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CaneyValleyHistoricalSociety

“CANEY ”...

Queen City of Montgomery County!

By

O.J. “Bud” Bridenstine

CaneyValleyHistoricalSociety

Published For

The Caney Valley Historical Society

1993

Caney, Kansas

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* It should be noted that a number of the "Pioneers With a Destiny" biographies in chapter V have been written in a "style of their time" and do not necessarily reflect modern day sentence structure.

Preface

A few years ago while serving the City of Caney as its mayor, I had occasion to visit the city's hill top water treatment plant. Little did I realize at the time this same hill with the Caney River at its base was the home and "water station" for many Osage Indians in late 1860 and early 1870. One could understand the location was well selected considering its endless supply of fresh water and lofty perch overlooking the white man's slow but increasing settlement of the valley below.

Preparing to leave the hill top, unexpectedly my eyes caught a beautiful panoramic view of our fine city. For the first time I was viewing our town as an all encompassing community. A city nestled in a peaceful valley with a mantle of green foliage, blue skies, bright mid-day sun and pillows of white floating clouds . . . it was somewhat overwhelming! It seemed as though one could envision the total life and breath of our community in its many churches, schools, hospital, parks, commercial facilities and much more.

For the first time in my life I wanted to know more about the history of Caney and began to solicit information. Much to my disappointment most of the "Old Timers" were deceased and relatives of our founding fathers moved away. Only a few small booklets on some Caney early day activity existed. However, where there is a will there is a way and my quest for good Caney history was fruitful.

In view of the information made available, I have chronicled, edited and assembled it together into this book. It is my hope that it will be of historical interest to our citizens, friends and children, and that one future day Caney will again move progressively forward, being acknowledged as the "Queen City of Montgomery County"!

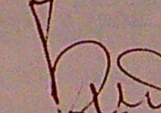
O.J. "Bud" Bridenstine

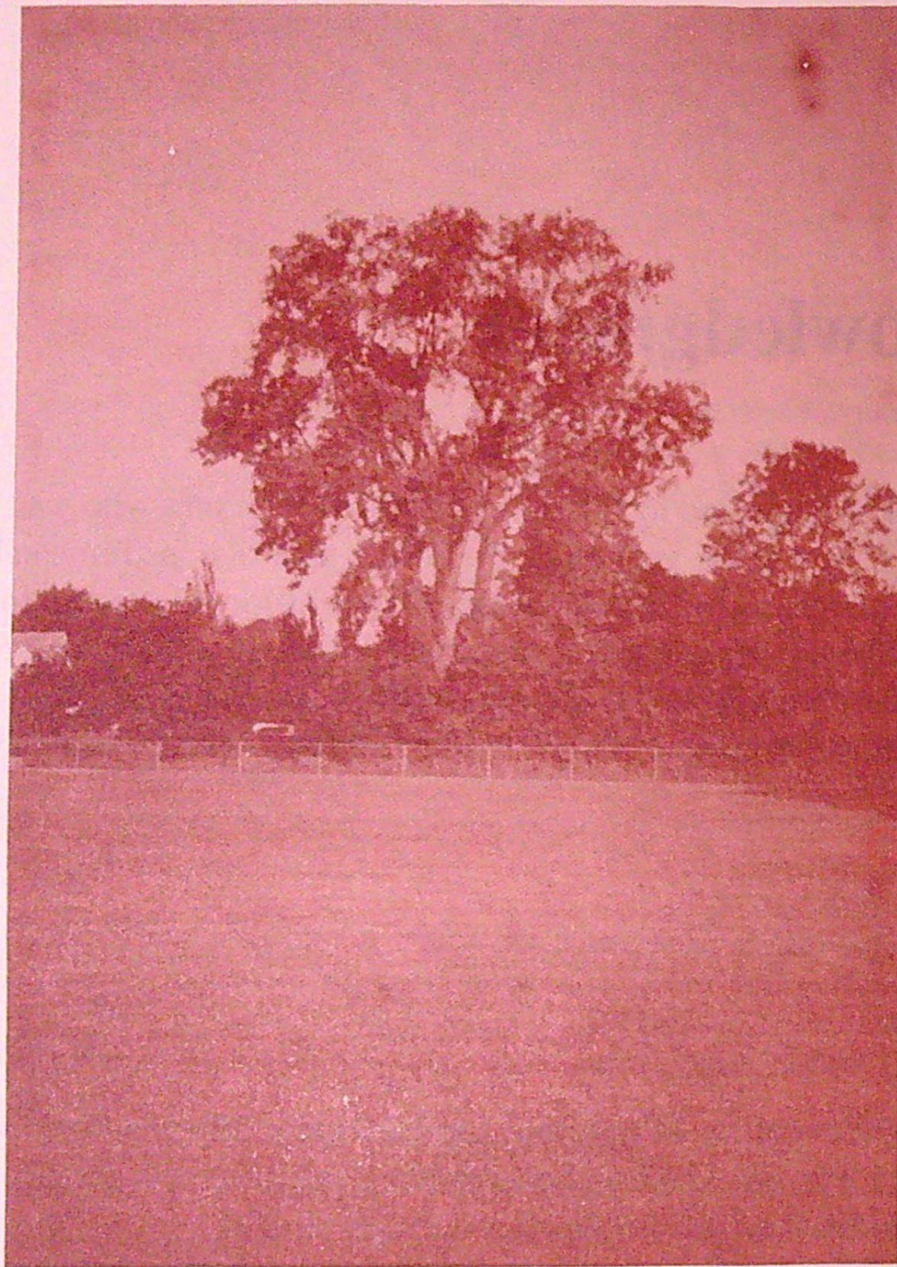
Acknowledgment

This book is dedicated to Mrs. Amy O. (Taylor) Graves who was the first white child born in Caney in the year 1874. She was a historian instrumental in compiling, after much research, memorabilia of early Caney history that heretofore was unavailable. She had intended to correlate the information into book form but was called to her rest September 11, 1950 before she could do so. We are indebted to her granddaughter, Barbara June (Graves) Hollingsworth for permitting the use of this information.

A special recognition of love and appreciation is directed to my wonderful wife and help-mate, Phyllis! She has tirelessly proof-read the many pages of this book and constantly provided me her encouragement and support.

Your caring husband and friend,


Bud



Caney's Tree of Life

Caney's Tree of Life

Years before the relentless, pioneering families came,
I began to grow on this valley floor, laying my claim.
Having a growing, adjusting and rather . . . placid life,
Observing the Osage, Cherokee and Cheyennes' strife.
Seeing them removed and leave for other Indian lands,
Living new found life without the white man's demands.
As cattle, horses and families came from the far East,
Settling beside the Cana River, with wagons and beast.
Choosing and staking their desire to old Mother Earth,
Starting a difficult "Life" . . . as a "new born" birth.

Yes, I saw a small village rise from dust to an adobe,
Some called it Cana, Caneyville or a spot in the road.
Finally, "Caney" was the name for all to know and hear,
As many seemed drawn to travel from far away and near.
The Farmer, Merchant, Cattleman and a Horseman's mare,
Life was never easy, but opportunity was always there.
Pushing aside pestilence, flood, drought and despair,
A very fine city they raised, from hard work and care.

Over 125 years I have keenly watched Caney's progress,
Known her perplexity, plight, successes and happiness.
Bereaved her losses and known that ever enduring love,
For those with needs, and seeking strength from above.
Oh, it's true, I too give thanks to that higher power,
As he sustains my life with wind and rain at any hour.
Watched as you erected many fine churches and schools,
Preparing the aged and young to live by life's rules.
Saw your industries come and go out as in times past,
Though your determination always prevailed . . . "to last"!

You're probably wondering now just where and who I am,
As one who can hear and see your every move and whim.
I've existed a windy and quiet life, yet one of bliss,
Though few have noticed that I am really in your midst.
Day and night and far above your fine city, I can see,
And if looking closely you will know, I'm a *Tall Tree*.
Oh, yes, it is often asked, how old could I possibly be?
I respond, counting my rings, one hundred fifty-three!

"Caney's Tree of Life," aged and mellow, a little shy,
Just go to CANEY's northwest corner of Orange and High.
I am still there, leaves, limbs, 150' up into the sky.
Who else has lived on this valley floor as long as I?
Well, I don't know, but can tell you this . . . before I die,
Many more will pass this way looking up and wonder why!

Chapter 1

The Early Years

To understand the founding Caney history and its heritage it's important to recall 2 previous historical events within the United States. First, that France, through Napoleon, sold in 1803 to the U.S. Government all land in Louisiana and a land-strip reaching north to the Canadian border (831,321 sq. miles) for a sum of \$11,250,000. This new frontier was to later include the state of Kansas in 1861 and Montgomery County in 1868. Secondly, the Osage Indians were to become a dominant population within the southeast Kansas area even before Kansas statehood. Their influence was to have a positive effect on Caney in its later years.

Historians do not agree as to the origin of the American Indian, but practically all of them agree that the Osage are a branch of the Siouan and/or Sioux Tribe of Indians. They originally emigrated from the eastern part of the United States, supposedly from the Allegheny and Monongahela River Valleys. They drifted to the forefront of early day white pioneers to the Ohio River and then to what later was to be Missouri and Kansas. The Osage, being meat eaters, also followed the buffalo as they too moved west.

The home of the Osage, when the white man first met them, was on the western banks of the Mississippi River in what is now the state of Missouri. The first record we have of such a meeting is the recorded meeting of these Indians by Father Marquette in the year 1673. When Auguste Chouteau established St. Louis, they were there in 1764.

In about 1780, near St. Louis, there was born to an Indian Chief and his wife, a male papoose whom they named Zhi-ga-wa-ca and who later was to become Chief Black Dog under the Osage's Principal Chief, White Hair. As the years passed the Osage and many other Indian tribes were forced westward and in the year 1847, we find them occupying the land on the Neosho River in what would later become eastern and central Kansas.

Since the Osage were making trips to the north and west each spring and all to their hunting grounds, they were in need of a trail of their own. They also needed it for mourning parties and for replenishing their pony supply. We are told that Chief Black Dog and his band planned and initiated this project. Under his direction stone axes were sharpened, special grubbing tools were made to grub sprouts and each group was assigned to certain work. The "Black Dog Trail" was cleared 30 horses wide with rocks and trees marked with characters and signs.

The trail was started near their camp where Baxter Springs, Kansas, is now located; for many days they went back to their village at night. This gave them a chance to visit with those left behind



Osage Indians 1871-1872

and to replenish the larder. Obviously, their work was very labor intensive and many months, if not years, were required to complete this project.

Near what is now Bartlett, Kansas, they camped in a wooded section, then continued to the present Coffeyville, Kansas and camped on Onion Creek. Here they stayed for and extended time. They made side trips over the Osage Trace which took them near to what is now Cherryvale and as far north as Humboldt, Kansas. One of their camping sites and trails southeast of Cherryvale is still clearly marked on huge rocks. The carvings are of double hearts and horses.

Continuing westward from Onion Creek, their next camp was near the Cana River in the prairie chicken country. Since the grass was somewhat shorter near the river, and the brush not so thick, they made more progress with the trail and found less work than to the east. It is probable that this Osage camp was near the old Indian water station on standpipe hill northwest of Caney. There remained Osage Indians at this location for several years.

Montgomery County in the mid 1860's was comprised of a portion of land that was set apart and known as the "Diminished Reserve" of the Osage Indians, including an area of 8,003,000 acres. However, there was a strip of land 2 to 3 miles in width and 30 miles in length along the east side of the county and bordering on Indian Territory to the south. This designated area was not part of the reserve, but was a portion of the territory called "Ceded Lands" which was purchased from the Cherokee Nation in 1867 and opened for settlement.

On May 27, 1868, a treaty with the Osage Indians was concluded at Drum Creek, Montgomery County for the disposition of the Diminished Reserve. This was popularly called the Drum Creek treaty or the "Sturgis Treaty." William Sturgis was the controlling spirit in its negotiation. By its terms the entire Diminished Reserve was to be sold to the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston Railroad Co. for \$1,000,000, or a fraction under 20 cents per acre. It was understood that Sturgis would be the indirect beneficiary of this obvious fraud. The treaty was thoroughly planned and successfully executed up to the stage of its submission to the United States Senate for ratification. The Indians were no doubt unduly influenced by the promoters and the retainers of the L.L. & G. Railroad Company. The treaty commission, with special interpreters, Indian agents, and advocates of the scheme had gone into Indian country accompanied by a detachment of the Seventh U.S. Cavalry, commanded by Capt. George W. Yates.

The commission was composed of N.G. Taylor, President; Thos. Murphy, George C. Snow, Albert G. Boone and A. N. Blackledge, Secretary; with 3 interpreters. Those signing the treaty by way of attesting the signatures (X marks) of the Osage Chiefs and their supporters were Alex R. Banks, special U.S. Indian agent; George W. Yates, Captain Seventh Cavalry; M. W. Reynolds, reporter for commission; Charles Robinson, I.S. Kallock, Mose Neal, W. P. Murphy, William Babcock and the interpreters Alex Beyett, Lewis P. Chouteau and Augustus Captain. The first Osage X mark was under the title of Josephy Paw-ne-no-pashe, White Hair, Principal Chief, followed by the Indian names of 106 other chiefs, councilors and braves of the Big and Little Osage Tribes. Indians signing the document who were known by many Montgomery County pioneers were Black Dog, Little Beaver, Nopawalla, Strike Ax, Wyohake, Chetopah, Hard Robe, Watisanka and Nelotumuni.

By the time this treaty reached the Senate the settlers on the reserve were aroused and their friends throughout the state and many newspapers shared openly their feelings and espoused their cause. A determined fight was made against the ratification of the treaty, led by Hon. Sidney Clarke, Kansas' sole Congressman. Senator E.G. Ross, a year later, had reported some of the problems to the Senate and so amended the treaty to divide up the lands with other railroad companies without adding to the price or making any provision for the interests or rights of the settlers. But Congressman Clarke did not relax in his bitter opposition. He brought to light the objectionable and unjust features of the treaty, stood for the opening of the reserve to actual settlers as the Trust Lands had been opened, and as a result of his protests and efforts and at his request, General Grant, soon after becoming president, on March 4, 1869, withdrew the treaty from the U.S. Senate.

Sidney Clarke framed and offered in the House, the section in the annual Indian appropriation bill, approved July 13, 1870, which opened the Diminished Reserve to actual settlers, at only \$1.25 per acre, excepting the 16th and 26th sections, which were reserved to the state of Kansas for school purposes. After a two-year contest he had prevented the consummation of a major swindle on Indians and settlers alike. The railroads, losing the rich prize which seemed almost securely within their grasp, combined in the campaign of 1879 against Clarke and defeated him for renomination for Congress.

At a council held at Drum Creek in September, 1870, arrangements were effected for the final removal of the remaining Osage to their new home in the Indian Territory, just south of the Kansas border. By the act approved July 15th of that year the President had been directed to make such removal as soon as the Indians would agree.

The Osage purchased 1.5 million acres of land from the Cherokees and then moved between 1870-'72 southwest to Indian Territory around a trading post, later called Pawhuska. The land purchased became the final and permanent home of the Osage and today is known as Osage County, State of Oklahoma.

The newly purchased government land in southeast Kansas was then opened for white settlers to homestead. Though some 3,150 Osage Indians and their Principal Chief, White Hair III, moved, a number remained living along the Cana River for several years. Some Osage with a few Cherokee and Cheyenne, on occasion in 1870-'72, passed through Caney. They were found at times looking into windows of some homes, causing quite a lot of excitement.

Scarcely had a white man's foot imprinted the soil on and near where our little city now stands. Here the wigwags had stood and council fires beheld the wise and daring of the Osage and a few Cherokee and Cheyenne.

The log cabin was the beginning of Caney. Late in the fall of 1869 the first reported white settlers moved in and settled on the west side of what was called the Cana River and later to the east, townsite of Caney. They were Ike and Dorinda Thominson whose son John was the first known white child born in the area. Also coming here were Dorinda's father, Bert Amos Holland, and family who settled nearby. And then the C.E. Bagdleys and J. Hardin Smiths arrived.

During the winter of 1869, Dr. J.W. Bell, not a practicing medical doctor, and family traveled to the area being the first tradesman. He conducted a small general store near what is now the crossing

of State and Fourth Streets. At this location a public well was dug by John Luppy. A rope and old oaken bucket made a water supply available to the town. It was from this point that nearly all early real property was surveyed.

At this time the Osage Indians continued to have a camp along the river and in the same year some of the settlers found a dead Cheyenne Indian in a creek near the J.P. Sheffield crossing. A tomahawk was found nearby wedged in a tree to mark the occasion. The Cheyenne had been traditional enemies of the Osage for many years so no one was really concerned; however, this event gave the creek its name, "Cheyenne Creek," which still remains today. Also, the crossing was named for Mr. Sheffield who had settled there.

Over the years a number of Osage people became a viable part of the Caney community and have continued until this day. They lived and contributed to the growth of Caney's agriculture, cattle and oil and gas industry. Some of those living in Caney were: William S. Brown, originally from Ohio, married Mary Jane (Stratton) Brown in 1857. She was a descendant of the Osage and they lived in Chico, California. Five children were born to their union before her early death. Mr. Brown and children returned to Kansas in 1866 locating at Baxter Springs. Being in the cattle business he later settled in Silver Lake, Osage Nation, Indian Territory. He married Margaret (Whipple) Brown in 1874 and moved to Independence, Kansas, where he was president of the First National Bank and a principal stock holder. In 1877 they located in Caney and established residence and again, a cattle business. Also, he was a director of the Caney Home National Bank in 1900.

Mr. Brown built a fine home in the southeast area of Caney which included 17 acres of grass land with an artificial lake fed by a flowing well-spring. The home has remained within the family and Mrs. Jean Lambdin now resides there.

Alfred H. Brown, son of Mary Jane and William S. Brown, lived in Caney for some time in his early years and was quite active in the Osage Nation. He became Principal Chief of the Osage Tribe of Indians and served that office in 1910 through 1912. He also served as an Osage Tribal Council member.

Charles W. Brown, son of Mary Jane and William S. Brown, also resided in Caney for some time and married Dora (Hampton) Brown of Bartlesville. He too served as Principal Chief of the Osage Tribe of Indians in 1918 through 1920, and was an Osage Tribal Council Member in 1916-1918 and 1930 through 1934.

While living in Caney, "Charlie," as he was called, was in the cattle business from 1890 until 1912 with ranches in Texas and Indian Territory (Oklahoma) handling seven to eight thousand head of cattle annually.

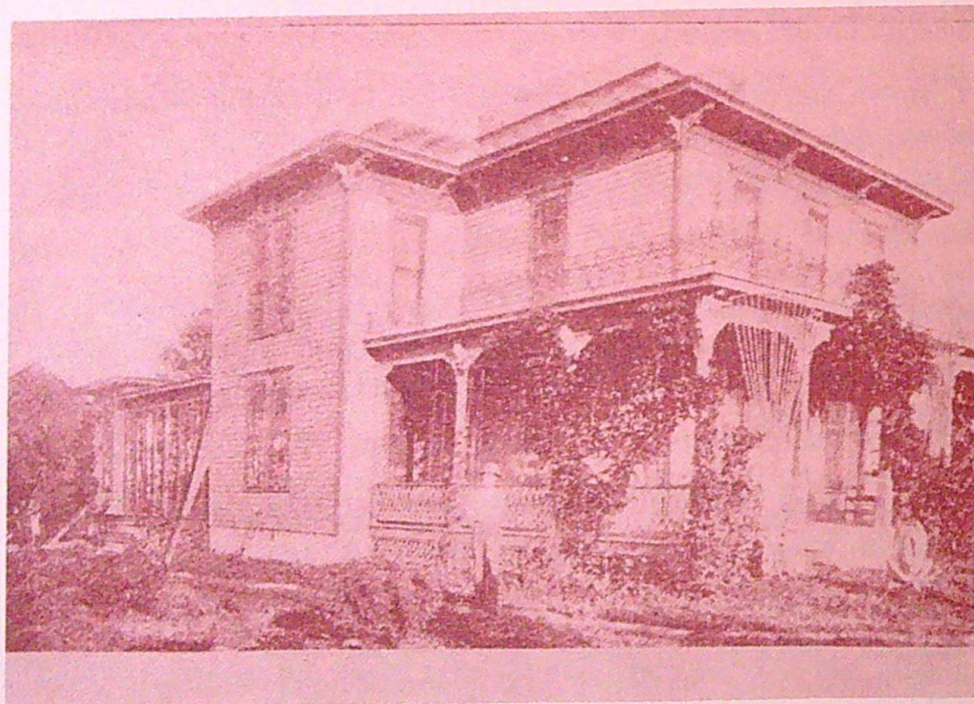
Frank Labadie, son of Frank and Susan (Secot) Labadie was born in 1860 and later was educated at Osage Mission School, Neosho, now St. Paul, Kansas. He was an original Osage allottee. He engaged in farming and ranching from 1871 to 1915 and then went into the successful business of buying and selling walnut logs for lumber.

