

A
TOWN
BETWEEN
TWO
RIVERS



An informal narrative of the settling, founding and growth of the City of Osawatomie, Kansas, any many of the events that have transpired during the past one-hundred years.

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FOREWORD

In this little historical volume of the life and growth of the community of Osawatomie, no attempt will be made to draw any conclusions, form any opinions or express any reactions to any incident, event or conversation. Only facts that have been recorded in written history or related by those who have been close to the life of the city and community and events that have taken place here are given in these printed pages.

During the time the city and the surrounding communities were being formed, settled and growing they were off the beaten path of the westward swing of white men in settling the new world. Other places in the state of Kansas can boast as being on the beaten path carved out by the Santa Fe Trail, Oregon Trail, Pony Express, Gold Rush of 1849, and the route of trampling herds of cattle as they were being driven from the great plains of the southwest to eastern markets. The great fame to which this little city can lay claim is that in this part of the state was "fired the first shot against slavery" and the many incidents connected with the struggle over the slavery question that brought the city of Osawatomie and its neighboring towns into the limelight of the nation, and even of the world.

It is the hope of the compiler and writer of this historical sketch to relate only events and incidents that have occurred during the past century in a fair and impartial manner. It has been through the help of a number of interested persons and by research that the material contained herein has been made available and due credit is given for all information. It is regretted that time and space will not permit a fuller description of many events and incidents that must of necessity be omitted from this narrative.

An effort has been made to bring to the attention of the reader the historical data concerning the many phases of life of the community, including the religious, educational, social, civic and commercial aspect as they have been related to the life of the community over the past 100 years, and also to give an insight into the many sidelights, humorous as well as serious, of the lives of those who have lived in Osawatomie, and of those who are now making this little city nestled on the banks of the Marais des Cygnes river and Pottawatomie creek, their home.

All assistance given is most gratefully appreciated and it is sincerely hoped this historical narrative will be accepted at its true value, with the further hope that the first hundred years of the life of Osawatomie and surrounding communities are only a stepping stone for greater things in the future.

Chas. A. Knouse,
Compiler and Editor

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THE OSAGE VALLEY CENTENNIAL

This little volume is being published as part of the Centennial celebration of the settling of the Osage valley, which is called the "Osage Valley Centennial."

There is some contention whether the stream that flows along the north edge of Osawatomie is the Osage river or the Marais des Cygnes.

Legend has it that at one time in her wanderings seeking her French lover, Gabriel, the young lady, Evangeline, and her party crossed the stream and called it the Marais des Cygnes, which is French and when translated into English means "Marsh of the Swans." It is said that Evangeline saw some wild water fowl on the river surface and because of the low lands bordering on the stream gave it the French name. It is also said that men in her party sang songs about the river and referred to it as the "marsh of the swans."

It is recorded, however, that as early as 1806, that the stream was called the Osage river, flowing through Linn, Miami, Franklin, Osage, Lyon, Morris and Dickinson counties. The "History of Kansas," published in 1883, referred to it as the Osage. The Historical Society proceedings, states that in February, 1837, the United States agreed to convey to the Pottawatomie Indians land on the Osage river. In "History of Our Cradle Land," by Msgr. Kinsella, he refers several times to the stream as the Osage river. It is also recorded that on a map made in 1714, it was called the Osage.

Several years ago the Kansas state legislature passed a bill stating that the stream was the "Marais des Cygnes," and all road signs on bridges spanning the stream call it the Marais des Cygnes. The legislature ruled that it should be called the Marais des Cygnes in Kansas, and intimated that the people of Missouri could call it the Osage if they chose.

In any case, the centennial is being held in commemoration of the settling of the valley that can be called by either name, Marais des Cygnes or the Osage.

Smoky Hill - #7.50

THE FIRST INHABITANTS

When the Kansaz, Miami, Pawnee, Osage, Kaskaskia, Peoria and Pinka Indians watched the sun redden the eastern sky on that October night four hundred and sixty-two years ago, little did they realize that other Indians, hiding behind trees along the shores of the island of San Salvador, had seen a white man for the first time. Nor did they know, or even suspect, what great changes were in store for them in their mode of living. They were living in peace as their forefathers had lived for centuries and were content to continue in the same way.

There is no recorded history that relates what took place in the wooded hills in what is now the state of Kansas. We can assume, however, that by means of Indian communications, they heard rumors of the white men in shining armour and carrying 'spears' that belched fire and smoke with a great roar.

These white men had landed on the Indian continent and in a language not understood by the Indians, declared the new land now belonged to the king and queen of Spain. This was all strange to the Indians.

Some forty years later the Indians living among these same wooded hills probably saw the white men for the first time as they marched through the tall grass and timber and entered the red man's camps.

Filled with awe the Indians made friends with these white men and soon learned of their ways. No recorded history tells of these visits but it can be assumed that these white men, being Spanish explorers, had come into the midst of the Indians and left their mark on them.

Little is known of what took place during the next two hundred and seventy years. White men came in groups and found their way into the territory, most of them just passing through in search of fabulous wealth and the cities of gold other Indians had told them about. By 1800 the Kansaz and Osage tribes had been moved to reservations near what is now Council Grove.

In 1803, the new United States government purchased the land west of the Fathers of Waters from the French and more white men came. After a few years there were so many that the government made deals to purchase the lands from the Indians and moved them onto reservations to the west and south and placed them under Indian agents. The territory, according to the government, belonged to the white man and it was soon to be opened for settlement. It is related that in about 1851, some land had been offered for sale in the neighborhood.

In 1854, on the 30th day of May, the Great White Father, President Franklin Pierce signed a bill, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, by which the white man could enter the territory to build new homes and lay out small farms. By this time most of the Indians had been moved out and only a few remained along the rivers and creeks. These Indians had become accustomed to the ways of the white men and many of them adopted their manner of living. When the white men began coming into the territory following the opening up of the land for settlement two Indians who were linked with the history at the time

were Wis-ris-cah (Christian Dagnette) and Baptiste Peoria. Both were uneducated but highly intelligent and soon became interpreters.

The white men, feeling that the Indians should be educated in the ways of the newcomers, established religious missions and schools among the tribes that had been left. The first mission that was to remain through the years was established at what is now Shawnee by the Methodist church in 1830. (This mission school still stands as a landmark and the original buildings are being preserved for future generations.)

It is also recorded that as early as 1822, a Roman Catholic priest by the name of Hoecken started a small mission and school a short distance north and east of what is now Paola. In only a short time this mission was abandoned and moved to a spot in the southeast corner of what is now Linn county, near Trading Post.

THE COMING OF THE WHITE MAN

Although the white settlers could not legally hold land in Kansas prior to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, there were some "squatters" living west of the Missouri border. It is said that the white population in the territory of Kansas at that time was about 1,500 persons, about half of them being soldiers.

At the time of the signing of the Kansas-Nebraska act, May 30, 1854, the Kaskaskias, Peoria, Piankishaw and Wea Indian tribes were living along the Osage river, and most of those concluded treaties with which they relinquished thousands of acres of land to the federal government. Most of these contracts or treaties contained clauses which left each tribe still holding some land in Kansas.

A meeting was held at which some rules and regulations were drawn up for the protection of squatters. As a result, a man who wanted to take up a claim in the territory was required to lay a foundation or square about 12 by 16 feet, of four logs, notched and saddled. He must also blaze some trees and place his name on a tree or in a stake and it was expected that all who came after him would honor this plan.

While the settling of the territory was going on there was considerable contention over the question of slavery that was demanding the attention of the whole nation. Men who supported both sides of the question moved into the territory and there were many skirmishes between them.

Since the Kansas-Nebraska act had a provision by which the voters in the territory were to determine whether the new state would be pro-slave or free, there was much trouble brewing at the time. Both sides were determined to control the election and many questionable characters migrated into the territory.

Missouri had been admitted to the union in 1821 as a slave state and at the same time an act of Congress set the Mason-Dixon line at the southern boundary of the state of Missouri, and any state north of that line was to be a free state and those south of the line were to be slave states. But since it was the plan to have the voters of Kansas make their own decision at the polls, a migration of men on both sides was witnessed, and many of them made fraudulent claims.

With the signing of the bill that opened the territory to settlers the influx of white men grew and during the years of 1854-55, a large number of families moved in and took up claims, mostly along the rivers in the eastern part of the present state.

To secure settlers for the new Kansas territory emigrant companies were organized in the eastern states. Among these was the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid company.

The first group of men, sponsored by this company, arrived on the site of what is now Osawatomie on October 22, 1854 and consisted of John R. Everett, John Carr, Morgan Cronkite, O. C. Brown, William Chestnut, S. C. Pomeroy, John Chestnut and several others. They had set out from Kansas City, Mo., (then known as Westport or the City of Kansas.) The country south of the Peoria and west of the Miami reservations had been recommended to them. They camped on the north bank of the Osage river on October 23, and after examining the country lying between the Osage river and Potawatomie creek, decided this would be the place where they would build their homes.

These men spent the fall and winter months of 1854-55 building cabins and furnishing shelter for themselves and their families who were to come later. Nothing was done toward laying out a new town until the following February, when O. C. Brown persuaded Mr. Pomeroy, agent of the Emigrant Aid company, to take advantage of the new location. Thus the town site of Osawatomie was surveyed in February, 1855, and the land plotted for homes.

Since the new town was located near the junction of the Osage river and Pottawatomie creek the name of Osawatomie was chosen. It was made up of "OSA" of the name of the Osage river and "WATOMIE" of the name of the Pottawatomie creek. The first "o" is pronounced the same as the "o" in open.

The first building erected on the town site was built by Samuel Geer, who used it for a dwelling and a boarding house. The first blacksmith shop was by a Mr. Holdridge in 1855, and a Dr. Darr opened a drug store in the same year. Geer opened the first store in 1855, and also operated the first hotel, which was burned during the sacking of Osawatomie in 1856. Mr. Geer was also the first postmaster and built another hotel in 1858.

From this small start grew the present city of Osawatomie until now the number of persons living in it is nearly 5,000.

FIRST REUNION HELD IN 1857

There has been some debate as to when the city first came into being. The first settlers came in 1854 but the town site was not surveyed until 1855. Records, however, show that the early settlers took the year 1854 as the date when the town was started, and an account is given in which they held what they called their third reunion in 1857.

LIFE IN THE EARLY DAYS

Life for the early settlers of Osawatomie was no bed of roses by any means. A graphic description of living conditions at the time is contained in a series of letters written by John E. Everett and his wife, Sarah, to each other and members of their families. These letters are now the property of the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, having been given to it by a son, Rev. Edward Everett, who died recently in New York City, and who was born on a farm near Osawatomie on March 5, 1863.

The life of John and Sarah Everett was, without a doubt, much like that of others who came into the territory between the years of 1854 and 1858, to make their homes in this new land. When reading the accounts of the life of this family it can be considered the same as of any other settlers of the time.

Like several other men, John Everett came to Osawatomie in 1854, to take a look at the newly opened territory. The trip was made mostly by boat and overland wagon trains, along with some short rides on the new railroads east of the Mississippi River.

The first impressions of the new territory have been recorded as quite favorable since the rivers and creeks, in most instances, were lined with trees and brush sometimes as far back as a half-mile from the streams. In between were the rolling hills and fertile valleys. Due to the territory having just been opened for settlement there were few wells from which the travelers could get drinking water and, according to reports of that day, the men sometimes had to go twenty to thirty miles or all day without drinking water. The Indians had depended on the few springs in the hillsides and the smaller streams for water.

Some accounts of the land carried the expression that this was the Eden Land, and that prospects for a thriving community were very encouraging.

Since the territory had just been opened for settlement there were no houses or fences and no roads across the hills and valleys, only Indian trails, many of which were mere foot paths and not wide enough to accomodate a wagon and team of horses or yoke of oxen. This made travel slow, hence it took days to go any distance. There were no bridges and the settlers, on the way to seek new lands, were obliged to ford the streams and many of these fords became noted crossings, one of the most noted in this section of the state was "Dutch Henry's" crossing across the Pottawatomie creek near what is now the town of Lane, several miles to the southwest of Osawatomie.

Each man who decided to remain in the new territory was required to take up a claim and do some imprvonig, such as building a cabin, in order to acquire the right to settle there. He had to "lay a foundation," which consisted of cutting and notching four logs and laying them as the outline of his prospective cabin. He was obliged to place his name on a piece of paper and attach it to one of the logs or on a post nearby.

The exact size of the farms they selected has been lost in history but most of them were small as compared to those of today. As far as possible they selected sites on or near the rivers and creeks which gave them a source of water supply for their livestock and other purposes,

sometimes being their drinking water supply. Since the land had not been cultivated in the manner of the white man it was necessary for the new settler to cut the trees and clear out the underbrush before he could plant his crops, which consisted mostly of corn and wheat and a small garden spot.

The new homes, as can be expected, were only small one-room cabins, and sometimes were only walls of logs with a piece of canvas or grass for the roofs. Being only one room in most cases there was only one door, without screens, and one or two small windows covered with thin cloth or left entirely open. The floor was usually dirt which had been packed down and smoothed off. The log walls were sealed with clay or plaster.

Sometimes the settlers would cut slabs of sod and lay them up against the outside of the cabins as a protection against the cold winter winds. Some homes were built of sod slabs with only a canvas for a roof, and usually these roofs, whether they be of canvas, rough boards hewn by hand with an axe or of long grass laid in thatch style, they afforded little protection from the rains and snows. Heat was provided by a small fireplace in one end of the cabin or a small stove the settler could bring with him. The fuel, of course, was mainly obtained from the woods, although coal could be obtained from coal mines to the east and southeast near the Missouri line, sometimes as far 30 to 40 miles away, and of a quality not too good for providing enough heat to keep the cabin comfortable in winter.

For light inside the cabins the settler had to resort to kerosene lamps or lanterns, and sometimes using the light from the fireplace. Since the building of a new home and getting the trees and underbrush cleared away so they could have fields for crops was hard work they had little use for a light at night. They were usually in bed by the time darkness fell and were up at their work the next morning by the time it was light enough to see.

Supplies for the new homes had to be hauled by wagon from the town of Kansas City (then known as Westport), some 60 miles away, or from other towns in the western edge of Missouri. Trips to get these supplies were usually a community affair with one man making the trip and bringing back supplies for the other families in the close neighborhood.

Since most of the drinking water had to be obtained from the small streams or creeks or from shallow wells the settlers dug near the cabin it was not uncommon that one or more members of the family would be victims of typhoid. There were no serums, vaccinations or 'shots' in those days and any number of persons died from typhoid, and those who did not die from the disease were a long time recovering as the medical facilities to cope with the disease were far from adequate to affect a speedy cure.

There being no screens for the doors or windows and their sanitary measures were poor the early settlers were bothered a great deal by flies. As a result many persons were soon afflicted with what they called chills and fever or the "ague," which is a form of malaria. When a person became afflicted with the disease they were sometimes ill for months. A peculiar thing about the disease was that the person would be in seemingly good health one day and suffer intensely the next with

the chills and fever and become so weak they were practically helpless. This alternating of good days and bad days would sometimes go on for months until the victim would, as they said in those days "wear it out," and then begin a slow recovery to normal health. The letters of John and Sarah Everett contain vivid descriptions of the ravages of the disease called the "ague." There were times when a whole family would be afflicted at the same time, working a hardship on them. There were instances, however, when some members of the family would be suffering from chills and fever one day, and other members would feel well enough to care for the sick ones. There were times when the sick families would have to depend upon the neighbors for help.

It was not uncommon in the early days for one settler to use a team of horses or yoke oxen of a neighbor to do his farming and hauling and to "trade" work with his neighbors. This, of course, tended to cement the settlers of one community into a closely-knit group, all sharing the same problems.

Mail service was only by wagon train or stage coach, and mail was received and dispatched on the average of once a week, which meant that letters, and the few newspapers and magazines were a source of much enjoyment and were anxiously looked forward to at all times.

Many of the fences that were built were of rails split from the trees in the timber. These had to be hauled by yoke of oxen or horses. At first there was free range for the cattle and sometimes they would stray long distances from home, but since the community was so closely-knit, when a man would find a strange animal on his place he would immediately look up the owner and return the animal to him.

Refrigeration was unheard of in those days, and the usual place in which the settler would put his food to be kept cool, and little of it was cared for in that manner, was to hang it in a well or place it in a pail or tub in a stream of running water from a nearby spring.

The early settler also had his problems of weather, and according to accounts of that day, the weather was much as it is today in this section of the state. There were periods of long dry spells and then there would be long spells of wet weather. One account relates that at one time in 1855, it did not rain for ten months. Even in spite of the handicaps of such weather the settlers were not discouraged.

It has been related how most of the houses were built in those days, and many times the worms would get into the logs of the walls or in the roofs and there would be a continual shower of fine powder covering everything in the house.

Another thing that made life more difficult for the new settlers was the "Border Warfare" between the Pro-Slave and Free-State citizens. A man hardly knew whether he would be alive the next day when he went to sleep at night.

Since there were no churches available for services, when these services were held, they were conducted in the homes of the settlers. There were no regular preachers or priests and all services were held by itinerant ministers who would visit the community occasionally. Most of these services were held during the day time, usually in the afternoon.

One thing for which the early settler could be thankful was that he was not harassed by hostile Indians as most of them had at-

ready been moved to reservations farther north or west. Only occasionally would Indians, and usually in pairs or small groups, wander through the territory but then only in search of food and supplies, and caused the settlers little or no trouble.

It is interesting to note that in the letters to the folks back east the settler would tell of the trees and plants that abounded in the territory. The trees consisted mainly of oaks, elms, hackberry, sycamore, black walnut and some hickory. There were many plum thickets scattered over the hills as well as gooseberries, wild raspberries, blackberries and strawberries. There were no fruit trees except those brought in by the settler or sent from the folks back east. The flowers were about the same in those days as they are now: violets, Sweet Williams, Columbine, Spring Beauties, Wood and Wind Flowers, Dutchman's Breeches, Dogtooth violets, Adden tongue, wild cherries and others.

In the woods the settlers found wild turkeys and deer in plentiful numbers, as well as such smaller animals as rabbits, squirrels, raccoons and opossum. There were also many quails and a few prairie chickens. Wild ducks and geese were found in large numbers during the migration season, both spring and fall.

So far as fish are concern there were many in the streams but little has been written or said about them.



MAIN STREET IN 1904, looking east from in front of present Graphic-News building. (From an old photo, courtesy A. W. Youngberg.)

LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY

All through the past one hundred years the stores of the city have kept step with the trend of the times, but to describe the different types of stores would fill a ponderous volume so the general stores, which carried a great variety of merchandise will be spoken of here. The merchant's stock consisted mainly of the items most used by the people of the community, with few or none of the frills seen today.

It is probably hard for the younger generations to believe what kind of stores there were, although they may have some idea after having seen them on the motion picture screen and on television.

Naturally there were none of the modern stores with their self-service counters, refrigerated meat and milk counters, and brightly colored boxes and bags.

Very little fresh meat was sold in the early days, as most people did their own butchering and caring for the meat, rendering their own lard and making their own sausage, there being no hamburger, and most of the meat sold was salt pork and dried beef, but little of the latter.

Flour was shipped in by the wagon load, and later by partial car-load lots and stored in a bin. From this bin the grocer would fill his flour barrel or boxes that stood near the end of one of the counters. When a customer wanted some flour it was scooped out of the barrel into a bag, bucket or box. Sugar was shipped in bags or boxes and also sold in the bulk. "Boughten" bread was something that was rare as housewives baked their own bread or made biscuits.

Few canned goods were found on the shelves, and when the first were placed on the retail market most of it was peaches, cherries and plums, and a few tomatoes. Crackers were kept in a barrel and also sold in bulk. Tea, coffee, beans, rice, oatmeal and other such staples were also dispensed in bulk.

The farmers would bring their butter into the store or market in buckets or small tubs and it would either be sent on to the larger cities or packed into one-pound molds and sold from the store. Each butter packer and farmers who put their butter into pound cakes had their own floral design that was molded on top of the pound of butter. Little or no milk was sold to the stores and that was not tested as it is these days. Eggs were brought in boxes, later in egg cases, and before the egg cases or crates came into being, the farmers would pack their eggs in oats or sawdust, and it was the job of the boys working in the stores to take them out, count them and pack them again for shipping. This was done without candling.

Chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks were sold alive and then cooped in a back room until they were shipped by wagon and later by train to the larger markets. In many cases about all the spending money the average farm family had was derived from the sale of eggs, butter and poultry, and many times they would "take their egg money in trade."

The candy sold in those days must not be overlooked. None of it came wrapped as it is today. It was usually purchased by the merchant in large wooden buckets and placed in open trays in the counters. There were none of the soft candies found today. Most of it was in sticks, large

white mints or the hard kind that needed strong teeth to chew it. There was no chewing gun, no ice cream or ice cream products or soda pop. Boxed candies, such as chocolates, came years later after the territory was settled.

Dry goods and clothing made up a large part of the merchandise in the early days. Only a few women's dresses were in stock as most women did their own sewing. What few were found were of the more expensive type and not suitable for the kind of the few social functions in the new territory. The only other articles of wearing apparel for women were shoes (high button type), a few hats, corsets and stockings.

As for the men and boys most articles of clothing could be purchased at the stores and consisted mainly of rough, sturdy material in only four colors, black, brown, gray and blue, except when it came to the fancy vests. Foot wear consisted of heavy shoes and boots, and it was quite a treat for a boy to get a pair of shoes with copper-covered toes.

Other lines of merchandise were hardware and drugs, the latter consisting mainly of liniments, bitters and a few early patent medicines. The hardware line was made up mostly of nails, fence wire, rivets, staples, screws, and hand tools such as axes, hatchets, saws and hammers.

In the very early days most merchants sold harness, but it was not but a few years when harness stores were opened where the harness was made by hand right in the store.

Early History

It is believed that Catholic missionaries entered the territory that is now part of the Osawatomie community as early as 1541, some men who had been with Coronado when he made his journey into Kansas as far north as what is now known as Coronado Heights near Lindsborg.

The Pawnee, Omahaw, Kansas, Osage and Missourian Indian tribes are believed to have lived in the Osage Valley before the coming of the white man. When the government began moving Indians from the east to reservations west of the Mississippi River in about 1830, these tribes were moved farther west and the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Otoes, Miamis, Creeks, Seminoles, Senecas, Pottawatomies, Ottaways, Chippaways, Shawnees, Delawares, Kickapoos, Ioways and Foxes, emigrated, some by force, into the territory. It is believed that at one time there were about 20,000 Indians living in the territory.

The first Catholic missionaries to do any real work among the Indians in this territory came in about 1822, coming from what was then known as Florissant, Missouri, and Miami County claims the distinction of being the first place where any missionary work was done.

Two of the most noteworthy Indians of the early days were Baptiste Peoria and his wife. Their name was pronounced "Batees" and they were thought to have lived near the big spring northwest of Paola. He came to Kansas in 1829, but moved with his tribe to Oklahoma Indian Territory and died there in 1874. Mrs. Baptiste Peoria died in Paola in 1883.

The First Manufacturing Plant

When a new territory was opened for settlement the white men with their covered wagons loaded with a few articles of furniture, behind which they led a cow or two, and probably a spare horse, moved in and began to build log cabins or houses of sod they dug near by. These settlers, usually, were followed by others who were looking for new lands on which to build homes and rear their families. Then came merchants and men who took it upon themselves to provide the new settler with new material to put into the new home and other buildings around the farms and stores in the towns. One of the first things would be a saw mill since most of the countryside abounded with timber, and the little community of Osawatomie was no different from all the others.

After the first settlers had arrived on the scene, came a saw mill, which was sent out by the Emigrant Aid Company Society. It was located on the south bank of the Osage river about a half mile below the town site that had been surveyed by A. D. Searle in 1855. Unfortunately the mill was destroyed by fire only a few months after it went into operation.

