

Bringing in of Oil on Glenn Farm Made Jenks a Tent City

Land Was Worthless Before Petroleum Was Discovered.

TOWN BUILT IN 1906

Floater From Everywhere Flocked There When the News Leaked Out.

By FLOYD B. MILLER

JENKS, Dec. 20.—The cutting down of several tanks alongside the townsite, recalls some interesting history to the old timers of this community.

Early history of Jenks is bound up with that of the opening of the Glenn field. Pamphlets remember the incidents connected with the drilling of the first well put down on the Glenn farm. Galbreath and Chesley of Tulsa, the former well known in political circles of the state, secured a verbal lease on this farm, so it is told, and moved in and drilled the well. It is related that these men were with their backs to the wall financially; in fact, it was rumored that the tools were mortgaged heavily, and that these promoters had secured money on a mortgage that had been given on cattle that never existed. This was the general impression among the few settlers at that time.

One or other of the men came to Jenks every day during the winter of 1905-06, coming this far on the railroad. They would drive to the well, if they could secure a ride, but generally they walked, Chesley having a sort of running walk that is still recalled by the men who remember. The road to the well from Jenks was a mere trail; a negro ferryman skiffed the pedestrians across the dark waters of the Potomac creek.

Often They Are Cracked and Cheesey. N. M. Phipps ran the only grocery store in the town at the time, and he says he remembers very dis-

tinctly that many towns Messes, Cheesey and Chesley came to his store and made a square meal on chicken and crackers. These men would lock to Tulsa when the trains were late.

But the well came in a gusher. The bit of gold at the end of the well had been found. Thousands were stationed at the well in an endeavor to keep the gusher from spilling while these dollars secured leases on the surrounding territory. It is said that many of the men who worked on the hole secured valuable leases about the well. This territory was considered worthless up to that time and no one would take the land as a gift. It was on this farm that the famous "Bottle Ace" hole from Red Fork turned up its weary toes to the sun and ended.

Wealth poured into the pockets of Messes, Galbreath and Chesley. Out of the earth in golden streams, leather tanks, wood tanks, iron tanks, and every kind of tank were used to catch the oil. Thousands of barrels were wasted and millions were lost.

In the spring of 1906 creek season was built. The two working tanks there were the first built in this country. Oil flowed with the force of a geyser from the Glenn field in the tanks and was then pumped to the tanks that were being built around Jenks.

To care for the gushers, the storage tanks around Jenks were built in the fall of 1906. On November 23, 1906, J. F. Harrett, now a member of the city council, laid the first load of material to what is known as the "Red Tank Farm" on the Ishmael farm just north of Jenks. That was the beginning of the building of one of the largest tank farms in the state.

Only One Store in Town. At that time there was only one grocery store in town, run by N. M. Phipps, city treasurer of the town that was then in existence. He built his store in 1905 and there were not more than 10 people here at that time. A wagon trail over sand hills and through plum bushes marked what is today Main street. Some time later a hardware store was put in on the corner opposite the pres-

ent bank of Jenks building, and in the present bank site stood a hotel, completed hotel building, that has since been moved to the south side of Main street and is known as the "Hotel Jenks."

The tank building required thousands of laborers. This country presented the appearance of a typical Arab encampment. From the sloping sides of Turkey mountain to the low hills of the Potomac were pitched the white tents that housed the men. These laborers were not of the better class either. They hailed from many parts and many of them had different names than those of their parents. Fighting, drinking and gambling were their regular sports. Mr. Phipps did a wonderful business in his grocery store, averaging \$1,000 per month for six years, the highest amount being \$10,000. He had no trouble selling the goods and delivered wagons to Glenpool to a point west of Jenks and to Turkey mountain, field hands being located at these points. He carried the loads of these men workers, which required thousands of dollars. He felt fairly safe standing between two big machines, but admits that at times he wished he were standing behind a cannon.

Freighted Material to Glenpool

The coming of the Millard valley helped very much. This road was built into Tulsa in 1904. That same day a roadway was blasted along the base of Turkey mountain, and the road was built on through Jenks. The Glenpool field was brought in also the road was built, but all the material for the tanks and the equipment for creek station was freighted from Jenks with horses. It was usually dragged through mud and water.

The townsite was opened in the fall of 1905. There was no passenger train service, only a freight train with caboose attached. At first there was no agent. A man by the name of Copsey was manager for what is now the Acker Lumber company. He took possession of the depot and acted as a kind of freight agent. But when the train was late, he refused to act. As a result, people would have to hurry to the depot and flag the train, and then examine the incoming shipments to see if their goods had arrived.

Sunday school was held in the depot for a time. But era long the Glenpool field activities and the railroad officials to wake up, an agent was put in charge of the bus-

ness here and normal traffic relations followed.

These means were consigned to a commission house in Kansas City. There was no protection on shipments and this particular car was not heard of for about three months. Then Pritchett received a letter from the commission men who sent him a bill for \$5 to cover the freight. This, together with the fact that many of his shipments had been stolen, caused the melon grower to turn to a wagon through his tussamein patch, these men would whack open the melon and pour the seeds into the wagon bed. Later the seeds would be washed off in the river.

Thus Jenks has passed through nothing into what it is today. It had its struggle on a trail for a street, a depot with no agent, a thousand tents to cover the fleeing population, ferry boats to bring people to and from melons to feed the folks who never paid for them, and no school children to employ a teacher.

Philologists are unable to trace the sources of the Chinese language.

Pritchett Raised Watermelons

About the time this ferry was set up the postoffice was started in a building built of native lumber. C. F. Rogers was the first postmaster. After him came H. H. Hamilton, Ed Moore, Foster Jenks, after whom the town was named, and Charles Craven, the present incumbent.

