo of Haskell by the barber pole was during his shoeshine days, she said.

From the Ballard home, Alice could watch the children as they walked a couple blocks to Park Elementary. They attended Clinton Junior High and Webster High School. Haskell graduated in 1944.

His mother said he was in the Army Reserve when he began attending Northeastern, but wasn't called to active duty. Haskell's roommate at NSU was Eddie Creekpau.

Alice Harris Ballard was born in Texas. She met Victor Ballard in Antlers where he had family and her aunt lived.

After they married, Victor came to Tulsa to learn barbering, but when he got here the school had closed. He got a job with Public Service Company.

She and Victor joined Red Fork Baptist Church in 1944. She is still active in her church.

Alice worked 23 years as the head cook in the Central High School cafeteria. She rode the bus downtown so long, that she knew the drivers by first names. She worked 15-16 years in the cafeteria at the Texaco Building on Boulder.

Victor and Alice had Haskell and two daughters. Today, Norma Lee Edminsten lives in Owasso and Alice Jean Fuller lives in Salina.

Grady and Sam Ballard started the B & B grocery which was very successful, Alice said. Sam's daughter and her husband operated H & E Grocery still.

## Biby and Carlile

By Dorlores Carlile

My grandfather, John David Biby, was one of ten children, six boys and four girls, born to David Phillip and Lucy Jane Wilson Biby.

John David was born in Arkansas May 28, 1881 and married Maude Ellen Daniels who was born in 1884 in Arkansas.

They had six children: Grace Biby Honeycutt, Iva Biby Spaulding, Bessie Biby Dunham, Daisy Biby and twin babies.

They moved to Westville, Okla. from Arkansas and later to Inola, Okla. as my grandfather worked in the oil fields.

When the flu epidemic hit, my grandmother, their little girl Daisy and the twin babies all died from the disease. My grandfather worked and took care of his remaining daughters.

In the 1920's my grandfather and his three daughters, Grace, Iva (my mother), and Bessie moved to West Tulsa. Granddad, as I always called him, had three sisters living in the Tulsa and Jenks area; Mary Biby Walker, Callie Biby Payton, and Dula Biby Oxford.

My granddad went to work at the courthouse in Tulsa. They lived in West Tulsa in the 1900 block on South Nogales. His daughters married.

My mother, Iva, married Garl Eugene Spaulding. My father moved to Oklahoma from Nebraska in 1927. My sister Joyce and I were born in Tulsa and grew up in West Tulsa.

I remember my first day of kindergarten at Celia Clinton. I started to cry when my mother was leaving me, but Speck Harper started to cry first, so I just stared at him.

Celia Clinton School was located on Quanah; that's before they changed the name to Southwest Boulevard.

When I went to school at Celia Clinton, there was a tunnel under Quanah on W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, running from one corner to the other so the children wouldn't have to walk in the traffic.

Celia Clinton School was named for the Clinton family. I met Dr. Clinton years later when I worked in the Tuloma Building in Downtown Tulsa. He came to see an accountant.

We had everything in old West Tulsa: two parks (West Tulsa and Howard), three theaters, (Rita, Cameo and Empress), Community Bank, two variety stores (TG&Y and Paul's).

We had nice places to eat: Bartee's, Silver Castle, Chicken 66, Charlie's Hamburgers, Gingham Girl, Dick Love's Barbecue, to name a few.

We had our own post office, fire station, Ozark and Rexall Drug Stores. I think everyone remembers Doc Reynolds. He was the owner and pharmacist at the Ozak Drug.

There was a potato chip factory on Quanah, Burgess Hardware, many grocery stores and our own ice plant. Mr. Compton owned the ice plant that was named for him.

I remember O.H. Knipp was our ice man and his route was most of West Tulsa. He had four children around my age.

My sister Joyce married Virgil Cornelius from Sallisaw, Okla. They have four children, Phyllis Lee, Virgil Dewayne, Michael Lee and Donna Zane. They also have 11 grandchildren.

I married Harold Carlile. Harold was born in Cookson, Okla., but raised in West Tulsa. My husband retired from Public Service Co. in 1986 after working for the company 35 years.

We have a daughter, Beverly who teaches at Key Elementary School in Tulsa and two grandsons, Scott and Chad Renfro, both born in Tulsa.

Both grandsons served in the Air Force. Scott and his wife Jill now live in Owasso as do Chad, his wife, Tina, and their new son Aaron Michael.