It is interesting to note that the lumber for these new buildings was sawed by hand, with a pit saw. A pit was dug and one of the sawyers would stand in the pit while sawing lumber from logs. This same style of pit saw has been used in some of the "backward" countries for centuries.

The Old Salt Wells

No matter what minerals are needed by the human race it seems as though nature makes provision for man to get them. This is particularly true with salt. The early settlers brought some salt with them when they moved into the land, but it wasn't long until a nearby source had to be found.

In the early days salt was manufactured or refined right in the local community. When some of the wells were dug they were found to contain water in which there was a heavy salt solution. As salt was needed John Chestnut, one of the few men who came into the territory in the fall of 1854, set about to obtain it. He imported some large cast iron kettles and in these refined salt. The kettles would be filled with water and then set over a fire and when the water had evaporated a layer of salt was found on the sides of the kettles. Just how much salt was refined in this manner here is not recorded but it was probably enough to meet the local needs.

One of these kettles may be seen today in the John Brown Memorial Park.

TWO HAND LAUNDRIES

Several years after the founding of Osawatomie there were two hand laundries in operation in the town. One was operated by a Chinaman (his name cannot be recalled) and the other was a Japanese man by the name of Lay George. One laundry was located in a building that stood at the corner of Fifth and Main where the Safeway Store is now located, and the other was about a block north of that. There were great rivalry between the two operators and the Chinaman left town under cover of darkness one night, but the Japanese laundry operated for several years after that.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN BROWN

No history of Osawatomie, or narrative of the happenings of the early days following the settlement of the town, would be complete without an account of John Brown, who was imbued with the idea that he had been divinely chosen to free the Negro slaves, and chose Kansas as the place where he should start.

Although not a native of Kansas, John Brown was the one man who put the community on the map during the early days of the town's existence. It was he who was responsible, in no small measure, for the nation, as well as the wide world, becoming aware that Osawatomie would play an important part in American history.

John Brown was born May 10, 1800, at Torrington, Connecticut, a son of Owen and Ruth Mills Brown. He spent his boyhood in Ohio.

During the War of 1812, his father furnished beef to the United States Army and John made several trips with him to help drive the cattle. It was on one of these trips that he became acquainted with an intelligent and active Negro boy whose name was also John. Young Brown took particular notice of the way the Negro boy was treated. He was badly clothed, poorly fed and lodged in the poorest of quarters. His master would beat him with anything at hand. This had a great effect on young Brown and he determined that when he grew to manhood he would do all he could to free the slaves.

Brown received little education and at the age of sixteen he began to learn the tanner's trade and followed it until he was twenty years old, when he went to Plainsfield, Massachusetts and took up a course of study with the view of becoming a minister of the gospel. He was disappointed in this effort on account of a serious inflammation of the eyes.

He returned to Ohio and married Dianthe Lusk. There were seven children born to his union, the youngest being buried in the same grave with the mother three days after birth, in 1832. In 1833 he married Mary A. Day and thirteen children were born to this couple.

He continued in Ohio for a time, following his trade as a tanner and farming, but later moved to Crawford county, Pennsylvania. He continually thought of the plight of the Negro slaves and he sometimes cherished the idea that he might become their liberator. In 1846, he moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he went into the wool selling business. At one time he took 200,000 pounds of wool to England, but when he arrived there the wool market had slumped. He lost all his savings and after traveling over Europe studying conditions, he returned to the United States a bankrupt.

Having failed in the wool business he moved his family in 1849, to North Elba, New York, where many freed slaves were living. After suffering many privations he moved his family back to Ohio in 1851, and again entered the wool business. He remained in Ohio until in the early spring of 1855, when he determined to turn to Kansas and do all he could to make that state a Free State. He moved his family back to North Elba. He left his wife and small children in the shadow of the Adirondack Mountains and with his five sons set face to the west through forest and over prairie and finally reached Osawatomie, Kansas, in Lykins (now Miami) county in 1855.



JOHN BROWN, leader of the Free State forces in the Border Warfare in and around Osawatomie in 1856-57. Came to the territory in 1855 from Ohio. Made his headquarters at the Rev. Samuel Adair cabin, west of the city; a brother-in-law of Adair; commanded the men who defended Osawatomie in the battle on the morning of August 30, 1856. This photo is a likeness of the bronze statue of him that was erected near the entrance of the John Brown Memorial Park in 1935. (From an old photo.)

The five sons, Frederick, Salmon, Oliver, Owen and John, jr., arrived in the Osawatomie community early in 1855, and found the town in the midst of the strife over the slavery question. They immediately wrote their father, describing the situation, and asked him to send them knives, guns and ammunition to further the cause against slavery. John Brown gathered together a wagon load of the materials requested, along with some "Beecher Bibles," and made his way slowly from Ohio through Illinois and hostile Missouri and arrived in the Kansas territory in May, 1855.

Brown made his home and headquarters with his brother-in-law, Rev. Samuel L. Adair, whose cabin stood a short distance west of Osawatomie. Brown, because of his strong belief in freeing the slaves and his activities in that direction, was soon known all over the country as an abolitionist and almost from the time he entered Kansas there was a price on his head.

At a meeting of pro-slavery men at Lane on the night of May 20, 1856, on the Pottawatomie, a resolution was passed declaring that all Free State men must abandon the territory or suffer the consequences. This news came to the Free State men the following day and when word was received of a probable attack on Lawrence by pro-slave forces, Brown and a group of about thirty men, on May 23, started for Lawrence. They learned they were too late and turned back. They camped near Rantoul that night on Middle Creek. It was on this night that five pro-slavery men who had taken part in the meeting at Lane, were slain in a barbarous manner, near what was known as "Dutch Henry's" crossing on the Pottawatomie. Naturally Brown was immediately accused of the multiple murder, and the feeling ran high against him. One of the men who was with Brown at the time, said that this report was false.

During the time that Brown was headquartered in the Adair home he was active in the operation of an under-ground "railroad" over which Negro slaves were transported through Kansas into Nebraska where they were granted their freedom. One of the "stations" along this route was at the Adair cabin, where the Negroes were hidden during the day time in a cellar under the floor of the back room of the cabin. (The original floor boards that covered this cellar may be seen in the cabin in John Brown Memorial Park.) The number of slaves who made their way into Nebraska over the route that led them through the territory near Osawatomie has been placed at various figures and the exact number will probably never be known.

During the time that Brown was in the Osawatomie community he went about disguised as a surveyor and by that means gained a lot of information concerning the attitudes of the men on the question of slavery.

After the murder of the five men on the Pottawatomie, everything was in a turmoil and even United States marshals were sent into the territory to arrest John Brown and his men, especially his five sons.

On June 7, 1856, General Reed with a group of ruffians found the town of Osawatomie unprotected by men and proceeded to ransack and plunder it. They stripped the home and stores of valuables, clothing and supplies, and drove off all the cattle and horses. No skirmish took

place on that day and no casualties resulted and the town was not burned.

The next meeting of these two opposing forces was early on the morning of August 30, 1956, at which time the Battle of Osawatomie was fought. Although John Brown and his group of some 40 followers did not win this battle, they did stem the invading army which retired, but not until it had burned all the buildings in the town with the exception of two homes of pro-slave men.

The Battle of Osawatomie brought to an end the major invasion by the Border Ruffians and life, in as great a measure as could be expected under such conditions, seemed to settle down to the routine of rebuilding the destroyed homes and business places and building up of the farms and small towns in the territory.

Following this battle Brown continued to work at freeing the slaves and transported many of them through the underground "rail-road" into Nebraska and even into Canada. It was also during this time that he conceived the idea of going east and raising an army and secure arms and equipment with which to strike the blow that eventually lead to his execution for murder and treason.

It is not known when Brown conceived the idea of raising this army, but it is thought it was on one of his trips into Canada. He soon left Kansas and went east in 1858. He wrote a constitution based on the precept that all Negro slaves should be freed and set about to put into operation.

He returned to North Elba for a while. Early in 1859, he visited many eastern cities and solicited aid for his cause. He and two of his sons registered at a hotel in Weston, New York, as I. Smith and sons. He said his business was farming and he was looking for a favorable climate in which to establish a home. Later he journeyed southward.

When Brown left Kansas he left word for those who were his followers to be ready at any time to go east when they were called. These men waited for a while and many of them took up homesteads and never rejoined his forces.

After looking for a few days about Harper's Ferry, Virginia, where the government had an arsenal, he and his sons located on a large abandoned farm where there were three vacant houses. A number of his followers came and took abodes near by. They planned their actions so secretly that no one suspected them, even some of Brown's daughters came and went during this time, but just before the ill-fated attack on Harper's Ferry the women disappeared.

At first it was planned to attack Harper's Ferry on the night of October 24, but Brown suspected that he was about to be betrayed, so the attack was made on Sunday night, October 16. Just before the attack Brown spoke to his followers and told them they should not take any lives if it could possibly be avoided, but if it was necessary they were to make sure work of it.

Just how many men took part in the attack is not known but the figure has been placed between twenty to forty men, both white and Negro. The battle for the arsenal started about 10 o'clock on that Sunday night and lasted until early the following Tuesday morning, when Brown was captured by a force of United States soldiers under

the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee, who was later a general in the Confederate army during the Civil War.

The feeling against Brown was so intense that it was thought at first he would be hanged without a trial. Brown was lodged in prison and during his imprisonment he wrote and received many letters. He was a model prisoner at Charlestown and struck up a great friendship with the jailer. He said he was innocent of everything with which he had been accused except his intention to free the slaves.

Brown was tried and convicted of murder and treason. He was executed by hanging on the morning of December 3, 1859, and rode from the prison to the place of execution sitting on top of the casket that was to hold his body. He was buried at North Elba, New York, and a small bronze tablet has been placed on a boulder near the head of his grave.

So ended the career of the man who placed Osawatomie on the map during the early days of its existence.



JOHN BROWN CABIN, stood west of city, moved to John Brown Memorial Park in 1912, and now housed in pergola in the park.

(From an old photo.)

FREE VOTE WAS HEAVY

In a letter written October 6, 1857, John Everett gave the election results to his father of an election held the day before, in which the slavery question was the important item. In the county, which was then Lykins county, there were 423 votes cast in the four precincts, 352 of which were for the free state and 71 for the pro-slave proposition. The vote in Osawatomie was 240 for the free state and none for the pro-slave state. Stanton showed 59 free state and 1 pro-slave; Miami was 23 free and 5 pro, while in Paoli (note the spelling of the name) it was 30 free and 65 pro. He said that if the election had been held a few weeks before the free state majority would have been much heavier.

BATTLE OF OSAWATOMIE

The "Battle of Osawatomie," which was the first encounter in which blood was shed in the struggle over slavery, was fought early on the morning of August 30, 1856. A force of some 400 or more men, pro-slavery sympathizers, under General Reed, had returned to the community for the avowed purpose of capturing John Brown and his men, especially his five sons.

On the night of August 29, Brown and his men had camped on the hill just north of the town, across the Marais des Cygnes, on what is now the site of the Osawatomie State Hospital. During this same night, Rev. Samuel L. Adair, a brother-in-law of John Brown, sat up all night writing letters which his nephew, Frederick Brown, was to attempt to get into Iowa to mail as the Missourians, who were raiding the territory, confiscated all mail going through that state. Just before daybreak Rev. Adair heard the sound of horses running and thinking that Fred was leaving without the letters, rushed out in time to see some men riding away. Nearby he saw young Brown, who had been shot by a Rev. Martin, one of the raiders, lying dead on the ground. Young Brown was the first victim of the invading Border Ruffians, and today a marker marks the spot where he was killed.

Mr. Adair then sent his thirteen-year-old son, Charles, to take their only horse and ride to notify his uncle that General Reed and his men were coming from the west.

The news of Fred Brown's untimely death, as well as the murder of two other Free State men, soon reached the village whereupon John Brown and his band of some forty untrained men assembled to attempt to repel the invaders.

The invading force was on the hill west of the village and south of the Marais des Cygnes and was equipped with rifles and one cannon. Brown formed his men in a line just west of the village and a short distance from the river bank in the trees, with the invading force on the hill above them. Reed's men kept a steady fire with their rifles and every time they fired the cannon they would make another advance. Brown ordered his men not to fire until the enemy got within close range. The Reed force then divided and sent one group along the river bank to the north and attacked from that direction, firing on the right wing of the defenders.

It soon became evident to Brown that his poorly equipped and untrained force of 40 men could not hold off the enemy, although they kept up a steady force for some thirty minutes. With the main force in front of them and a detachment firing at them from the right, Brown's men broke ranks and retreated in disorder. Fearing that another force might be attacking from the east, Brown's men were afraid to retreat down the river toward Osawatomie and Westport ford. Being pressed so close behind, and without time to consider, the defenders rushed pell-mell into the river; some crossed in some skiffs lying in the water at this point and others tried to swim across, and in doing so lost their guns. Some of the men moved down the river to a point where the water was about five feet deep, and made their way across, holding their guns over their heads. One man, George Partridge, who was wading across the river, was shot in the head and sank below the

surface of the water immediately. His body was recovered next day.

Brown's men fled farther north out of gun shot and the invaders went into the village, plundering the houses, took several Free State men as prisoners, and burned the town, leaving only a couple of houses belonging to pro-slave men.

After sacking the town General Reed and his men left, traveling toward the west, taking the prisoners with them, one or two of whom were slain the next day.

Some reports have it that some 60 or 70 of the invaders were killed, but General Reed reported there had been two killed and six wounded. This battle ended the Border conflict so far as Osawatomie was concerned and the territory settled down to a peaceful life, if one would want to call it peaceful.

The five Free State men killed in the battle were Frederick Brown, David Garrison, George Partridge, Theron Parker Powers and Charles Kaiser. John Brown himself sustained a wound in a shoulder when struck by a spent cannon ball. Reed's men took eight men as prisoners.

A monument to the five men killed in the battle now stands at the corner of Ninth and Main streets in Osawatomie, being dedicated on August 30, 1877.

"BEECHER BIBLES"

When the trouble over the question of slavery was disturbing the peace of the early settlers, the states east of the Missouri River were also divided on the question. The slaves holders of the south were determined the new state should be pro-slave and the northern states just as determined it should be free-state.

It was during this time that the "Beecher Bibles" became known. The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, pastor of the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn was an ardent Abolitionist. He urged the recently organized Connecticut-Kansas Colony to take along two tangible aids when they went into the new territory. It is said that for each box of Sharp's rifles or carbines, then the most effective small arm known in the country, a Bible should also be shipped.

It is said that when John Brown, also an Abolitionist, made his first trip into Kansas his wagon was loaded with rifles and "Beecher Bibles," although they had been already shipped into the territory before he came.

FIRST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION HERE

The first Fourth of July celebration held in the city was held in 1855, when the settlers felt they must have a patriotic celebration of the birth of the nation.

The celebration opened with a parade headed by the Chestnut boys, Bainbridge Fuller, Charles Adair. William Chestnut played a fife and the other boys had mouth organs. The flag had a prominent place in the parade. The Indians in the territory were invited and several of them, dressed in blankets and wearing their war bonnets, marched in the parade, adding much color to the occasion.

The parade ended on the hill that was to become the battle ground of the battle fought the following year. A picnic dinner was served at noon and in the afternoon there was singing and speeches.

The Eventful Year of 1856

The year 1856, according to the annals of history, was probably the most eventful and significant in the history of Osawatomie and the surrounding territory.

It was in that year that John Brown and his five sons migrated from Ohio into Kansas to take up the fight against slavery.

It was also the year in which the expression "Jayhawking" was used for the first time by Pat Devlin, a Free State Irishman.

It was in the spring of that year that the first newspaper press was brought from New York. The press was not used that year as it was buried beneath some sod to keep the Border Ruffians from taking and destroying it. The first newspaper printed on this press appeared the following year as the "Southern Kansas Herald."

It was in this year in which occurred the killing of five Pro-Slave men near what was known as "Dutch Henry's Crossing."

During this year many of the new settlers left the territory and state because of droughts, hot winds, the grasshoppers and chinch bugs.

Another event that took place in this year was the sacking and pillaging of the little town on June 7, by a small group of Border Ruffians under the leadership of General Reed. There were no casualties at this time, but every home, store and place of business was ransacked, personal property, such as rings, bracelets and clothing were taken from the citizens and women were insulted. The raiders drove off all the cattle and horses.

The most outstanding event of the year was the fighting of the Battle of Osawatomie, in which a small force of free-staters under John Brown, attempted to ward off an invading force of some 400 or more men under the command of General Reed.

Following the attack on the town by General Reed and his men, in which the forces under John Brown were forced to retreat across the Marais des Cygnes, the town was burned and only two houses belonging to pro-slavery sympathizers were spared.

Frederick Brown Memorial Tablet

One historic spot near the city is the memorial monument and tablet dedicated to Frederick Brown, son of John Brown, who was killed about daybreak on the morning of the Battle of Osawatomie, August 30, 1856.

The tablet was dedicated on August 30, 1933, seventy-seven years after the death of young Brown. The tablet was purchased with funds bequested by Mrs. Charles S. Adair, a relative of Frederick Brown. The dedicatory address was delivered by Roy A. Roberts, managing editor of the Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Mo., who spent part of his boyhood in the community. The history that led to the erection of the tablet was read by the late Mrs. D. A. January. Charles H. Adair, a great grand nephew of John Brown, unveiled the tablet, and Esther Ada Ward, a grand niece of John Brown, placed the wreath at the base of the tablet.

The memorial zronze tablet may be seen on the east side of the driveway of the home of Nelson Cowden, the old Adair farm, on the north side of the John Brown highway west of the city.

The Soldier's Monument

On the north side of West Main street, two blocks from the Missouri Pacific depot, stands the eleven-foot marble shaft, a monument erected in the memory of the five Free State men who lost their lives in the Battle of Osawatomie, and John Brown.

The monument was dedicated August 30, 1877, and was erected by funds contributed by relatives and friends of those buried beneath it. The Monument Association organized to supervise and erect the marble shaft consisted of H. B. Smith, H. H. Williams and Rev. Samuel L. Adair. The association was disbanded some years after the erection of the stone and the small plot of ground on which it stands was given to the city.

The dedicatory address was delivered by the late John J. Ingalls, United States Senator from Kansas.

The men buried beneath the monument are Frederick Brown, David Garrison, George W. Partridge and Theron Parker Powers. The body of Charles Kaiser was never found but his name appears. The five who are remembered by the memorial were first buried in a plot near what is now the Meek school house. The name of John Brown, although it appears on the north side of the shaft, is not buried there. He was buried at North Elba, New York.

When the monument was erected the road leading to the west out of the city ran along the north side of it, hence it appears as though it was erected backwards.

Although it is commonly known as the John Brown Monument, it is really a monument to the five men killed in the battle, and was dedicated as the Soldier's Monument.



An Almost Forgotten Character

Among the many characters who passed across the stage of operations in the early days in Osawatomie there is one who has almost been forgotten. It is not to be inferred that he was a typical character of the day. In fact, he was much in contrast.

This was a man by the name of Marshall L. Cleveland, whose real name was Charles Metz. Cleveland was an outlaw whom the sheriff made many fruitless attempts to capture. This man carried on what might be called "Jayhawking," but did it among the settlers in and around Osawatomie, or any community he might visit. It is said that he had a common-law sweetheart by the name of Em McCloy who formed an attachment to the desperado in Kansas City.

Early in May, 1862, the Kansas cavalry sent two soldiers in citizen clothes to find Cleveland. After some days of searching he was located at the Geer Hotel. A cordon of men was thrown around the hotel and received the outlaw's surrender. But, in coming out of the building, Cleveland sprang upon his horse that was standing near the door and dashed off toward Pottawatomie creek south of the city, followed by the entire force. A private by the name of John Johnson, having a fast horse, gained rapidly on the fleeing fugitive. When Cleveland saw the soldier was about to overtake him he dismounted and began running down the creek bank, when Johnson fired the fatal shot at him.

Cleveland was buried in the old Osawatomie cemetery, where his tombstone may still be seen. Shortly after the burial his sweetheart purchased a tombstone for his grave, and after considerable difficulty due to financial troubles, had the following inscribed on the stone:

Capt. Marshall L. Cleveland

May 11, 1862

"Earth counts a mortal less,
Heaven one angel more."

(It should be noted that Cleveland never held the commission of captain in the army.)

Semi-Centennial Celebration of Battle

On August 29, 30 and 31, 1906, the semi-centennial celebration of the Battle of Osawatomie was staged, with the battle grounds being the central location for most events. The first day was given over mostly to acts of entertainment, a free barbecue at noon, and an address by Hon. Charles F. Scott, congressman at large.

On the second day, Charles W. Fairbanks, vice president of the United States, delivered an address in the afternoon. The rest of the day was taken up with more acts of entertainment, and ended with a "Mulligan Treat" in the evening sponsored by the Osawatomie Elks club. A corps of hobos were engaged for the occasion, with thousands of tin cups, handsomely engraved wooden spoons for souvenirs, millions of crackers and a million pickles being served. It was held at the school house grounds.

A pageant was given on the third morning, other acts of entertainment, and free clam chowder being served by visiting members of the Eagles Lodge.

Each evening there were confetti battles on the streets as a special attraction.

The Old Sheep Sheds

No evidence exists today, but around the turn of the century some sheep sheds stood on the low ground north of the Marais des Cygnes and west of what is known as the Creamery road (now North Eighth street). These sheds were maintained when in the earlier days it was required by law that live stock shipped in stock cars on the railroad be fed and watered at least once every 36 hours.

There were several hundred acres of grass land around these sheds and the animals would be unloaded and allowed to graze over the land while being fed and watered.

The sheds were torn down many years ago and the land converted into farm land.

John Brown's Lookout

Located some three or four miles north and east of the city is a low hill without trees that is said to have been the lookout for John Brown and his men during the Border warfare. It commands a clear view of the territory toward the east and it has been said that on a clear day the Missouri state line, some 18 miles away, can be seen.

Although it is called Brown's Lookout, some say that it is doubtful that he ever used the hill for that purpose. It can be seen from the highway between Osawatomie and Paola.

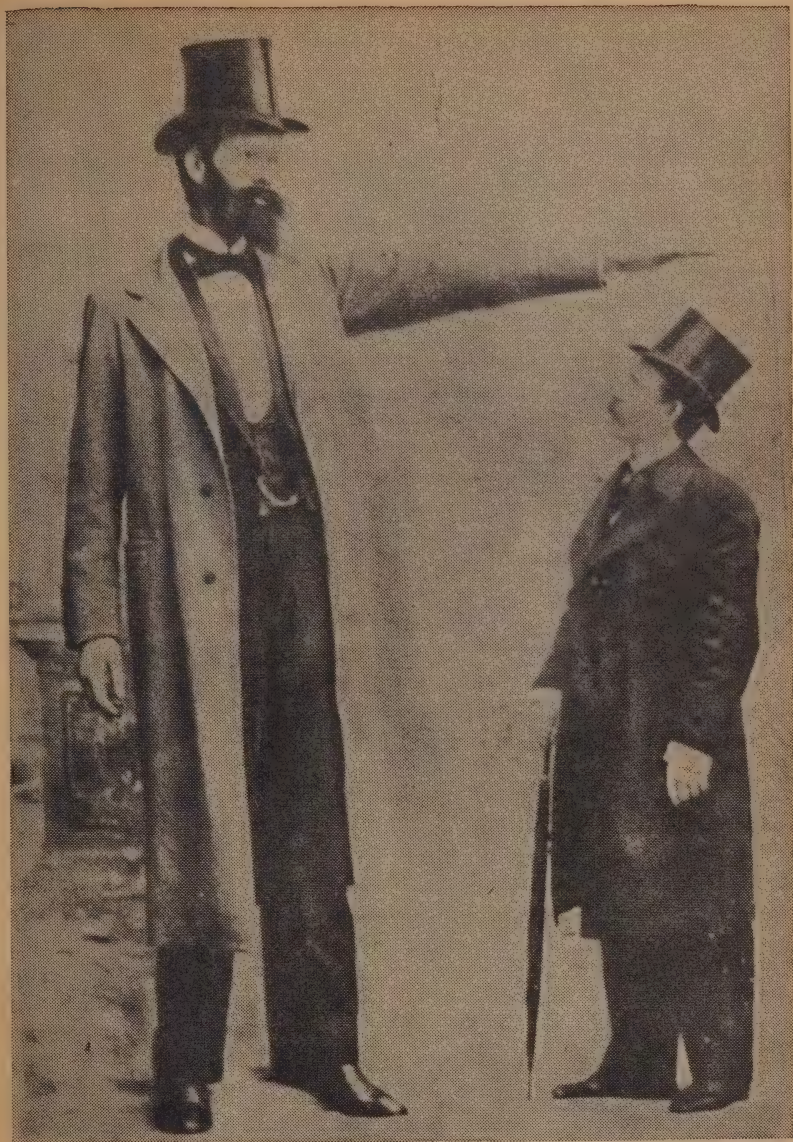
The Giant of Greasy Bend

Just before the turn of the century a family with a son whose appearance attracted an unusual amount of attention, moved to a farm three miles west and one-half mile north of Osawatomie, near what is known as O'Brien's station on the Missouri Pacific. At that time the place was known as "Greasy Bend." The son was then 17 years of age and had attained the almost unbelievable height of 8 feet and 2 inches, and weighed 365 pounds. His name was Lewis W. Wilkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wilkins. The family came from Wells, Minnesota where this son was born April 6, 1870. Lewis attended the Indianapolis school which is probably the oldest school in Miami county.