Frank married Samantha Ellen (Miler) in 1884. They lived their early married years in an old log cabin near Hulah that his father had built in 1874. They moved to Caney, Kansas, where they

lived many years continuing in the walnut logging business. Becoming more prosperous, they lived in a fine two-story home at the corner of 210 South Wood. This home continues in use today and well maintained by its owner, Mr. Steve Buster.

Two of Frank and Samantha's 4 children, George V. and Paul, graduated from Caney High School. George was an excellent student, track and basketball star player. He was voted valedictorian of his senior class in 1911. He continued his education at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and graduated from their law school in 1916. He was also captain of the University of Michigan's basketball team in 1916. George became an Oklahoma Congressman, represented the Osage Indian Council and was on the Council from 1921 until his death in 1961. Paul, too, was an above average basketball and track star graduating in 1915.

Many other families of Indian heritage have benefited our fine city both in the past and today for which we are grateful.



W.S. Brown Residence 1889, now owned
by Mrs. Jean Lambdin



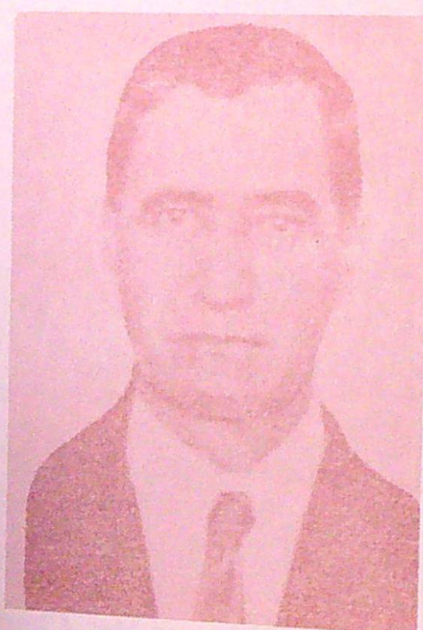
George V. Labadie
Osage Indian Council 1921-1961



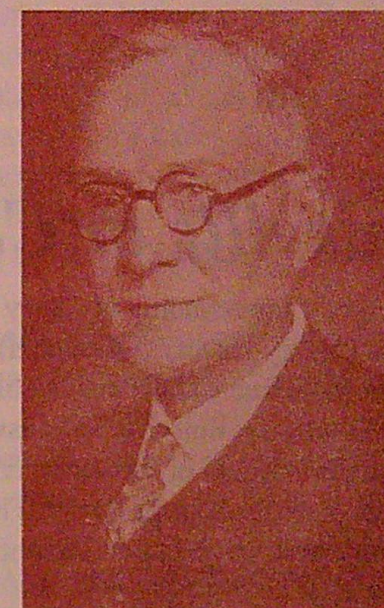
Previous home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Labadie and now owned by
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Buster



Principal Chief Paw-hus-ka (White Hair III)
Last Hereditary Chief of the Osage



Principal Chief Alfred H. Brown
1910-1912



Principal Chief Charles W. Brown
1918-1920

Chapter 2

Ennisville or Caney "First"

It would seem we can not actually report the founding of Caney until we discuss the village of Ennisville. According to the Washington County History (Oklahoma), the first settlement of white people in the northwestern portion of the Cherokee Nation was established for a unique reason and living today almost in legend. This was Ennisville, Enisville or Enosville located in what is now the northwest corner of Washington County, a mile south of the 96th meridian and a little west of the Robert L. Owen Ranch and Owen School, near the Kansas border. This settlement, first noted around 1867, grew up to serve the Texas cattle drives through Indian Territory into Kansas and Missouri.

Before it became difficult and finally impossible to drive cattle across the Kansas and Missouri state lines because of the prevalence of "Texas Fever," such settlements on the state borders provided stores, blacksmith shops and saloons for the cowboys, especially when the herds were held up or even turned back. These settlements of whites, flaunted the laws of the Cherokee Nation and frequently were the cause of much friction between the Indians and "intruders," the name then given to all who entered Indian Territory.

There were some white settlers in the northwestern portion of the Cherokee Nation and the Cherokee Outlet, bent on more peaceful pursuits perhaps, but nonetheless illegal.

Apparently there is no actual record as to which was settled first; however, Caney historian Ivan Pfalser provided an excellent article that stated the question of whether Caney or Ennisville was first may never be answered. Depending on which "old timer" account you read from the files of the Caney Chronicle, either could claim the honor.

Ivan Pfalser reported that the story of Ennisville goes back to the early surveys to establish the northern boundary of Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Its location was established by a government survey team based on a marker set in the middle of the Osage Chief's, White Hair III's village. The home of White Hair, the leading Osage Chief, was located in southeast Kansas. A later survey, 37° north (latitude) by 96° west (longitude), found that there was some error in the original survey and blame was naturally placed on the Indians. White Hair, like most chiefs, moved his village occasionally just to have a change of scenery or any other reason that might move his mind. So, who could be sure just where the border was if the survey starting point was a mobile Indian village?

As if Chief White Hair's actions were not difficult enough, the "Montgomery County History" record reported, the original government surveys of the border lands made by Capt. Poland were made in a very careless manner, the section and quarter section corners often being many rods from

where they should have been, and the surveys of the "Ceded" and "Diminished" lands were so loosely connected that in many cases there are quarter sections on the line between that have as much as 40 acres more than government deeds call for.

"Ennis of Arkansas" took advantage of this situation to set up a store or trading post on the east side of the only convenient shallow, rock bottom wagon ford on the Cana River leading to the west from the Coffeyville area. No doubt Ennisville probably received its name from Ennis though there is no documentation. Travelers had to travel several miles north or south on the river to find another safe wagon ford. The location was ideal for trade with the Indians and cowboys located to the south and the white settlers moving into the area to the north and west. Like most border towns it was the closest place to obtain liquor by the bottle or barrel. It has been told that on Saturday night the town really came alive and there were stories of fights and killings.

The community did have a sawmill which produced most of the native walnut lumber used to construct its homes and buildings. Also a reported cemetery was located east of town.

Ennis claimed that the settlement was on the north side of the Kansas-Indian Territory border and was perfectly legal.

An article in the Cherokee Advocate, the official newspaper of the Cherokee Nation, of the same period, boldly states that all illegal white settlers in Indian Territory, specifically mentioning Ennisville, would be removed by orders of the U.S. Government. The boundary surveys made at the time that the Osage gave up their Kansas lands and moved to Indian Territory confirmed that Ennisville was actually located south of the stated border. The Indian police moved the squatters in short time though many continued to remain.

The story is that some homes and buildings were moved to Caney by oxen and this may be the source of the statement that Ennisville was the origin of Caney. How many people were involved in the move? Published accounts range from a few to 50 and even as high as 500. The 500 is questionable as the 1870 census shows only 361 souls within the Caney Township.

It was reported that Capt. J.E. Stone, in order to solve the matter of Ennisville's location, was instrumental in having a civil engineer by the name of R.S. Cunningham of what was then known as East-Parker, come and make a new survey. He surveyed and laid out the southern border of Kansas. It was resurveyed in the 1950's and remains acceptable today. Following the Cunningham survey, Ennisville was confirmed to be in Indian Territory resulting in the stated relocation of some homes and buildings. In 1871 the government sent troops there and removed all remaining squatters and settlers.

Considering there was a cemetery at Ennisville, there must have been more than just a few people. Consequently 25 to 50 might be a good population guess. Oddly enough, Ennisville never achieved the status of having a U.S. Post Office. Caney received its post office on May 16, 1870. Jasper N. West was its first mail carrying postmaster. He brought the mail from a small village named Parker about 15 miles east of Caney.

Ollie Smith, whose father, Berryman Smith, homesteaded in Caney, told about "the boys" wanting to have some fun on Saturday night slipping off to Ennisville.

Chapter CXXXII of the "Laws of Kansas 1871" concerns construction of new roads in Kansas. Section 26 of the chapter reads as follows: "One (road) commencing at Fredonia, Wilson County, and running on the most practical route, via Elk City, Montgomery County, through Caneyville and on to Ennisville, the terminus. Commissioners: John McMahon and J.K. Halstead of Wilson County; and George Sherman of Montgomery County."

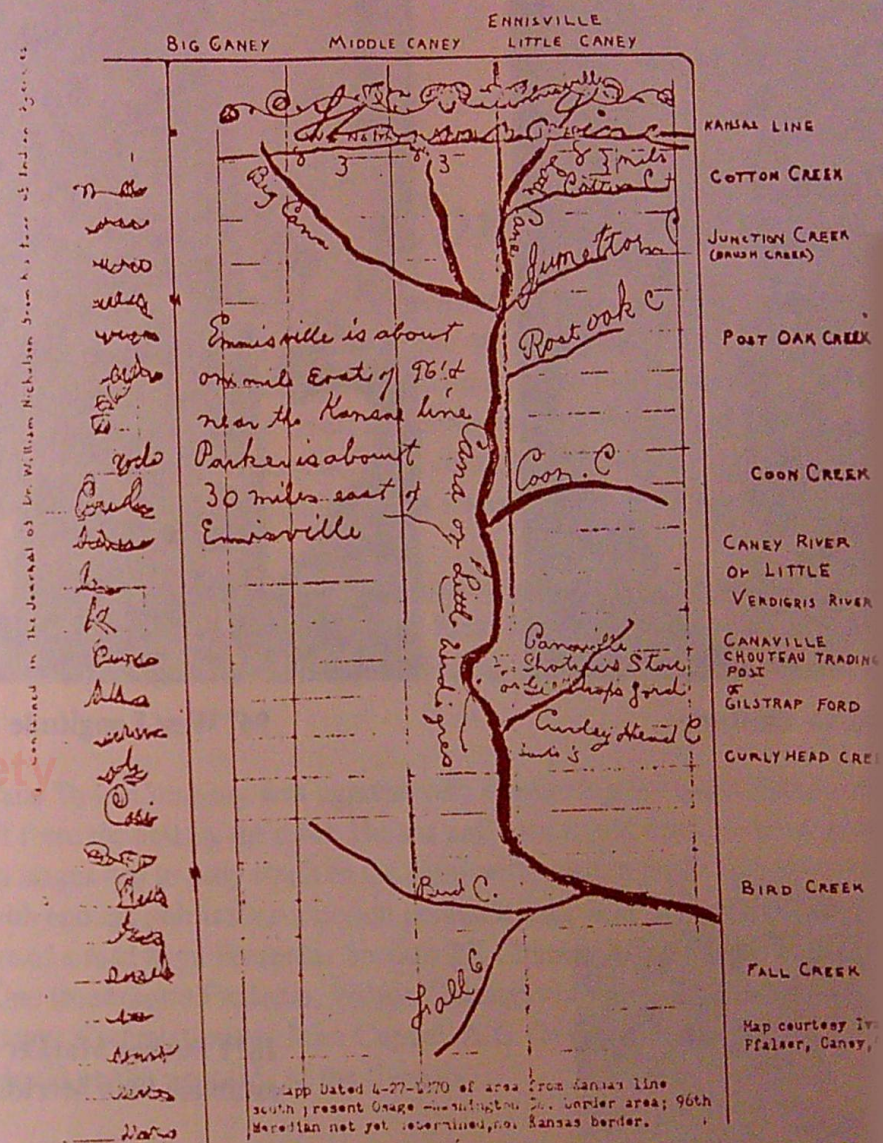
Another reference to Ennisville can be found in the journal of William Nicholson, who was a Quaker hired by the U.S. Government to make a survey of the conditions of the various Indian Agencies. On November 12, 1870, he rode horseback north from Shoteau's (Choteau's) Agency, past Coon Creek, Oak and Cotton Creek. Ennisville was about one mile east and near the Kansas border.

Parker was about 30 miles east of Ennisville. The Nicholson hand-drawn area map of his travels is provided in this chapter courtesy of Ivan Pfalter.

The life of Ennisville spanned the period from late 1867 to 1871 or early 1872. However, the Ennisville Ford continued to be a focus point for travelers passing through the area for many years until the first bridge was built west of Caney, across the then named Caney River.

Consequently, we see 2 communities approximately 2 miles apart developing at about the same pace. We hear no mention of schools or churches at Ennisville, but records show they closely developed at about the same time as the settlement of Caney.

Today there are no physical remains of Ennisville's existence, due to the U.S. Government's area flood control program. It's rather ironic that the same old Cana (Caney) River that created a "wagon ford" putting Ennisville on the map was years later responsible for providing a watery grave removing the townsite forever.



1870 Area map by Dr. Wm. Nicholson



37° North Latitude



96° West Longitude



1871 Survey Marker to
establish 96th Meridian

Chapter 3

Community of St. Paul

There was a third town in the race for prominence in the area. It was St. Paul located on the west side of the Little Cana River. A man by the name of Mark Knuckols founded the village in 1869. It was thought by many that the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Gulf Railroad would build their rail line on the St. Paul side of the river; therefore, it would be a good location for their village with growth possibilities. Mr. Knuckols placed his entire fortune into the project by building a large hotel at a cost of about \$3,000.00 and continued his interest in other community developments.

St. Paul straddled the Chautauqua, Montgomery County line and had been authorized a U.S. Post Office on February 21, 1870 with James Parkinson as postmaster. The post office was first established under Montgomery County jurisdiction, but later was declared to be in Chautauqua County.

The Cana Town Company was aggressively competing for trade of the settlers to the west who were cut off from the east by the river. Horses and men could ford the river at several places, but wagons and stages had to drop south to the Ennisville wagon ford. To help eliminate the problem someone with enough political connection persuaded the Kansas 1870 legislature to authorize the construction of a road from Fredonia. Section 23, Chapter XCVII of the "1870 State Laws" reads as follows: "One (road) from Fredonia, Wilson County, via mouth of Duck Creek to St. Paul, Montgomery County. Commissioners: John Cappel, A.E. Overman." They were also trying to entice the railroad to build on the west side of the river.

Caney had actually not taken much notice, politically, of St. Paul until it was found that residents had secretly petitioned for a school election with the intent of establishing a school there. Dr. A.M. Taylor, a Caney resident, rose to the occasion and defeated St. Paul for the honor. However, a later date St. Paul did become part of a school district in Chautauqua County and constructed its own school. The community did progress for a while having one of the major hotels in the area. Its cemetery continues to be maintained today though considerable damage has resulted from the Caney River flooding and causing the removing of a number of headstones. Prominent names on the remaining headstones are: McClure, Barger, Canaddy, Conner, Davis, Gorham, Hodihalch and Wagner. The cemetery is now called "McClure Cemetery."

St. Paul began to fade when the railroad announced it would build on the east side of the river, though actual construction did not begin for several years. Its post office closed on November 27, 1874. The hotel sat empty for several years and finally burned to the ground. Some of the old town buildings remained until the early 1900's when they were removed. The old school house was the

last building to be dismantled for its lumber in 1988.

One further point needs to be clarified. The name Cana or Caney appears through the above statements. During the 1870's and earlier the river was labeled the Cana River and the first plat of the community was filed by the Cana Town Company. The first 2 or 3 issues of the local newspaper some years later were the Cana Chronicle. However, by May 16, 1870, with the authorization of a post office the name was established as Caney. Some reports say the village was called Taylorville and Caneyville and such names did appear on some early county maps and documents but the name Caney apparently was favored.

St. Paul had its day in the sun and yet the early pioneers seemed to have passed it by. But, should the railroad have placed its tracks on the west side of the Cana River, just perhaps the community would be alive and well today with Caney being a name of the past.

Chapter 4

Caney Has Its Beginning

The year of 1870 was a new beginning for a number of pioneer families starting to arrive in the small village of Caney. As these dusty and travel weary travelers crested the northern hilltops overlooking the Caney valley below, it was a sight to behold. In later years, J.R. Charlton described this same panoramic view stating, "The colorful village was built upon a sandy knoll, skirted on the north by the beautiful stream, Cheyenne Creek, with its well-kept farms, on the west by the broad and rich valley of the Cana River, and on the south by the classic and limpid stream known as 'Mud Creek,' while upon the east lies the broad, rolling and productive prairie lands. No prettier site can be in all the country for a city, overlooking, as it does for miles, the surrounding country.

"Looking to the south and southwest one beholds the beautiful mounds, and tall-grass waving prairies, and the fringes of timber along the streams, where we found the farms and the happy dwellings of the Cherokee and Osage Indians who had accepted the fruits of the onward march of civilization.

"Looking off to the southwest as far as the eye can reach, are to be seen hills and rolling lands, where roam vast herds of cattle of the Osage Indian Nation. The Osage, unlike his Cherokee and Delaware brethren, had persistently refused to become civilized to any great extent. He disdains 'store clothes' and clings to the blanket and breechcloth of his fathers."

The number of residents living in Caney during the year 1870 is questionable, but there were probably not over 30 white adults. The 1870 census for all Caney Township shows only 361 people, while the 1880 census reported 1,115 people, a very modest growth over a 10-year period. There probably wasn't any real fast growth until the railroads had been constructed and even then it was relatively slow until the discovery of gas and oil and the resulting industrial boom of 1905 to about 1917.

Just who arrived first in 1870 and determined where the village of Caney would be located, will probably never be known. However, we do know that such early pioneers provided an open door for settlement. Dr. J.W. Bell, as previously mentioned, was established and was trading sugar, coffee, meat, flour and clothes pins.

The settlement was regarded as being somewhat "tough." Like all early day border towns, its population was strikingly cosmopolitan. The white man, the Negro, the Indian and the man whose blood was so mixed that his paternity could not be discovered by the color of his skin or the shade of his hair, mingled together on the streets of the frontier town. A number of people were transient

traders and of course several farm families lived outside of the town limits. All in all there seemed to be a goodly number of people on a daily basis keeping the community quite active.

In the early summer of 1870, O.M. Smith engaged in the mercantile business. "O.M." as he was familiarly called, was then a single man. He had a small stock of merchandise, and he cooked, ate and slept in his store building. Jasper N. West built the first log cabin in Caney, located on what is now South Wood Street, and it was the first and only place for the weary to take rest, and have their hunger satisfied and thirst quenched. Old Uncle Robert Hammill, in the early spring of 1870, rode into town with his 2 sons and 4 head of Texas cattle and located on a farm north of Caney. About the same time John Badgley and family located on an area farm which was later owned by J.A. Fleener, a blacksmith.

Other early Caney settlers and families in 1870 were Bill Copen, Dr. A.M. Taylor, Capt. J.E. Stone, J. G. Woodruff, Dr. Stout, Ed Cochran, Berry Smith, Uncle John Hodges, R.A. "Dave" Howard, Jim White, Ennis of Arkansas, Dr. Tann, Billie Emehiser, John Foote and more. J. Hardin Smith, living in a log cabin, was the first reported barber and was followed by Nick Summers, the second barber.

The mail came from Kansas City to Baxter Springs, then to Chetopa, and on to Parker by stage, south of Coffeyville. Jasper N. West, Caney's first mail carrier, rode horseback to Parker once a week and picked up and returned with the mail.

An early pioneer, Mrs. Mary Welch, reported some years ago that she was 14 when she and her parents arrived at the Caney settlement in 1870. They came from southern Illinois in wagons and located in a log cabin close to the J.H. Smith family. She immediately entered school, which was being conducted in the Berryman Smith log cabin. A year later she said they were having church and school in the new little white school house but there were sad times for all resulting from much sickness and a good many deaths.

Mrs. Welsh said that one year a number of people did not want to have any school, because of having such hard times. One woman stated she did not think it right to pay a teacher and for others to live "on the tail of nothing."

By 1872 the hardened pioneers were established and settled in for a struggle of willpower and patience, always looking forward to the next year hoping it would be better than the last.

The grass which kept their cattle fat during the summer served as dry feed in the winter. But it also was always a potential hazard for producing a prairie fire. Such was the case when S.W. Wood and family arrived on October, 1872. The whole area was ablaze. After saving as many homes as possible, the men were concentrating their efforts on saving the new school house. Luckily, most of the crops were already harvested so the fire didn't cause too much damage.

For quite sometime the people had been trying to get the county commission to build a bridge across the Cana River west of town without much success. The commissioners ignored them mainly because they were not sufficient in number to have much voice during election, and the commissioners were building bridges where the votes were.



Berryman and Lucenda Smith 1874

They were building a new iron bridge across Drum Creek near Independence when its foundation collapsed. A long debate ensued as to whether to continue construction. In the meantime, a group from Caney, with the help of Capt. J.E. Stone, got together several teams of good horses and wagons and proceeded to remove the bridge. When the commissioners found it gone, they made all kinds of threats but finally consented to allow it to be built across the Cana River, where it was found neatly stacked ready for construction. The abutments of the old bridge remained for years north of the present new structure. The bridge allowed direct access to the sand hills area without the long drive south to the Ennisville wagon ford.

The hardest year yet for the settlers was probably 1874. First came the grasshoppers, which descended like a plague over Indian Territory, Kansas and Nebraska. Crops which had been planted early were not badly affected but the late crops were pretty well wiped out. Then the chinchbugs took over doing their damage, and again dry weather set in doing its damage.