During these early days a man by the name of J. W. Pritchett had a 40-acre melon patch south and east of town. He shipped many carloads one summer. One of these carloads averaged 42 pounds to the melon.

modern machinery. Complete it will represent an investment of more than \$100,000.

The factory will make rough rolled, figured and wire glass of all patterns and will have a capacity of one carload of finished product per day. It will employ about 75 hands, many of whom will be skilled employes.

The product of the factory will be sold in car lots only to jobbers. The plant will be able to compete with eastern manufacturing plants making the same materials, as equitable freight rate have been established on rolled glass from all competitive points to all points west of the Mississippi river and all of the product of the Okmulgee factory will be sold in the territory west of the Mississippi.

The Southwestern company was organized by Okmulgee men several months ago and practically all of the stock of the company is owned by Okmulgeans. The company is incorporated in Oklahoma with a

BIG GLASS PLANT STARTS NEW YEAR

Yearly Payroll at Okmulgee Will Be Increased by \$100,000.

Special to The World

OKMULGEE, Dec. 20.—Adding \$100,000 yearly to the industrial payroll of Okmulgee, the new factory of the Southwestern Sheet Glass company will begin manufacturing operations on January 1, 1920. The plant of the company is located in the southwestern part of the city on a 10-acre tract, the factory buildings covering about three acres. The factory is of fire proof construction throughout and equipped with the best and most

capital stock of \$100,000. The officers are W. B. Pine, president; P. Graham, treasurer, and J. H. Homnick, secretary and general manager. Mr. Homnick has had personal charge of the construction of the factory. C. E. Walls is superintendent of the plant and H. W. Bushley is master mechanic. Many of the latter came here from Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

Practically all of the materials used in the new plant and all materials used in the manufacture of the glass are obtained in Oklahoma. The factory will use natural gas from the great Okmulgee gas field as fuel and has its own water supply.

Hog Thieves Use Autos. ALBION, Mich., (Ips.)—Farmers in this section are being harassed by "hog thieves" who are capturing young pigs and hogs in large numbers, using high-powered automobiles to haul away their "swag."



Heilbron's—

The Christmas Store of Tulsa

Jewelry—The Gift of Love

Jewelry Gifts for Everyone in This Store Which Is Ready to Meet All Holiday Demands

SOMETHING festive about a Gift of Jewelry—something lasting in its sentiments. Complimentary in its choosing and thoughtful in its giving, is sure to be pleurably received. Whether your gift be for man, woman or baby, that gift is in this store.

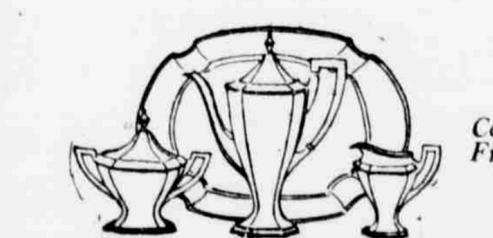
It is indeed a pleasure for us to be able to offer to the Christmas buyer of Tulsa the finest and largest collection of Jewelry in the SOUTHWEST. We do not buy from any one manufacturer, but select the best of jewelry from the best manufacturers and in this manner of buying, we are able to offer everything that is made in the jewelry line—and it doesn't cost you any more than ordinary jewelry.

- ### GIFT Suggestions for Women
- Diamond Rings
 - LaVallieres
 - Bracelets
 - Pearl Necklaces
 - Cameo Pins
 - Cameo Brooch
 - Gold or Silver
 - Vanity Cases
 - Gold Mesh Bag
 - Wrist Watch
 - Ladies' Watch
 - Dinner Ring
 - Cameo Ring

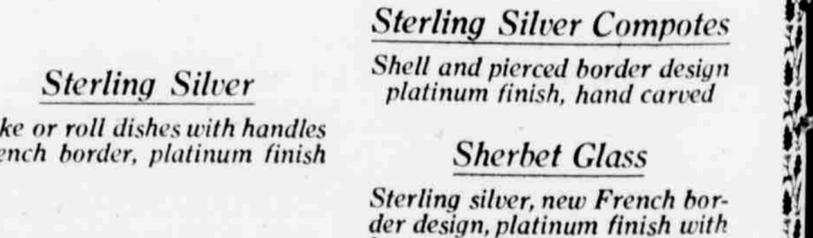
- ### GIFT Suggestions for Men
- Diamond Ring
 - Diamond Stud
 - Diamond Tie Pin
 - Cuff Links
 - Watch and Chain
 - Emblem Ring
 - Cigaret Cases*
 - Cigar Cases
 - Poker Sets
 - Toilet Sets
 - Military Brushes
 - Shaving Sets
 - Safety Razor



Gorham's Sterling Silver—added to the family silver at Christmas time will take a place among the gifts most prized. Many collections have been added to yearly from our noted selections—



Water Pitchers
Sterling Silver—Pierced border design—various sizes



Fruit and Salad Bowls
Sterling silver, pierced border designs

Harry Heilbron's JEWELRY

Open Evenings Until Christmas Second and Main

"With Love—From Dad"

Christmas will soon be here. Fathers everywhere are face to face with the problem of selecting suitable gifts for Christmas. Prices are high and in order to buy gifts that will measure up to former days you must spend more money than ever before. Why not make this a "Money Christmas." Show your love in a substantial manner. Instead of buying expensive, unnecessary articles, deposit the money at this bank to the credit of your boy or your girl. On Christmas morning the Savings Account pass book will be the best present your child ever received. Attach a Christmas card to the book bearing these words:

"Wishing you a MONEY Christmas. With Love, From Dad."

Can you show your love in a better way?

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TULSA
FOURTH AND MAIN
"The Convenient Corner"