Some of the older citizens of the community can recall seeing Wilkins when he came into town riding on top of a load of logs or wood. He wore about a size 20 shoe. One of his favorite pastimes in the winter was skating and Dike Dickerson, living north of the city has a pair of skates that were used by Wilkins. The runners measure slightly under 24 inches and the skates were handmade in Switzerland.

Wilkins was reputed to be the tallest man in the world at that time and a photo of him with one arm extended above the head of his manager, Mr. Milna, who stood about 6 feet, 9 inches, and the arm of Wilkins extended over Milina's head, shows his great height.

At the age of 21, in 1891, Wilkins started on world tours with Mr. Milina, who came from London, England. His parents later moved to near Waukomis, Okla. Lewis returned and visited them on numerous occasions. His last visit was in 1902. Shortly after this visit he became ill in Chicago, Ill., and died in a hospital in that city June 21, 1902. His body was originally buried in the family yard near Waukomis for safe keeping, but in 1930 it was re-interred in the family lot near Waukomis, which is eight miles south of Enid, Okla.



LEWIS WILKINS, known as the "Giant of Greasy Bend." Was 8 feet, 2 inches tall, lived here just before close of century. (Photo courtesy Dike Dickerson.)

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

Located about a block and half north of the main intersection of the city of Osawatomie, Sixth and Main Streets, on the east side of the street, which is also US Highway 169 and K-7, is a vine-covered stone building, unpretentious as relics of the past go, that is the oldest historical building in the city. It is known as the Old Stone Church, which long ago ceased to be used as a place of worship, but is of inestimable value to the community. Although it has stood on that same spot since the late 1850's, there are many people even in the community who do not realize its significance in the building to the community.

This church was built by the Congregationalists, being started in 1859, completed in 1860, and dedicated on July 14, 1861. It is built of native stone quarried in the neighboring hills, dragged by oxen to the site, and the work done mostly by volunteer labor. It is said that Rev. Samuel L. Adair, its pastor, and his son, Charles, did most of the labor. The framework of the roof, window casings, door and woodwork are of native black walnut lumber.

Prior to the building of this historic church edifice, the first meeting to arrange for the organization of the church was held April 2, 1856, at the home of Rev. Adair, a short distance west of the present city. This cabin became later to be known as the John Brown cabin, Brown being a brother-in-law of Adair. The second meeting was held a week later and the church organized on April 13, 1856, with seven persons signing the articles of faith. These included Orvel C. Brown and wife (no relation to John Brown), Maryl A. Brown, S. L. Adair and wife, Florella B. Adair, Barstow Darrauch, a physician; Sarah Rising and Mary G. Crane.

There were few settlers in the territory at the time and the church made only a slow growth, although the members did hold services regularly. The pastor kept the minutes of all meetings and for years this was the only record of the church.

When the Border Ruffians who were foraging and mauling the territory during the Border Warfare of the years of 1856-57 and 58, the church was sacked when the city of Osawatomie was burned and the hymn books and Sunday school library taken out and burned.

After the Battle of Osawatomie on August 30, 1856, no regular services were held in the church until December 20, 1857. A letter bearing the date of September 9, 1858, from the Boston Sabbath School Society, stated that a communion service consisting of "one flagon plate, two cups and one font" were being sent from South Hadley Falls, Mass., to Rev. Adair. The box also contained a pulpit Bible. These items were used until the church was vacated many years later.

This Old Stone Church was the third church of the Congregational denomination to be organized in Kansas — the other two were Lawrence in 1854 and Topeka in 1855. Rev. Adair, the organizer, was born April 22, 1811, in Ross county, Ohio, and came to Osawatomie in 1854, settling west of the city on the south bank of the Marais des Cygnes (Osage River).

The original church building had a belfrey on the front, the west end. The interior is plastered directly on the stones of the outside wall and for this reason it can not be papered on account of the sweating

of the stones. It is built on what was known as the "Church Square," which consisted of several lots set aside by the original Town Company with the idea that all churches would and could be built on the lots without cost for the real estate. The only other church erected on this particular property is the St. Philip's Catholic church, which was not erected until several years later, although first started in Osawatomie in 1857.

During the first few decades after the church was built it was used by the Baptists, Methodists, Negro Methodists and Episcopalians.

The Congregational membership dwindled and the building was sold to the Episcopalians, who later united with the Presbyterians. The Episcopalians were the last to hold regular services in the church.

When the Episcopalians vacated the church to unite with the Presbyterians the bell was taken and is now located at the latter church. The pews and pulpit are being used by the Pilgrim Holiness church at the corner of Fourth and Parker.

For a number of years the building was used as a store room for hay and grain. It later was purchased by the city. Several years ago the Osawatomie Historical Society started a movement to restore



OLD STONE CHURCH, founded in 1859, and dedicated in 1861; erected by Rev. Samuel A. Adair. Being preserved by Osawatomie Historical Society. (From an old photo.)

the church, and although the progress may not be clearly discernable, considerable has been made. The stone fence was built in front, the windows and doors repaired, the walls touched up and the roof repaired.

Rev. Adair remained as pastor for many years, and when the State Hospital was started in about 1866, he became chaplain of that institution. Later he was appointed chaplain of the State Prison, and it was when he was serving in that capacity that his wife died February 6, 1865. Soon after her death he returned to Osawatomie and was pastor of the church until his death December 28, 1898. He also served as a chaplain in the Union Army during the Civil War, serving at Fort Scott and Fort Leavenworth.

It is hoped that the building can be restored in time to be used for religious services during the Centennial, and then be open during the tourist season with members of the several churches in Osawatomie serving as receptionists so that tourists may stop and meditate in a church that means so much to the religious life of the community.

It was on November 28, 1861, after President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Proclamation establishing Thanksgiving as a National Holiday, that Rev. Adair preached the first Thanksgiving sermon. It was not his first sermon on thanksgiving but the first after the day had been set aside by the President. The first such sermon by Rev. Adair was preached in 1860, in the first public schoolhouse erected in Osawatomie, known as the Reed's church or schoolhouse, and stood just north of the present Masonic Temple. It was in this building that both day and night schools were conducted, with the Negroes attending the night school.

MORE GUNS THAN HYMN BOOKS

It was said of Rev. S. L. Adair, founder and builder of the Old Stone church and its pastor for many years, that on Sunday mornings he was known to say, "Well, brethren, I see there are more guns in the audience this morning than there are hymn books."

Incident of the Peacock Feathers

The Indians living in the community in the early days were friendly but curious people. A story is told that in 1855, the women would often, when doing their work around the cabin, would look up to see a lone Indian standing in the doorway watching them.

One time the Adair family had just received a barrel of vinegar and had it standing just outside the cabin door. Suddenly a group of Indians on horseback dashed up, excitedly pointing to the barrel of vinegar and shouting, "Fire water! Fire water!" whereupon Mrs. Adair removed the corn cob stopper and showed them it was not whiskey. Three of the braves then strolled into the cabin where they spied a bunch of peacock feathers on the wall. They fairly danced with excitement and begged for them. Mrs. Adair gave each of the three a feather. They stuck them in their head bands, rushed outside, mounted their ponies and dashed off with the rest of the group shouting and wildly chasing them out of sight.

TROLLEY LINES WERE PROPOSED HERE

Back in the years just following the opening of the twentieth century there was quite a movement to establish trolley lines in some of the larger cities. In April, 1906, were two companies that made applications to acquire a trolley line franchise in Osawatomie, both were turned down by the city council.

THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE

The first automobile purchased by an Osawatomian was by Abner F. Meek, druggist. It was a 1904 Cadillac and was purchased in 1906. In a newspaper account of the purchase it was said that the roads in general were about as good as they were likely to ever be, and as long as they stayed dry the automobile would furnish the ideal mode of traveling. The account did say that some of the roads between Osawatomie and Ottawa were scandalously rough.

Early Day Entertainment

There is a great difference between the entertainment of these days and that of the early days. Today there is a tendency for people to want and need to be entertained by someone else while in the early days the people were called upon to provide their own entertainment. All of us know what types of entertainment prevails today, radio, television, color pictures, three-dimension pictures, and other types, most of which are the kinds in which the average person is only a spectator, and in which they seldom participate.

In the early days the people had to do their own entertaining and in most cases were not only spectators but participants as well. Included in the early types of entertainment were the bicycle clubs, mandolin clubs, literary societies, singing schools, spelling matches, and others. There were, of course, the old-fashioned medicine shows which were kept going mainly by the sale of "elixirs" and other health giving concoctions; punch and judy shows, glass blowers and occasionally a small circus.

A word about the literary societies, singing schools and spelling matches might not be amiss in this narrative.

One of the biggest events of most any community was the literary society the programs of which were usually made up of dialogs, group singing, debates, recitations, extemporaneous speeches and similar activities. These were usually held in the neighborhood schoolhouse and everyone in the community would attend.

Since there were no radios in those days the people did their own singing and singing schools would be held during the winter months. These were conducted either by some one in the community, but most generally some man or woman from a nearby town would teach the school. It was from these singing schools that came the nucleus of some of the finest choruses and choirs in the country. These schools not only developed good singers but also afforded a place of entertainment.

Although there are some spelling matches held today, most of them are for grade school children. In the early days everyone in the community would attend and take part in the spelling matches. Schools and neighborhoods would challenge other schools and neighborhoods and many a long winter evening was taken up with the matches. As a result, most people in the early days were good spellers.

One of the outstanding social events in days gone by was what was known as the "Century Ball," which featured round or ballroom dancing. The ladies look forward to these dances as much as the average debutant looks forward to her "coming out" ball today. These balls were usually held in a large lodge hall or hotel dining room. In this community these balls were usually held in the Agnew Opera House, which was over the present telephone office.

PRICES "HIGH" THEY THOUGHT

During the winter of 1857-58, settlers thought they were getting good prices for their dairy products. Butter was selling for 30 to 35 cents a pound; cheese 25 cents a pound, and milk for 30 cents per gallon.

First Methodist Church

The Methodist church in the city is celebrating the centennial of the organization of the congregation this year, although the first building for that denomination was not dedicated until December 12, 1882.

Bishop E. R. Amos on June 3, 1854, appointed Rev. W. H. Goode to come to the territory of Kansas for the purpose of starting a Methodist mission or church. While Rev. Goode was enroute to Kansas, he met an old friend, William Moore, of Illinois, and he likewise was enroute to Kansas. Rev. Goode had also been appointed the new district superintendent and he immediately appointed Moore the "leader of any class he might collect together in the territory." This new leader and his sons were charter members of the original Marais des Cygnes Mission. Another leader who was appointed in 1854 was Rev. Thomas J. Ferrill, who served the new church for two years. Both Goode and Ferrill arrived on the scene on the same day.

Since the congregation, which had grown to nearly 90 members in a short time, had no church building the meetings were held in the stone school house and the Old Stone Church, for several years. The first building was planned in 1873, but the coming of the grasshoppers



that year and the next, made it necessary to postpone the project. It is reported that the first quarterly conference was held in the Old Stone school house in 1868.

The first church building was started in 1881 and dedicated in 1882. It stood on the site of the present church building, at the corner of Fifth and Pacific streets. The population of the city at that time was about 300 persons. Two additions were added to the original building, one in 1902, and another in 1912.

The ground for the present church edifice was broken on December 9, 1921, and the building was dedicated March 29, 1925. Through the difficult years of the "depression" the debt was carried along, and

it was not until April 4, 1943, that the mortgage was burned in a special service.

Many changes have been made in the building through the years, and one of the things the people of the city enjoy every day of the year is the ringing of the chimes three times a day, at nine in the morning at noon, and nine o'clock in the evening. These chimes were given to the church as a memorial to W. H. Weber. Old hymns that are loved by all church members, regardless of their denomination, as played each time.

During the past one hundred years the church has been served by fifty-two different ministers. The present pastor is Rev. William I. Hastie, who came to the city in 1948.

First Baptist Church

Although the Baptist church in Osawatomie, now known as the First Baptist church, did not have its beginning until 1884, it can be said that its real origin was in 1862, with Rev. S. L. Reed being the first pastor. It continued until late in 1870 when is disbanded.

The church was re-organized as the Pottawatomie Baptist church, on July 22, 1882, at the Indianapolis school house west of the city, under the leadership of Rev. J. A. Iler. On March 10, 1884, the congregation voted to move the church into the city. The first service in the new location was held July 7, 1884, and on January 15, 1887, it was made the First Baptist church.

The first building of the church in the city was completed in September, 1891, and was dedicated free of debt. In 1903, the building was enlarged.

Actual work of clearing the site of the old building and parsonage was begun in the summer of 1949, and the cornerstone ceremony



of the present building was held in the summer of 1950. During the time of construction, services were held in the Booster Hall. Dedication services for the building were held September 21, 1951, and the Nursery was opened in February, 1953.

The First Baptist church is one of the leading congregations of the city and the present pastor is Rev. J. Clyde Fowler, who came to Osawatomie from Leavenworth in 1952. The church is located at the corner of Eighth street and Brown Avenue.

First Christian Church

The First Christian church was established in February 1892, with 26 members. Burton L. Wharton was the first pastor. The congregation held its meetings in the old school house and early in 1893, it was decided to build a church home. On November 26, 1893, the building was dedicated.

Records show that one January 28, 1894, the church made an



agreement with the Penn. Gas and Mining Co., whereby the company would furnish the church with gas fixtures and gas free for the privilege of locating a gas meter on the northwest corner of the church lot. This agreement was revised in 1905.

In 1910, Abner F. Meek, who had been a faithful member of the church, in his will, bequeathed the parsonage and in 1922 the present parsonage was erected. In the fall of 1929 the church basement was started.

The building was remodeled in 1939. During the summer and fall of 1953 the building underwent another remodeling and was ready for occupancy when it caught on fire in November and it was several weeks before it could be restored. In the meantime the congregation held its services in the Elks Hall on East Main street.

Howard H. Bussell came to the church as pastor in 1952.

St. Philip's Catholic Church

Long before Osawatomie was established as a town in 1855, destiny had marked the place. A small band of Pottawatomie Indians from Indiana settled here in 1837, and gave their name to the creek that empties into the Marais des Cygnes near the town site. At the time there was a mission among the Kickapoo Indians near what is now Leavenworth with a Jesuit Father, Christian Hoecken in charge. These Pottawatomies learned of this and sent for a Black-robe man to visit them. This he did in the winter and the journey on horseback

took eight days. He arrived at Pottawatomie Creek early in January, 1838. It is said that a Catholic church was built here in November, 1838, but was moved to Sugar Creek, Linn county, in 1839, and nothing is recorded of any other activities until 1858. Father Schacht visited Osawatomie in December, 1858, and stopped at the home of Mrs. Remington. The first Catholic settler in the community was James Poland, about two miles southwest of the town. A church was to be started but a defect in the title was found and the plan frustrated. As a result the first Catholic church in the county was established in Paola.

In the early days the Town Company of Osawatomie donated ground to each denomination for church purposes, but the plot of



ground where the present church now stands was unclaimed until 1889. In the summer of that year Catholic services were held in the old stone school house and some meetings were held in a store building.

The St. Philip's church was built in 1891, when Father O'Conner was in charge of the work. The church was built with a great deal of sacrifice and effort, especially by the women of the church and community. Each pastor added something to the church and its equipment.

The present school building was opened in 1921, and plans are now being discussed to enlarge the school and erect a new church building. Rev. W. G. O'Shea is the present pastor of the St. Philip's church.

Pilgrim Holiness Church

Standing near the corner of Fourth street and Parker Avenue is a church building which is the religious home of the Pilgrim Holiness church congregation. The building was erected in 1929, twenty years after the congregation originated in Osawatomie.

This congregation is the result of Miss Ella Kimes, when attending a religious meeting near Eldorado, Kansas, came into contact with the doctrine of sanctification. When she returned to Osawatomie she rented a place in which to hold a revival. W. J. and J. V. Webster conducted the series of meetings and organized the church. This was in 1909 and the first name was Holiness Christian church, with 23 members, none of whom are now on the church roll. During the intervening years the name of the congregation has been changed two or three times,

but not the doctrines taught. It was first changed to The International Holiness church, and now it is the Pilgrim Holiness church.

Before the present church edifice was erected the members used different places in which to meet, such as the old City Hall, the theatre on the south side of Main street, and the old skating rink and the old Sixth Street Mission, which is now occupied by Dr. Banister and Dr. Harville.

Fred Johnson was the first pastor. Others have been Henry Maynard, Lloyd Waddell, Roy Glendenning and M. L. Pottenger. Rev. Ralph Armstrong is the present pastor.

The pews are those used in the Old Stone church and were moved when the old church ceased to be used for church services.

At present the church is undergoing some remodeling and for that reason no picture is shown here.

Assembly of God Church

The Assembly of God church had its origin in the city in 1932, when Rev. and Mrs. Charles Spots began holding cottage prayer meetings, followed by a tent meeting. The following summer a tabernacle was erected at 704 Brown street with Rev. Oscar Davidson as pastor. The church was set in order in 1936, with 24 charter members, during the time Rev. Clarence Rima was pastor.

In the year 1945, Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Boulware came to the church as pastors and in the same year the lots of the present location on east



Main street were purchased and the building was completed in the fall of that year. The church membership grew steadily and the new auditorium was erected and occupied in the fall of 1951.

The present membership is 47, and the average Sunday school attendance during the past year has been 141. In February, 1954, Rev. and Mrs. I. D. Rayborn came to assume the duties as pastor.

First Presbyterian Church

Among the early settlers in the city were a few loyal members of the Prebyterian church, and in the fall of 1887, these few members decided to establish a church of their own. Rev. J. C. Venable, a retired minister living in Garnett, was called to organize the little band. This meting was held in the Old Stone Church on September 23, 1887.

Within five years the Christian Endeavor Society, Sunday School, Missionary Society and the Ladies Aid were organized. The Endeavor Society, being organized in 1891, was one of the first organized in the state. The Missionary Society was organized in 1894, with Mrs. L. L.



Uhls as the first president, and the Sunday school was organized in May 1892.

In 1892, with the coming of Rev. A. M. Mann, as pastor, plans for a new church were made. The church was built on the "pay as you go plan" and it was not until August 16, 1901 that the formal dedication was held. Various improvements and additions have been made to the building since that time and in the winter of 1953 a parsonage or manse was purchased.

During the early days of the congregation meetings were held mostly in the Old Stone Church.

The church is known as the "Friendly Little Church on the Corner," and the Easter and Christmas services are an outstanding event in the religious life of the community each year.

Rev. Howard D. Johnson is the present pastor, having come to the city from Yates Center early in 1954.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

The seed of Christian Science was first sown in Osawatomie in 1903 when a small group of Christian Scientists met in the homes for the purpose of holding church services and Sunday school. Later they met in the City Hall.

This group was organized in 1912, and recognized as a Christian Science Society, a branch of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, Massachusetts. In September, 1932, the Society became the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Osawatomie.

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During the next few years services were held in Bevis Hall, Taylor Hall, Majestic Theatre and what is now known as Booster Hall. In December, 1922, the basement of the Library Building was secured where services were held. A reading room was established in a residence at 712 Main street in February, 1922. The Society gave its first Christian Science lecture on March 24, 1922, and has given one each year since.



A lot at the corner of Eighth and Main streets was purchased in June, 1926, for the church home. The first stone was laid August 31, 1927, and the cornerstone was laid with simple ceremonies on September 15, 1927. The first services in the new building were held November 20, 1927. The church was dedicated June 29, 1939, free of debt as no Christian Science church can be dedicated until it is free of debt.

The Bible and the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, are the only preachers. The services held in the church are the same as those held all over the world in Christian Science churches, and under the direction of First and Second Readers, elected for a term of three years by the members of the respective churches.

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

The Osawatomie Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is located at the corner of Eleventh and Main streets. The present church home consists of a basement, the excavation of which began in September 1949, and in July 1950, the congregation began holding services in the new church home.

It was in August 1936, that a group of 16 members met and organized a mission, holding services in the basement of the Telephone Building at the corner of Fifth and Main streets. From 1910 to 1917, there were only a few members of the church living in the city. By 1919, there were 15 members in the community and held Sunday school in the afternoons in the various homes and attending other churches in the city for morning worship services. This continued until 1936. Plans are now being made to complete the church building.

The membership now consists of 18 families and the attendance is sometimes as many as fifty or more.

The first pastor was Elder Guy E. Caldwell of Independence, Kansas. The present pastor is Elder J. O. Rennie, who had been here since 1937, but was ordained some 26 years ago.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church

The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist church was organized in 1911, by Rev. J. W. Gordon, Moderator of the Neosho Valley District Association, assisted by Rev. N. J. Stokes and his officers. Rev. James Wilson, Ottawa, was the first pastor. Rev. Floyd Guliford is pastor of the church at the present time.

The first building burned and under the pastorate of Rev. James S. Scott the basement was built. During the pastorate of Rev. E. F. Brown, from 1945 to 1949, the present auditorium was erected. Many



improvements, including a choir room, pastor's study, vestibule and baptistry, and other improvements, have been added.

During the time the church has existed in the city the congregation has entertained several conventions and board meetings.

The church is located at the corner of First and Mill. Rev. Floyd Guliford is the present pastor.

Church of the Nazarene

The first service of the Church of the Nazarene in Osawatometie was held in the Auditorium of the Telephone building on October 1, 1950. The first pastor was Rev. Floyd Perkins. The church was formally organized on March 4, 1951, with eight charter members.

Services continued in the telephone building for almost three years. In June 1952, Rev. Perkins was called to the mission field in Africa, and Rev. Hugh Bright became the pastor.



In January, 1953, property for the new church was purchased at the corner of Fifteenth and Main. Ground was broken on February 8, 1953. The building was dedicated in August, 1953, taking only six months to complete it.

Rev. H. Ralph Davis came to the church from Pasadena, California, in the summer of 1954 to be the pastor.

Brown Chapel, A. M. E. Church

The Brown Chapel, A. M. E. church now located at Fifth and Walnut streets, was first organized in 1880 by Rev. L. W. McCormick. It met in the Old Stone schoolhouse which is now a storeroom for the



Leidigh and Havens Lumber company. There was a membership of 15 persons.

The only surviving charter member is Mrs. Minnie Van who resides at 157 Parker, Osawatomie.

Rev. Rogers is the present pastor of the church.