The Berryman Smiths sold out and moved to the sand hills in hopes of finding better conditions, and others joined the movement. Like a rainbow after the storm, the next few years were better. Sid White and Bob Dunlap put in a store in a building that had been moved from Ennisville. Dunlap had been an old trader among the Osage Indians; consequently, they carried on an extensive trade with both the settlers and Indians. White eventually sold out to Dunlap who in turn sold out to a man by the name of Mr. Gering. Louis Epstein then purchased the stock and moved it to his store. Also, the building was sold to Henderson & Combs. The building was finally torn down and Henderson and Jake Bartles of Bartlesville, Indian Territory, built a stone building on the site, which was later destroyed by fire.

Capt. J.E. Stone returned to Caney from Independence in 1876, taking up residence with his wife and son on the northeast corner of Wood and Fourth Streets. At that time Fourth Street west of State Street was nothing more than a lane leading to the Stone residence. That same year Elisha

Booth and family moved to Caney with a large stock of goods and erected a building on the main street. Dr. A.J. Stout was also an early settler in Caney, arriving about the same time as Mr. Booth.

A Cana Town Company was organized in 1872 with J.E. Stone, President. The 16 blocks platted, centering on the intersection of State and Fourth Streets, were laid out. However, the final plat of this area was not filed for record until 1883. A second Caney Town Company was formed in 1886 with J. E. Stone, President.

In the late 1870's a water mill was built by a man named Barrett on the Caney River south of the present city water pumping facility, but there is no evidence of it today. Just below the mill was a shingle-making plant, which operated for several years.

On May 15, 1885, it commenced raining west of Caney in Chautauqua County, and about noon it started raining hard for a period of about 9 hours. A cloudburst ensued resulting in a major flood. The flood did not reach Caney until Sunday morning, May 17, or at least people were not aware of it until then. Early that morning the inhabitants of Caney were aroused by the firing of guns, cries for help, etc. These cries kept up for 3 days as during that Sunday night the flood waters had come silently but swiftly upon them. Another cloudburst east of town caused Mud Creek to quickly overflow so that Caney was surrounded by water on 3 sides, east, south and west. The water came down in a wall 4' high, crushing and carrying away everything that opposed its forces. Rafts and boats were quickly constructed to render assistance. The water reached as far as Spring Street, and boats were launched in what was Tom Truskett's back yard. The flood extended into Indian Territory beyond the Big Caney River.

Small houses were washed away, while the water reached to the second story of some homes. Pigs, chickens, horses and cattle were carried along in the current to destruction. Fifty horses that could see were drowned while 7 that were blindfolded reached safety. One blind mule reached a hedge fence, and reared on his hind legs, put his front legs in the hedge and stood with his head 18" out of the water.

G.W. Swirl and family lived on Cheyenne then, and the water reached to the upper story of their home. They were taken out of an upstairs window and brought to safety by a boat sent to rescue them. Another incident resulted when a young married couple was rooming at the Booth residence. She wanted her husband to get one of those boats and take her boat riding, and when he refused, she cried.

The flood area also included the Elk and Verdigris Rivers, and its effects upon farmers was probably worse than the grasshopper plagues of 1874-'75. All told, 11 persons lost their lives.

Obviously, these few pages included in "Caney Has Its Beginning" touch only briefly on the actual beginning years and activity of the Caney settlers. However, as you continue to read the remaining chapters, most of the untold past's important events are included for your interest.

Chapter 5

Pioneers With a Destiny

C.E. Badgley

C.E. Badgley reported in an article for the Caney Chronicle that he and his family arrived in the area May 10, 1869. They came by wagon and made the journey from Springfield, Illinois, to sunny Kansas with 2 months of hard driving. They were delighted with the country and said it was nothing but just that, country! There was not a house this side of the Verdigris River until the settlers cut logs and erected crude but comfortable houses. Fort Scott at that time was the frontier post. The old fort that had been used for years was still standing and was looked upon with wonder and reverence. A vast plain extended from Fort Scott to Chetopa. They saw only one house between these 2 places. About 2 dozen shanties made up the town of Chetopa and a little flatboat was used as a ferry on the Neosho River. A dollar was the fare for one wagon to cross. From Chetopa west was a wild, unsettled country, no settlement except the Osage Indians who roamed the country hunting, fishing and participating in festivities of their tribe. On the east side of the Verdigris River was a log cabin used as a trading post called Westphalia. Just west of the river on Onion Creek was a large Indian village. The head chief of this Osage band, a tall stately warrior, was known as Black Dog. As the Badgley family passed through this village they were warned to turn back, but having an interpreter they determined to continue their journey. They moved on quickly and took a claim on Possum Creek, but soon learned they were in Cherokee Territory, so they moved on and settled in the Caney valley, where they remained.

Many weary days were endured in paving the way to civilization. The houses they had were made of logs with clapboard roofs and weight poles to keep them from blowing off. There were no floors in the houses, which had nothing but a fireplace to cook by with the old-time oven and lid. Candles were used to light up the cabins, and a roaring fire in the old fireplace made home very comfortable.

They had neighbors within 3 miles who were quite neighborly which was appreciated. From that time on the prairie schooners drove within sight daily and the wilds of Caney soon began to fade under the advance of civilization. However, settlers were in the constant concern of roving bands of Indians. Many rumors were out that the Indians were going to raid the settlement, so doors were securely barred at night and the trusty rifle hung on the wall. The old-time muzzle loading shotgun and powder horn ornamented the walls of all homes in the settlement. Many of the women learned to handle a gun and would have put up a good fight if necessary.

Mr. Badgley reported settlers in and around Caney had many hardships to endure; sickness and death came to many neighbors. Plain coffins made of native lumber were provided by the house carpenters for the sum of \$7.00. Hard times were felt by many of the people. The grasshoppers visited and cleaned up about every farm crop. Then the chinchbug had its untimely arrival and took what was left. As though that was not enough, the drought set in which made many think they were up against a losing proposition. At a later time many did manage to have their first wheat crop and it was burned by the Indians after it had been placed in the stack. There was a scarcity of flour in the county forcing many to use cornmeal instead. All this did not dampen the pioneer spirit for those who came to stay and to overcome the many difficulties.

On the brighter side, there was plenty of sorghum molasses. Much of the sugar cane in the area was ground and molasses was in good supply. Neighbors and friends did visit, care for the sick and comfort those in distress.

It was this same C.E. Badgley, who endured such difficult times in the settlement of Caney, that managed its first newspaper in 1885 for C.J. Reynolds. It was called the Caney Chronicle and one year later he reported "this paper is here to stay."

Uncle Dave Howard

Another early pioneer was David Alexander Howard who was one of our first 2 blacksmiths, located where the Winkler Pharmacy building now stands. He and his good wife Mary Ann and family traveled by wagon from Ohio in 1870. He was affectionately known as "Uncle Dave" and she as "Aunt Mary" Howard.

One of their sons, R.A. "Bob" Howard, later arrived with his wife Emaline and children from Oregon in 1872. He too, operated a blacksmith shop and later a stage line, livery stable, restaurant and dry-goods store. He also moved buildings and was instrumental in moving the Little White School House after it was abandoned in about 1915. He moved one section of the building to a location on South Foreman where it was home for the family until his death in 1936. At a later date one of his sons C.E. Bud Howard and family lived there until his death in 1948. We will comment more on this building at a later time as we address "Caney Schools."

Dr. A.M. Taylor

In any western community there is always a group of choice spirits who are referred to as "old settlers." They are the people who initiated things, who saw the infant community, as it were, shake off its swaddling clothes and start forth on its journey to maturity. Caney is not without these honored witnesses to her birth and her early infancy, and the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph is one of them. Dr. Andrew Taylor was the first physician to settle in Caney, and has the further distinction of being the parent of one of the first white children born within her limits.

Dr. Taylor was born in Franklin County, Maine, October 9, 1834. His father, William Taylor, was a native of the same state, as was also his mother, whose maiden name was Amy Oaks. The parents were farmers by occupation and lived out their days in their native state, respected and honored citizens. The husband died at 70, the wife at 50 years of age. Their family having consisted of 8 children.

Dr. Taylor was raised on the farm, his pre-scholastic education being received in the little log school at that early period. He was later given a good literary education in an advanced academy, and at 21 he began the study of medicine through an association with his brother, Dr. T.G. Taylor. For the completion of his medical studies, he came out to the great West, attending the Rush Medical College. It was here he graduated in the class of 1858 and immediately started on his practice at Packwaukee, Wisconsin. Twelve years were passed at this point when the doctor changed his location to Hancock, where the war found him busy in his work, but not to so a great extent as to be drawn to the distressed cry of the slave. He enlisted as a private soldier in Company "D," Thirty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which organization he served to the close of the war, for the most part in hospital work. He was appointed hospital steward, the assistant surgeon, and finally advanced to be surgeon of his regiment.

Taking up practice again at his home, he remained in Wisconsin, until 1869, when he came to Kansas. In his family life, Dr. Taylor was especially blessed. He and his good wife traveled life's road together and were the proud parents of 3 children. Mrs. Taylor bore the name of Fanny S. Babcock prior to January 5, 1858, when she consented to join fortunes with the rising young physician of the community. They were united in marriage in La Cau, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Amasa and Betsy (Angel) Babcock and was born in New York state. Of the 3 children born to them, Amy G. (Taylor) Graves, born in Caney, died at age 76 years. Charles O. lived to the age of 40 years and little Willie died at age 9.

Dr. Taylor and family arrived November 30, 1870, from Wisconsin in a covered wagon and settled near the town of Caney, Kansas. The night they arrived they camped in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Ireland who lived in a log cabin on the Caney River. They lived for a week in their wagon while building a log cabin. It stood near where our water pump station is located today. The cabin was windowless and had no door, so they hung blankets to keep the cool air out. That night came a heavy snow storm and before they could get up in the morning, Dr. Taylor had to climb up to the attic and remove the snow and then clean the snow off the beds and floor. How homesick they all were, and they reported they had come to a country that "God had almost forgotten."

After living in their log cabin for a month they moved into Caney on New Year's eve. The house they moved into stood where Cavis's feed store was previously. Eventually they moved into a house they had moved from Ennisville and located where Consumer Market is today. Dr. Taylor operated out of his home for some time and later moved into the D.H. Smith building where he continued his medical practice with a drug store. This building remains today on the northwest corner of Fourth and State Streets.

When the Taylors moved to Caney there were but 3 wood frame houses in the village, and the country was full of Indians that had not left the "Ceded Lands" as yet. The doctor was appointed trustee of the township, and in that office laid out all the roads about Caney, a task so well accomplished as to necessitate but one or 2 later changes. During all these years he had been continuously in the medical practice, though in later years he confined himself to an office practice in connection with his drug store business.

No more honored and highly respected citizen lived in Caney than Dr. Taylor. He was ever the friend of the poor and no one worthy went away uncared for. His convictions and strength of character combined with his great interest of everything in Caney, endeared him to the entire community in

which he lived and gave the best years of his life. He was prominently and honorably associated with its entire history, and no doubt he could have looked back with a consciousness of having been the means, at least in part, of building up a community that was to become the "*Queen City of Montgomery County*."

Capt. Joseph E. Stone

Another major contributor to the early development of Caney was Capt. Joseph E. Stone. He was the eldest son of Jonathan and Sarah (Stevens) Stone. His birth date in the state of Maine where he was born in Waldo County was on the 26th day of July, 1842. His parents were by occupation farmers. These parents reared a family of 5 children. Capt. Stone passed the days of his youth and young manhood on the home farm, his early education being that which was common in those days in the county districts of the east. With this as a foundation he attended session at the Maine State Seminary, and at the early age of 16 had qualified himself for the noble work of a teacher. He taught successfully for a period of 5 years in the county districts about his home.

As the rumblings of war became more and more distinct the young teacher followed events with an all absorbing interest and when opportunity offered he was ready to offer his life as a sacrifice to his country. He enlisted as a second lieutenant in Company "B" of the 44th U. S. Colored Infantry, a regiment recruited with white officers and colored troops. At a later date he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, which position he was holding at his discharge. He participated in several important engagements and was at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. His regiment was sent to the extreme South immediately after the surrender and he was mustered out in the city of New Orleans. The military, however, had proved so fascinating that he soon re-enlisted in the regular service, this time as a first lieutenant of Company "B," 125th Colored U.S. Infantry. In this position he experienced service on the plains for 2 years and then closed his military life at Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, in December 1867.

A trip to the old home in Maine preceded his settlement at Lee's Summit, Jackson County, Missouri, where he conducted a commission business until the spring of 1870. At this point the record is somewhat controversial as some report that Capt. Stone moved to Ennisville, which a short time later was declared in Indian Territory. He and others then moved to Caney. The record states he moved to Caney May 11, 1870 and took up a quarter section claim just north of our current water treatment facility where he batched in a log cabin. Eventually he became one of the largest land owners in the county. His land holdings developed into some 1,200 acres, 500 of which adjoined the Caney city limits.

Capt. Stone figured actively in the development of Caney. In 1874 he organized the "Cana Town Company" that included 160 acres of land. The members were O.M. Smith, J.H. Smith, Berryman Smith, J.H. West, J.G. Woodruff and J.E. Stone. The land was platted with their claims starting at the city well (intersection of Fourth and State St.). This venture failed, and in 1886, the New Caney Town Company was organized, of which he became president with C.C. Black, secretary. They purchased 240 acres of land north of Caney. This was platted and became a part of the city proper.

He had initially purchased a house from J.G. Woodruff that stood about where Atwood & Carinder later located their hardware store. It had originally been moved from Ennisville to Caney

and then relocated to the northeast corner of Fourth and Wood Streets. It was then enlarged to a handsome residence and served the family for many years.

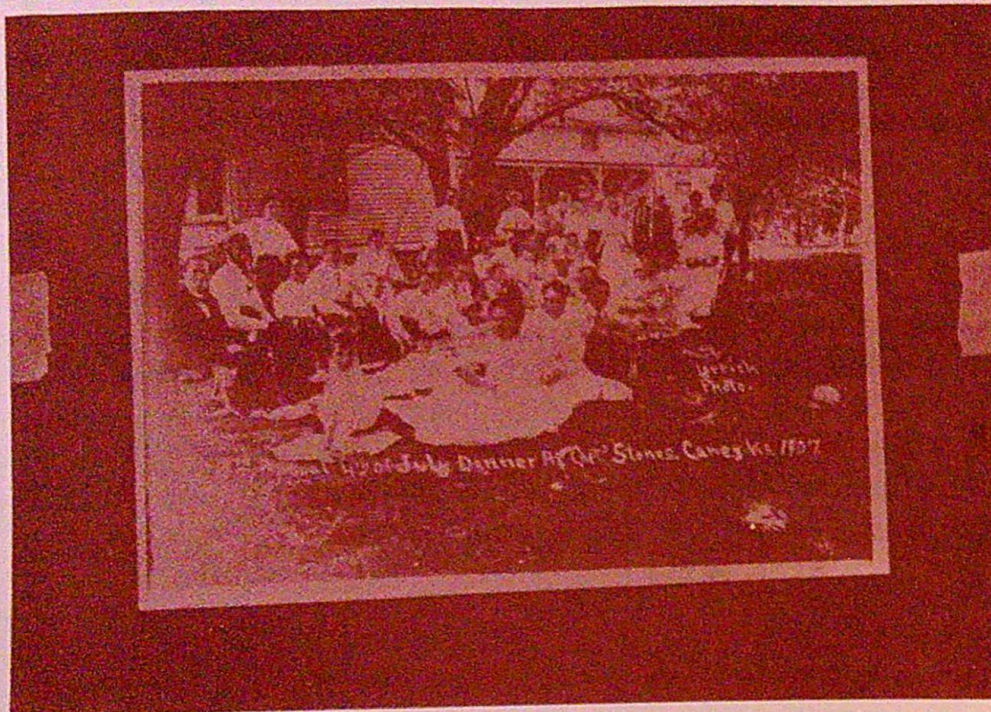
The public life of Capt. Stone was both active and productive. In 1870 he moved to Independence, the Montgomery County seat. There he served 2 terms in the office as sheriff. While serving his second term as county sheriff in 1874 he married Anna Vansandt and returned to Caney. She was the mother of 5 children who were Arthur F., Herbert G., Myrtle May, Roy M. and Edwin Earl. Her early passing, May 16, 1897, was mourned by a large circle of friends and family. In later years on June 11, 1916, he married Mae Wallingford from Mound Valley. They were blessed with one daughter, Grace Esther. Mae passed away December 12, 1960, while living on their farm southwest of Caney.

Capt. Stone served the city of Caney as postmaster from 1897 until 1902. During his service as postmaster the office had passed from a fourth class to presidential office. In financial circles Capt. Stone was known far and wide. He was vice-president and one of the principal stock holders in the Home National Bank of Caney and regarded as one of the solid men of the southern part of the state. He was most active in political life and his wise counsel and efficient management as chairman of the Republican County Central Committee was well received.

Forceful, yet generous to a fault, helpful in his association with friends and neighbors, Capt. Stone merits the large measure of esteem in which he is held in both Caney and Montgomery County.



J.E. Stone



**J.E. Stone Family Picnic
on 4th of July 1907**



**Bert Stone and wife ready
for 4th of July parade 1907**

Edward Cochran II

Edward Cochran II, son of Edward I and Jane McClay Cochran, was born on Sept. 11, 1839, at Ardmore, near Londonderry, Ireland.

In the year 1860 he left his family and struck out for new horizons in the United States of America. It was here he became fascinated with the new sewing machine and began to sell this product with some success.

In the spring of 1861 he was traveling in Georgia doing very well with sewing machine sales, when word of the attack on Fort Sumpter, South Carolina, reached him. There had been some talk of dissatisfaction on the part of the southern states, even a rumor or two of secession from the union of 11 southern states. The actual outbreak of the attack and war came as a complete surprise to Edward and many other citizens of the United States.

On August 29, 1861, he joined Company "H", 4th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Cavalry at Lincoln, Illinois, as a private. At the time of his enlistment he was described as being 5'7" tall, with dark complexion, hazel eyes and dark hair. Middletown, Illinois, was given as his place of residence at the time of his enlistment. He gave his occupation as farmer and stated that he was born September 11, 1842, at Tompkins County, New York.

Edward witnessed the surrender of General Joseph Johnston's Confederate Army in late April, 1865, after General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army at Appomattox, Virginia, on April 9, 1865.

He finished his tour of enlistment on the Mexican border and was discharged from the Union Army on May 26, 1866 in Illinois. From late in 1866, to early 1870 he worked at the Illinois State Penitentiary in Joliet, Illinois. His military background and war experiences had prepared him well for handling of prisoners and prison routines.

On October 10, 1870, he filed for a homestead of 160 acres in Montgomery County, Kansas, at Independence, Kansas. He later purchased 160 acres of "school land" at \$1.00 and \$1.25 per acre. This acreage is located 3 miles north and one-fourth mile west of what is now Caney, Kansas.

Many of Edward's new friends and neighbors were veterans of the recent conflict. Bill Easling had been a prisoner of war at Andersonville, Georgia. His friend, Howard Cook, a former army captain and Joe Bennett, both from the Confederate Army, were but a few who lived nearby. The entire community sought to forget their differences and build new lives around this southeast Kansas border town.

Edward deeded one acre of his land for the community school house which later was called Stony Point and to which his own children eventually attended for part of their education. The school house was built in 1872 and was located about one mile north of his farm home and east of what was called "Cochran's Hill."

Edward worked diligently many long hours clearing the land and proving the farm. He traveled many miles to select good cattle and other livestock for his farming operation. He built a modest home for his own comfort and good outbuildings to make the farm work as simple as possible.

Mules were used to work the ground and as reported, when they were not too stubborn. Edward always had hired men to help with the farm and cattle. His farm progressed rapidly.

In 1871 he became a charter member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at the Caney Masonic Lodge. During the early 1870's he worked as a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County under "Cap" Stone. It was during this period of the 1870's and while serving as deputy sheriff he encountered his share of the criminals of southeast Kansas. This area was generally peaceful and everyone tried to uphold the law and to get along with each other. There were some thieves and a few murderers, all of whom were apprehended, and most were duly punished for their crimes.

The most memorable experience of this era was serving on the "Bender Posse." The Bender family came to Cherryvale, Kansas in early 1871 and built a one-story frame house on the main road from Fort Scott, Kansas, to Independence, Kansas.

The elder Benders's were in their sixties and spoke with a heavy German accent. Their son John, was fair looking, but reported to have a blank stare on his face most of the time and to laugh an unusual high-pitched laugh at the most disconcerting times. Their daughter Kate was quite nice looking and had a flirtatious way about her. She had dark auburn hair and dressed with great care so as to make a striking appearance. She, too, had a rather wild and startling laugh.

In 1875 the George Ripley family purchased the farm nearest Edward which adjoined his acreage on the south side. George Ripley was a veteran of the "war between the states," having served from the state of Illinois. The 2 men had much in common and became close friends.

From 1877 to 1880, Edward worked at the Nebraska State Penitentiary at Lincoln, Nebraska, to earn money to increase his farm acreage and to make improvements to his present farm. During this 3 year period he found one man confined there whose name was Land and whose parents lived in the Caney, Kansas, area. It was sad to find a young man of one's own community turned horsethief and imprisoned in a distant state. He wrote to the parents and they in turn corresponded with their son, who never returned to the parents' home. The Land family admired Edward for everything he tried to do to help their son.