West Tulsa was a nice place to live, good schools, nice neighbors.

Everything was within walking distance from our home. I remember skating up and down those streets with my skate key around my neck and swimming in the two pools at West Tulsa and Howard Parks.

It was a better time back then. People weren't so afraid someone would break into their home and some people would sleep outside in summer because it was cooler. A lot of people didn't have air conditioning back then. Some people didn't lock their doors.

If Urban Renewal had not decided they wanted our property we would probably still be living in old West Tulsa. They called it progress, but I don't think so.

## Bucks and Howard

Several generations of two westside families have left an important path. Effie Howard's father was Asa Worn Buck who donated land used in the construction of the West Tulsa Methodist Church some 85 years ago.

Wife Laura Ollie Buck was a charter member of that church. They lived at 1324 S. Quaker.

During the depression, soup lines were fed at the West Tulsa Fire Station, and, much affected, Buck put in a community garden in the lot next door to feed the hungry and a baseball diamond on the corner. Her mother also helped maintain the garden.

The area was very poor and had no sewer service.

Effie was football queen at Eugene Field Junior High about 1933. She graduated from Central in 1937, before Webster was built. She met future husband Eschell "Ersh" Howard in high school. He was a wrestler. Ersh worked in pipeline construction.

Effie knows Edith Grisham, the Rains family. She laments over the negative effect Urban Renewal had on old West Tulsa. Her mother was uprooted by it. West Tulsa had a library. They had Shephards and Cox's Dry Goods.

They used to have old West Tulsa Park, and now Howard Park is but a shadow of its former self. A ballfield to the south, as well as property taken by U.S. 75 have reduced its area.

The Howards lived in Holland, England, Scotland, Iran and Brazil.

The sons, David Asa Howard, graduating from Webster in 1956 and Dan Allan Howard, in 1959, were both Senior Class presidents. They wrestled and played baseball.

Daughter Sue was head cheerleader.

The children were active at school, into everything. David, known as "Ace," went to Tulsa University and played football, Oklahoma State University and married Nancy Teel, the daughter of a Webster teacher. Ace loved coach Curtis Turner and as long as she worked at Community Bank, Mrs. Turner handled his account.

He is now a doctor in California and has been in several movies.

Dan played ball at OSU, once pursuing a career in veterinary science. Today he is a cattle buyer for the National firm in Guymon. He built a ball diamond in Guymon.

Sue Howard who taught some 34 years in Florida, today works at Page Belcher golf course.

A couple of David's friends couldn't afford college so Ersh took them out working with him. They saved all their money for college. One benefactor, Danny Burton is now a pilot and another was Charles Cridler.

For 58 years, Howards have lived in the 3800 block of S. Union.

## Egbert Family

Starting in 1922-23, Melvina Manson ran the Phoenix Hotel upstairs from the Westside YMCA at 17<sup>th</sup> and Phoenix.

Edith Grisham's grandmother operated the hotel for many years, while Y activities took place downstairs.

Her grandchildren, Edith, Bessie, Frank and Dave were active in Y activities. They are featured in a 1928 Halloween photo in an album of 8x10 prints Edith came to possess.

The Egbert family came to West Tulsa in 1921, Edith, then 11 recalls. The father, B.M. Egbert built a home on the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Place and S. Rosedale.

The father worked in the oil field.

The mother, Jessie Egbert was a cook at Horace Mann School for several years, but then transferred to Eugene Field School. There she was head dietician until she retired.

She told newswriter Leona Harper about receiving a barrel of glasses, unpacking, washing and, putting on shelves, only to get a call that they were intended for another school. The glasses had to be repacked and transferred.

Later, Eugene Field got their own glasses to handwash, dry, and shelve.

She collected boxes and cans for a hobby. She crocheted and embroidered. The writer noted that she had two boys, two girls, seven granddaughters, seven grandsons, and one great-granddaughter and a great-grandson.

Jessie was born in Pennsylvania, but attended two years of high school in West Virginia. She and Mr. Egbert were married Feb. 13, 1908. B.M. Egbert died in 1936. She attended a pentecostal church at 21<sup>st</sup> and Nogales, believed in God and was an ardent supporter of West Tulsa. "If anyone wants to get me mad, just let them say something bad about West Tulsa," she said.

"My two brothers graduated from Horace Mann High School where they were prominent football players," Edith said.