INCIDENTS IN THE EARLY DAYS

Woven into the woof and fiber of every community are incidents and events that enrich its life, history and traditions, and give it an individuality all its own. So it was with Osawatomie.

Wherever there are people there are bound to be incidents of human interest that should be recorded. Many of those that took place in this community have already been recorded, but some have not. Many of these incidents have an historical significance while others, some more or less embarrassing at the time, are just incidents.

The incidents given here are only a few that took place and are not listed in chronological order as the dates have been lost through the years. Some have been recorded and others have been handed down by word of mouth from person to person.

THE EXPRESSION "JAYHAWKER"

It is believed the term "Jayhawking" had its origin in Osawatomie. Early one autumn morning in 1856 Pat Devlin, a Free-State Irishman, rode into the city with his saddle bags laden with considerable goods. As he tied his horse in front of one of the stores, one of the men standing nearby said to him, "Pat, it looks like you have been foraging." Pat, as he mounted the steps replied, "Yes, I have been over in Missouri jayhawking." When asked what he meant by the expression he said that in the old country they had a bird they called the jayhawker, and that it was a bird that worried its prey before devouring it. He added that what he had been doing was jayhawking. This is the only known origin of the word.

Early in the Civil War the soldiers from Kansas called themselves Jayhawkers, and the name has stuck ever since. It has become a tradition in the state, and although educators have termed the name nothing but silly, it has stuck and always will, no matter what may take its place in the future.

JOHN AND SARAH EVERETT

One of the first group of men who came to Osawatomie in 1854, was John E. Everett, who took up a claim nearby, built a cabin and then brought his family to the new home a few months later. A great deal of history of the early days in the community is told in a series of letters that passed between him and his wife and their relatives back in New York — but more about these letters elsewhere.

BUT IT WASN'T CARRY NATION

Women, as well as men, were a definite part of the life of the early days here, as is shown in the following incident:

The wife of a minister of a small church near the city, a lovely lady, was quite averse to wearing ribbons, lace and flowers on her hats and dresses. She returned from a trip one Saturday afternoon on the train and was to stay with a friend in the city that night and her husband was to come for her the next morning. When she got off the train, attired in her usual be-ribboned dress and hat, it was reported that she was Carry Nation who was, at that time, making her raids on Kansas saloons. There were five saloons in the town and by nightfall every one of them was tightly boarded as a precaution against the woman who was known for her hatchet work.

AN INCIDENT IN LOVE MAKING

Woes and worries of wooing and wedding were just as problematic in the early days as they have ever been in the history of marriage. Here is one interesting instance that will bear repeating here:

A father and mother had a daughter who was well past the marriageable age, according to the times, and were somewhat concerned over the fact that she would not be married while they were alive. They were also deeply religious and were regular attendants at church services.

It was in the days of the itinerant preachers. A certain quite likeable young preacher was serving the church and the parents always invited him to their home for meals on his visits in the hopes their daughter and the young man would "make a match of it."

Another young man of considerable more material wealth than the young preacher moved into the community, to whom the old folks took quite a liking. One day they decided to invite both young men home with them for the Sunday meals, thereby giving the young lady an opportunity to make her own choice. The young preacher was quite fond of mush and milk and the mother always obliged by having his favorite dish.

As was the custom, and is yet today, when the preacher was a guest in the home he was invited to return thanks before meals. The young preacher observed that instead of his favorite mush and milk, the mother had substituted shortcake and tea. When he was called upon to return the thanks he smiled and as the group sat with bowed heads he recited the following little poem, probably to the dismay of the parents:

The Lord be praised;
For I am amazed,
To see how things have ended;
Here's shortcake and tea
For supper I see,
Where mush and milk were intended.

CARRY NATION VISITS THE CITY

One woman who brought Kansas into the limelight in the late years of the 1890's and early 1900's, was Carry Nation who termed herself a "hatchetation" (a word of her own invention). She did make a brief visit to the city.

On her visit it is said she entered a saloon located in the block just east of the Missouri Pacific tracks and accosted the proprietor and asked him to trade her a small bottle of whiskey for a hatchet. He refused so she proceeded to wreck havoc in the saloon, doing considerable damage to the fixtures and stock.

It is also said that later she visited another saloon on the other side of the street and offered the proprietor the same proposition. Having learned what had happened when his competitor refused, he accepted. This proprietor later put the hatchet on exhibit and it became an item of much attention.

THE STREETS WERE MUDDY

Like every other town in the country before the coming of paving the streets and highways were dirt, and during a rainy spell of weather they became virtual rivers of mud. The common means of transportation in the city was by means of horse-drawn hacks, and during the time the streets were little more than a quagmire they would hitch four horses to the hacks.

To provide cross walks on Main street large flat stones were laid across at intervals a few inches apart, and were used as stepping stones for the people to cross the streets. When the horse-drawn buggies, wagons or hacks were driven along the street the vehicles would run up on the stones and then would drop sometimes into the mud on the other side up to the hubs. One day one of the drivers of one of these vehicles, as his wagon wheels dropped off of the stones into the mud the driver lost his hat. It was too muddy for him to stop and get down to retrieve it. When a group of men standing on the porch in front of one of the stores saw the hat, one of them remarked that the driver had lost his hat. Another said that it was not the driver's hat, but it was another man riding down the street on horseback.

PAOLA RECORDS BURIED NEAR THE MULLINS HOUSE

When the raids by the Border Ruffians were at their height in the vicinity of Osawatomie the settlers and families would take all manner of precaution to protect their belongings.

One day when a group of men under General Price were reported on their way to Paola the county officials gathered up all the records and money from the banks and court house, along with some prize possessions of people of the city and brought them to Osawatomie. The men of the vicinity were not at home as most of them were in the armies and the women took the possessions and buried them just east of the Mullins home, which is the old stone house still standing on the City Lake road, about a quarter of a mile east of the corner where the road turns to go to the lake. Local women still living in the city today tell about how their grandmothers, after telling the girls not to watch, buried the possessions with the girls watching from behind the window shades of the house.

PAY FOR CARRYING THE MAIL

Mail in the early days was carried on horseback and one man who carried it between Osawatomie and Neodesha received \$100 per quarter, making the trip once a week. It took him three days to make a round trip in the summer and four days in the winter.

During the tenure of office of Samuel Geer, the first postmaster, a stage carrying the mail between Osawatomie and Kansas City, was held up and robbed. Henry Gove, driver of the stage, was held up by a group of border ruffians, who relieved him of the mail one night just as he was getting ready to turn it over to the postmaster. Records show this to be the first mail robbery in the city.

GAS WAS DISCOVERED HERE IN THE EARLY 1880s

William Mills came to Osawatomie from Pennsylvania in the early 1880s and obtained a franchise to drill gas wells and furnish natural gas to the people of the city. The first gas well was brought in in 1886. In time many homes and other buildings were equipped with gas for utilities and eventually gas was used for lighting the streets.

LOT OF MOUTHFULS IN A JUG

In the early days the women were quite strict about having playing cards in their homes, so their husbands and gentlemen friends would have their friendly card parties in the back rooms of the stores. It was during the time of strict prohibition that the following incident is reported to have taken place.

A group of men had gathered in a back room of one of the stores for their usual card party. A jug was sitting on the card table, and for some unknown reason it became empty. The proprietor had a colored man working for him who was sitting in one corner of the room asleep. The proprietor told the colored man to take the jug out into the coalshed in the rear and siphon out a jug full of whiskey from a barrel he had hidden under the coal. The colored man, not being an educated man, didn't know what siphon meant but took the jug and went to the coalshed. He was gone a long time and when he returned the proprietor asked him what took him such a long time to siphon out the jug full of whiskey. The colored man was somewhat non-plussed and said, "Well, sir, I tell you boss, you sure don't know how many mouthfulls of whiskey they is in that jug," being quite ineberrated from filling the jug with mouthfuls of whiskey.

ICE PLANT PROPOSED IN 1913

In the early days and for many years thereafter, the main supply for ice was from the Marais des Cygnes and the Pottawatomie and from some of the ponds. Many winters the ice was from 6 to 12 inches in thickness when it was harvested, which was done by hand, the men sawing the ice into large cakes. These cakes were floated to a loading ramp and the blocks were pulled up by horses. The ice cakes were laid in layers in the large ice-house and each layer covered with thick layers of sawdust. It was quite a task to get the ice out during the summer.

In 1913, a Kansas City man, M. W. Callahan, erected an ice manufacturing plant in the city. Just how long it was in operation is not recorded, but from that date the ice on the streams was not used, and in most winters in the late years the ice has not been thick enough to be used.

The ice harvesting in the early days was quite different from the manner in which ice is produced today. And such is progress.

REPUBLICAN PARTY IN KANSAS

It was on May 18, 1859, that the Republican party was organized in Kansas by Horace Greeley, who addressed some 5,000 persons assembled in and around the Osage Valley Hotel, which stood on the ground now occupied by the American State Bank. The preliminary work was done at a rival hotel, the Jillson Hotel, which stood just north of the present site of the Presbyterian church.

FAMILY RECORDS AND POSSESSIONS HIDDEN IN CORN SHOCKS

During the Border Warfare and the Civil War there were many instances in which families were called upon to hide their possessions to keep the Border Ruffians, as they were called, from looting and sacking their homes. Families took all their private papers, silverware and other valuables and hid them in corn shocks, sometimes leaving them for several weeks.

MASSACRE AT POTTAWATOMIE CREEK

One incident that probably had as much to do with inciting and increasing the ill feelings between the men who were divided on the question of slavery and led to the Border Warfare was the massacre of five pro-slavery men on May 24, 1856.

Much has been written about this multiple murder which took place near what was then known as "Dutch Henry's Crossing" on the Pottawatomie Creek near the present town of Lane, and is known as the "Pottawatomie Massacre." A brief report of the affair has it that John Brown and a small group of his followers were endeavoring to rid the territory of pro-slave men and had vowed they would kill every one of them as they swept down the creek. On the night of May 24, 1856, a group of men went to the home of Allen Wilkinson, called him out and murdered him. They then went to the home of Henry "Dutch" Sherman but he was not at home. From there they proceeded to the home of a Mr. Doyle where they called out he and his two sons and brutally murdered them, and later murdered William Sherman, a brother of Henry Sherman. All the murdered men were pro-slave in their sympathies.

Following this multiple murder the Border Warfare grew in intensity until the Battle of Osawatomie on August 30, 1846, and after that the feeling began to abate and things began to settled down.

ANIMALS HIDDEN IN THE RAVINES

Also during this "Border Warfare" it is told that when the Ruffians came into the community to seek horses and cattle, the settlers being warned beforehand, would drive their livestock into the woods and hide them in ravines, sometimes covering them with brush and feeding them in secret. They would feed and water them at night, carrying the feed and water over devious routes to keep the ruffians from learning of their whereabouts. Many times this was done by the women and girls as the men were away on raiding parties or defending their homes.

QUANTRILL TAUGHT SCHOOL NEAR HERE

Among the men, both noted and nefarious, who frequented the community in the early days was William Clarke Quantrill, commonly known as Charley Quantrill.

Before the days when he waged his notorious raids on Kansas cities, he taught school in a log cabin that stood a short distance west of the Mullins home which stands about three miles west and north of the city, and boarded at the Mullins home. Even at that time it has been said he would frequently get into fights, but it was not until later years that he turned out to be a much-hated man.

GRASSHOPPER INVASION

In the early history of the city there were several accounts of the grasshoppers that plagued the settlers, but the first appearance of the insects that caused so much damage and during which a number of settlers moved out of the community, was in 1874. It is said that the number of the insects was so great that at times the sky was full of them that it caused the sun to be almost hidden.

In this invasion the grasshoppers ate practically every living plant and left the ground as bare as if it had been swept by a prairie fire.

MOVED TWO-STORY BRICK BUILDING INTACT

Some thirty years ago an engineering feat was performed in the city that attracted considerable attention, not only in the local community, but far and wide.

A. W. Youngberg was operating a drug store in a frame building at the corner of Sixth and Main, and purchased a two-story brick building which stood just east of the Missouri Pacific depot, and had it moved, intact, the entire block. It is the building now occupied by the Marshall Restaurant.

Several building firms were contacted and all but one would have nothing to do with it. A Cedar Rapids, Iowa, firm took the job with the provision they would assume all responsibility in case the building was ruined or wrecked in the operation.

The Missouri Pacific railroad furnished the heavy timbers for the job and hauled them on flat cars to near the building.

Before starting the moving job the contractor, after considerable measuring, raised the building to the same level of the site to which it was to be moved. The building was several feet wider than the lot where it was to stand, therefore that much was taken off one side. After the structure had been thoroughly braced the moving started.

It was a slow process and the building moved along only inches at a time and before it was started up the incline along Main street it was turned one-fourth of the way around, which put the rear end to the east. As it was moved along it was lowered a few inches each time a layer of the heavy timbers was removed from the pillars that had been built.

In due time the building arrived at the new site and had been lowered to the level of the ground upon which it was to stand. It was backed into position and today appears to be just as solid as if it had been built where it now stands.

OLD CITY JAIL NOW A BEDROOM AND A KITCHEN

A bedroom and the kitchen of the little house at 429 Parker, owned and occupied by Mrs. Elva Cartwright, were at one time the old city Jail. The walls are of 2 by 4 dimension lumber and floors were also of heavy lumber. The small windows, which do not show now, were barred and the door was locked with an ordinary lock.

OLD LAND OFFICE

Standing just back of the Marshall Cafe on North Sixth street is the land office building that was used by H. B. Smith and his brother, first land patent agents in the territory. The building is now used as a garage and owned by A. W. Youngberg. Just recently Mr. Youngberg deeded the building to the city as a memorial to Mrs. Youngberg who died in the winter of 1953-54.

HE WAS JUST ADVERTISING

A baker in the early days delivered his wares by the use of a horse and wagon. As he was delivering his products to the local stores one morning the horse was frightened by a piece of paper blowing in the street and ran away. Bread, pies, cakes and cookies were being scattered all up and down the street and when some one accosted the baker and told him his horse was running away he waived his arms in the air and shouted, "Don't stop him, this is my day for advertising."

FIVE HOTELS IN THE CITY AT ONE TIME

During a decade or two following the coming of the railroads to the community and just after the discovery of oil and gas in the county, there was considerable movement of people back and forth. At that time there were five hotels in operation in the city. All these hotels served meals, family style, as the present a la carte plan had not been adopted. From a survey it has been learned that a person could get room and board, all three meals a day, for from \$3.00 to \$5.00 a week. The food was placed on the table just as it is the average home and the victuals passed around so that each diner could help themselves.

The five hotels were the Dever House, Cottage Hotel, National Hotel, the Mudge House and Van Noys.

The first hotel built in the city was the Osage Valley House which was a famous hostelry in this part of the state. Its claim to fame is that it was in this hotel that Horace Greeley in the spring of 1859, organized the Republican party in Kansas. This hotel stood where the American State Bank now stands. The hotel burned in 1883.

Another famous hotel during the first twenty years after the city was founded was the Jilison Hotel, which stood north of where the Presbyterian church now stands. It is interesting to note that it was in this hotel that the preliminary work of organizing the Republican party was done, the men having heated debates for some three or four days before the session in the Osage Valley House.

OLD POSTOFFICE NOW PART OF A DWELLING

The front two rooms of the house at 821 South Fourth street, owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Don Lindsey and family, were the first postoffice building. The inside of the walls are of logs.

THE BIG APPLE AND CORN STALK

In 1876, an apple grown by Fred Wygant on his farm near Osawatomi, was taken to the World's Fair in Philadelphia, Pa., and took first prize for the largest apple. The fruit weighed over two pounds and was 24 inches in circumference.

At the same time they started to the Fair with a corn stalk that measured 19 feet in height but as they were passing through the city on the way to the Fair a pair of mules ate off 3 feet of the stalk, thus ruining the exhibit.

FAINTED AT BROWN'S EXECUTION

Although it was not directly connected with the history of the city, it occurred during an event in which he who had been significant figure in the early days was the central character. It is said that at the execution of John Brown on December 3, 1859, one of the soldiers in the group that was in charge of the hanging fainted while in line. This soldier was John Wilkes Booth, who only a few years later assassinated Abraham Lincoln in the Ford theatre in Washington, D. C.

FIRST NEWSPAPER PRESS

In the spring of 1856 a newspaper press was brought to Osawatomi from New York for the express purpose of printing Free State material. The Pro-slavery forces learned of the press being brought to the community so they made plans to destroy it. To prevent its destruction the press was hidden under the sod and remained there until the next year when the first newspaper was started in Osawatomi. It was the "Herald of Freedom."



OSAGE VALLEY HOUSE, hotel erected in about 1856, destroyed by fire in 1883. It was here that Horace Greeley organized the Republican Party in 1859. (From an old photo.)



MULLINS HOUSE, stands north and west of city, on road to City Lake. Records and other valuables buried near the house during the Border Warfare, 1855 to 1857. (Photo by Fred Coon)

DEER AND WILD TURKEY PLENTIFUL

While the early settlers had many problems their meat supply was not short as deer and wild turkeys abounded in the woods and along the streams.

A Most Fantastic Tale

A great many outlandish and fantastic tales were printed in the early day newspapers, much more so than we find today with our censorships. The following story was printed in the Osawatomie Globe near the turn of the century when Frank Pyle was editor.

In the early days "tramp" printers were quite common. They would drift into a town and get a job in the print shop or newspaper plant. Most of them were excellent printers but invariably they would tell the editor they had a "weakness," which was either being too friendly with the bottle or they would have itchy feet and couldn't stay in one place very long.

Such a printer drifted into Osawatomie and went to work for the Globe. The editor, after a week or so, was called out of town and left this printer to set the type for the paper that week. The editor returned on the morning of press day and when he went to the shop he found the type all set and the "forms" ready for the press. There was a note weighted down on top of one of the "forms," which informed the editor that the printer had left town, but that the run was ready. Since it was almost time to go to press the editor read the type but decided he didn't have time to tear up the forms and set more type. So he ran the story just as the printer had set it. It was a most fantastic tale.

The sum and substance of the story was that a meteorite had struck the Soldier's Monument and demolished it. The impact had left a great hole in the ground about 100 feet in diameter and several feet deep. The ground was so hot that no one could get near the spot. The monument had been shattered into a million pieces and a number of bits of materials, unheard of in those days, but which are common to science today, had been uncovered and scattered about. The tale stated that anyone wanting further information concerning the freak disaster could contact a "Doctor" Calvin Walls, who by the way, was an old Negro man who could neither read nor write.

The story went far and wide. The Scientific American, a popular science magazine of that day, wrote the "doctor," asking for more information. The Smithsonian Institute, getting word of the "disaster," wanted to send a group of men to dig out the meteorite, and analyze the minerals supposed to have been uncovered.

It took a lot of maneuvering on the part of the editor to keep these people out of the community, and it wasn't long until the truth of the whole affair was learned and the matter was dropped.

BEER MUG ON THE WINDOW

Several years ago an unusual thing would happen to a certain store window when frost formed on the glass. Although the building was occupied by a dry cleaning establishment every time frost formed on the glass in the front window the outline of a large beer mug was plainly visible. The room had been occupied by a saloon in the early days and a beer mug had been painted on the glass. The chemical reaction of the paint on the glass left the surface in such a condition that the tiny flakes of frost would take a different shape from those on the rest of the glass. No amount of washing and polishing seemed to erase the beer mug.

OSAWATOMIE STATE HOSPITAL

Another institution of the Osawatome community that is recognized as one of the finest of its kind in the state, and among the best in the nation, is the Osawatome State hospital. It was formerly known as the Asylum for the Insane, but with the most modern methods and techniques being used for treatment of the mentally ill who are committed to the institution, it is better known as the State Hospital for the Mentally Ill.

The hospital was established in 1864. In 1860 when there was first talk of locating the state institution on the present site, near the city of Osawatome, an organization was formed which bought up all the land in the locality. Then Charles Adair bought it of the organization and presented it as a gift to the state as the site of the main buildings. The rest he sold at cost to the state. In the original tract there were only one hundred and sixty-four acres, but now the state owns 1003 acres, of which 453 acres are under cultivation.

The first appropriation for the hospital was made in 1866 and the first superintendent was Dr. Gause.

In 1910, four principal buildings comprised the hospital, and housed some 1,400 patients. The buildings at that time were Main building, Knapp building, Adair building, and what was known then as the Infirmary building, or hospital building where patients requir-



FIRST STATE HOSPITAL BUILDING, a farm house converted in 1864. Has been torn down. (Photo courtesy Osawatome State Hospital.)

ing special medical treatments were housed. Today it is known as B cottage and which houses only female patients. It was at this time that the two tubercular buildings, West Pavilion and East Pavilion

were erected. Today these two buildings house approximately fifty tubercular patients.

Since 1910 there have been several other buildings added, including Carmichael Pavilion, known as C. P., and houses the patients requiring special medical treatment; Receiving building, and more recently the new Geriatrics building which houses many of the aged patients, both male and female. Its capacity is around 275 patients. The outstanding feature of this building is the fact that it is all on one level, with no stairs for the aged people to climb and has bathroom facilities to lessen hazards of slipping or falling. It has a large court area, several nice reception rooms for visitors, a modern kitchen and cafeteria.

The work of the hospital today is under the direction of a professional staff which includes physicians, psychiatrists, dentist, pharmacist, recreation director, occupational therapy directors, social service workers, psychologists, dietitians and several registered nurses, consulting physicians, and medical students in training. The laboratory is also staffed with trained personnel. The farm is under a manager, as are the laundry and maintenance work. Besides several employees in each of these departments there are many employed in the nursing service. All in all there are about 670 employees in the hospital.

One service that is invaluable to the hospital is the number of Gray Ladies who render many hours of volunteer service. This group has been organized some three years and the number who render such service is growing each year, and all who serve in this capacity receive special training and orientation.

A medical library is maintained for professional advancement and in-service training of employees.

A grade A dairy with a modern homogenizing and pasteurizing milk plant is in operation providing milk for use by the patients and employees, valued at approximately \$10,000 per month. The hospital operates its own laundry which provides service as for a town of 2,000 people. The hospital has its own generating plant (steam turbine) and furnishes electric power for the entire institution. Natural gas provides the steam to operate the generator, and the exhaust steam is used to provide heat for the entire hospital and steam and hot water for cooking. The hospital has its own ice and refrigeration system and manufactures ten tons of ice daily in 300 pound cakes. The hospital bakery turns out about 800 loaves of bread daily for hospital use. The total food cost for one month is approximately \$35,000.

Special services provided include such as dental care, beauty shops, a full-time chaplain, a part-time chaplain and associate chaplains for the religious needs of the patients. A greenhouse provides flowers for the wards, offices and buildings. A library and canteen are provided for the patients.

The program conducted by the institution is a far cry from that provided in the early days. Under the guidance of the recreation department, and with the assistance of the Gray Ladies, birthday parties, dances, variety shows, carnivals, clothing drives and dress shop maintenance, picnics, and all kinds of recreation, both indoor and outdoor, are provided. Insulin treatments are provided, as well as occupational therapy being carried on.

The hospital grounds are beautifully landscaped with gardens, flower beds, winding walks and driveways, well placed trees, and the hospital proper is situated on the crest of a hill that sweeps in crescent around the north part of the city of Osawatomie and is separated from the city by the Marais des Cygnes (Osage river).

The first hospital building was a frame farm home that was converted into the hospital. This has long since been torn down and replaced by the many modern buildings.

The present superintendent is Wilbur G. Jenkins, M. D., and under his leadership outstanding progress has been made and much improvement has been made in the buildings and renovation of the wards and installing new furniture, brightening up the wards, making them more sanitary and livable.



GERIATRICS BUILDING, newest building at the Osawatomie State Hospital. First occupied in 1952; built for senile patients, male and female; all on one floor. (Photo courtesy of State Hospital.)