During the early fall of 1879, 2 prisoners escaped from the penitentiary. Edward was ordered to "search, find and return" the prisoners. He was the only man assigned to the case. His equipment was not the best and consisted of one gun, one horse and saddle.

Trailing wanted men and investigating criminal cases in the sparsely settled areas of Nebraska and westward was no small task. The people who lived along the trails were reluctant to answer questions about anything. They were often in danger from strangers and sometimes even afraid when a law officer identified himself by showing his badge and credentials.

The 2 desperate men he sought killed a family along the trail and obtained horses, clothing, supplies and trail equipment. They were escaped criminals and now became thieves and murderers.

Edward eventually traced them to Cheyenne, Wyoming. He heard of 2 men fitting the escapees' descriptions who were heading southward into the mountains of Colorado. There had been bad weather and more was on the way. He knew he had to catch them before they found some sem-

blance of security in the mountains ahead of the oncoming winter storms. Edward had been almost 2 months on the trail across Nebraska and into Wyoming. Each mile he traveled made him more determined than ever not to give up his pursuit. Somewhere between Cheyenne and Denver, a blinding snowstorm enveloped him. He thought this would be the end of his life and that he would be frozen to death, lost along an unmarked trail. To keep alive, he had to keep his horse moving until he could find some place of protection from the storm and attempt to keep man and horse from freezing to death.

It was mid-afternoon when the storm howled down out of the northwest. Finally he could go no farther, so he prepared to make a pine limb lean-to shelter from the storm. As he gathered the pine limbs he heard horses snickering nearby. He hurriedly strapped his feed bag over the nose and mouth of his horse to muffle any sound his exhausted horse might make. The snow was falling in huge flakes, allowing some visibility. He dipped his hat in snow and covered his body with snow laden pine limbs. Thus disguised, he carefully made his way up a gentle rise toward the sounds. The fierce beating of his own heart nearly deafened him. He was certain that whoever was just ahead of him would hear and kill him on the spot. As he approached, he could see 2 men working on a small ramshackle log shed. They were stuffing pine limbs into the cracks of the shed walls. Fear sickened Edward as he recognized the 2 men as the escapees he pursued. He had to take them into custody now, before they could gain the safety of the shed. There was no time to check his gun; all he could do was take it out of the holster and glance at it briefly before inching forward over the little rise not taking his eyes off the 2 men. He probably looked like a giant snowman of sorts; he was still covered with snow laden pine limbs. Edward was about 10' from the men before they realized there was another living soul within miles of them. Both had their hands raised, one was handing the pine limbs up to the other and one was stuffing them into the cracks of the shed walls. The element of surprise probably saved Edward's life.

The 2 criminals were completely startled and stood mute in amazement as Edward commanded that the 2 men finish the task of "weathering up" the shed, building a rough pine limb lean-to for the horses, and gathering wood for a fire to keep the shed warm for several days.

At first the 2 prisoners tried to be friendly and they denied they were the 2 escapees from Lincoln, but Edward would not be fooled. He could remember them very well. For years Edward had worn some type of uniform and was clean shaven. Now he had a full head of hair, a full heavy beard, and was dressed in buckskin clothing. Neither prisoner recognized him nor remembered him from the penitentiary.

When the prisoners realized they could not make friends with Edward, they became sullen, angry and desperate men. They told him he would never get them back to Lincoln, and that they would kill him first. In their anger at being caught, they admitted many of their crimes and threatened to survive to commit many more.

In a remote section of western Nebraska the 3 men finally had their "show down." Evidently the 2 prisoners had planned their actions well in advance and waited for the right moment to execute them. One night, as they alighted from their horses, one of the prisoners kicked his horse in such a way as to make it bolt directly into Edward's horse as he was midway in dismount. The jolt sent Edward spinning sideways to the ground. He rolled over just in time to see the culprit attempting to double mount with the other prisoner and flee with all 3 horses. Edward shot the fleeing horse and

both prisoners tumbled to the ground. They came at Edward fearlessly and unafraid of his bullets. They were determined to kill him with their bare hands. Edward shot each man through the knee. He took care of their wounds immediately and shackled them to nearby trees. Weariness overcame him and he slept soundly for the first time in many weeks.

After this incident, the prisoners were handcuffed together and rode the rest of the way on a single horse. He soon reached a more settled area of Nebraska where the settlers helped him finish his mission. He later told his family he was very sorry to cripple these 2 men but felt he had no choice at the time. He either had to cripple them or kill them to carry out his orders. The prisoners were so desperate they would have killed him or died trying. Both men were murderers and would face a hanging on their return to prison.

When Edward returned to his farm near Caney, Kansas, he began to court his neighbor's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Ripley. She was a lovely young girl and he was soon hopelessly in love with her. He had misgivings about the difference in their ages, but their love for each other overcame any and all differences.

Mary Elizabeth stood about 5' 6" tall and had blue eyes and dark brown hair. She had migrated to Montgomery County, Kansas, twice with her parents, once in 1870 and again in 1875. She had also lived in Logan County, Illinois, and Barton County, Missouri. Mary was well trained in all homemaking tasks as well as most farm and livestock chores.

Mary's and Edward's romance flourished and they received her parents' permission to marry. They were married March 28, 1882 at the Ripley home by their Caney Methodist minister, John Elrod.

Mary and Edward lived one-half mile north and one-half mile west of the Ripley home on the 480 acre farm Edward had acquired. Mary was a wonderful housewife and mother. Also, she was a good farmer. She enjoyed her home and took great pains to have everything as pretty as she could make it. She spent long hours sewing and placing curtains at each window and making snow white table cloths. She liked to embroider and do fancy "cut out work," crochet and knit. Her home contained many fine pieces of needlework artfully displayed. When she made "needlework" gifts, they were happily received and treasured. She was well-versed in the Bible and its teachings, and began to teach in Sunday School when she was a very young girl.

Together, Mary and Edward raised 10 children to adulthood. Many times Edward was called away from the farm to assist with law enforcement and to help neighbors. During these times, Mary was quite capable of supervising the farm operation. All women in the new settlements were trained to take over in their husband's absence. They had to make just about everything they needed or used. Entire families worked together in the field, with the cattle, making candles, clothing, spinning, weaving, tanning, packing ammunition and the countless other chores necessary to maintain their livelihood. There were some doctors available in the area, but for the most part the families did their own medical and veterinary work. They were good parents and strong disciplinarians and they trained their children well.

All 10 of the Cochran children attended classes at Stony Point School where 8 grades were taught by one teacher. Later they attended the Caney Junior High School.

Some of the Cochran's neighbors were families named McCall, Click, Baker, Abel, Thomson, Halstead and Dieffenbaugh. The family regularly attended the Methodist Church in Caney, Kansas. Edward and Mary continued to live on their farm until 1915 when they moved to 101 North Smith, Caney. Their oldest son, Andrew, and his wife Zura (parents of Paul Cochrane now living in Caney) continued to live on the farm and oversee the farm operation for several years.

In September, 1923, Edward was hospitalized at Fort Leavenworth Military Hospital where he died October 30, 1923. Edward is well remembered with admiration and great affection for his many accomplishments and his fine character.

After Edward's death, Mary made her home with her daughter, Anna May, first in Kansas City, Missouri, and in later years near Warsaw, Missouri. She continued a very active life, involved in her church and helping her daughter and husband in their rooming house. This facility was the old "Armour Mansion" on "Quality Hill" in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. When Anna May and her husband, Michael Jenet, retired to their farm near Warsaw, Missouri, in the late 1930's or early 1940's, Mary remained a member of their household. Mary died November, 11, 1950.

"Pistol Pete"

The early years of Caney's growth did not materialize without recognition for some who were destined to be "distinguished" in our frontier history. One such person was Frank Eaton who earned the name "Pistol Pete" for his shooting prowess when he was only 15 years old. He was one of the last few survivors of a vanished era in American history . . . the growth of the great West. He was a one-time cowboy, scout, Indian fighter, trial rider and Deputy United States Marshal.

When Frank Eaton was 8 years old, his father, a vigilante, was shot to death in cold blood at Rock Springs, Kansas, by the 4 Campsey and the 2 Ferber brothers. They were Confederates who called themselves Regulators. Mose Beamon, who was his father's friend, said to Frank: "My boy, may an old man's curse rest upon you, if you do not try to avenge your father." That was in 1868, the same year Mose taught him to handle a gun, but it was 13 years later before Frank finished the job.

In the year 1869, Frank's mother married J.N. Goodhue and they moved near Coffeyville, Kansas and settled on Onion Creek with their family of 2 boys and 3 girls.

It was at this location that Frank accidentally overheard his stepfather visiting with vigilantes Ben Saffles and Bill and Oscar Luce, who had just returned with others, that they had captured the notorious Bender family. The Benders had a hillside home about 10 miles west of Parsons, Kansas, that took in travelers for food and lodging. It was reported they murdered and robbed many of their guests, buried some and placed others in a well. Only legend was to say the Benders (father, mother Kate, son John and daughter) were driven into the quicksand off the Arkansas River. However, Frank heard Ben say that John and the old man went easy but Kate fought like the devil. She had shot Ben in the arm after which he put her to rest. No mention was made of the daughter.

This information is interesting because Capt. J.E. Stone, Montgomery County Sheriff at the time, reportedly would never comment on the Benders' fate.

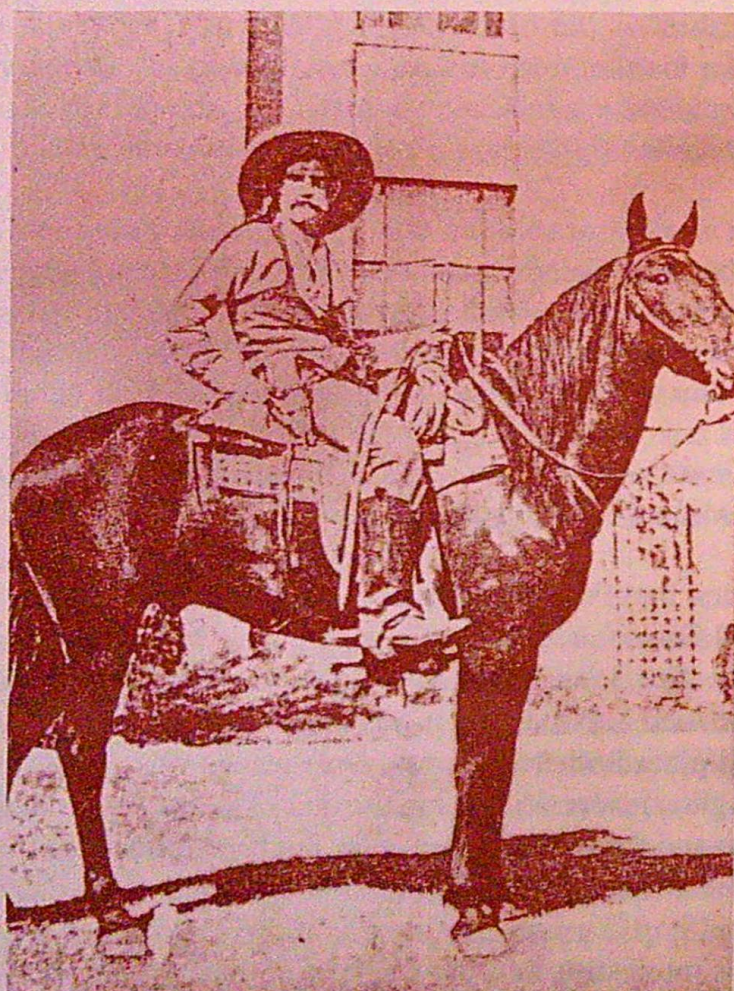
Later in 1871, the Eaton family moved northwest of Caney and lived on Cheyenne Creek.

Frank was 12 years old and became acquainted with Jim White and Uncle Dave Howard, a blacksmith who had 6 or 8 horses. They moved from Caney in 1873 to Indian Territory just south of the current location of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Frank was over 15 years old and decided he needed to know more about shooting to be sure he could avenge his father's death when the time came. He went down to Fort Gibson in the northeast part of the Indian Territory to see what the cavalry soldiers could teach him. Although he was still too young to join the Army, he could outshoot everyone at the fort. The commander of the Fort gave him a badge and said: "I am going to give you a new name. From now on you are 'Pistol Pete!'"

By the time "Pistol Pete" was 21 years old, he had become a Deputy U.S. Marshal for the famous Judge Parker and had tracked down and killed Jim, Jonce, Shannon and Wyley Campsey, and Doc Ferber. John Ferber was killed in a card game by another source.

Frank Eaton eventually settled in Perkins, Oklahoma, and made his living as a blacksmith and a deputy sheriff. His memoirs are colorful, violent, moving, exciting and full of action. They may also be the last personal experience account, as Frank has said, "of the old Cherokee Nation when I lived there and of some of the noblest men that ever lived . . . good and bad." He died in the late 1950's living well over 90 years of age.



"Pistol Pete" and horse, Black Dog

Harvey A. Truskett

The readers of this biography are here introduced to one of the best and most favorably known men of Montgomery County. He was one whose connection with the business interest of the enterprising community of Caney had been of great value, and whose wide acquaintance among financiers made him a potent factor in the development of the Caney area. As president of one of Montgomery Counties solid financial institutions, the Home State Bank of Caney, he wielded an influence widespread in its beneficent character, and always exerted in the interest of good government and right living.

Harvey A. Truskett was a "Buckeye" by birth, born in Monroe County, Ohio on October 7, 1855, the son of Thomas W. and Elizabeth (Williams) Truskett, pioneer settlers of that county. They were farmers by occupation and well-fitted to play their part in the development of a new agricultural community. Remaining in Ohio until 1859, the family then moved to Cooper County, Missouri, where they continued tilling the soil. Morgan and Vermont Counties in Missouri then became their home until 1880. At a later date they settled on a farm in Montgomery County, Kansas. Here the parents were worthy and respected citizens until their deaths, the father passing to rest on the 16th of January, 1887, and the mother on September 20, 1894.

Mr. Truskett is remembered as one of the immortal band who, in the dark days of 1861 to 1865, offered themselves as the living sacrifices for the principle of equality before the law. He became a member of the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, in which regiment he fought valiantly to the end. While in the service he suffered capture and imprisonment, but was fortunate enough to be exchanged. Mr. and Mrs. Truskett became the parents of 8 children.

Of the family, Harvey A. was the seventh child. Though born within the confines of the "Buckeye State" he was by rights, a true Westerner, as he was but 4 years of age when he crossed the Mississippi. The cruel war and the disturbed condition of the country immediately succeeding it deprived him, as well as thousands of others, of that precious benefit . . . a good education. However, the school of adversity through which he passed taught him many valuable lessons of thrift and economy, which compensated to some extent the loss of book knowledge. He became his own businessman early and engaged successfully in farming and stock raising, accompanying the family to Montgomery County in 1880. He resided at a point known as Elgin, Chautauqua County, Kansas for a period of 2 years, then he went down into the Territory, and for the following 12 years was extensively engaged in farming and stock raising.

In the year 1892, Mr. Truskett located in Caney, engaging in the lumber and grain business. In 1896, he organized the Home State Bank which was capitalized at \$25,000.00 and carried a list of deposits aggregating to some 90 to 100,000 dollars. He also served, for a time, as president of this financial institution.

Mr. Truskett was held in high esteem in his community where he had been honored by membership in the town council and had also served as township clerk. Politically he affiliated with the "party of reform" and was looked upon as one of its trusted advisers.

Marriage was contracted by Mr. Truskett in Elgin, Kansas, on the eighth day of December, 1880. Mrs. Truskett was Ida F. Gepford, daughter of Silas H. and Jennie Gepford, early pioneers of Bourbon County, Kansas. She was the mother of 4 promising children: Edwin E., Harvey H., Arthur

F., and Lita M. To this family was added a niece, Miss Elsie Truskett, who they reared and educated, and who became an efficient employee of the bank.

Reared to exacting and toilsome labor, schooled by adversity's hard knocks and fighting his way step by step from penury to prosperity, Harvey A. Truskett reached a plane, while yet in the prime of life, where he could give full reign to the promptings of a nature benevolent, and full of the milk of human kindness. No worthy case of need was ever turned from his door unaided, and the struggling youth found in him a sympathetic and kindly adviser and helper. Both he and his family merit the large place which they were accorded in the hearts of friends and neighbors in Caney and Montgomery County. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. and the Caney Christian Church.

W.V. Toner

William Vance (Will) Toner was born June 25, 1855, in the hills of Kentucky. He was reared in a farming area and became quite shrewd in horse trading. As a young man he eventually moved to the state of Iowa. There he met and married Hanna Ann Gregg on March 25, 1878. The following year their first daughter, Madge, was born to be followed by a son, Arthur Gregg, in 1881. They later moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, and soon thereafter in 1883, Fred Douglas was born followed by Walter Grant (Pat) in 1885.

Will Toner had not been one to spend much time in any one location, always looking for an opportunity to improve his livelihood. The record indicates he decided to move on to possibly California or Mexico, and traveling west in a horse drawn wagon, drove into Caney, Kansas, on October 29, 1886. He arrived with his family, a fine team of horses, a shepherd dog and a bull dog.

In 1920 Will Toner wrote the following story of his arrival in Caney and his thoughts on the town:

"As I turned the corner where Will Truskett's Grocery now is, I turned and what did I see? Two old timers, one with a shotgun and one with a forty-five, each trying to break away from their friends and have a little shooting bee. Upon inquiry I found out that they had a horse race and it seemed they were not satisfied as to the way it was terminated.

"Well, at that time I liked excitement, and it being almost evening, I put out for the night to see what I could see. So, I put my team in a box stall, one dog in the stall and one in the wagon, and was directed to Mr. and Mrs. Summer's Hotel where Will Truskett's Grocery is now located. And by the way, old Mrs. Summers was one of the finest cooks the world afforded.

"Well, after filling up, I was in fine spirits, so after taking care of my team and feeding my dogs I left them on guard and proceeded to see the sights. There was not much to see, but the spirits, they were all alive. There were 3 joints and I took them all in, and as I was standing looking on, I was asked to 'take one,' that is a drink, and what do you think? I refused, for at that time I had never drank and it seemed to surprise the boys. But of all the apt scholars, I took the blue ribbon over all competitors.

"The next morning being Sunday, I was accosted by one of the owners of the livery stables. It was located where Owens' big garage now is. The owner told me that Caney had Mexico skinned in

a 100 ways. I found out afterwards it did, so I bought that livery stable.

"I soon built up a wonderful trade. We had from 60 to 75 transient horses overnight. We cleaned the mud off all those horses with a curry comb, as we had no waterworks, railroads or fire department.

"Corn cost me 15¢ a bushel, oats 11¢ a bushel, hay \$2.00 per ton and my help cost me \$12.00 to \$14.00 per month, working 12 to 14 hours a day. And they worked on Sundays, too."

Will and Hanna Toner were blessed with 2 more children while living in Caney. They were Stella Susan, whom they called Doll, born in 1886, and Ella Mamie born in 1898. It should be noted that Madge became manager of the Caney telephone system and Fred owned and operated the Toner Ford Company. Fred's son, Bill Toner, continues the ownership and operation of the Toner Ford dealership today.

When the city of Caney had its first official town hall meeting in 1887 the council appointed Will Toner as its street commissioner and city marshal. Will had a keen mind for business interests and with his sons Pat and Fred, operated the Quaker Restaurant. As an auctioneer he had one of the leading businesses, and he also bought horses and mules, shipping on one occasion 450 head of U.S. Calvary horses.

It was said, Will Toner never turned away from helping those who needed a helping hand. The Caney Chronicle reported, "He took a particular delight in helping folks who were down and out or had suffered some disaster."

Alzamon M. Parsons

Alzamon M. Parsons of Caney possessing all the requisite qualities of an able lawyer, after his admission to the bar, continued to practice in Caney where his success had been such as to gain for him a place among the representative members of the Montgomery County Bar Association. Mr. Parsons, sometimes called "Hi," was born at Effingham County, Illinois, May 14, 1858. His parents, Jonathan and Maryanna (Grey) Parsons, were both natives of Mansfield, Ohio, and were married in that state prior to their move to Effingham County, Illinois, from where they moved to Davenport, Iowa, when their son, Alzamon, was 5 years of age. In 1870 they continued still farther westward and settled in Anderson County, Kansas, but shortly afterward went to Montgomery County, where the father entered a claim, just west of Elk City.

Alzamon M. Parsons lived the usual life of a farm boy and received his earlier education in the common schools of the different localities in which his family resided. He settled in Caney about 1876 and reported the mosquitoes were thick as hairs on a horse's back and the size of horseflies. He resided on a ranch a few miles southeast of Caney and his only companion at the time was an Indian boy. He reported that during the time the young Osage boy was with him, he would never speak to him except in his native language. So he was asked, "Why don't you like white man?" to which the boy replied, "I want you to learn Indian talk."