Her sister Bessie married Smiley Zimmerman, but after he died, she lived at Southern Hill Retirement Home. Edith married Clifford Grisham who was a maintenance carpenter for Tulsa Public Schools.

“We lived and raised our family in West Tulsa. We lived through a lot of happenings—we could tell you a lot. We enjoyed living in West Tulsa, but had to move out here in Carbondale when Urban Renewal took our home,” Edith said.

Charles Hammer, a family friend, loaned Edith the album to look at. But, he never came back for it. She and Clifford went to Hammer’s home, only to find it empty.

## Gay Family

In the early 1930’s, Bill Gay came with his parents across the river, living for a while near the future site of Webster and after 1937 in Oakhurst.

When Bill was 16, he pestered his father to say he was 17 as he could enter the U.S. Navy. Son John Gay, writing in the June 6, 1988 Tulsa County News supplement, said, “after some months of this Pop finally gave in and signed.”

He and his shipmates helped shoot down a Japanese Zero in a mangrove swamp, and made landings at Guadacanal and Bouganville and other islands in the Solomons.

They endured fierce air raids during the action at Guadacanal. His APC-34 with 35 men was credited with shooting down four enemy planes.

They made seven landings and many supply runs for Marines in remote Solomon Island outposts.

During his 18-months in the Navy, he got malaria and that with battle fatigue caused him to be shipped back to California. After three months in the Navy hospital at Santa Cruz, he was honorably discharged.

He reentered Webster and graduated a year or so behind his regular class. “My mother, Edith Coulson, also graduated that same year, 1944,” John wrote.

They married and had Jean, Peggy and John.

Bill retired after 29 year’s service at Texaco’s West Tulsa Refinery and his son noted he was a “hard worker.”

Among his activities were PTA, Campfire Girls Board, SouthwestTulsans, Blue T, Little League baseball and the Webster scholarship committee.

He loved civic work. “He just worked at Texaco to eat,” John wrote. He ran for political offices and was active in Democratic precinct work. He was Precinct chair from 1962 until he died in 1986.

About 1957, he began collecting, wishing to preserve Tulsa’s history. He had a collection of old photographs and a good primitive tool collection.

Bill was a founding member of the Tulsa Historical Society and worked on getting the Old Fort Arbuckle site on the National Register of Historic Sites, got the Perryman Cemetery deed for the Society, and was heavily involved in the Creek Council Oak Park creation.

He worked for years to get water and sewer service for Oakhurst and saw these goals met in the late 60’s and early 70’s. He served on the Rural Water District Board and the Taneha Sewer Authority.

John said his greatest disappointment was not being able to build a museum to house his collections. He died June 14, 1986. After he died the items were auctioned.

## Hargis Family

Elsie Faull along with her mother and father, Lilly (Hall) and Charles Henry Faull, came to Berryhill in the fall of 1927. Elsie came to teach her first school.

She was 19 years old and just out of college. They lived in the teacherage on the school grounds.

The school had two rooms and there were approximately 75 students that year. Clint Lambert was the only other teacher and he left two months after school started.

The School Board asked her to take the principal's job and teach the upper grades. They hired Ella Bland to teach the lower grades. Elsie said it was with the Board's encouragement and support that she was able to survive that year.

Elsie taught music from the time she started teaching school. She loved to teach little ones because they loved to sing and she liked to put on programs.

Over the years she organized Christmas programs. Hours were spent teaching the children songs and rehearsing their parts. Mothers would help with costumes.

The night of the program, Elsie would guide groups of grade school children dressed as fairies, gifts, shepherds, etc. on and off the stage

Elsie retired in 1971 having taught 35 years at Berryhill School. She taught three and four generations in some families.

She married Oscar Hargis in 1929. They met at a wiener roast. Some of his family can be traced back in Berryhill before statehood.

He was a charter member of the New Home Free Will Baptist Church. Elsie joined after they were married and she is still a member of the church. Oscar worked at Ozark Chemical Company. He died in 1971.

Elsie later married Rev. Harry Staires. They spent several years together. He preached and she sang until she lost him too.

Elsie and Oscar had two sons, Glenn and Gene. There are now four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## Hunt and Dean Family

By Lori Hunt Corey, 2002

With all of the rationing during World War II, victory gardens were very popular.

My Uncle, Ralph Daily, had a pasture across the street where we lived on Twenty Forth and Jackson. The pasture covered the area from 23rd Street to 24th Place between Jackson Street and the Railroad track. Part of this land was set aside for victory gardens.