The Telephone Company

The first telephone company in the city was established about 1899 by Thomas Youmans. A directory was published in that year which listed 62 subscribers of which 32 were business places or offices. Four of the list were barns, 15 were stores and also included the Round house, depot and the Insane Asylum. The toll fee between Osawatomie and Paola was ten cents, but was made without charge for subscribers. By no means was obscene language permitted over the telephone, the penalty being the removal of the telephone. Subscribers were also instructed to always "ring off" when through talking.

Of course the first telephones were of the type that had the old crank on the side and in order to get central the user gave the crank a couple of turns, with the receiver on the hook, and as soon as the ring was made the receiver was removed from the hook. It was nothing unusual for every subscriber on a party line to take part in a group conversation. It was not until several years later that the present type of telephone was put into use by the exchange.

A few years after the establishment of the telephone exchange the name was changed to the American Telephone Company and it is now known as the United Telephone Company, and is the third largest independent telephone company in the country.

COMING OF THE IRON HORSE

Osawatomie, figuratively speaking, was still in its swaddling clothes when certain far-sighted promoters sought to bring rail service to the community. As early as 1859, only four years after the town site had been surveyed, the Wyandotte and Osawatomie Railway Company received a charter from the State of Kansas, and during the following year a charter was granted to the State Line, Osawatomie and Fort Union Railroad. However, neither of these groups ever advanced beyond the planning stage, for their backers soon found that it took more than a meager knowledge of civil engineering and business management to build a railroad. Money, and plenty of it, was the main ingredient and without it not a foot of track could be laid. The promoters found that the pioneer settlers were far more concerned with their own safety and well-being than to invest money in any new-fangled railroad ven-



LAYING CORNERSTONE OF MISSOURI PACIFIC DEPOT in about 1890. (Photo courtesy Stella Stanley.)

ture, being as most of them had never even seen a train, and couldn't understand how such an undertaking would be of any advantage to them.

Yellowed documents in the archives of the St. Louis office of the Missouri Pacific show that construction of the road was begun with outside capital but was finished with Missouri Pacific capital, which operated the St. Louis, Kansas and Arizona throughout the early months of its history.

It was not until 1879 that Osawatomie became located along the line of road of a railroad which would connect it with the cities and markets of the mid-west and east. The St. Louis, Kansas and Arizona Railway was incorporated January 16, 1879, by Cornelius K. Garrison,

William R. Garrison, John P. Kennedy and Francis R. Baby, all of New York City; Daniel R. Garrison, Oliver Garrison, David K. Ferguson, W. M. Samuel and Isaac L. Garrison, all of St. Louis; Joseph L. Stephens of Boonville, Mo.; Alfred Ennis of Topeka; William Spriggs of Garnett and Allen B. Lemmon of Winfield.

The charter read that the corporation was organized and created to acquire, own, construct and operate a railway consisting of two divisions and a telegraph line in connection therewith. One division was to start in Miami County where the eastern boundary line of Kansas was intersected by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway and to run



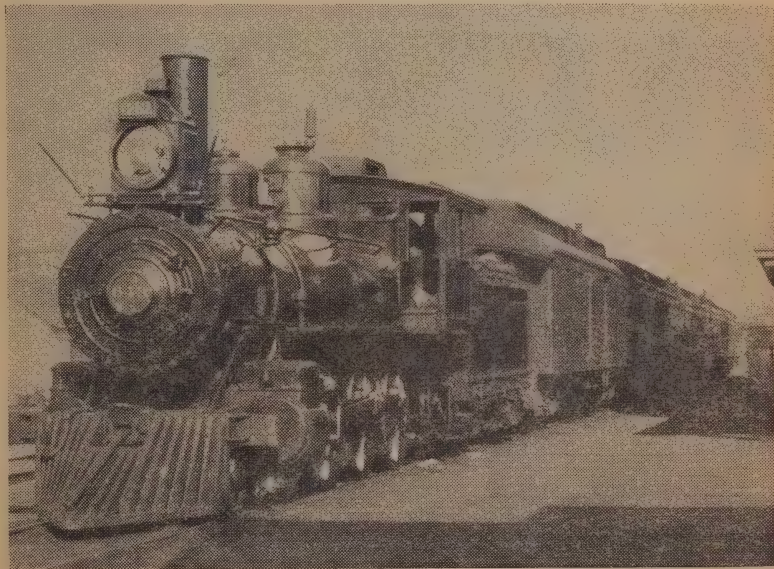
"GASCONADE," Pacific Railroad No. 6 locomotive; built in 1854; this engine is similar to first engine operated west of the Mississippi River. (Missouri Pacific photo)



OLD MISSOURI PACIFIC SHOPS, before the days of diesel engines. (From an old photo)

in a southwesternly direction through the counties of Miami, Franklin, Anderson, Coffey, Woodson, Wilson, Elk, Cowley, Sumner, Harper, Earber, to a point in Kansas County at or near the western boundary line of the state, an estimated length of four hundred and thirty miles. The other division was to begin at the same point and run westerly through the counties of Miami, Franklin, Douglas, Osage and Shawnee to the city of Topeka, an estimated length of one hundred miles. The company was capitalized at ten million dollars, and capital stock was to be priced at \$100 per share. Most of the funds were secured from the Missouri Pacific Railway.

On January 29, 1879, the new board of directors was formed with Oliver Garrison as president; D. R. Garrison, vice president; and D. K.



MISSOURI PACIFIC TRAIN OF THE 1890's, typical of those which served Osawatomie during that period; No. 643, a wood burner; no automatic couplers; note long link-bar coupler hanging on the "cowcatcher;" cab and cars of train were of wood. (Missouri Pacific photo)

Ferguson as secretary-treasurer. C. K. Garrison resigned from the board and on April 25, 1879, was awarded a contract to build the road. Although the voters of Anderson and Woodson counties and the townships of Osawatomie and Pottawatomie, were allowed to vote on the propositions, the records show that it was not until March 26, 1880, that the township of Osawatomie had subscribed for 100 shares of the capital stock.

The right-of-way from Paola to Garnett was completed in November, 1879, but then the road was sold to Jay Gould, New York railroad builder who also purchased the Missouri Pacific Railway from Garrison.

The right-of-way from Garnett to LeRoy was completed in December, 1879, and from Osawatomie to Ottawa in April, 1880. The ori-

ginal company never extended the railroad into western Kansas as specified in the original charter.

Osawatomie came into prominence as a rail operating maintenance center in 1887, when an engine house and general office building were erected. The latter, remodeled in 1903, stood until in the year of 1953,



MISSOURI PACIFIC "COLORADO EAGLE," streamlined, diesel-powered train that passes through Osawatomie both directions every day. (Missouri Pacific photo)

when it was torn down to make way for the present modern office building south across the street from the original building.

The engine house was later expanded until it comprised twenty-one stalls, one of the largest on the system, but it fell a victim to the "era of diesels" and was recently torn down and replaced with modern diesel servicing facilities.



NEW MISSOURI PACIFIC DIVISION OFFICES, erected in 1953. (Missouri Pacific photo)

The present passenger station was built about 1890, and the freight house and machine shop about 1905.

Osawatomie is now headquarters for the Central Kansas and Colorado divisions, which extends from Leeds Junction, Missouri, to Pueblo, Colorado. V. C. Halpin is division superintendent, F. E. Fletcher, trainmaster of the Kansas City, Topeka and Osawatomie subdivisions, and W. V. Jones, division trainmaster of the Kansas City, Osawatomie, Council Grove, Salina and Topeka subdivisions.

The Missouri Pacific is by far the largest industry in Osawatomie, and is the largest taxpayer in Miami county.

At the present time the Missouri Pacific Railway Company is a system of some 6,960 miles in length and serves points in nine states in the nation.

There are now some 1,200 persons employed by the company who work on the system in some capacity out of the Osawatomie division. Of this number there are 700 employed in the shops and offices and 500 who serve on the trains that pass through Osawatomie.

Letters From England

It is told that Col. Reuben Smith, who was head of one of the local banks many years ago, having been born in England, decided he would like to visit his native land. Travel was slow in those days and so was the mail service and it was around these two facts that the story was built—and the one who told it vows it is the truth.

Mr. Smith had a son working in the bank at the time he made his trip to England. Arrangements had been made whereby the traveler would write his experiences and Frank Pyle agreed to publish his letters in the Graphic.

The next morning after Mr. Smith had arrived in New York, a wire was delivered to the editor from the telegraph office and in which the traveler related his experiences on the train to the east coast. Two or three other letters arrived and then there was a break of about two weeks and it was during this time Smith was on the high seas.

Then for several weeks cablegrams were delivered to the newspaper and published. Smith told of his trip across the ocean, how he was having a great time visiting his native land, how he was being remembered by the folks back home, and even told about his meeting his childhood sweetheart and what a wonderful visit they had.

By this time the young man in the bank began to wonder about the expense of sending cablegrams and upon inquiring at the telegraph office he was told the cost was one dollar a word. He had visions of seeing the bank going into bankruptcy.

Just before the senior Mr. Smith arrived back home the truth of the whole affair was made known. The letters and cablegrams were not sent by Mr. Smith, but had been written by C. S. Bixby, who had arranged with the telegraph office to type them on a telegraph form and deliver them to Mr. Pyle who published them.

It is said the letters and cablegrams were so cleverly written that it was hard to convince people they were not genuine.

Negroes In The History Of The City

Since it was the plight of the Negro slaves that had a great bearing on the early day history of Osawatomie community it is nothing more than right that they should be included in this historical sketch.

It was in their behalf, both good and bad, that the Border Warfare of the years 1855 and 1856, was waged in this part of the state, and the slavery question was so predominant in the elections that were held to decide whether Kansas would be free or slave.

It is said that only a few Negroes came to the territory before the end of the Civil War, but soon after many of them made their way into the community.

Of course many Negroes went through the territory during the days of the Border Warfare when they were being transported by John Brown and his followers along the "underground railways" to the north. Among the many "stations" along the route of the "railways" was the one in a cellar of the cabin of Rev. S. L. Adair, which was the headquarters of John Brown while he was in Kansas. The original floor boards that covered this "station" may still be seen in the Brown cabin in John Brown Memorial Park.

In the early days the few who did come into the community were given an opportunity to get an education when night schools were held for them.

It was in 1879, that Kansans witnessed the "Exodus," a term applied to the migration of large numbers of Negroes who had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln. For the most part these Negroes came from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Just how many passed through the community is not recorded nor is it known just how many of them remained here. Many of them were practically destitute, with only meager possessions and little or no food and had to be cared for by the people of the community into which they migrated.

Some of the early Negro settlers in the community were Pack Duncan, Adam Kemper and Charles Dryden. Another Negro man who came to the community a few years later was a man by the name of Price, who lived in a small cabin here, and died only a few years ago at the age of 117 years.

George Washington Carver of national fame, who invented many products from the sweet potato and the peanut, as a young man spent about a year in this community and also some time at Paola.

The Negroes have always been an important part in the local community life and many of them served their country during World War I, World War II and in the Korean conflict.

At the present time there are two Negro churches in the community, the Ebenezer Baptist and the Brown Chapel A. M. E.

The Negro children, under the school laws of the state of Kansas, attended the city schools and many of them have made good scholastic and athletic records as well as having made good in music and art.

JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL PARK

As a monument to John Brown and his band of some forty men who fought in the Battle of Osawatomie August 30, 1856, in defense of their belief that all men should be free, a park of twenty acres, located in the west end of Osawatomie was dedicated on August 30, 1910, with the late Theodore Roosevelt, a former President of the United States, delivering the dedicatory address. The park is named the John Brown Memorial Park.

Soon after the fiftieth anniversary of the battle and celebration held on the grounds in commemoration of the battle, at which ex-Vice President Charles Fairbanks was the main speaker, members of the G. A. R., and the Women's Relief Corps started a movement to get contributions to purchase the battle side and have it made into a memorial park.

The entrance to the park is on the north side of West Main street in Osawatomie at Tenth street. A large arch spans the entrance and in large letters are found the words, "John Brown Memorial Park." Winding concrete driveways traverse the grounds.

A short distance north of the main entrance is a life-size bronze statue of John Brown. This was procured with money raised through the untiring efforts of Miss Ada Remington and the late Mrs. Anna L. January. It took some ten years to raise the necessary funds. Finally in 1933, the three Remington sisters, Flora R. Ward, Jesse R. Willis and Ada, grand-nieces of John Brown, made up the deficit of \$500, and the statue was ordered.

The bronze statue was cast in the foundry of Monsieur F. Barbedienne in Paris, France. (This was the same foundry that cast the Statue of Liberty that stands in the New York harbor.)

Early in 1935 the statue arrived in Osawatomie, and on May 9, 1935, the 135th anniversary of the birth of John Brown, the statue was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, with Hon. Harry H. Woodring, a former governor of the state, and Assistant Secretary of War, and Governor Alf M. Landon being two of the principal speakers on the program.

On the bronze tablet on the pedestal of the statue are these words:

JOHN BROWN OF KANSAS
HE DARED BEGIN;
HE LOST;
BUT LOSING, WON.

On the hill to the northwest of the entrance is found the pergola in which has been placed the log cabin in which John Brown made his headquarters while he was taking part in the Border Warfare prior to the War Between the States, commonly known as the Civil War. The cabin originally stood a short distance west and north of the city and was moved, piece by piece, in 1912, and placed in the park. The pergola was built some time afterwards, being erected in 1928, with the corner stone being laid on May 5, 1928, costing \$6,000, and was paid for with money appropriated by the Kansas Legislature. The cabin in the pergola is in its natural state and is open to the public the year-round for visitors. The register in the cabin contains names of persons from every state in the union and from many foreign countries. A park superintendent

end and his family live in a modest home just to the south of the pergola.

As near as possible, the inside of the cabin is as it was during the time Brown used it as a headquarters and one of the stations of the "underground railroad" over which Negro slaves were transported on their way to freedom farther north. On the east side of the main room is the fireplace, and many pieces of the original furniture are found in the room, one piece being the melodian which was played at Brown's funeral in 1859. At the back, or on the north side is another smaller room, and under the floor of this room is where the escaping Negro slaves would spend the day as they traveled on their way north. Even the rough boards used to cover the cellar are still in place. In the southwest corner of the main room is the restored steep stairway which leads to the loft in which may be seen the rope bed used by Brown and other members of the families who have lived there. In addition to the many pieces of furniture are also displayed a large number of relics of the early days in Osawatomie.

Scattered throughout the park are picnic tables, outdoor fireplaces and playground equipment. During the tourist season it is not unusual to find all this equipment being used by local families as well as visitors to the park. On some holidays the park is visited by as many as 3,000 persons.

The park is governed by a park board appointed by the state, and administers the business of the park. At present this board is in the process of erecting a shelter house, with toilet facilities, something that has been greatly needed.

The grounds of the park are full of trees and are well kept with many flower beds scattered throughout to add to the natural beauty of the landscape.

Located in the southwest corner of the park is the Memorial Building which was erected in memory of those from Osawatomie who gave their lives in World War I. The building is used extensively by Teen Town and by the youngsters of the community in the City Recreational program each summer. It is also used by other groups, such as the Free Fair each year and other adult groups.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt Visits the City

One of the greatest days in the history of the city was when Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, a former President of the United States, visited the city on the occasion of the dedication of the John Brown Memorial Park on August 30, 1910. Mr. Roosevelt delivered the address of the occasion and it was at this time that he was preparing to launch his Bull Moose or Progressive political party. He had just returned from one of his African hunting trips.

The city was resplendent with flags and bunting for the event and the streets were packed with humanity by the time the sun rose on the day. The speaker of the day arrived in the city about the middle of the morning by train and a great throng greeted him as the train pulled into the Missouri Pacific depot.

Preceding the dedication program at the new park a parade was held with Mr. Roosevelt, Governor Stubbs, Mayor Madison and J. B. Remington, State Senator, riding in a new Studebaker automobile that



has been brought from Kansas City for that express purpose. The driver of the vehicle was not identified.

Those who heard Mr. Roosevelt on the occasion say that he was never better in upholding the traditions of the nation and expounding his beliefs in what should take place within the next few coming years. He spoke without the aid of any amplifying system and his enthusiasm spread to everyone in the great throng of some 5,000 persons who heard him. His address was quite lengthy and in it he paid his respects to the man for whom the park had been set aside as a memorial.

United States Post Office

The first postoffice in Osawatomie was established December 21, 1855, with Samuel Geer as postmaster who served until 1861. The post-office is thought to have been in the store operated by Geer, and was located just north of the site of the Presbyterian church. Mason V. Dunlap, who was appointed in 1913, served the postoffice for many years.

During the past one hundred years the postoffice has been located in several different places, such as the store of Geer, Cottage Hotel, in the vicinity of Goudie's store, McAllister Meat Market building, and was moved to its present location about 50 years ago. It was made a second class office July 1, 1914. City delivery was established April 1, 1920, and the State Hospital branch was opened April 22, 1922.

J. L. Johnson was appointed acting postmaster in February, 1944, and regular postmaster in January, 1945, and is the present postmaster. James Powell is assistant postmaster. There are two rural routes and four city routes served from this office. There are 14 employees with 10 of them being veterans.

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

The school system existing in the city today is a far cry from that which existed when the town was first organized. In fact, there were no schools, since the settlers who came into the territory following the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854, were mostly interested in establishing homes and small businesses. The few men who first came did not bring their families, hence little or no thought was given to the organizing of schools.

It was not until three years later, in the fall of 1857, that a school was started, which was a subscription school taught by Smith A. Squires (in some places his name was spelled Squares). This school was conducted in a small building that stood on the north side of what is now Main street in the 600 block. Just how many pupils attended is not recorded,

These subscription schools were conducted until in July, 1862, at which time a public school was started. The school, however, did not open until in 1863, and was held in the newly completed Baptist



OLD CLARK VALLEY SCHOOL, two miles east of Lane; oldest school building in Miami county; was used each year until this year; built in the 1850's.

(Photo by Fred Co(on))

church with Miss Sarah Brown as the teacher. It was on the corner of a lot just back of the present site of the Masonic Temple.

In December, 1868, ten lots were purchased from Chestnut and Allen for \$80, and a new stone school building was constructed, and the first session was held in 1869, with Mrs. Slater Odenbaugh as the teacher. This was the only school building for several years and many of the older residents of the city today attended school in that building. The original school building is now being used as a store room by the Leidigh and Havens Lumber company and is in a good state of preservation.

In 1880, the coming of the Missouri Pacific railroad brought many new families into the community and it became necessary to enlarge

the school building. A frame building was added on the west end of the stone building. This one room was soon divided into two rooms. The attendance continued to grow and in 1887 the school board rented a room outside. Two more rooms were added in 1889, when the Beeson building was erected on the site of the present Junior high school building.



MEEK GRADE SCHOOL, erected in 1905; west side grade school.

((Photo by Fred Coon))

With the population still increasing and many new homes being built west of the tracks it became necessary to build another school building. The school board purchased 8 lots for \$17,000, and the Meek school was built in 1905. In the meantime the first class to be graduated from the high school was in 1894.

The next expansion of the school buildings projects came in 1916, when it was decided a high school building was needed. A bond issue was placed before the voters and considerable opposition developed. It was thought for a while that the issue would be defeated. In order to arouse more interest in the school bond issue the high school students were organized and canvassed the entire city. As a result the issue was approved by a good majority.

Before the election was held the school board had already employed an architect and had all the plans ready by the time of the election. With the bond issue carrying, the board awarded the contract and within six days after the election actual construction began. The building was completed in due time and was opened with the fall term in 1917. Soon after this the junior high school was organized.

The present city school system consists of two grade schools, Meek, on the west side, and the East Side, a junior high school and a senior high school. The enrollment at Meek is around 350, and East Side school around 350, with a kindergarten at both schools. There are 90 students in the junior high school which is housed in the same

building with the East school. The senior high school enrollment is around 370. The high school is a member of the East Kansas League which is made up of seven schools. Both the senior and junior high schools have strong athletic teams and also rank high in music and other scholastic activities. Two of the strongest extra-curricular activities are the Kays and Kayettes. The high school is a member of the National Honor Society and since it was admitted to the society in 1928 there have been 200 students accorded membership in the society.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, on Brown between Fourth and Fifth; erected in 1916. (Photo by Fred Coon)

The teaching staff in the city school system consists of 14 men and 28 women, of which 18 are in the senior high school, 5 in the junior high school, and 19 in the two grade schools.

There is one parochial school in the city, the St. Philip's Catholic school at the corner of Fifth and Parker, with an average of 65 pupils with two sisters as teachers.

The Place of Agriculture in the Community

Although the city of Osawatomie is looked upon as a railroad center and the home of the State Hospital, it must be remembered that agriculture has played a most important part in the growth and development of the community. Lying within the trade territory of the city is some of the best agricultural land in the nation.

The main agricultural products are corn, wheat, oats, barley, hay, sorgo and other grains. In addition there are some of the finest cattle farms in the state near the city. Sheep, hogs and poultry are also a vital part part of the farming industry.

Located in the area are some fine orchards that produce hundreds of bushels of apples each year.

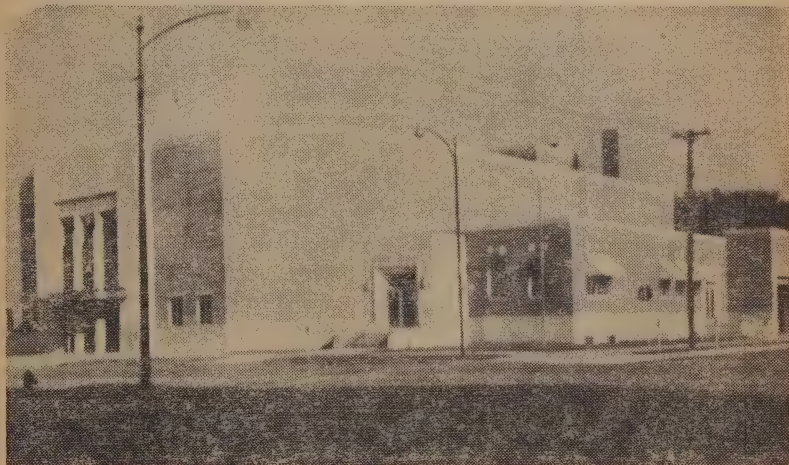
Practically all the farms have electricity for power and lighting. Many of them also use natural gas from wells found on the farms.

One thing that makes this a progressive farming community is the network of good roads that stretch in all directions and link the cities in the Osage Valley into one large friendly community.

City Hall and Auditorium

The present magnificent City Hall and Auditorium was completed in 1951, and the city offices were moved in during the month of August of that year. The building was erected by funds provided by a city levy approved by the voters in April 1950, and cost \$490,000.00.

The main floor houses the many city offices, including the city clerk, police department, city engineer, light and water offices, and a room used for meetings of the Board of City Commissioners. Also on the main floor will be found a large auditorium which is used by the city schools for basketball games and other school gatherings. It is also used by other groups, such as the Farm organizations, 4-H Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, and other groups needing a large assembly room. It has a large stage at one end which is being improved each year and movable chairs are placed in the auditorium to provide, in



CITY HALL AND AUDITORIUM, dedicated in 1951, corner of Fifth and Main, houses all city offices, fire department and has large auditorium. (Photo by Fred Coon)

addition to the bleachers that flank each side of the floor, a seating capacity of about 2,000 persons. A kitchen space is also provided in which equipment is being added from time to time.

The basement houses the office of the police judge, the city jail, two small assembly rooms, dressing rooms, toilets, and the heating plant.

The outside of the building is made of cream-colored brick.

In the southwest corner of the main floor is housed the fire fighting equipment of the City Fire Department.

The first city hall was built in 1901 on the site of the present hall. During the time of the construction of the present city hall temporary offices were established at 611 South Sixth.

City Lake and Picnic Grounds

Answering a two-fold need, the City Lake, an artificial body of water, and surrounding picnic grounds, were built with W. P. A. labor.