It was reported that A.M. Parsons was also known as Hiram A. M. (Hi) Parsons, particularly during his move to Indian Territory in 1878 at Eldridge. The trading post at Eldridge was located 9 to

10 miles south of Caney and was initially operated by Enos W. Parsons and his wife, Mary E. (Eldridge) Parsons. Mary's parents owned and operated a hotel at Coffeyville, Kansas at about this time. Enos was the official postmaster at Eldridge in 1884 and was a brother or uncle to Hi Parsons. Mrs. Sarah E. Parsons was the first wife of Hi Parsons and was thought to be Cherokee. She died in 1883 at the early age of 18 years and was buried at that location. Hi became postmaster at Eldridge in 1885 and later returned to Kansas.

In the late 1880's Mr. Parsons married Miss Hannah E. Johnson of Topeka, Kansas, and to them were born 3 sons who were Lewis, Jay C. and Lioneal G.

Mr. Parsons' education was supplemented by a full course in the Kansas State Normal School, from which he graduated in 1891, and he taught school for several years. During this time he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1896, whereby he established himself in the practice of his profession at Caney and continued there for sometime, having gained a representative clientele and a lucrative practice.

Mr. Parsons was a representative of the Republican party and in 1906 he was elected county surveyor, which office he held for years. He also served as Caney's city attorney, justice of the peace, city judge and civil engineer. He was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Mr. Parsons was an eyewitness to a holdup at the Caney Valley Bank in 1903. Except for a short time spent living in Indian Territory, he practically grew up with Caney and had always worked for the betterment of the community at large.

Perry S. Hollingsworth

Perry S. Hollingsworth was one of the early settlers of Montgomery County and was widely known as a banker and man-of-affairs. His connection with the county had been long standing and as a merchant, stockman and financier his reputation had been established and success had been attained.

Mr. Hollingsworth was born in Peoria, Illinois, January 1, 1853 and was a son of Richard and Rebecca (Hastings) Hollingsworth, venerable Quaker parents.

The state of Iowa gave to P.S. Hollingsworth his physical and mental development. The pursuits of the farm contributed to his muscular physique, and the public schools and the university of the state to his mental training. He graduated in the latter institution in 1870, and began life on the farm. He changed his vocation after 2 years and became a merchant in the town of West Branch. He remained there until his emigration from the state in 1876, and threw in his fortunes with the settlers of Montgomery County, Kansas. His first venture here was in a book and stationery store in Independence, which he managed 5 years. Retiring from the store he engaged in the cattle business until 1886 and entered the Caney Valley Bank at Caney as cashier. He disposed of his interest in that institution in 1894, and purchased an interest in the First National Bank of Independence and became its president. Upon the death of Mr. Remington and the entry of Mr. Allen as an active factor in the management of the bank, the latter became president and Mr. Hollingsworth became cashier.

In March, 1873, occurred the first marriage of Mr. Hollingsworth. His wife was Mary Cole, and

she died in 1880, leaving a son, Archer W. Hollingsworth, of Collinsville, Indian Territory. The latter was a merchant and was married to Mattie Walker. The second marriage of our subject took place in July 1884, his wife being Alice Slusser, an Ohio lady, who came to Montgomery County with her sister, Mrs. John Kerr. Mrs. Hollingsworth was a daughter of J.B. Slusser, of Ohio, and was of German descent, and was orphaned by the death of both parents at an early age. Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth's children were Pearl E. and Dale R. Hollingsworth.

The political record of P.S. Hollingsworth is pretty well summed up in the word "Republican." The family contributed their mite toward the success of his party from its birth, though there seems to have been little ambition for political distinction among the family membership. Our subject was chosen the first mayor of Caney, Kansas, holding the office for several years, and it seemed to have gratified his political desires. In Masonry he had taken the Knights Templar degrees, holding a membership in the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery at Independence, in the Council at Topeka and in Abdalah Temple, O.M.S., at Leavenworth.

Edward B. Skinner

The subject was a citizen of Montgomery County and Caney, arriving in 1885. His material connection with the affairs of the county were prominent from his advent and, as a citizen of Caney, was a leader and prominent man-of-affairs.

A native of Monroe County, New York, Mr. Skinner was born June 19, 1858, and was the son of Charles Skinner, a native of the same state, and of Vermont ancestry. The latter came west toward the close of his life and died at Butler, Missouri, in 1888, at the age of 65 years. He married Mary Bliss, who bore him an only surviving child, and who resided in the city of Rochester, New York.

Edward B. Skinner remained in his native state till past the greater part of his years. In 1879, he went West and located at Colorado Springs, Colorado, where for a time, he was in the sheep business, but lastly in the employ of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway Company. After 6 years spent in the Rockies country, he returned eastward and found his choice of locations at Caney, Kansas. Here he engaged in the livestock business and only closed it out when he was elected treasurer of Montgomery County. In November of 1897, he was the candidate of the "Fusion" forces, as a Democrat, for the office he held and was elected by a majority of only 15 votes. He took office in October, 1898, and in the fall of 1899, as he was again elected, his majority this time being nearly 300 votes.

To his favorite town of Caney Mr. Skinner had been a useful citizen and rendered it sincere and unselfish official service. His first office was that of member of the city council, where he served 2 years, and his second public position was that of mayor of the city. This latter he filled for 3 years, and the interests of the city were cared for as he would care for his private business. His frankness and honesty in those positions and his personal popularity made his candidacy for a county office a formidable one, and, when the test came, it proved to be a successful one.

On October 28, 1887, Mr. Skinner was married, in Rochester, New York, to Miss Frank White, a daughter of J.B. White. Four children resulted from the marriage: Ray, Percy, Ted and Marian.

In 1900, Mr. Skinner secured a franchise from the city of Caney to furnish it gas and was instrumental, chiefly, in the organization of the Caney Gas Company, of which he was general manager. Successful prospecting was done, an abundance of gas was discovered and the Caney Brick Company was formed with Mr. Skinner as its president. Leases covering 20,000 acres of land in Caney Township were held by the gas company and its proven value provided much material good to Caney and to the prime movers in this mineral development.

In the fraternal world, Mr. Skinner affiliated as a member in good standing with Modern Woodmen, Knights of Pythias and the Elks. He was a master Mason and a past noble of the I.O.O.F.

Samuel Morse Porter

The career of Samuel Morse Porter is largely identified with the history of Caney, and no record of either man or community would be complete without full mention of both. A resident of this locality since 1881, and of the city itself since 1896, he had seen the little town grow and develop to substantial proportions and did take a proprietor's pride in this advancement, for it had been a part of his life's work. With his own hands he had aided in the building up of what promised to be an important center of commercial and industrial activity; his faith in it had been strong from the start. Mr. Porter was one of the best known businessmen of Caney, where he had large moneyed interest. At the age of 67 years he was stronger in mind than most men of 50 and intensely acute and active in all care of business life. The success which he had achieved as a lawyer, legislator, railroad builder and financier was a spur to many ambitious young men.

Mr. Porter was born at Metamora, Lapeer County, Michigan December 14, 1849, and was the son of Moses Green and Maria M. (Morse) Porter. She was a first cousin of Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, from whose name Samuel Morse Porter's name was partially derived. His paternal grandfather was Moses Porter, a native of near Bristol, England, and he emigrated to America prior to the Revolutionary War, settling in Ontario County, New York. He participated in the winning of American independence, serving 7 years in the patriot army, and for 6 years of that time, he was on the staff of General George Washington. When the struggle was closed he returned to his Ontario County farm and lived in peace until his death.

Moses Green Porter was born in 1819 on his father's farm in Ontario County, New York, was here reared and educated and as a young man removed to Metamora, Michigan, where he married. Shortly after the birth of his son, Samuel M., he went to Oakland County, Michigan, where he settled as a pioneer on a new farm, and after clearing it from the timber, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He met his death in a runaway accident at Walled Lake in 1884. Mr. Porter was one of the strong men of his day and locality. First a Whig and then a Republican, he took an active part in political affairs, and at various times held local offices among them those of supervisor and justice of the peace. He was a devout member of the Baptist Church, of which he was a deacon for many years, and belonged to the Union League and to several clubs which had their inception in the feeling that arose on issues identified with the Civil War. Mr. Porter married Maria M. Morse, who was born in 1818 in Courtland County, New York, and who died at Walled Lake, Michigan, in 1896. Their children were as follows: John Albert, who was engaged in farming at Wixon, Oakland County, Michigan; Samuel Morse of this review; Edward W., who was a prominent practicing attorney of Bay City, Michigan; and Sarah, who was the wife of Homer Chapman and who resided on the old home farm in Oakland County, Michigan.



S.M. Porter



S.M. Porter Home 1908

Samuel Morse Porter attended the district school in the vicinity of his home in Oakland County, Michigan, and after graduation from Northville Union High School, enrolled as a student at Hillsdale College, where he pursued an academic course for 2 years. In the meantime, to add to his income, he spent 3 winters in teaching in the country schools. He was graduated from the law school from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in the class of 1874, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws, under its President, James B. Angell, who died in 1916. At the time of his graduation, Mr. Porter commenced practicing law at Saginaw, Michigan, and continued to be so engaged there until 1881, when, recognizing the possibilities and opportunities of the West, he made his way to 4 miles east of Caney, then in Indian Territory, and settled on a new farm. This he developed into a handsome and valuable property, and in the meantime he practiced his profession in Caney, handling many cases of importance among the early white settlers there. In 1896, Mr. Porter moved his residence to Caney to establish his permanent home, and from that time on, his name was identified with many of the most important enterprises which the city had known.

Mr. Porter was associated with a number of large corporations, being counsel for a number of gas, oil, glass and brick industries. He maintained well appointed offices in the "Porter Building," which he erected, and owned a fine modern brick residence at the southwest corner of Fourth and Fawn Streets. He had 3 business blocks and a number of city lots on that thoroughfare, and was the owner of a 182 acre farm 2-1/2 miles east of Caney. He also owned another property of 142 acres 1-1/2 miles further east and 80 acres of good land 7 miles northeast of Caney.

As a promoter and builder of railroads, Mr. Porter did much for Caney and the surrounding country. He was president of the Kansas & Oklahoma Southern Railway Company which was then being constructed. This railway was to open up new country in Oklahoma to the south and southwest of Caney; and, assisted by Jacob H. Bartles, for whom Bartlesville, Oklahoma, was named, he built the Bartlesville branch of the Santa Fe Railroad, running from Havana, Kansas, to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Porter was president of the Caney Gas Company, of the Caney Gas, Oil and Mining Company, and was a past president of the Caney Brick Company.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Porter's first official position was that of city attorney of Caney. In 1908 he was elected a member of the Kansas State Senate and in that body demonstrated the possession of great legislative ability. He was chairman of the oil and gas committee, and at all times was very active in behalf of the interest of his constituents. He introduced state refinery legislation and other important bills, but the work which showed to the fullest extent his ability was that connected with railroad legislation, this including the 2-cent fare bill and the general supervision of railroads. This latter, which was the real start of the public utilities control of railroads, has been called the best bill the state of Kansas ever had passed, and as one of the framers of the law, Mr. Porter is entitled to the gratitude of the public.

Mr. Porter was a member of the Presbyterian Church and was generous in his support of its movements. In the line of his profession he belonged to the Montgomery County Bar Association, the Kansas State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He was a leading Odd Fellow and Pythian Knight and stood high in Masonry, being of Caney Lodge No. 324, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, both of Caney, and St. Bernard's Commandery No. 10 Knights Templar, at Independence, Kansas.

In 1874, at Walled Lake, Michigan, Mr. Porter was united in marriage with Miss Susie Hoyt, a

daughter of Dr. J.M. Hoyt, a physician of that place. Mrs Porter died at Walled Lake in 1878, leaving 2 children: May, who married E.C. Johns, of Detroit, Michigan, a farmer who was also connected with the U.S. Postal Service; and Grace who married J.W. Dodge, owner of the Dodge Electric Company, of Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1884, at Caney, Kansas, Mr. Porter married Miss Elthea Smith, daughter of David H. Smith, who at the time of his death was a farmer of Caney. Mrs. Porter was the executrix of her father's estate and owner of a business block and several residential properties in Caney. Mr. and Mrs. Porter had the following children; George F., a graduate of Missouri University Medical College, and who became a practicing physician and surgeon of Caney; Margaret, a graduate of Caney High School, and formerly the wife of J.T. Jaynes and later George H. Wark; and Lucinda, who was the wife of H.V. Bolinger, assistant cashier of the Home National Bank of Caney.

George H. Wark

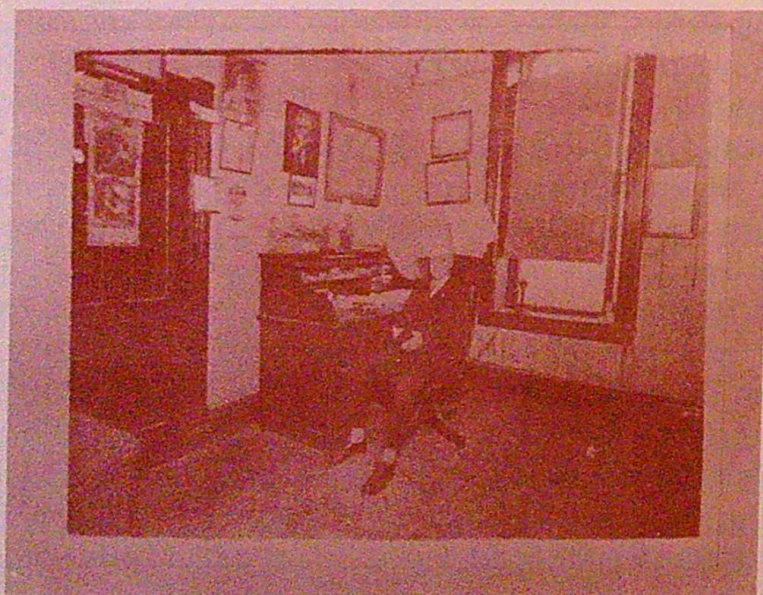
George H. Wark had a substantial ancestry which originated in Scotland and was transplanted to the American colonies living in New York State and afterwards in Pennsylvania. Grandfather William Wark was born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, in 1808. In his early years, he became a settler in Stark County, Ohio and from there moved to Indiana. He was a farmer and died in Owen County, Indiana, in 1863. His wife, Margaret Sweeney, was born in Ohio. Of their marriage were 8 children: Samuel, a retired farmer in Washington State; Luther, a pioneer homesteader in Thomas County, Kansas, where he was a stockman and farmer; Lizzie, wife of Louis Norman, a wagonmaker at Emporia, Kansas; George, who died at Spencer, Indiana, in 1915, a lawyer; Aaron and John were farmers; and Margaret, who died in Brazil, Indiana, in 1914 and who had married Mr. Travis, a merchant, and Emanuel M. Wark.

George H. Wark was born on a farm near Liberty, Kansas, December 19, 1878. His father, Emanuel M. Wark, was born near Canton, Ohio, in 1842 and was 12 years of age when his parents in 1854 moved to Owen County, Indiana. He was reared there and in 1862 enlisted from Owen County in the Sixth Indiana Cavalry. He served over 3 years until the close of hostilities. In the Army of the Cumberland he fought at Chattanooga, through the Atlanta campaign and the battles around Atlanta, and was then sent with General Thomas's army into Tennessee, completing his army service in the conquest of the Mississippi Valley and in the battles of Nashville and Franklin. He was in nearly every engagement in which his regiment was engaged. With the close of the war he returned to Indiana, where he married and lived as a farmer in Owen County until 1868. He then removed to the vicinity of Stearling, Whiteside County, Illinois, but in the spring of 1870 arrived in Southeastern Kansas in Montgomery County. Just before he arrived the Osage Treaty had been consummated, but the lands had not yet been officially surveyed by the government. E.M. Wark came to Kansas in typical pioneer style. He drove a prairie schooner and in establishing his home contended with all the usual hardships that the old time Kansas farmers had to meet. The old homestead was situated 3 miles west of Liberty. The late E.M. Wark, who died at Independence, June 24, 1915, was a Republican, was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and for a number of years was active in politics. His widow was Lydia Long before her marriage, and was born in Owen County, Indiana, in 1846. Her children were May, wife of T.W. Hurst, in the milling business at Yates Center, Kansas; George H.; Marien E., wife of E.J. Jones, a farmer and stockman near Independence; and Neleah, who lived with her mother and was a stenographer and bookkeeper.

George H. Wark grew up in Montgomery County on the old farm, attended the district schools, and in 1900, graduated as a member of the first class to complete the course in the new Montgomery



George H. Wark 1910



George Wark Office
in Porter Building

County High School at Independence. From high school he entered the University of Kansas, and from that institution took his LLB degree in 1903. Mr. Wark was a member of the Phi Delta Phi honorary Greek letter fraternity.

In October, 1903, a few months after leaving law school, he established his office at Caney and spent his time making a name and reputation for himself as an able lawyer, both in the civil and criminal branches of practice. Being so close to the Kansas-Indian Territory border he handled much litigation in both areas. His office was in the Porter Building, and he resided at the Palace Hotel. He entered the field of state politics in 1916 and became a candidate for the state Senate to represent the Twelfth Senatorial District.

His clientele gradually increased and by 1917 he was doing well. He had been elected Kansas State Senator assuring him a bright future. Mr. Wark owned some land in Oklahoma and some real estate at Caney, but made his profession less a means for accumulating money than for rendering service to his fellow men. He served as the President of the Montgomery County Bar Association, and was the first member of the Alumni Association of the Montgomery County High School to be elected a member of its board of trustees. He served as Caney's city attorney and also held a commission in the Kansas National Guard, being a first lieutenant. During the early days of World War I he organized Caney's Company "D" which saw considerable action in France. At the conclusion of World War I, George H. Wark helped organize Ernest Brown Post of the American Legion and was its first commander.

There is a summary of George H. Wark's excellent military career in chapter XII of this book.

Mr. Wark returned from the war to civilian life a statewide hero. It was said that he could have been elected governor had he desired to make the race.

In 1919 there was a serious coal strike in the Pittsburg area and Governor Henry Allen called a special session of the legislature to cope with it. Mr. Wark, as a senator from Montgomery County helped to write the Industrial Court Law.

He later was appointed district probation administrator for Kansas. Eventually the states of Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas were added to his responsibility. He kept this position until 1933. He was an active Republican, member of the Presbyterian Church and a prominent fraternity man, being affiliated with Caney Lodge No. 324, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Caney Chapter No. 90, Royal Arch Masons; Coffeyville Commandery, Knights Templar; Mirzah Temple of the Mystic Shrine; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Lodge No. 941, Modern Woodmen of America, and was the exalted ruler of Lodge No. 1215, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, all at Caney. He was a member of the Havana Country Club and belonged to the Kansas Historical Society.

Mr. Wark was married to Margaret (Porter) Wark, April 16, 1921, at Ottawa, Kansas. She preceded him in death, February 11, 1950. They had no children.

Brig Gen. George H. Wark, 95 Caney's beloved soldier-attorney, died September 21, 1974, at 4:45 a.m. in the Caney Municipal Hospital.

There is much to be said concerning the adventurous life of George H. Wark. However, one

could not leave unsaid his early day exploits as a young lawyer. In view of this importance I will share one of Mr. Wark's addresses that he gave on February 5, 1962, to the Montgomery County Bar Association at Independence, Kansas. The introduction was made by A.H. Harding, President of the Montgomery Bar Association. Mr. Wark spoke as follows:

"Mr. President, Ladies, Visitors, Judge Grant, Judge Scott and my brother members of the Bar. Mr. President, that was quite a nice introduction, I appreciate it. Too bad the Caney Chronicle hasn't a copy; it would save Skeet George some investigation.

"Ninety-one years ago this last May 6, the first term of court of this district convened in Independence. At that time the district consisted of 5 counties. It is meet and proper that on an occasion like this we pause and pay tribute to the early pioneers of this bar, for they faced the hardships of the frontier with none of the conveniences and luxuries we now enjoy. Across the years, many members of this bar have passed on to higher positions and prominence in their chosen professions, as well as in the political world.

"When the Montgomery County Bar was less than 5 years old one of its attorneys, George R. Peck, who had located in Independence, Kansas, in 1872, was appointed United States District Attorney for Kansas, a great honor for so young a county and its representative. Mr. Peck was at that time about 33 years of age and a Civil War veteran. When we consider the fact that all of the northeast part of Kansas, along the Kaw River to Emporia, had been settled before the Civil War, this was a great honor, both to the bar and to Mr. Peck, for the next 6 years he conducted the affairs of the United States District Attorney's office with ability and dispatch. One of the most famous cases he carried through the circuit and won in the United States Supreme Court was one involving valuable portions of the Osage Ceded Lands, a part of the same being along the east border of Montgomery County, Kansas. The brief he filed in the Supreme Court of the United State won acclaim from such renowned lawyers as Jeremiah S. Black and William Lawrence. He resigned after 6 years and was for a while General Solicitor for the Santa Fe Railroad and in 1895 moved to Chicago and was made General Attorney for the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad and was recognized as one of the greatest authorities on railroad law in the United States. Years after, he left the frontier town of Independence and made the statement that the happiest days of his life were those spent in a new county, which he said was one of the greatest charms of human life.