It was divided up and those interested in growing their own vegetables were assigned a portion. I remember my brothers, Bob and Charles, and me helping our father tend our garden.

They would take turns hoeing and I would help them clear out the weeds. My father and mother, Jess and Hazel Hunt, had seven children at this time. Charles, Ruby, Bob, Ruth, Phyllis, Barbara and me (Lori). They later had three more Glenda, Jerry and Colleen.

With such a large family, it is easy to see why we appreciated our victory garden so much.

Ora Dean owned the abutting property from 24th Place to 25th Street, between Jackson Street to the railroad track.

The Texas refinery was right across the street from the Dean property. Mr. Dean, who was the "Yard Foreman" at the refinery, plowed up some garden space for the people who lived in the "cottages."

These were houses inside the fence for some of the people who worked at the refinery.

Mr. Dean and his wife, Myrl had three children Kenneth, Ralph and Virginia.

Virginia and I were, and still are, very good friends. Kenneth Dean was killed in battle in WWII. He was a nose gunner on a B-24 that was shot down over Linz, Austria.

Ralph Dean worked at the Texas refinery until it closed and now lives in Sperry. Virginia lives in Jenks and is very active in the Webster Alumni Foundation.

In 2000, she was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame for her outstanding participation in the foundation.

## Lovell Family

## Lowery Family

The parents were Charles Lee and Dessie Belle Lowery.

Peggy Hulsey married one of the six Lowery children, Herschel, in 1935. The Lowery's father worked at the bomber plant during World War II and for many years was the custodian at Clinton.

Charles and Dessie's family also included a grandmother and grandfather. "Frances's mother had the patience of Job. When my husband was in the Army, and I had a seven-year old son, she took us in, too," Peggy said.

"She was the boss, she was always so fair," Peggy said. Dessie Belle trusted her children to do the right thing. "Mr. Lowery thought Dessie had hung the moon," she added.

Peggy lived on the westside since she was 12. They lived at 4714 S. 27<sup>th</sup> W. Avenue.

Her father worked at Producers & Refiners Oil, and when it closed, went out of state to work. At one point, he was head of a refinery in Wilmington, Calif. Her mother was a matron at the Tulsa jail at Fourth and Elgin.

When Peggy and Herschel got married, he worked at Crown Drug for \$38 a month.

Herschel worked at the Stevenson-Brown Lumber Yard at Fifth and Frankfort in Tulsa. When the Coliseum burned, neighbor Stevenson-Brown went out of business.

Peggy's uncle, C.L. Northcutt was president of Community Bank. Peggy said, with Northcutt backing them for \$50,000, Hershel went into business as a lumber broker. He would buy from mills all over – California, Canada, or Arkansas.

The value of three or four railcars of lumber would add up. They needed backing so that millers would ship those goods. Hersch worked out of his home.

Peggy said the Lowerys bought her folks' house. Her folks moved to 4846 S. 33<sup>rd</sup> W. Avenue.

Hersch and Peggy were among the first 13 from Red Fork Baptist Church to start Winnetka Baptist Church. Jack Carlton was the first pastor.

Peggy's mother remarried to Bill Oliver. Because of her contacts working at the jail, she became acquainted with Bud Caffey.

Oliver and a Mr. Pogue went searching for big rocks to use in Chandler Park for Commissioner Caffey.

## Oxford Family

Vernon Adolpus Oxford lived on West 24<sup>th</sup> Place in West Tulsa with his bride, Dula Biby from Westville, Okla., then moved to Tulsa where he was employed at Cosden Refinery.

He was working in the refinery at the time the strike was called and was stuck inside for a time.

Vernon and Dula had two sons, Robert Dale and Jackie Ray, both born in the home.

Both sons went to Eugene Field and Clinton Junior High. Robert graduated from Webster High School in 1943 and Jackie did the same in 1945.

Some of the Oxfords and Bibys are buried in Clinton Oaks Cemetery. The parents and two sons have passed on.

Robert married Flora Mae Hardman after meeting while they were in school at University of Tulsa.

They bought a home on the westside. At that time, they recall, the banks would not loan money for anything "that far out in the country." After that they built a new home on the adjoining property where Flora still lives.

They raised two children, Linda Sue and Arthur Dale Oxford who also graduated from Webster.