It was started in 1933, and completed in 1937. It was a government project on which a large number of farmers worked during the "depression" years. The picnic grounds and lake covers about 147 acres and are located some four miles northwest of the city.

The dam that forms the lake is 15 feet high and is constructed mainly of dirt with stone reinforcements. The water impounded by the dam are backed up about three-fourths of a mile.

The lake has been stocked with fish and affords a splendid fishing spot for anglers in this section of the county. The fishing rights are



VIEW OF CITY LAKE, four miles northwest of city, looking northwest from dam; picnic ground and golf course border on lake.

(Photo by Fred Coon)

now controlled by the Osawatomie Fishing Club. At present no swimming is allowed in the lake, nor are sail or motor boats.

The picnic grounds that surround the lake were cleared of timber during the years of 1940 and 1941. The labor was all done by hand by young men 18 to 25 who worked under the guidance of the National Youth Program. At this time the club house for the golf course and shelter houses, toilet facilities and a residence for the park superintendent and his family were built. At times there were as many as 90 young men working on the project. The rock used in constructing the buildings was quarried on the site. Walter Hays, who was supervisor of the project, reports that hundreds of snakes and lizards were found among the rocks and in the heavy timber on the site. Most of these were non-poisonous snakes, although a few were Copperheads, but at the present time no poisonous snakes are to be found.

The lake and picnic grounds make an ideal spot for families, clubs and other organizations to enjoy the great out-of-doors during the summer months. The club house is in use practically every night by some group. The shelter houses and outdoor fireplaces are also used almost every day and evening during the summer season.

Oil and Gas Development

It is not generally known, or admitted, but the oil and gas fields near Osawatomie are the oldest in the state of Kansas. The production of either of these natural ground products has never been phenomenal, but always enough to keep drilling rigs in the field most of the time.

The first oil and gas was found in this locality by William M. Mills, a promotor from Pennsylvania, in 1887. Enough gas of a high grade was found to warrant him securing a franchise to pipe it into the city where it became the means of heating the homes and stores and providing a supply for street lighting for several years, until electricity became the main street lighting supply.

For a time oil wells were producing from 5 to 25 barrels per day. A large number of these wells may be found in all directions from the city. Although many of the early wells have been exhausted there are still a large number producing enough for commercial use.



MAIN STREET IN 1954, looking east from Missouri Pacific tracks.
(Photo by Fred Coon)



MAIN STREET IN 1954, looking west from Fifth street.
(Photo by Fred Coon)

Newspapers In Osawatomie

Whenever or wherever a new territory was opened for settlement in the nation one of the first assets added to the newly acquired territory was a newspaper. Osawatomie's early history found such an enterprise being established.

In 1865, a newspaper press was shipped from New York to the city but was not put into use at the time because of the border trouble over slavery. The press was brought into the territory for the purpose of printing anti-slave literature and when the pro-slave forces learned of the venture they immediately set about to destroy it. Word was received that the pro-slave forces were coming to seize the press and it was buried beneath the sod and its location not revealed to the raiders. A year later the press was dug up and put into operation. The first newspaper in Osawatomie was the Southern Kansas Herald and was founded by Charles E. Griffith in 1857. He remained the editor until in 1860 when he sold it to B. F. Kinter who moved it to Paola. A number of the papers published in 1858 and 1859 are still in the city and are on exhibit. It is expected they will be presented to the Kansas State Historical Society soon so they may be preserved for future generations.

The Osawatomie Times was established in 1881 by W. C. Paul, but existed only one year. The Gas Light, edited by C. S. Bixby, was established in 1887, and it too ceased publication after one year.

In the following year, 1888, Frank Pyle founded the Osawatomie Graphic. When he started the Graphic Mr. Pyle was also publishing a newspaper at Lane. In 1893 he sold the Graphic and returned to Lane. Then in 1894 he brought the Lane plant to Osawatomie and established the Globe. In 1894, a half-interest in the Graphic was purchased by C. C. Clevenger, who later acquired sole ownership.

In 1900, the Graphic absorbed the Journal, a paper that had operated but a short time. Keith Clevenger succeeded C. C. Clevenger in 1911. In 1912 the Graphic absorbed the Globe, then operated by Harry Mills, and the two papers were merged. The plant and newspaper changed ownership a few time during the next few years and in September, 1923, the paper was sold to Wyatt N. Peck. Another newspaper, the News, was started by J. C. Tibbets in 1926, and in September 1930, the Graphic and News merged and incorporated as the Osawatomie Publishing Company. Early in 1934 Charles Whiteford purchased the stock of Mr. Peck. In June 1934, the stock of Whiteford and additional stock was purchased by Nelson and Clay Reppert. It has been published by Nelson Reppert since 1937.

Mr. Pyle died in 1922, and his widow, Mrs. Ellen Pyle, continued to make her home in Osawatomie until her death in 1953.

In 1950 Clay Reppert sold his interest in the newspaper and plant to his brother, Nelson S. Reppert, and purchased a newspaper plant at Anna, Illinois. Clay Reppert died in 1951.

Starting as a small, hand set newspaper, the Graphic continued to grow and since its consolidation with the News, has continued this growth until now it is one of the best weekly newspapers in the state. It has a coverage of most of the east, southwest and south parts of Miami county, as well as being read by subscribers in the surrounding

counties and in many other states by persons who desire to keep in touch with their old home town.

During the past few years the newspaper has grown until now it has a press run of some 2,500 papers each week, with from 12 to 20 pages, covering all the local news, including the activities of the many clubs and organizations in the community. It also has a good list of correspondents who report the happenings of several communities in the city's trade territory. In addition to the news coverage of every phase of community life and activities, including schools, churches, farm and country life, sports and other phases, it also carries editorials, columns and special features that go to make it an outstanding newspaper in its class and comparable to any newspaper of its size in the country.

Free Fair Association

In the summer of 1939, the Osawatomie Free Fair Association was organized and the first fair was held late that summer. J. S. McQueary was named president of the organization at the first meeting and has been re-elected to that position every year since.

The first fair was such a success that it was decided to make it an annual event for the community. It has been held about the middle of August every year and has grown to be one of the finest community fairs in the state of Kansas, until today the grounds at the City Stadium will hardly hold the many exhibits and concession stands.

Under the stadium grandstand are found the many booths set up by local merchants and organizations. A livestock pavilion stands to the north and east of the grandstand and was erected by the city several years ago, but it is not large enough to hold all the livestock exhibits. In order to take care of the overflow of livestock exhibits a large circus tent is erected at the east end of the pavilion and it, too, is not large enough to accomodate all the exhibits.

Each year the association erects a large stage or platform in front of the grandstand where acts of entertainment are held and from which the fair program is operated. The association also provides thrilling acts each year. One of the cleanest carnival companies in the business sets up on the east side of the grounds each year.

The biggest attraction of the fair is the annual horse show held on the closing night in which a great many of the finest horses in the country are entered. It is said to be one of the best shows of its kind in the country. Other contests such as the pet show and contests for the youngsters are held each year.

The domestic science exhibits for the fair are housed in the Memorial Hall at the southwest corner of John Brown Memorial Park and is south of the main grounds. This hall is filled each year with some of the finest needlework and products of the culinary art that can be found anywhere.

Each year the fair program opens with a big parade through the business district and is always crowded with floats and marching units. The parade is usually a mile in length and is viewed by large crowds.

City Fire Department

Like all other towns in the early days, Osawatomie did not have an organized fire department. For many years the people had to get along with a "bucket brigade." It was not until in 1896, when a disastrous fire destroyed several business buildings, that a fire department was organized. Shortly after this fire the city purchased a 55-gallon chemical engine. Two years later a hook and ladder was added and then shortly after four 6-gallon chemical tanks were purchased.

The first fire department was poorly housed until about 1901 when the new city hall was erected and space provided for the department. During all these years, as it is yet today, the city fire department is made up of volunteers who are trained to fight fires in the city. They receive no pay except when they make a "run." The present department is made up of ten volunteer firemen and two drivers who are employed by the city and are on the job 24 hours a day.

The present equipment consists of a Seagrove pumper and an old Reo pumper which serves more as a hose wagon. The city also has a street flusher, of 1,500 gallons capacity, which can be pressed into service in case of an emergency.

J. S. Johnson was appointed Fire Chief in 1903, and served for many years. The present chief is K. B. Arbogast, who succeeded E. C. Kelsey, who also served for several years.

The fire department is housed in the southwest corner of the City Auditorium building on South Fifth street.

City Officials Today

The present city officials are L. E. Teeter, mayor, having been elected in 1954. Karl E. Cole, Commissioner of Finance, was elected in 1937. Hershel H. Rayle, Commissioner of Utilities, was elected in 1944. Raymond Geuy was appointed City Clerk in 1951. Harvey Earp has been City Engineer since 1942. James J. Higgins was named Superintendent of the City Water and Power Plant in 1935, having served from 1926 to 1935 as superintendent of the water and light department. Albert J. Walthall has served as Police Judge since 1940. Kenneth Cook was appointed Chief of Police in 1952, having served as Sheriff of Miami county for two terms before being appointed. Willis H. McQueary has been City Attorney since 1940, and served a tour of duty in the Armed Forces during World War II.

The other members of the police force are Lester Elkinton, Clifford Ray, Charles McGuire, E. H. Mortimer and James Barnett.

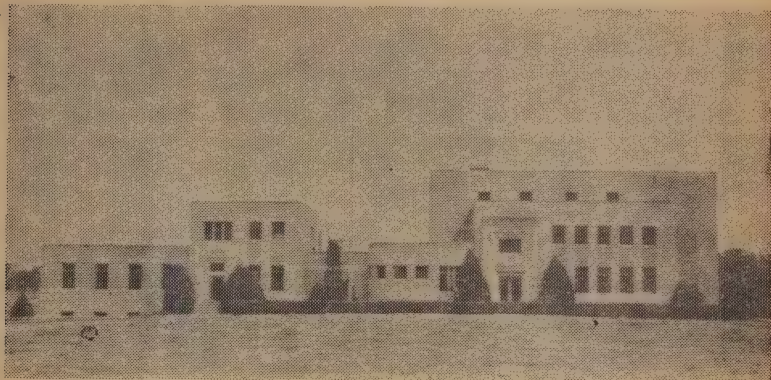
In addition to the superintendent there are N. L. Shriver, Howard Matney, Arthur Cromley, R. S. Matney, Harold Thompson and John Clearwater employed at the city water and light plant. There are eight men on the staff of the city engineer. Mrs. Sylvia Bowers is secretary in the office of the city clerk.

CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED IN A HURRY

A story is told of the city council adjourning in a hurry one night it was reported that Carry Nation, the famous hatchet woman, was on her way to the city. The saloon keepers had word of her approach so they quickly denuded their shelves and the council, convened for one of its regular business sessions, upon hearing of her coming adjourned post haste.

Municipal Water and Light Plant

The first light plant in the city was a small direct-current plant operated by a Mr. Knapp and supplied current for a few houses. The second plant was operated by A. W. Youngberg soon after the turn of the century. Mr. Youngberg built the plant to supply current for his motion picture house. Other plants were put into operation and the first city plant was put into operation in June, 1913, supplying some 650 customers. A celebration was held for the starting of supplying electric



MUNICIPAL WATER AND LIGHT PLANT, in northwest corner of city and north of Memorial Park. First water plant and system in 1903; first municipal light system in 1913. (Photo by Fred Coon)

current in the city and was held on a Saturday night. The number of customers increased until in 1914, when the plant was enlarged and improved with a 1550-horsepower engine installed.

The present power-producing equipment consists of two 4-cycle Nordberg dual-fuel type, 1,750 horse power; a McIntosh-Seymour, 800 h. p., and a McIntosh-Seymour, 600 h. p. engines. The capacity of the plant is 3,460 kilowatts and the peak has been 1,500 kilowatts and steadily increasing.

The first water system in the city was established in 1903, after the voters had approved bonds to build the system in 1901. The equipments was two 75-h. p. boilers, two low pressure and two high pressure pumps. The plant has been increased time after time and today the capacity is 1,500,000 gallons per day. The water department has a dam 13 feet high across the Marais des Cygnes north of the plant. There are four low pressure pumps and three high pressure pumps, along with settling basins, treating basins, a large clear water well and filters that assure the citizens of the city the purest of water.

Early City Government

Although the first settlers came to the community in the fall of 1854, and the town was surveyed early in 1855, the city did not have an organized city government until February, 1867. A Town Company was formed with H. H. Williams as the president. Other members of the company were J. W. Parker, N. J. Roscoe, Henry Norman, H. B. Smith and S. R. Smith.

It remained under this system until October 1, 1883, when the city was incorporated as a third class city by the district court. H. B. Smith was the first mayor.

Under the third class city regulations mayors were elected for one-year terms. Smith served in 1883, and was elected again in 1887. S. R. Mudge served in 1884 and again 1886. Others were: P. P. Brady (1885); J. D. King (1888), who served only a few months before he died. A. F. Meek served out the unexpired term and was re-elected in 1890.

By a proclamation by the Governor of Kansas, Osawatometie was made a second class city on December 30, 1890, with H. H. Coombs being the first mayor, and served until 1893, when H. B. Smith was elected for the two-year term. Other men who served as mayors from that date were A. F. Meek (1895 to 1899); H. S. Maynard (1899 to 1901); J. T. Walthall (1901 to 1903); W. H. Davis (1903 to 1905) J. E. Scott (1905 to 1906); A. W. Bradford (1906 to 1907); L. O. Madison (1907 to 1911); C. H. Barr (1911 to 1921); L. L. Studer (1921 to 1924); C. H. Barr (1924 to 1925); H. Newhouse (1937 to 1939); W. H. Weber (1939 to 1942); A. J. Lockhart Newhouse (1937 to 1939); W. H. Beber (1939 to 1942); A. J. Lockhart (1942 to 1954); L. E. Teeter, elected in 1954—. Since 1914 the mayors have served under the Commission form of government.

Seal of Lykins County

A few years ago when John Smith was digging a sewer ditch at the rear of his and Mrs. Smith's home at 611 Parker, he dug up a small machine which he could not at first recognize. After he had cleaned the dirt from it he found that he had unearthed a worth-while relic of the early days of the city. It was the seal of the Osawatometie Town Company, Lykins County, Kansas. All but the face of the seal had rusted and had to be thrown away. The seal itself, however, after it had been cleaned and polished, was found to be in as good condition as it was when it was being used.

The seal dates back before the year 1861, as it was in that year that the name of the county was changed from Lykins to Miami.

There is some speculation as to how the seal got to the location in which it was found. Since the alley at the rear of the Smith home runs alongside of the Old Land Office about one-half block to the east it is thought that it could have been washed down the alley or probably had been placed in some trash and dumped where it was found, and during the intervening years had become covered with soil, probably by it being washed down the alley.

Osawatometie Historical Society

Late in April, 1948, a meeting held in the home of Mrs. Pauline Gudger, the Osawatometie Historical Society was organized. Alden O. Weber was named president and has been re-elected each year since.

The purpose of the society is to maintain the many historical buildings and spots, and monuments in and around the city. One of the main projects had been the restoration of the Old Stone Church near the corner of Sixth and Parker streets, this being the first church building erected in the city. Another objective of the society is to arouse more interest in the history of the community, it being rich in many memorable events and facts.

City Adopts Fluoridation Program

In the city election in April, 1954, the citizens of Osawatomie voted their approval of the plan to fluoridation of city water. The vote was 1,005 in favor and 505 against. It was the first city in the state to have the plan approved by a vote of the people, and the one thousandth city in the nation to adopt the plan, most of them by ordinance by the city government.

The movement to adopt the fluoridation system was sponsored by June, 1926 for the church home. The first stone was laid August 31, the Junior Chamber of Commerce with Dr. V. W. Harville, dentist, spear-heading the educational campaign. The president of the Jaycees during this educational program and at the time of the election was William Sinclair. The Board of Commissioners approved the plan some weeks before the time of the city election but felt that the voters of the city should have a voice in the decision, hence it was submitted at the 1954 city election.

On August 12, 1954, the city was recognized as the one-thousandth city in the nation to adopt the system and a recognition ceremony was held at the Memorial Hall in John Brown Memorial Park, with state and national officers of the several dental associations and other organizations have part in the ceremony.

The principal speaker for the occasion was Dr. Leslie M. Fitzgerald, Dubuque, Iowa, president of the American Dental Association. Other speakers were Dr. John Knutson, Washington, D. C., chief dental officer of the United States Public Health service; and D. L. Maffitt, Des Moines, president of the American Water Works association.

As the concluding part of the program a valve turning ceremony was held at the city water and light plant at which time the fluoridation program became official.

Chamber of Commerce

In 1920, or thereabouts, the Osawamotie Community Club was organized, and remained under that title for several years. During the time it was being called the Community Club it could not, and did not, affiliate with the state Chamber of Commerce. It was not until some 15 years ago or thereabouts, that it became the Chamber of Commerce.

One of the secretaries of the early organization was L. J. Eddy. George Lofv served as secretary for a number of years and the present secretary is Wayne Fixley.

The organization is made up of business and professional men of the city and has a membership of something over 70 active memberships.

William T. Alexander was recently elected president, having succeeded William W. Eddy, who held the office for two terms.

Lions Club

The Lions club of Osawatomie was organized in January of 1938, by C. P. Manion, a representative of Lions International. At the initial meeting Dr. James T. Fowler was elected club president.

The club has been active in civic affairs and has carried out several community projects during the 16 years it has been organized, particularly along the line of youth work.

The club now has a membership of 42 men with Paul Latsha being the president, having succeeded Roy Carpenter.

Carnegie Public Library

Ever since 1889, the people of Osawatomie have had access to a free public library, and even before that date there was a small library in the city, although the exact dates of its operation are not known now. Before the public library was opened in 1889, there had been what was called the Chautauqua Circle which gave an entertainment and with the money purchased twenty-five books which were circulated for a time.

In 1889, J. W. Sponable, president of the Miami County National Bank, offered to give one hundred books if the library would organize under the state laws. A petition was circulated and the county treasurer books show that \$110.00 was paid into the fund to be used.

At the annual city election in April, 1890, a levy of 1¼ mills for library use was voted by the citizens. There being no building available for a library a room in the old stone school building was rented for \$25.00 a year. A board of six men and six women was appointed by Mayor Meek to supervise the library. The members of the board were Dr. Hayes, Frank Pyle, J. C. Chestnut, H. S. Maynard, C. S. Bixby, M. E. Roberts, and Mesdames William Youmans, L. M. Harden, Polley, Cahill and Miss Anna Gardner, with Dr. Hayes as president. The library was open Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

When funds were inadequate to pay the salaries of the librarians, it became the duty of the city clerks to serve as librarians. When the old stone school building and land on which it stood were purchased for a lumber yard, the library was moved to the office of the city clerk on North Sixth street (just back of Youngberg's). Later it was moved to the building back of the telephone office. When the the new city hall



OSAWATOMIE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, Fifth and Brown, established in 1889; present building dedicated in 1913. (Photo, Fred Coon)

was completed in 1901, a room upstairs was reserved for the library. In this room were a reading table, a few chairs, a desk and thirty six cases for books.

In 1901, Mayor Walthall appealed to Miss Helen Gould, a daughter of the late president of the Missouri Pacific Railway for assistance

and she accepted an order for \$500.00 for books for the library because of her interest in Osawatometie since so many of the railway employees lived in the community. An inscription "Presented by Miss Helen Gould to the Osawatometie Public Library" may be found among the books in the library.

Through the efforts of C. C. Clevenger and Floyd B. Lee, Andrew Carnegie was interested in aiding the city to build a public library building. He agreed to give \$7,500 for building purposes if the city would spend \$750 yearly on its maintenance. It was found that the library tax levy would not provide sufficient funds, so the library board and the city council pledged their support and adopted a resolution to that effect. This was forwarded to Mr. Carnegie and approved by him. Since this was late in 1912, it was decided to wait until the next spring to start construction of the building on the lot the committee had purchased.

The corner stone was laid on April 26, 1913, with the Osage Valley Masonic Lodge, No. 24, in charge of the ceremony. On September 4, 1913, the furniture and books were moved into the new Carnegie Library building and the formal dedication was held September 12, 1913.

From the small beginning back in the eighties of a library of 25 books, the library had grown to one of some 2,340 volumes. By 1937, the number of volumes had grown to 6,750 books and magazines. At the present time there some 12,000 volumes of books, with many weekly and monthly magazines that may be found on the shelves. There are over 1,400 persons in the community who have library cards, and a large per cent of these are youngsters.

A long list of librarians have served the Carnegie Library through the years and the present librarian is Mrs. Jesse Henney. The library board has just been reorganized with Ralph E. Waggoner as president; Mrs. Dorothy Bishop, vice president; Harry Hemphill, treasurer; Miss Denna McClure, secretary; Dr. R. G. Banister, Mrs. V. C. Halpin and W. W. Benner as members of the board.

Only recently Miss Ada Remington and Mrs. G. F. Vossler retired from the board after serving more than 30 years, and were made life-time members. Mrs. T. L. Youmans and Vern Troutman also served for many years.

Business and Professional Women

On November 3, 1932, a group of business and professional women of the city, with the assistance of members of the B. P. W. clubs of Paola and Ottawa, met in the Cresse Hotel (now known as the Hotel Osawatometie), and organized the local Business and Professional Women's club. Mrs. Jessie W. Maxwell was named the first president, and the charter membership consisted of 28 women.

During the early days of the club it sponsored a rest room for women of the rural areas who came to the city to shop and attend meetings. It has also purchased and presented a large number of books to the City Public Library. Each year finds the club busily engaged in a number of civic projects and it has been through the efforts of the club that the caliber of women workers in the places of business and professional offices has been greatly improved.

The club now has a membership of some 50 women with Mrs. Hazel McClure as the president.

Missouri Pacific Booster Club

The spirit of civic pride has been one of the cardinal principles of the Missouri Pacific Railway through all the years of its operation, and this has also been demonstrated by the employees living in the city. Being an integral part of the company these employees have not only given great service to the company, but have also felt a need to help the community in which they live.

Since these employees were desirous of lending assistance to the company in the matters of business, they also felt a need for social expression. As a result, through the efforts of T. W. Cheatam, superintendent, and E. Hanna, master mechanic, the Missouri Pacific Booster Club was organized in 1926. Prior to that the employees of the railway held their social functions by voluntary contributions by themselves.

The club met in the Youmans hall, which the club equipped. In 1933 it was found necessary to find a larger hall so the present hall, at the corner of Sixth and Main streets, was obtained. It was equipped with a large kitchen and dining room. In one of the back rooms a meeting place has been equipped for the Boy Scout Troop 99, which the club organized in 1933, and has been sponsoring ever since.

The Booster Club has been active in civic affairs and one summer operated the swimming pool in the John Brown Memorial Park, having help rebuild the lockers at the pool. The pool has since been discontinued and filled in.

R. B. Brockett is the president of the club, his title being "Chief Booster."

Rotary Club

The Rotary club of Osawatomie was organized July 21, 1930, with sixteen charter members, in a meeting held at the Osawatomie Hotel by Charles M. Dyer, field worker for Rotary International, and G. Murray Ross, Ottawa, then district governor for Rotary.

Ben F. Winchel, attorney, was named president. Of the charter members, Dr. W. L. Speer, E. J. Nichols, L. J. Eddy and George A. York are still members of the club.

The club has always been active in civic affairs and each year cooperates with the American Legion in sending boys to the Kansas Sunflower Boys' State.

William T. Alexander is president of the club, having been elected in July to succeed William W. Eddy. There are now 34 members in the club.

Junior Chamber of Commerce

The Junior Chamber of Commerce was organized in January, 1953, with Harry Hemphill as president for the first term. William Pierce served from July to October of that year when William Sinclair, second vice president, was named president and served until July, 1954, when John David was elected president.