"Judge George Chandler resigned from the bench of this county in 1888 when he became first Assistant Secretary of Interior at Washington, in the administration of Benjamin Harrison. He was instrumental in organizing the old Oklahoma Territory and the administration of the same; Chandler, Oklahoma, was named for him. His nephew, Ed Chandler, who opened an office in Independence in 1905, was selected by Harry Sinclair as his general counselor and when he moved his office from Independence to Tulsa, Chandler occupied this position until his retirement.

"Later, Sinclair moved his headquarters from Tulsa to New York City and he selected another member of the Montgomery County Bar as his general counselor, Gratton Stanford. His father, T.H. Stanford, informed me later that Gratton was receiving a salary of \$49,000.00 a year.

"Roy Osborne, who had been an assistant county attorney and served a term as probate judge of this county, was selected by Sinclair to head the refining division of the company, first in Chicago and later in New York City.

"At the time Sinclair organized the giant Sinclair Oil Corporation, he called on another Montgomery County attorney, W.E. Ziegler of Coffeyville, to assist in the organization and to take charge of one of the departments, a position he held until his death.

"Now these men had to be real lawyers. They had every question to cope with and problems to solve.

"T.C. Hart, who opened an office in Caney in 1902 for a while, was assistant county attorney in Independence, then moved to the state of Nevada and for years was a district judge there.

"A former member of this Bar was elected and served 6 years as United States Senator from Kansas, and 2 members of this Bar have each served 2 terms as Governor of Kansas; and a member of this Bar is now serving the 5th District in Congress. For the past 91 years there's always been a member of the Montgomery County Bar in the State Legislature, and a great deal of the time for the past 50 years 3 members of this Bar helping to pass the laws of this state.

"I wish to speak briefly this evening on some of the different phases of life and business in Montgomery County in the past 58 years, and now I will shoot the first man that calls me Methusaleh!

"Every age or generation has a different situation to deal with. What is wrong now will be right another time. At one time a man with gold was considered a thrifty citizen and a man with a quart of whisky was a criminal. Now a man with gold is violating the law and a man with a fifth is a gentleman! What's right in one age is wrong in another. There's a record in police court in a certain city in this county, a little more than 60 years ago, of a whole show troupe that was hauled into police court . . . the complaint alleging that the ladies of the chorus appeared on the stage wearing skirts that exposed the calves of their legs. Now, it would be vice versa.

"In 1900, Montgomery County was more of an agriculture county. Cherryvale had a population of 3,626; Coffeyville had 5,084; Caney, 1,027 and Independence, 5,238. The oil and gas business was just in its infancy, but was, overnight, a real boom development. Allen, Neosho, and Montgomery Counties were pioneers in the oil and gas litigation. Many interesting cases have been carried to the Supreme court from these counties. It is interesting to note that the first inter-state pipeline was laid in this county conveying gas from the Wayside and Bolton pools to Joplin, Missouri. There was a great deal of controversy and the excitement ran high. There was an organization with the slogan, "Keep the gas in Kansas, make the people come here to use it." A construction crew, working on the highway west of Liberty, was arrested by the sheriff and his deputies. Later unknown persons planted some dynamite under the pipeline causing considerable damage. Judge Flannelly of the district court granted an injunction restraining the county attorney, sheriff, county commissioners and others from interfering in any way with the construction of the pipeline. At that time it was very unpopular, but the judge was right and he was vindicated. In discussing the matter afterwards, he said the next day after he granted an injunction, some of his best friends refused to speak to him. That was the beginning of the pipeline. Now we have in Kansas something more than 28,000 miles of main pipelines carrying oil, gas and other products.

"The attorneys who were established in 1900 had it made. With the development of the oil and gas fields, leasing and litigation, they had more work than they could do. Damage suits were just

coming into their own. Another source of income for attorneys was representing people who were directly or indirectly interested in the liquor business.

"In October, 1903, I was cruising about the Indian Territory looking for a location to practice law. I tarried in Bartlesville where they were building the first brick building to be built there and I met an old K.U. football player friend. He had a little frame building 12' by 14' where he was practicing law and he said he was making a living and if I wanted to come in with him he was sure I could make a living too. But I moved on to Caney. At that time Caney and Coffeyville drew a trade area of 40 miles south into Indian Territory and as far southwest as Pawhuska. In October, 1903, Caney was a busy little city of 1,355 souls, saved and unsaved, 5 saloons, 3 gambling houses and 2 drug stores with bars behind the prescription cases and one town marshal who was a reformed outlaw. Also, I found out later he was a self-serving declaration. I was the seventh disciple of Blackstone to seek sanctuary (7 lawyers and 3 preachers) and it was free enterprise in the nth degree. Now we have 3 attorneys and 10 preachers. Better or worse, you be the judge!

"I had some flamboyant letterheads printed, 'Attorney and Counsel at Law, Entitled to Practice in All the Courts in Kansas and in the Commissioner Courts in Indian Territory.' Every time I stepped out of the office I put one of my new letterheads on the office door and written there-on 'Will return in ten minutes.' One day some heartless wretch scrawled across it, 'What the hell for?' Tragic then but funny now. The rest of the Bar had outgrown the job of city attorney. The office didn't seek me, I sought the office. The council had to appoint me as none else would have it and the ordinance specified there should be a city attorney. I had it made. The salary was \$12.00 per month and that paid a month's room rent and 2 week's board. I busied myself at once checking over the police docket and found that a few days before, one Lee Killion had been fined \$30.00 for fighting and disturbing the peace, fine and cost were not paid, prisoner released on his own recognizance. For some unexplained reason the city owed him \$6.00 for elected work, I found out later. I checked over the books of the city clerk, which was none of my business, but I didn't know any better, and said, 'Just credit that \$6.00 on his fine.' The clerk said, 'Do you know who Lee Killion is?' I said 'No, and I don't care. When I was in the University I studied some municipal law and it is a shame how some of these cities run their business and I am going to put this police court on a paying basis.' He should have told me who Lee Killion was, I found out later. He was an outlaw who had some years before led an outbreak from a federal jail at Guthrie, releasing a number of outlaws, among them the notorious Bill Doolin.

"The next morning as I was walking down to my office, hoping to intercept someone in trouble, a big fellow stepped in front of me and said, 'Stop.' I think he was the meanest man I have ever seen and he carried a gun strapped on him. He glared at me and said, 'I know I owe the city and I never intend to pay it and I am going to have my \$6.00 and now listen, smart boy, you unstop that \$6.00 or else, if you have any friends, tomorrow they will be looking down on you saying, don't he look natural?' I unstopped the \$6.00! That was experience number one.

"Experience number two resulted when I was walking downtown one day when a merchant called me and started a conversation and gave me that old pitch, 'Awful glad you located here, just need young, decent young men to build a town. By the way, I have a little claim here, \$15.00 and I will give you half of it if you can collect it.' Half of \$15.00 was \$7.50 and lots of money then. So I said, 'Give me the claim, who is the fellow and where does he live?' He said, 'All I know about him is that they call him Tex and you go around the corner and down Spring Street and you will find him

in a gambling house there.' I found out later that he had offered the job to all other lawyers in Caney and they had declined with thanks. I proceeded as directed and walked into the gambling house. I had never been in such a place before. It was a room about 50' wide and 120' deep. It had a long bar, well crowded . . . a rough looking crowd . . . 2 crap tables with games in progress, a roulette wheel and 2 poker games. I still have a mental picture of it and with language never heard in a church. I was just about to make my departure, but the lure of money will make one take chances, so I elbowed my way up to the bar and inquired of the bartender where I could find a man by the name of Tex. He pointed to a tall fellow at a poker table at the west end of the hall. I wandered over to the table and said, 'Are you Tex?' He said, 'yes,' without looking up. He was looking very intently at the cards in his hand. I said, 'My name is Wark, I am an attorney and I have a claim against you for Rinehart's store for \$15.00. Unless you pay this claim I am going to file suit.' All at once everything was quiet. The dice stopped rattling, the roulette wheel stopped and the other card players looked up with surprise on their faces. I had an eerie feeling, in fact, I felt like the period at the end of a long sentence. The man Tex, very slowly and deliberately laid his cards down, turned in his chair and looked at me, over me and through me, especially through me, and he was a mean looker. Finally, in the oppressive silence he said, 'Well, young man, I don't blame you, you have to make a living the same as I do, but you go tell Mr. Rinehart that I am not going to pay that account, the coat was no good, and for him not to start any funny garnishee stuff, that's all.' He turned back to his cards. Militarily speaking I made a strategic withdrawal. I walked over to the store and told Mr. Rinehart that the fellow said he wasn't going to pay the account and I asked if he wished to start a suit. He said, 'No, forget it, I'm not ready to die.'

"I made inquiry that afternoon and found that this fellow Tex had drifted in from a cattle drive from Texas. There was a large quarantine yard just below the state line as cattle could not be driven across the state line before the first of January. The gossip that followed him was that he had killed a fellow over a poker game. That evening I looked up the town marshal and said, 'Bash, tell me about this man Tex, who is he and what is he?' He said, 'What do you want to know for?' I said that I was just curious and he said, 'Don't become too curious around here.' Later I became acquainted with Tex. He was a right nice fellow, never talked about his past and seemed to have no regard for the future. He played a lone hand and had a long, soft Texas drawl in his talk, but I noted that the town boys, especially the bad ones, treated him very respectfully. I said to him one day, 'How come you didn't knock my ears down the day I walked into the gambling house?' He said, 'The minute you started talking and I looked at you, I could tell you didn't know your way about. You have nerve all right but poor judgment, but you will learn.' I did!

"A new country or a frontier like Kansas-Indian Territory was 50 years ago, was a fascinating place in lots of ways and attracted many and all manner of people, good substantial citizens, of substance, worth and good character who wished to be a part of a new community and to build with pride. Or that class of soldier-of-fortune who looked for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. A rolling stone gathers no moss but it becomes a smooth article. And another class could be those who are always on the move and can be best described by O. Henry's reply to Al Jennings when they met in Central America, both scouting. Al asked Henry what his destination was and O. Henry replied, 'I'm trying to keep away from it.'

"One of the interesting characters who visited here frequently was an attorney from Muskogee, Oklahoma, Robert L. Owen. He was a full blood Cherokee Indian, an eastern Cherokee, a college graduate, a man of exceptional ability and a careful and immaculate dresser. I remember yet of his

appearance in his well tailored clothes. In the early days, he and his brother-in-law, Morris, established the O. and H. Rand at Twin Mounds. Later Mr. Owen acquired a tract of 5,000 acres just south of Caney. He improved it and called it "Monticello" Ranch. I found that the Virginians pronounced it, "Montichello." Mr. Owen and his mother, who was a painter of note, took a great interest in Caney and it was their headquarters for the purchase of all supplies. Robert L. Owen was the first United States Senator elected from Oklahoma after statehood. I remember the summer of 1904, I attended a social function at the ranch. In those days they were known as "lawn socials" and they had Japanese lanterns hanging around the yard. Mrs. Owen's paintings were hanging on the walls of the ranch house and she showed us a medal that Thomas Jefferson had given her grandfather for some meritorious service when Jefferson was president. The Jeffersons, Owens and Morrisses were related and 2 of Thomas Jefferson's great, great granddaughters were born in that ranch house.

"Some years before his death, I had some correspondence with Senator Owen about some matters, he was residing in Washington at the time. I wanted to secure one of his mother's paintings for the school library in Caney, but he informed me that he had given all the paintings to the University of Virginia and that they were hanging on the walls of the institution.

"Another interesting and mysterious character was a man by the name of Murphy. He was an attorney from Boston, Massachusetts, at least he gave that as his home. He was about 50 years old, had a fine appearance, a classical education, claimed to have practiced law both in Boston and Los Angeles and had made a trip around Cape Horn in an old fashioned ship before the construction of the Panama Canal. He was well-informed on every subject, a good conversationalist, attended all the social functions that were open to the public, made his headquarters in the office of one of the local attorneys but was never there. He was a constant reader and was disgusted with the cheap magazines that were offered for sale and I often wondered what he would think of the magazines now. He spent about half of his time in the district court room in Independence, as court was in session all the time then. But as Hardy Piper, one of the leading members of the Bar and well remembered by Judge Grant and Dallas Knapp, stated, you could get just so close to him and no closer in a conversation. Murphy often made the remark that an attorney should read Blackstone once a year in order to keep well grounded on the substantive of law. After a little more than 2 years' residence, he disappeared as suddenly and mysteriously as he appeared, without bidding anyone good-bye or leaving any forwarding address, but such was the frontier.

"Another interesting character at the other end of the social line was Elijah Higgins. By vocation he was a farmer and stockman down on Mission Creek. By avocation he was a bank robber. If he had a crop failure or lost some cattle, he would disappear and maybe be gone for several months. When he came back he would be well dressed, pay his debts and buy some more cattle. One day he said, "Us bank robbers and bankers have a lot in common." He said that one day he and his partner robbed a bank and the bank had only \$800.00, and the blankety, blank banker put in a claim to the insurance company for a \$2,000.00 loss.

"The question is often asked why along the Kansas-Indian Territory border, there was so much outlawry. You must remember that all the vast area west of the Arkansas, south to the Red River and the Texas border to Colorado and New Mexico and north to Kansas, was a great unorganized territory. For years it had been the refuge of criminals and people evading arrest. The five civilized tribes, the Seminoles, Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws and Chickasaws each had well-defined and geographical boundaries. They had their own legislative assemblies, enacted their own laws, had their own courts to administer the laws, hence the name we sometimes hear, "The Five Nations," as

each one was a separate nation. However, a white man could not be tried in an Indian Court for any offense and if a white lawyer wanted to practice in an Indian Court, he had to have an Indian lawyer appear with him. They were not so dumb; we have the same rule.

"Judge Parker's Court was functioning at Ft. Smith and bringing law and order but he had only an average force of 150 deputies for this territory which had been attached to the Western Division of the United States District Court of Arkansas.

"Fifty-eight years ago there was a remnant yet of the so called bad man of the west, but the real ones, generally speaking, were very decent boys. He was an American who would not shoot a man in the back, most of them had been cowboys and were a close knit band, never boasted, would feed a man when he was hungry, and held in great contempt the chiseler, shrills and drifters that followed a boom town.

"Broadwell, who was killed with the Daltons, was from a fine family at Hutchinson, Kansas. His brother was a traveling salesman and was in Caney the day his brother was killed in Coffeyville during the Dalton raid. He did not know his brother had taken to the outlaw trail, he thought he was still a cowboy down in the Cherokee Strip Country.

"Another famous character was Henry Starr. Starr had many friends among the law abiding people and those who were not keeping away from the law as well as friends among the outlaws. The Starr family was a very prominent family in the Cherokee Nation and many of them are living there yet and are highly respected people and good citizens. I once talked to one of Henry's cousins in Adair County, which incidentally was named after an old Cherokee family, and he said that Henry was the only black-sheep of the family, and there were many of them who never traveled the crooked trail. Starr was in the Ft. Smith jail for murder as was Cherokee Bill, one of the most blood thirsty outlaws the Indian Territory ever produced and who started his career on a ranch south of Caney. He stole a horse and pistol, held up a prominent rancher who had no money on him and Cherokee Bill said, "Now, Jake, the next time I hold you up, if you don't have \$800.00 on you I will shoot you." Bill had a yen for shooting people. He was part Negro, part Indian and part white and had the bad blood of the 3 races. He was awaiting execution in the Ft. Smith jail when his mother smuggled a pistol to him. He killed a guard and started to shoot his way out when he went berserk. When an Indian goes wild he gobbles like a turkey. Henry Starr disarmed him, quieted the prisoners and stopped the prison break, and for his heroic act he was pardoned by Theodore Roosevelt, who was then President of the United States. In 1906, I attended a steer roping contest at Coffeyville. The 101 Ranch was putting on its first show and Henry Starr was judge of the roping contest. But he couldn't stand the temptation of easy money. Some years later I learned that he had wanted to rob one of the Caney Banks but he and the town marshal were friends and the marshal told him he could not permit it as it would ruin his reputation, so Henry stayed all night with him and rode to Tyro the next morning and robbed the bank there. For years he made his headquarters along the border and down into the Osage. Hunting was good in the Osage as well as was fishing. In the summer quite often a group of Caney men would go fishing and would pitch camp and Henry would always visit them, partake of their food and discuss the merits of his profession and he always advised his followers never to kill anyone. He said the public will forgive a robber but never forget a murderer.

"Among my many professional duties, I was a collector for the International Harvester Company and one day I was driving down Skull Creek (I knew every crossing between Caney and

Pawluska) to see a farmer about a note I held. Several of the neighbors were gathered and they were hatching. I thought it was strange they didn't ask me to stay and eat with them as they had always done, but I drove on back to Caney. The next day one of the farmers came to town to pay on his note and told me he was sorry they couldn't ask me to stay and have dinner with them the day before but they had company. Henry Starr was there and he always left a \$5.00 gold piece at his plate when he ate with them. It was a nice way of saying they knew they would get nothing from me, which was true.

"About this time, now I'm not going to use the word old, but an elderly lady, a woman of Cherokee extraction, employed me to see about some matters relative to her allotment, and if I remember, I collected some rentals. I am not going to use the word old until I am old, but I straightened up the matters for this lady, paid the money to her and collected the fee for my work. She said "Do you know why I hired you?" I said, "No, auntie, why did you?" She said, "You remind me so much of my cousin Henry, and he is such a nice boy." I said, "Who is your cousin Henry?" She said, "He is Henry Starr." After I recovered myself from the shock, I said, "Where is Henry?" Auntie replied, "He is scouting, the law is after him, that boy just can't keep from robbing banks."

"Another interesting person who is probably familiar to most every one was Tom Mix, who was town marshal at Dewey, and later was a deputy sheriff in Montgomery County, which were preparatory schools for his graduating into Hollywood.

"I would like to discuss for a few minutes the liquor situation on the border 58 years ago and the evolution of enforcement. By constitutional amendment adopted in 1880, the open saloon was abolished in Kansas. A druggist desiring a permit to sell alcoholic beverage for medical purposes could secure the same by presenting a petition to the probate court, signed at first by 12 householders and later it was increased to 20. The probate court issued a permit for one year. The cost for the same being \$5.00, and issued books about the size of a large receipt book. A man desiring liquor must state the malady or ailment, sign the book and right below that . . . subscribed and sworn to.

"It is hard to realize at this time the open saloons in Montgomery County, swinging doors, mahogany bars, plate glass back bars and oil paintings. But between the 1890's and 1906, as Henry Menken would say, "they abounded" in Montgomery County. Wichita, Topeka, Leavenworth, Kansas City, Crawford and Montgomery County were especially wet spots after the development of the oil and gas fields and the increase in population, the demand for liquor became more urgent. They had a peculiar way of handling the situation. A place where liquor was sold was known as a saloon or a joint and the proprietor was a jointist. On the first of each month each jointist appeared before the police court and entered a plea of guilty to maintaining a club room and paid a fine of \$50.00 and cost, at least that was the fee in Caney and I was informed that it was the standard over the county. He was therefore innocent for the next 30 days. Gambling house keepers paid \$25.00 and druggists with permits were governed by an occupational tax of \$25.00.

"The law is a learned profession and attorneys are not thought of as business men, but at the turn of the century, a county attorney was elected who was not only an attorney, but a business man. The gossip, and it must have been true, for the amount of liquor shipped into Montgomery County for the next 2 years, was that he had an agreement with the wholesale liquor houses and breweries in Kansas City that he was to receive a commission on all the liquor shipped to Montgomery County. The contract was, of course, made in Missouri, and the money paid there. He also had a collector or port.

"A former clerk of the district court of this county, who had received his political education in Indian Territory, once each month called on each jointist and collected \$100.00 in cash, and \$25.00 from each gambling house and \$25.00 from each drug store with a permit. If he found someone handling whiskey or beer not on the prescribed list, they were promptly prosecuted for maintaining a liquor nuisance. This had a tendency to line the boys up. But public sentiment was changing. The liquor element was in charge and the people were becoming dissatisfied. At the close of his term, this candidate was not a candidate for reelection but moved to greener fields and his friends said he left with \$50,000.00 which was a very conservative estimate.