Linda Sue has a daughter, Melissa Maree who graduated from Webster and a son , James Mitchell Goodwin who is now attending Webster. Arthur Dale has two daughters, Ashley and Lacey and they live in Ponca City.

## Peninger Family

"We absolutely have such fond memories of our past acquaintances and familiar surroundings there that its very difficult to put into words," Grady Peninger wrote in the 1988 *Tulsa County News* Supplement in honor of Webster's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

He attended Porter, Clinton Junior High and Webster. "In looking back, these were the happiest days of my life," he wrote.

He said he and his wife Wanda grew to appreciate the westside and their friends more each year. He recalled especially being close to neighbors and friends during World War II. He was a member of the Webster class of 1945.

He remembered running through the woods around Porter and playing in its wading pool. He devoted hours to playing in the woods of Red Fork Hill and by Sanders pond.

His family moved "on Webster's campus next to the tennis courts." He and friends played makeshift football games and ate sandwiches his mother prepared.

He visited the Red Fork movie theatre and hung out at Brown's and Dooley's drugstores.

At Webster, he recalled when he would "get up early in the morning and make it to school within a five minute period." Oh, the football games were fun.

Peninger remembered setting fruit jars under the oil wells to get drip gas, to supplement what they got for A and B stickers during the war.

They would use Naptha cleaning fluid and mothballs in his dad's '34 Oldsmobile gas tank to get to the YMCA Teen Town or the Blue Moon. He remembered going to the Music Box.

Peninger ate many hamburgers at the Silver Castle in West Tulsa. He got as far at Newblock Park's swimming pool.

"I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experiences and memories that I have of Red Fork, West Tulsa, Tulsa, Porter, Clinton and Daniel Webster High School," he wrote in 1988.

He married Gloria at Carbondale Baptist Church and then went with friends to the Crystal City Amusement Park and Casa Loma Dance Hall.

## Rudds and Wadleys

Steve's family first came to Oklahoma by covered wagon in the late 1800's when Oklahoma was Indian Territory.

The Wadleys, who were Eastern Cherokee, had a daughter, Ruth, who was born in 1909 in what was known as Red Fork..

She later married William Clayton Rudd settling on the Westside at what is now 51<sup>st</sup> street and South 32<sup>nd</sup> West Avenue.

William's father and grandfather served for the North during the Civil War. Bill and Ruth had four children, Billie, Beverly, Buck and Steve's mother, Norma Dell Rudd, all of whom graduated from Daniel Webster High School.

Norma went to Washington D.C. after high school to work for the US Navy Department, Armaments Division.

She met a Navy man, Ewile Cline Bowling from West Virginia.

Most long time Westsiders came to know him as Allen the barber. Norma and Allen were married in 1949 settling in West Tulsa where Allen owned a number of men's barber and style shops over a 45-year period.

Norma worked for Smith Brothers Abstract before retiring from Flint Steel Corporation. They presently live on Fort Gipson Lake at Taylor's Ferry in Wagoner, Okla.

The Bowling's had three children: Two sons, Allen and Steve and a daughter, Michelle.

Steve was born on June 26, 1952 at Hillcrest Medical Center.

## Wescott Family

In April 1928, Earl Wescott was in the third grade when they were allowed to line the side of U.S. 66, and watch the runners who were coming from Los Angeles to Chicago on the new thoroughfare.

He recalls three-wheeled motorcycles carried glass milk-jug bottles with waters for the runners.

The road was lined with children.

In seventh grade, he recalls James Peters catching him playing cards in a dumpster and Peters picking Earl up by the seat of his pants out of there. Peters was the local police officer.

Earl's parents were D.E. and Martha Wescott. Earl attended Edison in Bristow, Jefferson in Sapulpa and Pleasant Porter, Eugene Field, Clinton and Webster schools in Southwest Tulsa.

D.E. worked in the oil fields and built houses including 25-30 around Webster where Wescott now lives. Earl dug the basement for his house that once belonged to Dr. Roberta Holland.

Earl joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. At first, he was a seaman, but became a carpenter first class and then a sea diver.

As a diver, he would dive to repair the underside of ships and once helped fill a sunken troop ship with drums to raise it.

At Guadalcanal, the divers dynamited part of a sunken submarine that was sticking up out of the water.

Wescott came home and got married. He was as a carpenter in the union local 943. Then he went to work for Sun Oil, leaving in 1966. Earl retired in 1984. He still has a 1929 roadster.

# Appendix Two: Westside History

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# Appendix Three: Timeline

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