The Jaycees, as they are called, are quite active in the civic affairs, and their greatest honor came only recently when the city was recognized as the one-thousandth city in the nation to adopt the fluoridation of city water, a project on which the club worked and promoted.

Masonic Lodge

Only five years after the first white settlers came to the Osawatomie community in 1854, the first fraternal organization came into being in the city. It was the Osage Valley Lodge of the Masons, which was granted its charter on December 31, 1959, with Smith A. Squires as Worshipful Master.

In the early 1860's the Osage Valley Lodge was one of the many lodges that failed. Although the lodge ceased to exist as an organized unit during the Civil War there were some Masons who kept the spirit alive. Following the war the lodge was reorganized and has continued in existence ever since. Osawatomie was a stopping place for the stages that operated between Kansas City and Fort Scott, and it was thought that a lodge should exist here.

The first meetings were held in an upper room of the Osage Valley House that stood at the corner of Sixth and Main streets. The meeting place was moved several times and in 1901 the Masonic Temple at the corner of Fifth and Main streets was dedicated.

The membership has fluctuated with the times and in 1880 there were only ten members, but the membership has shown a good increase in the past several decades.

DeMolay Chapter

It was in April, 1921, that the local chapter of the Order of DeMolay was organized in Osawatomie and given No. 8. The installation ceremony was held in the Masonic Temple under the leadership of Chapter No. 1, of Kansas City, with 14 members being installed. The DeMolay degree work was given in the high school auditorium.

The local chapter was organized only two years after the founding of the Order in 1919.

Order of Eastern Star

The first fraternal organization for women in the city was that of the Osawatomie chapter No. 26, Order of Eastern Star, organized January 27, 1882. The charter was received February 14, 1882, with 12 women and 13 men as members.

The late Henry Parker was the first Worthy Patron and his wife, Fanny Parker, was the first Worthy Matron.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The Osawatomie Lodge No. 349, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I. O. O. F.), was granted its charter December 26, 1888, with the meeting being held in the Masonic Hall. There were six charter members and O. N. Palmer was named the first Noble Grand, with the Garnett lodge having charge of the initiation ceremony.

On the day of the initiation of the new lodge forty-three new members were taken in.

For the first six months the lodge held its meetings in the Dunlap building and then in the George Roberts building. Meetings continued to be held in different buildings until 1918 when the new home was built at the corner of Sixth and Main. The lodge now holds its meetings in the upper floor of the building at 641 Main. Like all other lodges in the city the I. O. O. F. has had its ups and downs but has continued steadfast in its work.

The present Noble Grand is Carl Day.

Rebekah Lodge

The Osawatomie Chapter of the Rebekah Lodge was founded in 1897, but was not chartered until some months later, in 1898. The first meeting was held in the Fireman's Hall, with 40 charter members, Augusta Martin was elected as the first Noble Grand.

The present membership of 186, with Alice Whitney as the Noble Grand. The meetings are held in the I. O. O. F. Hall.

Elks Lodge

Shortly after the turn of the century, in 1904, with less than a dozen men already members of the Elks Lodge at other places, it was determined that Osawatomie should have an Elks Lodge. J. S. Johnson, the first Elk ever to live in the city, and who was a charter member of Salina Lodge, No. 718, organized the local lodge. He was ably assisted by Joseph F. Nicely, a local business man, but who was not an Elk.



ELKS LODGE HALL, at 422 Main, home of the Osawatomie Lodge; dedicated in 1916. (Photo by Fred Coon)

On June 15, 1904, Ottawa Lodge No. 803, instituted Osawatomie Lodge, No. 921, with 53 charter members. The only charter member still on the rolls is F. L. Guthrie.

The lodge had a steady growth for a time but with a reduction of railroad employees a short time later the lodge had difficulty in maintaining its membership. Even though it did not have a home of its own regular meetings were held and in April 1914, it was decided to build a lodge home and on May 13, 1914, a lot was purchased on east Main street and the building was dedicated in 1916.

The Elks home on East Main street is one of the finest buildings in the city and is a three-story structure, and affords a place for community meeting, including banquets. D. A. Young is the present Exalted Ruler.

Elk Ladies Booster Club

In 1915, the Elk Ladies Boosters were organized with Mrs. R. M. Johnson being named the first president. The first job these ladies undertook was to raise funds with which to complete the equipment of the new lodge home.

Royal Neighbors of America

Among the fraternal organizations in the city that has a splendid record of service is that of the Royal Neighbors of America. The local chapter was organized June 24, 1899, with 13 charter members. This was only four years after the first chapter of the society was organized in 1895.

The national office is in Rock Island, Illinois, and is one of the companies or societies that writes insurance for the entire family. A home for the aged is located at Davenport, Iowa, and the local chapter contributes liberally to the operation of the home.

The local chapter holds its meetings in the Elks Hall on East Main street.

Women's Booster Club

Seeing the need of a woman's organization to work in conjunction with the Missouri Pacific Booster club, which was composed of male employees of the railway, the wives and women employees of the company organized the Missouri Pacific Women's Booster club on April 27, 1931. The meeting was held in the hall above the telephone office, and Mrs. F. E. Grimes was the first president.

In October of that year the offices of the company were consolidated and many men were transferred to Kansas City. As a result it was necessary for Mrs. Greise to resign and Mrs. D. A. January was named president.

When first organized the club membership was confined to women employees of the company and the women of the employee's families, but in March, 1932, the membership was opened to the wives of local business men and women of the city. As a result the membership grew to nearly 400, by 1933, making it one of the largest clubs of its kind on the system.

On May 9, 1933, the club held its first "Strawberry Festival," at which the farm women of Miami county were guests. This festival has become an annual affair and attended by farm women from all over the county.

The club, in 1934, assumed the sponsorship of the Girl Scouts in Osawatomie, and this work is one of the most important functions of the club today. There have been many instances in which the club has been of great assistance in social work in the community.

Mrs. R. P. Reynolds is president of the club, having succeeded Mrs. Walter Walker.

Some Who Have Lived and Worked Here

Osawatomie has had a long list of men and women who have contributed to the growth of the community. Most of those listed herein have passed on but they left their mark on the community.

The dates when these persons lived and worked have not been learned, but where they are known they are given. The names are not listed in a chronological order.

Leading off is a man who contributed much to the welfare and growth of the community. That man was **Rev. Samuel L. Adair**, who founded the Old Stone Church and built most of it with his own hands. He was pastor for a number of years and died in December, 1899.

Among the first men who came to the community were John R. Everett, John Carr, Morgan Cronkite, O. C. Brown, William Chestnut, S. S. Pomeroy, John Chestnut, and others.

Eliam Snyder was one of the early blacksmiths. **Mrs. Frances Maynard** was the first woman postmaster. **Lime Harden** ran a livery stable in the early days. **John Chestnut**, a son of William Chestnut, one of the earliest citizens, operated a general store on the site where the Coker Store now stands. **Charles Smith** was a grain merchant. **William H. Champbell** was one of the early insurance men, and at one time was a partmener of **H. B. Smith**.

Army Taylor operated a furniture store and later was an undertaker. **Thomas Taylor** operated a flour mill on the Pottawatomie, using water power. **William Martin** was a painter.

Major H. H. Williams, who arrived here in 1855, and fought in the Border Warfare and the Civil War, operated an early day hardware store. After the Civil War he returned here to open the store and in 1879 he built the stone piers and approaches for the bridge across the Pottawatomie.

H. B. Smith, one of the early arrivals, was the first real estate and insurance agent. He operated his business in the Old Land Office which stands on North Sixth street. He was the first mayor of the city.

Mudge and Tator ran a drug store on the site where the Whitla radio and TV shop stands. **Birchard and Brady** had a livery stable where the Ferguson Service station now stands. **Mrs. Day**, wife of Dr. Day, was a teacher in the old stone schoolhouse. **Miss Anna Gardner** taught school here for nearly fifty years. **Mrs. Anna January** was one of the best civic workers among the women here and was one of those responsible for the Memorial Park, the John Brown Statute and many other projects. **Date Youmans** was an early ice man. **J. C. Brady**, still living, says that the ground where the high school and library building now stands was at one time a cornfield, as was the block where the Methodist church stands. **Caleb Burns**, a farmer west of the city, is a leading citizen of that part of the county and was a schoolmate of Lewis Wilkins, who was known as the "Giant of Greasy Bend." **A. W. Youngberg**, also still living, had the second light plant in the city and was a leading druggist for a number of years. **Major J. B. Remington** founded the lumberyard which is now the Leidigh and Havens yard. He served as a State Senator for some 20 years.

Abner F. Meek founded the Meek Drug Store in 1879. The store

is still operated by a member of the Meek family. **Frank Pyle** founded the Graphic, a newspaper, in 1888, and published it for years. He died in 1912. **Charles Gale** was a blacksmith and woodworker. **Thomas Youmans** founded the telephone company. **Joseph Nicely** operated a department store. **Dr. Day**, **Dr. Jacobs** and **Dr. Chalmers** were early doctors. **S. S. Whiteford** and **W. H. Weber** were leading bankers. **William Boisvert** was an early baker. **George Roberts**, an early grocer, is reported to have said that since there was no bank in town, they hid their money in a bean barrel.

Major J. B. Remington, who served five terms in the state legislature, started in the lumber business in the city in 1889, sawing out the native lumber for the yard. He served with distinction with the Union army in the Civil War, and could have been commissioned in the regular army but preferred the field of business. His wife was a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Adair, the founder of the Old Stone church.

One of the early bakeries and lunch rooms in the city was operated by **F. B. Miller**, who opened his place of business in 1889. He, at one time, operated the lunch room for the Missouri Pacific railroad.

W. W. Laing, who was in business in some form or other from 1833 to 1900, opened his own plumbing, repair and tin shop. He later added a full line of hardware and stoves.

H. H. Reed, familiarly known as Harry Reed, a pharmacist, entered the drug business here in about 1900, and later bought the Davidson Drug Company. One of his specialties was that of the Edison phonograph with which he entertained his customers and visitors.

William Wilder came to the city in 1902 and purchased the J. E. Walker business and operated a general merchandise store for a number of years.

A. H. Hume, born near New Lancaster, Miami county, purchased the Osawatomie Grocery Company in 1898, and operated it for a number of years. He was postmaster during the first administration of Grover Cleveland.

W. A. Simpson started a grocery store here in 1897, and came to Kansas in 1855, settling at Peabody.

Otto Burkland, jeweler and optician, came to the city in 1893 and worked for the Hall Drug Store for three years and then entered business for himself.

Thomas T. Kelly taught school in Miami county and was elected county clerk in 1889, and State Treasurer in 1902, and was in the banking business for several years after that.

H. G. Brown, born in Miami county, operated a shoe store in the city, and started in business for himself in 1891.

George Goudie, born in Scotland, came to Osawatomie in 1881 and set up his own general merchandise business in 1901.

L. B. Maynard came to Osawatomie in 1871, and ran a general merchandise store for several years.

D. W. Hays, physician and surgeon, first came to Miami county in 1882. He then spent five years in Anderson county and returned to Osawatomie where he was a practicing physician for many years.

American Legion Post

The local post of the American Legion was organized in 1920, with the charter being granted by the Department of Kansas on August 10. It is Post No. 204, and was named for John L. Hikle, who was killed in action in France July 23, 1918, while serving in Co. D., 7th Infantry. His body was returned to Osawatomie and buried in Elmdale cemetery on July 23, 1921.

The post has been active in civic affairs and has made a good record for its work in assisting in the rehabilitation program of the American Legion.

The first post commander was Fred S. Dever, and the present commander is Chas. A. Knouse, who was recently elected and succeeds Olan E. Johnson. The membership of the post during the years has been from 200 to 300 at times.

In 1946, the post purchased its present post home from the Lindemood Furniture company. It is now equipped with a kitchen, small assembly rooms, and a large assembly room on Parker avenue just east of Sixth street.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary of the John Hinkle Post 204, American Legion, was chartered June 3, 1920, by the Department of Kansas, American Legion. The first president was Mrs. Alice E. Campbell and the present leader is Ms. Norma Fletcher.

The membership of the chapter has been maintained over the 200 mark for several years and the chapter has always been active in civic affairs of the city, and carries a heavy load in the rehabilitation program of the national organization.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

In the fall of 1931, the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized. It was named the Hanlin-Kelly Post. It was named for two Miami county men who were killed during World War I, Charles Hanlin of Osawatomie, and Joseph Kelly of Paola.

Fred S. Dever was the first commander and the post has always been quite active in civic affairs and has done a fine job in the rehabilitation program for veterans and their dependents, as well as for disabled veterans.

In 1946 the post purchased the Legion building on an extension of O'Riley street, on the old Refinery ground, for a post home and meeting place.

A drum and bugle corps was organized in 1934, which appeared at many conventions in the state as well as outside the state.

The past number is 2258 and the present commander is Glen Edward Tush, having succeeded R. P. Reynolds.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Hanlin-Kelly Post, 2258, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was organized in 1932. The organization meeting was held in the Memorial Building with Mrs. Grace Weaver being elected as the first president. There were more than 50 charter members.

The auxiliary has always been active in civic affairs. The mem-

bers of the chapter have also rendered valuable service in the rehabilitation program of the V. F. W.; furnishes entertainment each month for the patients at the Wadsworth Veteran hospital; have donated flags to a number of schools; has worked with Teen Town and many other projects.

The present membership is about 140, and Mrs. Albert Cromley is president, having succeeded Mrs. Delores Tyrell, who became secretary.



MEMORIAL HALL, erected in memory of World War I dead. Dedicated in 1920. In southwest corner of John Brown Memorial Park.

(Photo by Fred Coon)

MANY OTHER CLUBS ACTIVE IN THE CITY

Being a city that maintains its place among other cities of the same size, there are a number of other clubs and organizations carrying on their worth while programs. Included among them are the Service Mothers, Monday club, a number of study and home garden clubs. There are two P.-T. A groups in the city, one that meets in the Meek school and one that meets at the high school. Teen Town is an active organization with the program being carried on throughout the year. The meetings are held at Memorial Hall. The Osawatomie Saddle club is made up of a large number of men and women, and boys and girls, which has done considerable civic work in addition to attending and earning many valuable awards at various saddle club events and fairs.

The city also carries on a summer recreation program for youngsters with a capable staff of adults as supervisors, under the direction of a committee appointed by the City Board of Commissioners.

FIRST WOMAN SENATOR.

Mrs. T. T. Solander, wife of a Missouri Pacific engineer, of Osawatomie, has the honor of being the first woman ever elected to the Kansas Senate. Several women had been elected to the House of Representatives after full suffrage was granted to women, but none served in the Senate until 1929, when Mrs. Solander was elected by the Miami-Johnson district. She won the Republican nomination over three men opponents, after a strenuous primary campaign. She won easily in the general election in 1928.

HONORING THE CITY'S WAR DEAD

The city of Osawatomie, from the time of the Civil War to the present time, has contributed its proportionate share of men and women to serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force in the several wars in which the nation had been engaged.

No local record shows how many men served during the Civil War that began only seven short years after the founding of the community, or on which side they served. It is thought, however, that most of them served in the Union Army. Just how many were killed or died of wounds or disease in that war is not known, but is known that in the several cemeteries in the immediate vicinity are buried a number of these men.

No doubt some men were killed in the Indian wars that followed the Civil War, but no records show how many.

When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, the city furnished a number of men for the army. The most noted company from this community was the Twentieth Kansas Infantry. During the fighting in the islands of the Caribbean Sea this infantry saw but little action. The company was held on the west coast. At the time of the insurrection in the Philippines, which followed the war in this section of the world, the company saw a great deal of action. It was this company, under the command of Col. Fred Funston, a native Kansan, that captured Agonaldo, the insurrection leader, and brought the uprising to a close.

The Osawatomie men who lost their lives during the Spanish-American War are listed on a large panel in the Miami County Courthouse in Paola. The names on the panel are not identified by community and the entire list includes:

Jay Sheldon, Co. I, 20th Kansas Infantry.
 A. V. Ricketts, Co. I, 20th Kansas Infantry.
 Dallas Day, Co. I, 20th Kansas Infantry.
 Roy G. Dever, Co. L, 11th U. S. Infantry.
 Arthur C. Rowe, Co. A, 20th U. S. Infantry.
 C. G. Presson, Co. H, 40th U. S. Infantry.
 J. E. Johnson, Co. E, 8th U. S. Infantry.

The three following names appear on the panel, but no company given:

Edward W. Smith.
 John A. Meek.
 William Tull.

At the bottom of the panel appears the following inscription: "Miami County Soldiers who died in the Spanish-American War of 1898."

When the United States entered World War I in April, 1917, a number of men from the community rallied to the colors to fight for their country and the kind of freedom for which it stands. Quite a number of men from the county, many of them from this community, served in the 353rd Infantry Regiment, which was known as the "Kansas Regiment," and performed superbly in the overrunning of the St. Mihiel Salient in northeast France in September, 1918, and then went on to do

its part in the Argonne Forest offensive which was the culminating campaign of the war.

Inscribed on the tablet of stone in the Memorial Building in John Brown Memorial Park are the names of 61 men from this community who served in World War I.

The men from the city or nearby community who lost their lives in action in World War I are:

John Hinkle.

Charley Hanlin.

“Row on row,
The poppies grow
In Flanders Field . . . ”

John Hinkle has been honored by having the local American Legion Post named for him.

Charley Hanlin has been honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars who combined his name with that of Joseph Kelly of Paola, and named the local post.

Both of these posts of veterans are living memorials to those two young men who, as Lincoln once said, “gave their full measure of devotion,” . . . that freedom might reign supreme in all the land.

Listed on large panels in the American Legion Home in this city are found the names of 771 men and women who saw service during World War II.

Those who lost their lives during World War II were:

George Milton Martin.

Charles W. Alford.

Frank Lewis Arnold.

Carl D. Bradley.

Clarence W. Matney.

William Ralph Yocum.

Graham Hatfield.

Richard Angleton.

Marion E. King.

Billy Dean Heckart.

Roy F. Wack.

Roy Green

“And may they not have died in vain
That we may forever remain
A free people, ruling our own domain.”

When the nation entered the Korean Conflict in 1950, to defend the rights of people to be free and to work out their own destiny, the community again sent its share of men to fight against the forces of communist aggression.

Those who lost their lives in this brief struggle on foreign soil were:

Warren E. Johnson.

Larry Seaburn.

“For freedom in every land,
They took their brave stand,
’Tween home and Godless foe.”

OSAWATOMIE TODAY

Now that we have more or less traveled along the road trod by the city of Osawatomie during the past one hundred years, we should take a look at what the city has to offer today.

In 1854 when the first white settlers entered the territory it was only open country with no roads, no towns, no bridges, no houses, no places of business, no churches, no telephones, no railroad, no factories, and the only inhabitants were a few Indians who had stayed behind when the tribes were moved out of the territory several years before.

The little settlement, as did all others in the new land, had only a small beginning. The first store and hotel, as well as the first manufacturing plant, were started in 1855. The little village grew quite rapidly for a year or two and was well on its way to fame when the border troubles over slavery entered the picture in 1856, and came to a climax late in the summer of 1856, with the fighting of the Battle of Osawatomie which ended in the little town being ransacked and all the buildings, except two or three, burned to the ground.

The hardy pioneers were not daunted by their reverses and set about at once to rebuild and start a steady growth until today the population is around the 5,000 mark with all the surrounding territory divided into well-kept farms and criss-crossed with many hard-surfaced roads and railroads, along with are seen miles and miles of telephone and telegraph lines that carry a heavy traffic in conversation and wire services every day.

We have given you a word picture, along with other pictures and drawings, of the city in its many phases of life. We must keep in mind that it has been the business people, as well as the farmers living in the vicinity, who have made possible the growth of the city and community and in which we all may be proud.

True, there have been many changes in businesses during the past one hundred years, but this could well be expected with the trend of business, social, religious, political and educational phases of life.

Upon entering the city from any direction it is hard to realize that rich traditions lay wrapped up in the homes and business places. Some have seen the struggles that have taken place and from which the city has emerged to hold its rightful place in the life of the state of Kansas.

A hurried survey reveals a number of surprising facts about the business life of the community. As far as can be determined by this survey there are only two places of business operating today that can date their origin to years before the turn of the century. These are the Meek Drug Store, founded in 1879, and the First Federal Savings and Loan association which came into being in 1899, but which is only a continuation and changed business from which it was when it was first started. Of course, this does not include the Missouri Pacific railroad which came into the territory in 1879, growing from a single track on which ran some of the earlier trains to a system that embraces over 6,000 miles of line.

A short and concise sketch of the businesses and offices of the city are contained in this narrative. Space will not permit a fuller

detailed account but will suffice in giving the reader a hurried glance at which may be found in the city today. These sketches do not include the city or county governments, they having been dealt with elsewhere.

Every effort has been made in the short time allowed for this survey, to contact every business place and professional office in the city. Should anyone be omitted it has been done unintentionally, and those was extended to Ottawa and Leroy. And now it extends its long in charge of the survey apologize most sincerely.

The Meek Drug Store is the oldest business in the city in point of continuous service. It was established in 1879 by Abner F. Meek. Upon his death in 1910, his brother, L. B. Meek, assumed the management. He continued as owner until 1935, when Mrs. Mac Steele (Maxine Meek), his daughter, became the owner, and is still in charge of the store.

It was in 1879, that the **Missouri Pacific** railroad first entered the city, with an extension of the line from Holden, Mo. The line later was extended to Ottawa and Leroy. And now it extends its long fingers in almost all directions, reaching far into the south and southwest and also to the east.

First Federal Savings and Loan Association, although it has been in operation as such only since 1938, is a successor of the Consolidated Building and Loan Association, which was formed by the merger of the Osawatomie Building and Loan and the Borrower's Building and Loan. The company first started in business in 1899. A sidelight of this business during the first year was that the gross profits were a little over \$167.00, and out of that a salary of \$120.00 was paid for a secretary in the office.

Coker Stores Company, at the corner of Sixth and Main, is one of four stores in the same system, and was founded in 1909 by Joe Coker. The present ownership is made up of Floyd Coker, manager of the Osawatomie and Garnett stores; J. W. Coker, manager of the Paola store; and Frank Coker, son of Floyd Coker. The company owns and operates the Osawatomie Fair Store, which was established in 1924. The company started in business in a small building in the 600 block on Main and moved to the present location a few months later, into a one-room building formerly occupied by Frank Wilson.

Edgar W. Campbell, who now operates a jewelry store in the 600 block on the north side of Main street, started in the jewelry business in 1912, with a watch repair shop in one corner of the drug store owned by a Dr. P. W. Robinson, in the same location now occupied by the Wicke Drug Store. His brother, Hugh, was affiliated with him until in 1933, when he set up his own insurance and real estate business.

Earl Price, who operates the **Price Shoe and Leather Goods** store in the 500 block on Main street, took over the place of business in 1917. His father, John H. Price, started the business as a harness shop in 1901.

The Lanning Music Store, operated by Paul Lanning, opened for business in 1920, and is still in business with his son, Don Lanning, as a partner.

Cowden's Gift and Newspaper Store came into being as a sepa-

rate place of business in 1922, in a room on South Sixth street. It was moved to its present location a few years later.

Barnett and Sons Appliance Store had its beginning in 1922. It was in 1930 that his son, Leo, entered the business and 1933 Raymond went in with his father, Ben F.

The Osawatomie Fair Store, which carries a line of variety items, was established in 1923, by Floyd Coker, who owns the general store across the street.

The American State Bank was chartered in August of 1923, with C. H. Barr as president. It was organized by W. H. Weber and Fred Bell, and stands on the site of the first hotel in the city, the Osage Valley House. Mrs. Margaret K. Weber, widow of W. H. Weber, is the president, and Alden O. Weber, her son, is the executive vice president. George Hunsperger is the cashier with Loretta Higley as assistant cashier.