"The next county attorney was a fighting young Irishman from Coffeyville named Tom Wagstaff. He selected as his deputy, Roy Osborne, who had been in the legal department of the Dawes Commission. They at once proceeded to hold what they called 'inquisitions.' They would summon in worthy citizens who were supposed to have knowledge as to liquor violations, time and place of sale. Wagstaff was in Caney one afternoon and one of the liquor dealers said, "Tom, this is a great joke, you thinking you can close these joints, people will not stand for it. I have the best location on the avenue and if I wasn't selling whiskey the building would be vacant. Anyway these people coming in from the east are used to the open saloon and the privilege of buying whiskey and beer and the people will not stand for it, but if you want to know who buys and drinks whiskey, I will give you the names of 20 good citizens who drink whiskey every day. Wagstaff very obligingly took out his note book and took names given him, proceeded to issue subpoenas and it developed that most of the 20 had purchased whiskey in the last 30 days from this particular jointist. The jointist was arrested and promptly gave bond and employed one of the attorneys of Coffeyville who had formerly been county attorney to defend him. But when confronted with the evidence, he advised his client to plead guilty, spend 30 days in the county jail and pay the cost, which the defendant did, but you know, he never forgave Tom. But now the war was on and plenty of business for the attorneys. Search and Seizure warrants were issued to all gambling houses, to the so called joints, and the bars and all fixtures and liquor were shipped to Independence and stored in the basement of the court house and for months the odor of stale beer and whiskey permeated the first floor offices and hallways. Liquor dealers attempted to replenish their liquor supplies and bar fixtures but of course failed. One prominent Caney jointist insisted that his attorney bring suit against the county for tearing a large oil painting he had hanging in his place of business, a nude. The attorney for the jointist realizing the evidence the county attorney's office had and that they had no defense, knew they would be lucky to get off with a fine and jail sentence, and on advice of council the jointist all entered pleas of guilty, received jail sentences of 30 days, fines and cost. There were so many prisoners that they packed the county jail, cells and corridors. They had to send some prisoners to Labette County. Later an order of destruction was issued. The street east of the court house was roped off. The sheriff and his deputies stood guard. A group of trustees was brought from jail and every bottle and jug was broken. A dray stood by with a scoop and shovel to pick up the broken glass. Beer kegs and whiskey barrels were broken and liquor actually flowed down the gutter and it was the end of the open saloon in Montgomery County.

"Now the real fight was on, Wagstaff was a candidate for re-election. His friends backed him with the slogan, 'He brought daylight through the saloons.' He was a fearless young man who enforced the law. The liquor interests were well organized with plenty of money for employment of counsel. It was the warmest and hottest political campaign I have ever participated in. Meetings were held in the larger towns and from school house to school house. The Democrats nominated for county attorney a very able attorney from Caney, J.B. Charlton, who had a practice which would set

him several times the salary of the county attorney each month. He was not only an able lawyer but a minister and his brother lawyers would kid him about practicing law during the week and preaching on Sunday and he said, "Don't do as I do, do as I say." Of course, he had the liquor support solid and he made a campaign of the platform that he wanted vindication; that he wanted to prove that a young man could make a mistake and in his mature years correct it. He was a very able speaker. As a young man practicing in Elk City, in the early 1900's, he was elected county attorney on the Democratic ticket and served one term and was suspended from practice for 2 years for advising an accused to leave the jurisdiction of the court. He utilized the 2 years in evangelizing on the Pacific Coast. In a revival meeting he could preach a sermon that would bring the sinners to repentance and fill the mourners' bench with tears and prayers. The good people applauded but did not fight hard enough and Charlton was elected but he did not serve the full term of 2 years. On the opening day of a term of court, Judge Flannelly called Charlton and the sheriff to his office and gave them the chance to resign or else. It was a dramatic scene. The court room was crowded. I can remember one opening term of court when 60 attorneys were in attendance from Montgomery County and surrounding counties. At nine o'clock Charlton walked into the court room as brave as a lion and addressed the court and members of the bar and said, "Your Honor, I have worked hard, tried honestly and sincerely to enforce the law; it is impossible; just last week I secured an injunction against one of the worst dives and joints in Coffeyville and just this morning I discovered that they had a secret room under the sidewalk and were selling whiskey. I am resigning now and ask the court to accept my resignation at once." Which of course, they did and the Judge called the assistant county attorney and instructed him to prepare all criminal cases for trial. Charlton moved on to Bartlesville and for a number of years was engaged as defense attorney in every important criminal case in that part of the state. He was later elected district judge in Washington County and made a good judge. Afterward he was elected county judge, which corresponds to our probate judge and if I remember correctly, he served that office until his death. He was a man with a pleasant personality, and nature had been lavish with her gifts . . . a good mind, extraordinary ability as a speaker. He could go before a jury when a case was lost and win it. He was a product of the frontier.

"At the closing of the saloons or so called joints, the next business that made business for attorneys was the druggist. As Judge Flannelly once remarked, "If the druggist would just obey the law, they could have a better business than the First National Bank. Of course, some druggists did obey the law, but it was too great a temptation for others. Naturally all druggists had to have attorneys. If he were convicted he would lose his right to compound medicine. The State Pharmacy Board would cancel his license, so most of them had a standby, as the underworld would express it, to take the rap, if they were caught red handed. The ones who were cheating conducted their business from the back room. Many sly drinkers and tired business men were caught going in the back door and were branded as drinkers, so certain signs and stratagems were used. For instance, the corner drug store maintained a soda fountain up front and the customer would hold up 2 fingers so the soda jerk would know this was a sign for an ounce of whiskey in a small glass of Coca Cola, and the pass word for the other drug store on the corner was "shanagass" which meant a shot of liquor in a Coke. A quart of liquor was kept in a secret compartment under the fountain. Of course, sometimes this lead to embarrassment. The Home Bank was right next to the corner drug store and the book-keeper was a very beautiful and fascinating young lady. It was her want, when the bank closed each evening, to stop in the drug store, pick up a magazine, sit at a table, catch the eye of the soda jerk and display 2 fingers and in a leisurely manner, enjoy her libation. In those good old days, there was no half way business, you were either for or against it. Each city election had a wet or dry ticket. The spirit of Carrie Nation was aboard in the land. There were many dedicated prohibitionists and many

crusaders. One afternoon there was a traveling salesman in the bank selling bank supplies. At closing time he invited Elsie Pearl in to have something cool at the fountain. It was a hot August day, before the days of electric fans and air conditioners. When they were seated, he inquired of Elsie Pearl her choice of drinks or ice cream. She hesitated a minute, looked at the boy behind the soda fountain and said, "Oh, I'll have my usual Coke." The boy behind the fountain was about 15 years of age and very justified in believing that the man with Elsie Pearl would have liberal ideas and served the salesman the same libation as Elsie Pearl. The salesman leaned back, took a deep draught and most of it was down the hatch before he realized the Coke was loaded. He leaped up, threw the glass to the floor and said, 'This is a saloon. I will have the county attorney down here.' Elsie Pearl said, 'mine was all right.' But, accidentally (with great presence of mind) upset the glass. The proprietor rushed up and inquired of the trouble and the crusader said, 'You are operating a saloon right here. You are selling liquor over the counter, and I will have an injunction placed on this building and a padlock on the door.' The proprietor was horrified, 'I wouldn't sell whiskey even for medicinal purposes,' and before the startled soda jerk could recover, the proprietor jerked him from behind the counter and said, 'This is what I get for hiring these smart town boys,' and shaking his fist at the boy said, 'Don't come here again,' and gave him a swift kick out the door. Elsie Pearl was crying or pretending to cry, she was so shocked, and between her and the apologetic proprietor they succeeded in mollifying the crusader. That evening after the cab driver reported the traveling salesman safely aboard the east bound Missouri Pacific, the proprietor sent for the soda jerk and explained the situation to him, rehired him and had to give him a slight increase in pay for the swift kick. As stated before, some druggists observed the law but the temptation was too great for others.

"In 1907 the county attorney telephoned me that the probate judge requested me to make a check on 3 Caney drug stores that held permits. There was either a great amount of serious illness in Caney or someone was cheating. I made a careful check and found that the 3 drug stores in a space of about 4 months had sold approximately a barrel of whiskey each. Course there was still Indian Territory south and liquor was hard to come by there. Checking the records I found most of the ailments were malaria. I did find one customer who signed up for a case of beer one day for his stomach and the next day he signed for 2 quarts of whiskey for his liver. A man with a wooden leg signed up for corns and bunions . . . extreme pain.

"At that time there I was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, advertising Caney as a city of health, wealth and prosperity and clean bubbling water from Cheyenne Creek. At least it was clear and bubbling when it was raining. We all wore large badges almost as big as a dollar with the flaming gas well there on and the slogan . . . 'Caney, 10,000 in 1910.' We only missed it 5,000. Now don't laugh. We started in 1903 with 1,355 and in 1910 we had 5,050 inside the city limits. They took a special census to establish this as we had to have 5,000 population to secure a charter for the Elks Lodge. Cherryvale, Coffeyville and Independence had an Elks Lodge and you just had to keep up with the Joneses.

"It had been too good a proposition for the druggists and they lost their permits. The only way to secure liquor was by a doctor's prescription. That was when the doctors moved in, or some of them. We had a doctor open an office in a new building and passed the word . . . for consultation only. He had no time to make house calls. In summertime his patients suffered from malaria. The cost of the prescription depended on the extent of the illness and the amount of medicine required and the financial status of the patient. It developed that this doctor was also a good poker player and he soon had the most thriving business in town. It was all cash and no credit, but all good things



George H. Wark 1974

must come to an end. In 1909 the doctors could no longer write prescriptions and the druggist could no longer have a permit. Consequently this branch of business for the lawyer took a slump and a number of drug stores in the county were for sale.

"The law business continued to be good as far as oil and gas was concerned and damage suits were numerous. Of course, with the enactment of the Workman's Compensation Law, that branch of law business declined.

"I do not know what the next development will be to enhance the law business, but it will be something, it always has, and what's going to be will be. Going through a boom town is just like going through a war. You have a lot of fun while it lasts but once is enough.

"In closing I will quote an early day Kansas attorney, "THOUGH THE SNOWS OF MORE THAN 80 WINTERS HAVE WHITENED THE HAIR OF MY HEAD, THE FIRES OF YOUTH BURN ETERNAL ON THE ALTAR OF MY SOUL."

James R. Charlton

James R. Charlton, ex-county attorney of Montgomery County began life as a citizen of Kansas. He was prompted to seek the West to engage in educational work to shape his life along lines of



James R. Charlton

professional activity. Subsequent events have shown the execution of such plans to have led him from the schoolroom journalism, church ministry and finally into the practice of law.

A youth of 19, he first located at Sedan, Kansas and soon thereafter became a teacher in the country schools of Chautauqua County. He had received his education in the high school of Odin, Illinois, and was authorized to teach, under the law, before he left his state. While carrying his 3 terms of school work he was prosecuting the study of law under the direction of J. D. McBrien, of Sedan. In August, 1880, he was admitted to the bar in Winfield, Kansas, and taught 2 terms of school before entering the practice. In 1884, he located in Elk City, where he began his law practice in 1885. He founded the Elk City Enterprise, a weekly paper, with Democratic principles, and published it about 4 years. He was justice of the peace, police judge and city attorney of Elk City and a resident until December, 1890, when he moved to Independence, the county seat.

His early political training led Mr. Charlton into the Democratic party. His political course was along these lines until the political upheaval of 1890, when he joined issues with the new party of that year. He was elected county attorney in 1890, served one term and was nominated for a second term, but declined. In 1894, he opened an office in Caney and developed a large law business in the nearby counties of the state and in the Indian Territory to the south.

James R. Charlton was born in Marion County, Illinois, July 21, 1858. His family was one of the pioneer families of that county, for William J. Charlton, his father, was born there in 1836. Isaac

Charlton, his grandfather, left Virginia in 1824, and settled some of the wild lands near Salem, Illinois. Isaac Charlton was born in 1800, and died in 1876, leaving 5 children; James, Wesley, Sidney, Newton and William J., father of our subject.

William J. Charlton was well known in Odin, Illinois, as a farmer and as a merchant, and he lived in Chautauqua County, Kansas, from 1877 until 1891, when he relocated on the Verdigris River, near Independence, Kansas. He married Eliza Moore, and they reared 3 children.

Mr. James R. Charlton, of this review, married in Chautauqua County, Kansas, April 3, 1881, Hattie M. Hutchinson, a daughter of John Hutchinson, from Clenton County, Indiana. Earl, only child of James R. and Mrs. Charlton, was born January 3, 1887.

For many years Mr. Charlton was an active church minister and worker. While living at Sedan he helped organize the Sedan Christian Church and at a board meeting in 1882 helped plan the construction of their first church building. It was a stone structure built on a hill along East Main Street. He provided the dedication sermon January 19, 1892. Later Mr. Charlton was asked to dedicate the Niotaze Christian Church on October 14, 1900.

Following his move to Caney in 1894 Mr. Charlton and family were members of the Caney First Christian Church, and he served as its pastor in 1895-'96. Later he was called for one year as state evangelist for the Christian Church of Kansas.

Mr. Charlton and family moved to Bartlesville in the early 1900's to open his law practice and ministry. He held a successful revival resulting in the organizing of the First Christian Church of Bartlesville and was it's first pastor. At a later date, his law practice and political interest became very successful, resulting in his appointment as Washington County Judge.

John Todd

John Todd's father, Alexander Todd, was born at North of Ireland, County of Tyrone, Ireland, October 31, 1806. He married Miss Anna Manes June 19, 1828.

Alex and Anna came to the United States as a young couple settling in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They later established themselves on a farm in Millbrook Township, Peoria, Illinois. They were blessed with 11 children including a son, John Todd. Alexander died July 12, 1896, and Anna died September 3, 1883.

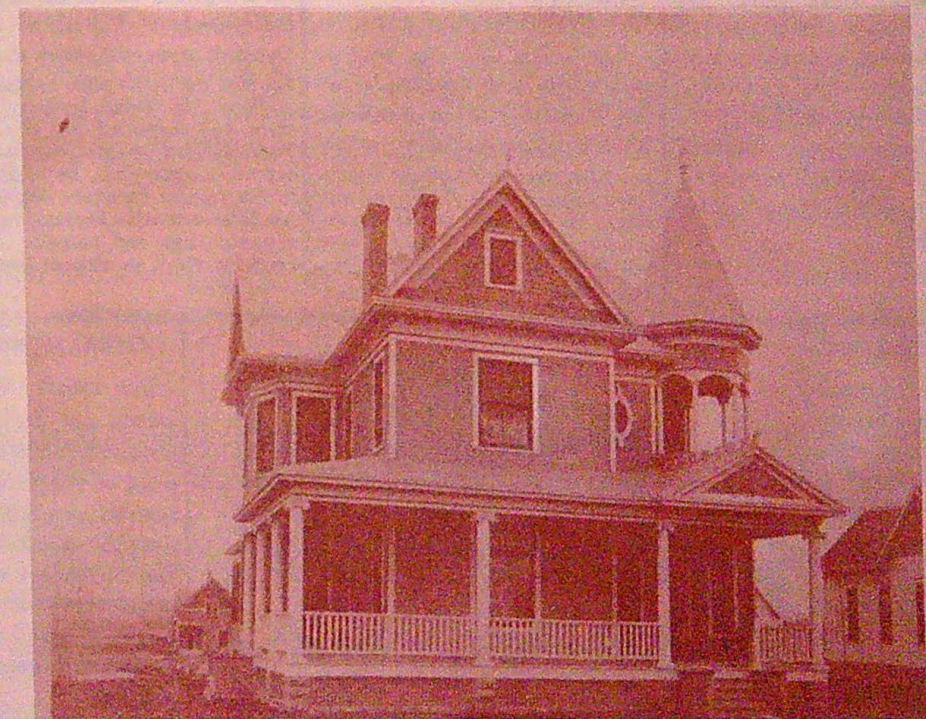
John Todd was a typical western man and in 1867 he left Peoria, Illinois, for Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, where he took charge of the government shops, and remained for about 2 years. A regular stage line was at the time operated between Fort Gibson and Baxter Springs. It was over this route that Mr. Todd reached Montgomery County in about 1870. He soon married Alice Belle, April 16, 1889, and they had 4 children; Adrian Boothe, Elma, Gladys and an infant who died at birth. Mrs. Todd died November 10, 1937.

The Todd family located at a town called Parker, which was the first town started in the county, and grew to be a thrifty place, with a banking house, stores and a population of about 800 inhabitants. It was located about 3 miles east of where Coffeyville now stands, though Parker has long since

been defunct. Leaving Parker, the next move was to Independence and he opened a wagon making and wood workers shop, staying there until 1884. John Todd again relocated at Caney and started business in a hardware, furniture and farm implement store and was the oldest merchant in town. There were only 3 other stores carrying very small stocks of similar items at that time. Mr. Todd's business grew to large proportions, requiring 2 large warehouses for both implements and buggies. Also, a large double store room, for hardware and furniture, was built on the south side of Fourth Street. The general store, located on the north side of Fourth Street, was so crowded that it was necessary to have increased floor space. The new building was built, being a handsome addition to the town. Its size was 40' x 100', the interior double decked, ceiling 18' in height and a trussed suspension roof. Altogether it was one of the best buildings in southeast Kansas. W.F. (Bill) Gleeck, who had been with the store for about 12 years, was manager of the furniture department, and bill collector.

In all matters of enterprise Mr. Todd was abreast of the times. He was prominent in I.O.O.F. matters, having been a member of the order since 1865. He was treasurer of Lodge No. 323. He was also a Rebekah, K.P. and M.W. A., and member of the G.A.R., having enlisted in 1861, in the 47th Illinois Calvary, Company A., and serving 3 years in numerous battles along the Mississippi River, notably the siege of Vicksburg and siege and battle of Cornith.

Mr. Todd was an excellent community leader, serving as mayor in 1894 and again in 1896.

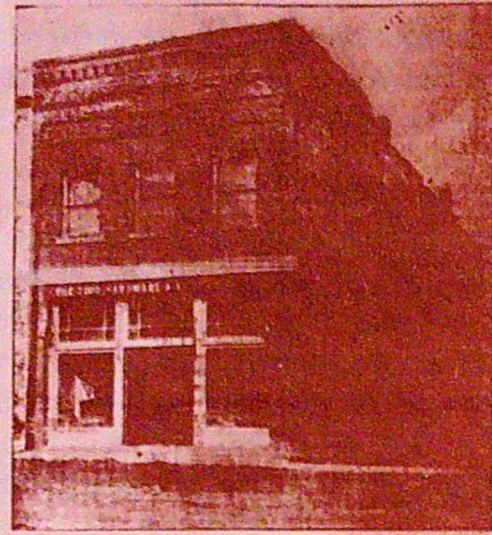


**The John Todd Family Home
now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Buster**

THE TODD Hardware & Supply Co.

Business Established 1884.
Incorporated 1906.

The Todd Hardware & Supply Co.'s Stores.
Vehicle Repository and New Funeral Car.



HARDWARE

In our hardware department we carry a full line of shelf and heavy hardware, Cutlery, Builders Hardware, Edge Tools, Stoves and Ranges. We give special attention to Gas Heaters and carry a large and well assorted line. Our lines of gas heaters are the well known "Reliable," "Classic," "Great Western" and "Estate." We also have an extensive line of Gas Ranges of the same makes.

IMPLEMENT and VEHICLE BUSINESS.

We sell all the leading makes of agricultural implements. If it's a standard article that you want, ask us for it.

FINE VEHICLES AND HARNESS.

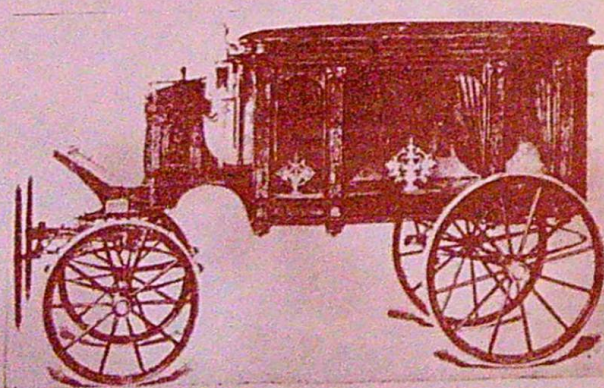
Just at this particular time we wish to call your attention especially to our elegant line of vehicles. We are selling the swell rigs that you have seen lately on our streets. Good enough for anybody and any place. If you want something up-to-date you can find it in our new vehicle repository, opposite the post office.

FURNITURE.

Our stock of furniture is as well selected as any in this part of the state. We carry all grades from the low priced substantial article to the very best. You will not find an article in our entire stock that is not well worth the price asked for it. If you have not been in our store and inspected our stock, a visit will show you that our claims are not exaggerated. In addition to the regular furniture business, we do an extensive business in art squares, rugs and carpets. We carry in stock an elegant line of these goods.

UNDERTAKING.

We have arranged to handle this branch of our business in a manner suitable to the needs of the community. We have fitted up our undertaking parlors in a neat and tasty manner, and can fill all the demands in this line in a pleasing manner.



EMBALMING.

Our elegant new funeral car has arrived and is at the disposal of the people. Special attention is given to embalming. This department will be under the direction of an experienced undertaker and licensed embalmer.

The Caney News

Samuel Hugh Barr

Samuel H. Barr, an esteemed citizen of Caney, and treasurer and local manager of the Caney Gas Company, was born at Virginia, Cass County, Illinois, April 16, 1861. He was a son of Robert and Jane (Lord) Barr, both of whom were born in Ireland and were married in the Emerald Isle before coming to America in 1858. They first located at Virginia, Illinois, from which they moved to Beardtown and then to Rock Island, Illinois. In 1878 they came to Kansas and settled on a farm one and a half miles west of Independence where the family remained. The father died in 1890, when 58 years of age. Robert Barr was a farmer by occupation, but a machinist by trade. To him and his wife were born 8 children, 7 of whom grew to maturity and of whom Samuel H. was the eldest.