The First National Bank received its charter in September of 1923, with Silas S. Whiteford as the president and H. C. Rubert as cashier. Mrs. Hattie . Whiteford, the widow of Silas S., is president. Joseph Whiteford, her son, is the chairman of the board of directors, and Warren E. Chambers is cashier.

McQueary Motor Company was founded in 1926 by J. S. McQueary and occupied the building now occupied by Cockran Motor Company on South Sixth street. The business was sold to the Cockran Brothers in 1945, and in 1950, the McQueary Motor Company re-opened in its present location south of the Leidigh and Lumber Company on South Sixth. This company deals in Buick automobiles.

The Osawatomie Hotel was built in 1927 and was then known as the Cresse Hotel. It became the Osawatomie Hotel in 1941. The hotel has 56 rooms, serves as the bus depot for the Kansas Lines, and is managed by Hilda Huber.

The Gas Service Company bought the Union Public Service Company in 1924. It had formerly been the Miami County Gas Company, founded by William Mills. The first gas lines laid by the service companies were laid from 1903 to 1907.

Whitcher and Troutman Furniture Company began in business in th city in 1928. It opened in the building now occupied by the Mode O' Day blouse factory in the 600 block on Main. It was moved to its present location in 1945. It was located in the building occupied by locker plant during the first two years.

The J. C. Penney Company Store was opened in the city in 1928, and has continued in the same location ever since. It is located on Main street in the 500 block on the south side of the street. It has been the only occupant of the building since it was built.

Hugh Campbell went into business for himself in the insurance business in 1933, and was in partnership with his brother from 1920 to 1930. He started with his father, W. H. Campbell, in 1912.

The Sparrow Oil Company was established by Ralph Sparrow in 1950. This is a company that reclaims oil wells by using the air or gas pressure system which makes every well a producing well. It is now operating south of the city and is now capable of producing 500,000 gallons per day, and adding equipment that will reach ten times that.

The city is now served by four barber shops which are called: **Carl's Shop, McCurdy's Shop, Roy's Shop** and the **Capital Barber Shop.**

Arbogast Electric Shop entered the electric repair and sales service field in 1930, in the building now occupied by the Lanning Music Store. The store was moved to the present location in 1932.

In 1932 the **Safeway Grocery** opened its store in the city in the building now occupied by the Mode O' Day Dress Factory and is now located at the corner of Fifth and Main.

The **Graphic-News**, although that newspaper had been in existence since around the turn of the century, was purchased by Nelson and Clay Reppert in 1934. It was moved to its present location from a location on Brown avenue in 1936. A job shop is also conducted in connection with the newspaper.

Willis McQueary and Harry G. Hemphill became law partners in 1945, but McQueary started in the law profession in 1938 as a partner of Ren Winchel. He was by himself after 1940, upon the death of his partner. Hemphill came into the firm in 1945.

Cuddy Electric Company has been in business in the city since 1939, having opened in the office space now occupied by the Chamber of Commerce office. It has been in the present location for the last ten years. They came to the city from Greeley where they were in business for some 15 years.

Terrill's Dry Goods and Furnishings Store, which has been in the present location since 1949, first started in business in the city in 1939, when they purchased a store operated the first door west of the Bennett's IGA.

Nu-Way Cleaners, operated by Eva Couk, opened for business in 1940, and has been in the same location since its opening. It is in the 600 block on Main.

Shults and Platz Grocery was opened for business in 1941, at the same location as it is now, 837 Walnut.

The **Osawatomie Coffee Shop** was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Burgess in 1941. They came here from Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Burgess was killed in a traffic mishap in January, 1953. Mrs. Burgess is now manager and owner. It is located just east of the Osawatomie hotel.

Schuler Bakery has been in the same location in which it started in 1942. Mr. Schuler was a baker for 23 years before going into business for himself. The bakery is in the 600 block on Main.

Thompson Motor Company, dealer in Fords, was established in 1944, by Grover Tompson. It has been in the present location since it was established. The company is located on Main just east of Fifth.

Cole's Home and Auto Supply was established in 1944, by Karl Cole and George Zakoura. Cole was linotype operator at the Graphic-News for 21 years before going in with his brother-in-law in the store. Zakoura ran a grocery store some nine years before. The store is located in the 500 block on Main.

The **Miami County Locker Plant** opened in 1944, at its present location. S. W. McAllister has been the manager since its opening. The plant is located just east of the Missouri Pacific depot.

Cockran Motor Company, dealer in John Deere implements, was established in 1945, when the Cockran brothers purchased the business from J. S. McQueary. It is located in the first block on South Sixth street. It is operated now by G. C. Cockren. The business was sold to Oliver Neis and Raymond Bahlken, both of Edgerton, in August, 1954, and the name changed to Osawatomie Implement Company.

Royal Cleaners, which is located about the middle of the 500 block on Main street, was established in 1947. They succeeded the Wardrobe Cleaners and came to the city from Ottawa where they were in business for some time.

Foodland grocery, which has been operated by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Howell for the past your years, was established by his parents in 1947.

Bennett's IGA, a grocery store, was opened in 1947, when the Bennetts purchased the Pence and Bales store. The Bennetts came from Sterling. It located at the corner of Fifth and Main.

Hunsperger and Bigelow Gift and Sundries opened in 1948. It is located two doors west of Sixth on Main street. Nelson Hamilton, who had been manager of the J. C. Penney Co., for six years, purchased the store and took it over in August, 1954.

The Ben Franklin Variety and Novelty Store, with William T. Alexander as manager, was opened in 1948. The building had formerly been occupied by a Kroger Store, but was empty at the time.

Martin Farm Supply, located near the west end of the 600 block on Main, was moved to the present location in 1953. It first opened for business in 1949, in the 500 block on Brown Avenue.

Western Auto Associate Store, in the 500 block on Main, came under the management of Ray Parker in 1949. The store had previously been operated by C. W. Brinkman and Everett Higley.

The Merchant's Accounting and Tax Service, with Wayne Fixley as manager, was opened in 1949. It is also the office of the Fixley Insurance Agency and the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. It is located in the first block on South Sixth.

Jacobson's Hardware Company was opened for business in 1951. The owners also have a store in Paola which was opened in 1945. They formerly owned a store in Drexel, Mo.

Mode O'Day Blouse Factory, which is located in the 600 block on Main, started operation in December of 1952. It employs about fifty women.

The Meat Market, operated by Art Dickson and Floyd Cook was leased by them from Archie Parks in 1953. It is also located in the 500 block on Main.

Bob's Jewelry Shop was opened in 1947, and occupies the smallest store space in the 500 block in Main Street.

Hargrove and St. Louis Furniture and Appliance Store was opened in the building that had been vacated by Metzler in 1953. St. Louis has been in business in the city since 1928, most of this time being a meat cutter at the Park's Grocery and Meat Market. He started in the appliance business in 1950.

Matteson Jewelry was opened in the summer of 1954. The owner formerly worked in similar stores in Paola. It is also headquarters for the **Wright Studios**.

Weaver's Appliance, a partnership of A. D. Weaver and son, Clo-man, was established in 1944, on South Sixth. In 1950 they purchased the Osawatomie Auto Supply and moved to their present location on Main street. In 1953 they purchased the Fickel Appliance Store.

Chambers Insurance Agency was established by C. H. Chambers at the present location in February of 1916, and upon the death of Mr. Chambers, Miss Clede M. Zumbrun took over the agency in July, 1954.

Osawatomie Lumber Company was started in 1904, when John Barr built the yard with a Mr. Allred in charge. The company was sold to Hodges Brothers in 1917, and Joe Ritchie, the present manager, came here from Topeka in 1947.

The Cut Rate Grocery, now owned by Fred Zakoura, was established in 1933.

Sullins Grocery came under that name in 1953, and is located in the east end.

Hackler Grocery in the west end was established in 1946.

Birchard Funeral Home was established by Mr. and Mrs. Willis W. Birchard in 1932, and moved to the present location in 1938.

The Montanye Funeral Home was established by Charles Montanye in 1928.

Osawatomie Floral Company was taken over by the present owners in 1949.

There are eight beauty shops in the city and are **Gertrude Down-en's Shop**, **Fannie Carson's Beauty Shop**, **Anna Flanigan Beauty Shop**, **Ilene's Beauty Shop**, **Florine's Beauty Shop**, **Mabel's Beauty Shop**, **Al-aura's Beauty Shop**, and **Mildred's Beauty Shop**.

The Averill Upholstery Shop, owned and operated by Claude Averill, was established in 1950.

Barnd's Plumbing and Heating was established in 1945.

The Case Plumbing and Heating Shop was established in 1945. ...

The Dunaway Transfer has been operated by the Vernon Dunaway and his family since 1930.

Dr. V. W. Harville, dentist, came to the city from Junction City in 1953.

Dr. A. B. Wymore, chiropractor, established his office here in 1954.

Jack's Glass Shop, owned and operated by Jack Fields, was established in 1952.

The Fischer Insurance and Real Estate Agency, operated by Ed. F. W. Fischer, was established in 1922. Prior to moving to its present location, 628 Main, in 1952, it had been located in other places.

Universiay Tire Service, operaed by Forrest Feruson, is now located near the west end of the 600 block on Main street, having moved there in 1948, from a location on Brown Avenue since 1946.

Whitla TV and Radio Service of which Ralph is owner and operator, has been at its present location in the 600 block on Main since 1947. It was first established in 1945. was employed in a parts factory in Kansas City.

Marshall's Cafe at the corner of Sixth and Main, opened for business in 1953. The Marshalls had been in business here in 1946-47, and prior to that the manager, Ross, was employed at the Hercules Powder Plant at Sunflower.

Dr. W. L. Speer, physician, established his practice here in late 1920. He started practice in Clay Center in 1912, served in the army in World War I, and then moved here. He moved to his present location in 1945.

The Gregg Home Television company is located on East Main street.

Osawatomie Farmers Co-Operative Elevator was established in 1918. It is located on North Sixth between that street, which is also US-169, and the Missouri Pacific railroad. Joe McIntosh, manager, came to the elevator in 1942.

Peck-Wolken Chevrolet Company is located in the building on North Sixth which was built by the company in 1946. Prior to that date Peck operated the Chevrolet dealership from 1938 to 1942, at the location now occupied by Thompson Motor Company.

Kenneth R. Johnson Supply Company, which carries gas and oil well supplies, was opened in 1949. In 1940, Johnson became manager of the F. W. Black Supply Company, which moved into the building on North Sixth that had been vacated by the National Supply Company.

Sixth Street Cafe, now operated by Harry Pettit, was established by Minnie Buchanan several years ago. It is located across the street from the Missouri Pacific shops.

Troxel Garage, on First street on the State Hospital road, was established by A. M. Troxel and is now operated by his son, Dennie Troxel.

The State Farm Insurance Agency is operated by Robert Evans since 1930.

Triplex Cleaners, commonly known as Neff's Cleaners, was established in 1940.

Slayman Coal and Beverages has been in business about 30 years. John A. turned the wholesale beverage over to his son, John T., in 1935.

M & M Furniture, operated by Ted Meireis, was moved from Paola in the summer of 1954.

The Airport, midway between Paola and Osawatomie, was opened early in 1951, and the cafe was opened in 1952, the present managers are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hanfeld.

Dr. W. O. Appenfeller, physician, established his practice in the city in the summer of 1954.

The Elms Motel was established only a short time ago and is located near the south end of Sixth street.

The Weaver Drive-In Grocery Store, on South Sixth street, was established early in 1954.

The Walker Auto Hospital is located just east of the New Missouri Pacific office building and was established in the summer of 1954.

Dr. Joseph Fowler opened his medical practice in the city in 1926, over the First National Bank, and was joined by his son, **Dr. James Fowler**, in 1937. They are located in the 500 block on South Sixth.

Tilford Greenhouses was started as the Tilford Floral Company in 1914, with a salesroom on Main street, but when this part of the business was discontinued the name was changed to its present name. They have always been in the same location and became members of the F. T. D.

The **Leidigh and Havens Lumber Company** was originally the Remington Lumber Company and was established in 1893, by J. B. Remington, and was sold to Enlow and Nichols in 1921. It came under its present name several years ago.

Robert Martin started his repair shop in 1924, and added welding in 1932.

Griffith Jewelry Store, successor to Cochran Jewelry Store, was reopened in 1953. The present owner had worked in the store for some nine months after getting out of school before taking over.

Wagoner Insurance Agency is a successor to the Lofv and Wagoner Agency. The Lofv agency was established in 1932. Wagoner bought the Lofv interest in 1954. It is located west of the Osawa Theater.

Parks Grocery was opened in 1954, the place of business having been leased to the Weaver Grocery for some time. Parks the owner, was in the same business in a location on the south side of Main street from 1923 to 1940, when he moved to the present location.

The **Jo-Kay Dress Shop** was opened for business in 1942. It has been in the same location during this time. It is located near the east end of 500 block on Main street.
the Wright Studios.

There are five bulk oil dealers in the city: **Howard Barnes** (Texaco); **Ross Brewer** (Quality); **William Calvin** (Standard); **John Hodgson** (Cities Service); and **Dalton Troutman** (Cocony Vacuum).

The **Dairy Bar**, which recently changed management, was established at present location and has been in operation several years, and has had several different managers.

Dr. R. G. Banister, optician, came to the city in 1951, this being his first place of practice after finishing college and optician school.

Caylor Motor Company was established by E. H. Caylor in 1933, at a location on Brown Avenue. He moved to his present location in 1948.

Downen Cleaners were established in 1946 at 522 Pacific and moved to their present location in 1952.

Eddy Funeral Home was opened by L. J. Eddy in 1926. William W., his son, became a partner in the home in 1929. The home moved to its present location in 1951.

Hurd's Women's Dress Shop, operated by Myrtle Hurd, was established in 1920 by her sister, Jessie. The present owner came here from Chanue in 1946.

Hawkins Insurance Agency, now operated by E. H. Hawkins, was founded by his grandfather in 1881, who was a partner with H. B. Smith. Mr. Hawkins entered the business in 1932. The agency was moved to its present location in 1936, and John Hawkins is now a partner.

Osage Valley Credit Union, of which E. H. Hawkins is secretary-treasurer, was established in 1939.

The **O-SoWhite Washerette** on South Sixth street was established in 1951 by Cecil Miller who still operates the business.

It was in 1911 that Mike Ricci started the **Ricci Grocery**. It has been in the same location since it was started, being one of the oldest places of business in the city.

Pure Gold Dairy, which also handles ice cream products, was formerly the Glenliff Dairy and was acquired by the present company in 1950.

The Twelfth Street Grocery, which R. L. Glick has operated since early in 1954, was established by John Barr in 1947. He built the building for the store.

Dr. J. L. Van Gilder, dentist, established his practice here in 1937, just after he was graduated from dental college.

The L-Drive In is operated by E. W. Hays, who came to the city early in 1954. He was formerly a chef in Kansas City.

B-Square Garage, which is operated by W. C. Buddenhagen, has been established since 1934. He also has the Oldsmobile agency.

Sheehan Dairy, south of the city, has been operated by Mike Sheehan since 1936. His son is now associated with the business. It was the first dairy in Miami county to distribute Grade A milk.

Dr. W. G. Trostle, veterinarian, has been in the city since 1951.

Ice Beverages has been manufacturing ice since 1913, and for the past four years has been a distributor of bottled drinks. It is one of the oldest manufacturing plants in the city.

Edward Obermeier has a tree surgery business he has operated for several years.

The Colbert Welding Shop is owned and operated by R. F. Colbert.

There are seven taverns, four retail liquor stores and one recreation parlor in the city.

The Osawa Theatre, which was first called the "Majestic," was established in 1910 by A. W. Youngberg, and was in the building now occupied by the Hamilton Gift and Sundries. He had his own light plant. The theatre was fully equipped and had a stage on which stock companies appeared. The present building was erected in 1922. The name of the theatre was changed to "The Osawa" in 1938, and the Mid-Central Theatres became the owners in 1950. The same company owns and operates the Mid-way Drive-In theatre about half way between Osawatomie and Paola, and was established in 1951. Francis Edwards is manager of both theatres, having come to the city in the fall of 1953.

There are ten oil and gasoline service stations in the city, the oldest being the **ShIPLEY Service Station** in West Highlands on the John Brown Highway, established in 1932, by Sewell Shipley, who built the station and has operated it in the same location since. **Ross Brewer** started in 1938, and now operates a bulk wagon. **Weaver's Texaco Station** on South Sixth, opened in 1944. **Forrest (Fergy) Ferguson** operates a station near the Missouri Pacific depot on Main street. **Robert Cook** moved from the farm in 1951 and took over the Texaco station on South Sixth. **Gus Siskey**, who operates the D-X Station at the corner of Sixth and Pacific, started in 1945. **Eldon Mills** took over the Standard Station on South sixth, in 1953, also coming from the farm. **The Cities Service** station, also on South Sixth, is managed by H. P. McCullough, who took over in 1953. **Layne Collins** took charge of the Quality Oil Station at the south end of Sixth street in 1954. **Maynard Hawkins** came from Olathe in 1954 to operate the Skelly Station on North Sixth.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CITY

The following chronology will serve as a guide in coursing the history of the city of Osawatomie during the past 100 years. It does not, however, give a complete picture of the events that have taken place during the century but an attempt has been made to present the leading highlights. It was hoped that some event could be recorded for each year but time has not permitted this.

1822—Believed Catholic priests made their way through the territory.

1827—Miami, Osage, Potawatomie, Wea, Piankashaw, Peoria Indian tribes moved from Missouri to what is now Miami County, Kansas.

1854—Kansas-Nebraska Act signed May 30, 1854, opening territory for white settlers (Emigrant Aid Company formed in East).

First white men settlers arrived in October (John R. Everet, John Carr, Morgan Cronkite, O. C. Brown, William Chestnut, S. C. Pomeroy, John Chestnut and others).

Methodist church established by Rev. Ferrill, but no building erected.

Rev. Samuel L. Adair arrived. (It was he who built the first church in Osawatomie).

1855—Town site surveyed in February—a block of ground was set aside for church buildings.

Grist mill set up by Tom Taylor; mill sent by Emigrant Aid Company.

First home erected by Samuel Geer.

Geer established first store.

Geer appointed postmaster in December.

First hotel built by Geer.

First Fourth of July celebration in city.

Saw mill sent out by Emigrant Aid Company set up just east of the city—burned a few months later.

John Brown and his five sons (Owen, Frederick, Salom, Oliver and John, jr.) arrived in Osawatomie from Ohio.

1856—First newspaper press brought in from New York by Oscar Dayton and Alex Gardner—never used—was buried under sod.

Old Stone Church (still standing) (Congregational) established by Rev Adair.

Term "Jayhawking" first used by Pat Devlin.

Missourians under Reed raided and sacked the city.

Battle of Osawatomie on August 30, between John Brown's men and Border Ruffians under Gen. Reed—town ransacked and burned.

Frederick Brown murdered just before daybreak by Rev. Martin on the morning of August 30.

Border warfare prevailed.

"Dutch Henry Crossing" massacre of five men.

1857—First subscription school started—Smith A. Squires, teacher.

"Southern Kansas Herald" founded by Chas. E. Griffith.

First reunion held by citizens (their third anniversary).

1858—People settling down after Border Warfare.

- 1859—First tannery set up.
First brewery started.
John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry—Brown hanged December 3.
Masonic Lodge (Osage Valley) organized.
Republican party started in Kansas by Horace Greeley at the Osage Valley House.
- 1860—Sever drought—springs dried up—many people left.
- 1861—First Thanksgiving service held by Rev. Adair in Stone Church.
Start of the Civil War.
Name of county changed from Lykins to Miami.
- 1862—Pottawatomie Baptist church established—met in Indianapolis school.
Marshall L. Cleveland killed and buried at Osawatomie.
First public school held in Baptist church.
- 1864—Osawatomie State hospital established.
- 1865—Civil War over, men returned home.
- 1866—State hospital into operation—Dr. Gause, first superintendent.
- 1868—Old Stone schoolhouse built—now on site of Leidigh and Haven Lumber company.
- 1874—Baptiste Peoria died in Oklahoma.
Grasshopper invasion and many people left community.
- 1876—Apple, weight 2 pounds, 24 inches in circumference, took first prize at World's Fair in Philadelphia.
- 1877—Soldiers monument in memory of men who died in the Battle of Osawatomie dedicated.
- 1878—Meek Drug store established (oldest business in city still in operation in city and still in hands of family that started it).
- 1879—Railroad built from Ottawa to LeRoy.
First train arrived in city from Holden, Mo., on Missouri Pacific.
- 1880—A. M. E. church established (Mrs. Van only surviving charter member).
Osawatomie State Bank established.
- 1881—"Times" founded by W. C. Paul.
- 1882—Easter Star lodge organized.
- 1883—Town organized—H. B. Smith, first mayor.
Osage Valley hotel burned.
- 1884—Pottawatomie Baptist church moved into the city, Rev. Her, pastor.
- 1886—First gas well drilled by William M. Mills.
First oil well drilled by William M. Mills.
- 1887—Presbyterian church established by Rev. J. C. Venable.
"Giant of Greasy Bend" at age of 17 moved into community from Wells, Minn. (He was 8 feet, 2 inches tall and weighed 365 pounds).
"Gas Light" newspaper founded by C. S. Bixby.
- 1889—Public library established.
Catholic church established.
- 1890—Beeson school built.
Missouri Pacific depot cornerstone laid.
- 1892—Christian church organized.
- 1894—First class was graduated from high school.

- 1896—Ursuline Catholic Academy established at Paola by Mother Mary Jerome Schwab.
- 1898—Twentieth Kansas went to Spanish-American war.
Rev. Adair died.
- 1899—Twentieth Kansas Infantry, under Gen. Funston, captured Aganaldo, Filipino leader in the insurrection.
Royal Neighbors of America organized.
First telephone exchange established.
- 1901—First City hall built.
Masonic Temple dedicated.
- 1903—First city water system.
- 1904—Elks Lodge established.
- 1905—Meek grade school built.
- 1906—First automobile bought in city by Dr. Hayes.
- 1910—John Brown Memorial park dedicated by Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who first spoke about the "Bull Moose" party. Park was dedicated on August 30, the anniversary of the Battle of Osawatomie, attended by thousands during the 3-day event.
- 1912—John Brown cabin moved into park from west of city. It was his headquarters while in Kansas and belonged to his brother-in-law, Rev. Adair.
- 1913—City light plant put into operation.
- 1914—Commission from government established.
Postoffice became second class office.
- 1916—Elks Hall dedicated.
High school established and built.
- 1919—Memorial building for World War I dead dedicated
- 1920—American Legion and Auxiliary founded.
Chamber of Commerce organized.
- 1921—DeMolay started.
City mail delivery started.
- 1922—State Hospital P. O. branch opened.
- 1926—Missouri Pacific Booster club started.
- 1929—Junior high school started.
- 1930—Rotary Club founded.
- 1931—V. F. W. post organized.
- 1933—Fred Brown Memorial tablet dedicated.
- 1935—Dedication of John Brown statue in Memorial park.
Missouri Pacific shops destroyed by fire.
- 1936—Municipal stadium dedicated.
- 1940—New light and water plant dedicated.
- 1941—World War II.
- 1948—Historical Society organized.
- 1949—Later Day Saints church organized.
- 1950—New Municipal auditorium dedicated.
- 1951—Worst flood in history of city occurred.
- 1954—Centennial celebration ((Osage Valley).
City adopts "Fluoridation" of water supply. Plant voted in by citizens.

MIAMI COUNTY FORMERLY LYKINS COUNTY

Miami County was formerly known as Lykins County. It was organized as Lykins County in 1855, with the county seat at Paola where it has been located ever since. There was quite a controversy over where the county seat should be placed, Osawatomie or Paola but Osawatomie lost. The county was named in honor of Doctor David Lykins, who was a missionary among the Miami Indians. He was also a member of the first territorial council. The name of the county was changed to Miami, after a tribe of Indians by the same name, in 1861 when Kansas was admitted to the union as a state.