Samuel H. Barr was 17 years of age when his parents came to Kansas and made the state his home. He obtained a high school education at Rock Island, Illinois, and began teaching in Kansas when 22 years of age; his service in that profession continuing 4 years in a rural school and one year in the Caney school system. This was but an initial step to other professional labor, however, for it was his intention to become a member of the bar and to this end he read law in the office of S.C. Elliot, then county attorney at Independence, and was admitted to the bar in 1889.

The same year he located at Caney, Kansas, where he was an active and successful practitioner at the bar until 1901, when he became treasurer and local manager of the Caney Gas Company, of which he was the organizer. In community affairs he was deeply interested, giving his hearty cooperation to all movements for the general good, and for 14 years he was a member of the Caney school board of education and served as president for a period of time. He also served as city attorney for Caney several terms.

In 1923 Mr. Barr married Miss Clyde Pittman, the daughter of Mr. Thomas and Mary Pittman, prominent pioneers of Havana, Kansas. Following the passing of Mr. Pittman and at a later date, Mrs. Pittman married a Mr. Baker resulting in 2 daughters; Christine Baker and Mary Louise Baker. Mr. Barr had 3 brothers, Charles of Independence, Rev. R.L., Elbo Lake, Minn. and Edward of Pittsburg.

Mr. Barr maintained a large law library and was considered one of the best attorneys in the area for studying court citations in the county. He was a knowledgeable, strong and forceful attorney and well respected.

His political allegiance was given to the Democratic party and he was an active worker in its behalf, having served as chairman of the Montgomery County Central Committee from 1888 to 1900, and as a member of the Kansas State Central Committee of his party from 1900 to 1902. He was a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Masonic auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star. He further affiliated fraternally as a member of the Ancient Order of United Workman of America and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Barr was also president of the Caney Brick Company.

The story was told by Mrs. Amy Graves, concerning Mr. Barr's experience as a young teacher, that he was a man of strong will and discipline. And while teaching in Caney one of his students decided to cause a class disturbance and proceeded to run out of the building. Mr. Barr reportably, was in close pursuit as the student headed for the river. Upon reaching the river the youngster

jumped in but at this point Mr. Barr, winded and tired, immediately concluded the chase. It was told that Mr. Barr, 'being a Presbyterian and not given to much water' stopped at the river bank, however, the fact was he could not swim!

Thomas A. Stevens, M.D.

In the great majority of cases, heredity has no rights which the biographers of successful Americans, especially those of the West, feel called upon to respect. However, in shaping the course of some men it wields a distinct influence and must be noted when the tendency born in a man is nurtured by an ever-present force in the same lines, crowding other avenues of thought and compelling devotion to a certain vocation or profession. Heredity, supplementing environment and training, had much to do in shaping the career of Dr. Thomas A. Stevens, a leading physician and surgeon of Caney. Not only his father, but his maternal grandfather were physicians before him and the predilection for his calling that contributed so greatly to his success were but his natural inheritance from men of professional skill and zeal.

Dr. Stevens was born at Corydon, the county seat of Harrison County, Indiana, March 14, 1856, a son of J.D. and Margaret A. (Johnson) Stevens. J.D. Stevens was born in 1835, at Corydon, of Scotch-Irish and French parents, prepared for his profession at Jefferson Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating with the class of 1867, and commenced practice at Vincennes, Indiana, whence he had removed in 1860. He successfully followed his profession for many years in Indiana, but in the evening of life came to Kansas, where his death occurred, at Peru, in 1913. He was married in 1855 to Margaret A. Johnson, who was born at Vincennes, Indiana, of Scotch and French descent, daughter of Dr. William Johnson, who was a medical practitioner at Vincennes for 40 years and died there when 70 years of age. He was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, General Richard Johnson, who became famous in what was then known as the Northwest. The children of Dr. and Mrs. Stevens were as follows: Thomas A., of this review; Nancy A., who was the wife of John H. Sams, connected with a gold smelter at Victor, Colorado; Dora K., the wife of R.I. Hillman, a Republican ex-postmaster of Peru, Kansas; Dr. J.C., a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, who was a successful practicing physician and surgeon of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Jemima, who was the wife of William Haberly, a farmer of Peru, Kansas; Maude, the wife of O.D. Hicks, a merchant of Las Vegas, Nevada; and Edger M. a smelter worker residing at Caney, Kansas.

Thomas A. Stevens received his primary education in the schools of Vincennes, Indiana, being graduated from the high school when 16 years old. At that early age he displayed industry and ability as a teacher in the schools of Indiana and continued as an educator for 2 years. In March 1876 he came to Kansas, accepting the position of teacher in the school at Sedan, where he remained for 2 years more. His next employment was as a clerk in a drug store, and it was here his inherent talent made itself felt and he began the study of medicine. In 1880 he attended the Missouri Medical college, and in 1881-'82 attended a course of lectures at the Kansas City Medical College. However, he did not complete the course in the latter year, but began the practice of his calling at Cedar Vale, Kansas, where he remained until January 1, 1885. At that time Dr. Stevens came to Caney, where he remained for a period of 7 years.

Being an undergraduate, the reputation and business of Dr. Stevens depended wholly upon his work when he entered upon his career, but so earnestly did he apply himself to the thorough study of every



Dr. T.A. Stevens

case brought to him for treatment that he soon was on his way to success. In 1891 he returned to the Kansas City Medical College, then the medical department of the University of Kansas, and was graduated March 15, 1892, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In 1899 he took his first post-graduate work in the New York City Polyclinic, and in 1902 returned to New York City, where he did a few week's work in the clinics of the various hospitals of the metropolis. In 1902 and 1905 he attended the Polyclinic at Chicago. Dr. Stevens was appointed United States pension examining surgeon by President Cleveland in 1893, and retained that position for 4 years, during which time over 1,200 veterans of the Civil War appeared before him for examination. He was also appointed medical examiner for all of the old line insurance companies doing business in the state of Kansas, and in the work of that office his attention was called to the urgent need of an organization of medical examiners in the United States.

Accordingly he addressed 100 letters to as many prominent physicians all over the country, calling their attention to the propriety of such an organization, with the result that June 2, 1900, at Vincennes, Indiana, there was completed the organization of the American Association of Life Insurance Examining Surgeons, which now bears the name of the American Medical Examiners' Association, and which, in point of numbers, ranked second only to the American Medical Association. Dr. Stevens was secretary of the organization for 3 years. He was also a member of the Caney City Medical Society, the Kansas State Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the Santa Fe Railroad Medical and Surgical Society and was an ex-member of the International Association of Railway Surgeons. He was the local surgeon for the Missouri Pacific and Santa Fe railways,

and throughout his work was successful both professionally and financially. A great deal of his practice extended to Oklahoma and the Indian Territory where he had among his clientele members of the Osage, Cherokee, Delaware, Choctaw, Munsee and Cheyenne Indian Tribes. In 1900 Dr. Stevens built and equipped the Caney Sanitarium and Hospital, which, measured by the good it accomplished, became one of the most successful of the city's institutions.

Dr. Stevens maintained well-appointed offices on State Street, opposite the post office, while his residence, which he owned, was a modern and handsome structure at the corner of Spring Street and Third Avenue. Formerly he was the owner of a large farm in Montgomery County and 15 residence properties at Caney, but these he traded for Kansas City property.

During his residence at Caney, Dr. Stevens took a prominent part in public affairs and an active interest in the growth and development of the town, a rapidly developing manufacturing city, the growth of which, was due to its being the center of one of the most extensive oil and gas fields in the world. For 16 years he served as a member of the Caney Board of Education, being for 9 years of this time its president. In both of President Cleveland's administrations he acted as United States pension examining surgeon. A Democrat in politics, he was elected on the ticket of that party to the office of mayor in 1900, and during that and the ensuing year gave Caney a most excellent and efficient administration, conserving its interests and getting the greatest value of good from the city's finances. He was the candidate for county clerk in Chautauqua County on one occasion, and while there had been a normal Republican majority of 2,000 votes, met defeat by only 65 votes. In February of 1916, Dr. Stevens was appointed postmaster of Caney, an office in which he gave the satisfaction that only a man of his ability and executive force could grant. Fraternally, Dr. Stevens was prominent, being identified with Caney Lodge No. 324, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Caney Chapter No. 90, Royal Arch Masons; Caney Camp No 941, Modern Woodmen of America; Caney Lodge No. 1215, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and an ex-member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Anti-Horse Thief Association.

Dr. Stevens was married May 16, 1880, at Peru, Kansas, to Miss Luella Sams, daughter of W.C. and Lucy Sams. Mr. Sams was an early stockman of Kansas, and both he and his wife were deceased. To Dr. and Mrs Stevens the following children were born: O.V., member of the lumber firm which had several yards in Oklahoma, and manager of a branch at Nowata, an ex-member of the Kansas Legislature and youngest member in House during its session; Norene K., who was the wife of W.G. Longtoft, a glass worker of Caney; Mabel C., the wife of G.W. Connelly, who was president of the Connelly Glass Company and vice president of the Caney Pipe Line Company and the Owen Zinc Company, and who had other large interests at and about Caney; Maude E., who resided with her parents; Frances, the wife of J.H. Wilson of Caney, proprietor of the Bon Ami Lumber Company; Leta B., the wife of C.I. Gause, a banker of Mound City, Kansas; and Thomas A., Jr., of Caney, who was connected with the chemical department of the American Zinc, Lead and Smelter Company.

In Dr. Stevens' later years he liked to reflect on the early years of Caney pioneers. On one such occasion he reported that the first medical doctor to arrive in Caney was Dr. A.M. Taylor in 1869. Others, such as Dr. W.P. Phillips and Dr. J.J. Stevens, who both died during a diphtheria epidemic in 1887, they were followed by Dr. J.A. Rader in 1890, Dr. W.E. Brown, Dr. J.G. DeVere, Dr. W.P. Booker, Dr. J.J. Stone, Dr. Wm. Fugate, Dr. C.T. Crandell, Dr. R.W. Higgins, Dr. G.J. Bigelow, Dr. W.F. Blewett, Dr. I.B. Chadwick, Dr. W.P. Wilson, Dr. J.W. Minner, Dr. W.P. Howell, Dr. W.F. Coon, Drs. H.L. and Hattie Aldrich and others.

He said Caney had its freak doctors, especially one who could not read or write. He doctored with mixtures of herbs and stated when a label disappeared from a bottle he poured its contents into a bottle set aside for such purposes. When he could not diagnose a patient's problem he gave the medicine from the mystery bottle and said that it worked all right. Another self-styled doctor wrote prescriptions for whiskey by getting the patient to write it and the doctor would make his mark. And there was one who frequently found on examination blood in the stomach. He would give them a capsule of permanganate of potassium. When the capsule dissolved it was an emetic and the patient would throw-up, expelling the contents of their stomach which was red, like blood, the doctor proclaiming the patient was saved!

Elkhair, an Indian who lived 7 miles south of Caney lived in a teepee on the bank of Cotton Creek. Often he treated patients by sweating them and plunging them in cold water. It reportedly reduced the fever and sometimes killed the Indian.

Caney never had been treated by quacks alone. It had many practitioners, as stated above, who would compare favorably with those of any town or city. The early day doctor rode horseback and carried pill bags on the saddle. Mrs. Stevens, caring little for antiques, consigned Dr. Stevens pill bags to the trash.

Charles Owen

The production of oil and gas forms one of the most important industries in the state of Kansas. It is not only a source of great wealth, but at the same time serves as a medium of employment for a great many men and a means of livelihood for a great number of dependent families. In this respect Montgomery County was one of the busiest and most productive portions of the state. The cultivation of its fertile farms and operation of its almost inexhaustible gas and oil wells went hand in hand to make it one of the prime contributors to the bountiful prosperity of a great region. To supervise all the details of the working of one of the concerns engaged in the production of oil and gas required a man of more than ordinary energy, sound judgment and thorough knowledge. And such an individual was Charles Owen, president of the Caney Pipe Line company, and one of the best known figures in oil and gas circles of Southeastern Kansas and Oklahoma.

Mr. Owen was born at Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia, in February, 1870, and was a son of Dr. William O. Owen. His father was born at Lynchburg in 1820 and educated for the medical profession, graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, and for many years he was engaged in medical practice at his native place. During the entire period of the Civil War he acted as senior surgeon of the medical corps of the Confederate hospitals in Virginia. At Lynchburg after the war he continued to follow his profession until his death, in 1891. The impression was well founded that among the sturdy upbuilders of the state of Kansas such accessories as ancestors or family traditions counted for little as a community asset. There was something about the prairies that made a man want to rely upon himself, to develop his latent talents and to draw upon his innate resources. However, no class of men were more appreciative of honorable forebears, and in this connection Mr. Owen was no exception.

The Owen family cannot only be traced back to the earliest times in American history, but also in England, where it originated, for some generations. Colonial Virginia was the home of its early members, and several bearing the family name fought as soldiers in the Continental Army during the

Revolutionary War. On his mother's side of the family, Mr. Owen traced the line back to the Cherokees, one of his ancestors being a full-blooded member of the tribe who visited England and received honors at the hands of King George the Second. Mr. Owen, however, had never made a display of his ancestry, for while proud of his origin, he believed that what a man is and does for himself is the best evidence of manhood, particularly in a comparatively new state like Kansas.

The early education of Mr. Owen came from the public schools of his native place, following which he enrolled as a pupil in Lynchburg College and graduated at the appropriate time. In 1899 he turned his interest toward the West in search of position and fortune, and eventually located on the prairies of Indian Territory, where he embarked in business as the proprietor of a ranch. In this direction he continued with a fair measure of success for something more than 4 years, then recognizing the trend of the times and hearing the knock of opportunity, he entered the oil business.

In 1904 Mr. Owen came to Caney where he developed into one of the leading oil and gas producers in the Kansas and Oklahoma fields. An indication of the extent of Mr. Owen's activities is found in the fact that he was granted a lease on 165,760 acres of gas lands in the Osage Indian Nation, Oklahoma. The lease was granted by the Osage Council, being subsequently approved by the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia. In 1912, Mr. Owen became the prime mover in the organization of the Caney Pipe Line company, of which he was president, the other officials being G.W. Connelly, vice president and E.H. Edgrett, secretary and treasurer, both of Caney. The company was capitalized at \$10,000.00 and supplied gas for industrial and domestic service at Caney and the immediate surrounding territory.

Mr. Owen had various other business interests. He was president of the Owen Zinc Company, which established a 3 block smelter in the northeastern section of Caney in 1914 and of which G.W. Connelly was vice president. The company was organized for the manufacture of spelter or zinc ingots, the raw material coming from all quarters of the United State, while the finished product was shipped all over the world. Mr. Owen was also secretary of the Connelly Glass Company, of which G.W. Connelly was president and A. Loriaux, vice president. The factory, of which was established in 1914, was on North Factory Street. The plant included 30 shops and manufactured window glass with its markets in all parts of the country to the north and west of Caney.

Mr. Owen maintained his business headquarters in the office of the Caney Pipe Line Company on Fourth Street. He was known as a progressive, enterprising man of business, quick and accurate in his judgement and possessing a full measure of tactful discretion, one upon whom his associates could rely in matters of importance. He was the builder of his own fortune and his business activities served to materially aid in the development of the natural resources of the community which he had adopted as his home. Politically, he was an independent and business cares demanded his attention to the exclusion of participation in most public matters, though he took lively interest in everything that promised to affect his community. His religious affiliation was with the Episcopal Church. In fraternal organizations he affiliated with the lodges of the Masonic order and the Elks.

Mr. Owen was married in 1904 at Nowata, Indian Territory, to Miss Pauline Webb, daughter of Hon. George W. and Mrs. Webb. For many years Hon. G.W. Webb was a judge of Galena, Kansas.

G.W. Connelly

G.W. Connelly was the son of Madison L. and Martha Jane Connelly and was born near Charleston, Cole County, Illinois, on October 31, 1873. When Walter was 9 months old his father moved the family to Henry County, Missouri, and later to a farm west of Fredonia, Kansas. They arrived on July 2, 1882, the day President Garfield was assassinated.

In 1884 the family moved to Indian Territory to a place 10 miles south of Bartlesville, about one mile northwest of where Ochelata, Oklahoma, now stands. While living in this area young Walter became a neighbor to Will Rogers and they were playmates. Walter "grew up" with this section of the country, and later in life was destined to play a leading role in its development.

Walter's father rented land from George Keeler, famous pioneer, whose son, W.W. Keeler, was later to become president and chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Company. It is interesting to note that the money George Keeler received from the elder Madison Connelly for rent was used to purchase Texas cattle which grazed on land where the city of Dewey, Oklahoma, now stands. Later, Mr. Keeler sold the cattle and used the money to help stock the Keeler-Johnstone general store that became a landmark in Washington County. When Mr. Connelly moved his family to the George Keeler Ranch, they were the only white family residing on the road from Bartlesville to Skiatook.

The Connelly family moved to Caney, Kansas, in July 1888. Walter's father and mother operated an early-day livery stable for a time and then bought a lot on the southeast corner of Fifth and Spring Streets, just north of the later Connelly apartment building, and started the Connelly Hotel.

During this time Walter and his father went to Arkansas City and together made the great run for land in the Cherokee strip in 1894. Unfortunately, both staked their claims on school lands. Walter developed an acquaintanceship with many Indian and whites who made area history during those early stirring days.

A short time following this interesting episode in western history, young Walter went to Spokane, Washington, and spent 6 years as a night room clerk in the Davenport Hotel. This was during the boom days of the Pacific Northwest, from 1895 to 1901. However, Walter became ill of smallpox in 1901 and while recuperating from the illness returned to Caney to visit his family. His father died soon thereafter and he decided to remain with the family.

During the intervening years Mr. Connelly played a most conspicuous part in the affairs of Caney and that section of the country. Both he and his associates drilled some of the first oil and gas wells in southeast Kansas. They built and operated the first gas pipeline ever to come out of the boundaries of Indian Territory. The gas was being transported to Caney for its growing industries.

Mr. Connelly was the moving spirit in the construction and operation of the Connelly Glass Company, one of the pioneer manufacturers of hand-blown glass. At the peak of its success the plant employed about 200 workers and was one of the important industries of the Caney area and community.



**Home of G.W. Connelly and family
now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Roe**

Other business activities in which Mr. Connelly was identified include shareholder and former vice-president of the Caney National Bank; president of the Ramsey Oil Company; leading factor in the building and operation of Owen Zinc Smelter during World War I; and owner of the Connelly Ranch. Some of his business partners and friends were Alf Landon, Charles Owen and Senator R.L. Owen.

Farming and stock raising always held a fascination for Mr. Connelly. He purchased a ranch, located about 3 miles south of Caney, from Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma in 1917 and added to it until it was comprised of some 6,000 acres.

Mr. Connelly built several business buildings and many residences in Caney. Among the business houses were the Connelly office building, former Spring Street garage, the Liberty and or Gregg theater building and others. The beautiful Connelly family residence was located at 601 East Fourth Street.

G.W. Connelly moved into local city politics because of an aging city waterworks system which was most unsatisfactory. He made the race for mayor in 1919 with the avowed purpose of bringing about improvements. He was elected mayor and served progressively until April 1923, directing major developments to the waterworks system and was in office when much of the street paving was laid. He also was instrumental in supporting the city's purchase of our present city park, then a weed patch, and converting it into a beauty spot. He insisted that trees be planted as a memorial to soldiers

of World War I, the grounds be landscaped and playground equipment be provided.

He was a man of remarkable business acumen and had a memory that never failed him. Even in the latter years of his life Walter Connelly achieved a large measure of financial success but this did not cause him to lose contact with the average individual of Caney citizens. He was sociable and unassuming and his keen mind never faltered.

Mr. Connelly and Mabel (Stevens) Connelly were married on October 21, 1908, at Kansas City, Missouri, and she remained his companion and able helpmate. They had one daughter, Claire L. (Wallingford) Connelly and 2 grandchildren, Thomas Connelly Wallingford and Earl G. Wallingford III. Walter had 2 sisters, Lillie (Connelly) Jennings and Dolly Connelly of Caney.

James D. Canary

James D. Canary, president of the First State Bank of Caney, Kansas, began his independent career at an early age and with laudable ambition for a large business life, which ambition, accompanied by energy, integrity, perseverance and business ability, had always accomplished great results.

Mr. Canary was born in Gallia County, Ohio, April 5, 1869, son of Simeon and Elmira (Dillard) Canary, native of Ohio. Simeon Canary was a farmer by vocation and moved from Ohio to Cooper County, Missouri, where he died when his son James was 3 years of age. Four years later the mother moved to Grayson County, Texas, where James was reared on a farm and received a common school education. The death of his father and the strained circumstances of his mother threw him upon his own resources at a tender age; in fact, he became the main dependence of his mother when 9 years old.

In 1890, when 21 years of age, Mr. Canary was united in marriage to Miss Anola J. Gibson, a worthy young lady, in whose veins runs a tinge of the Cherokee blood, and soon thereafter they moved to Webber's Falls, Indian Territory, where he was employed for a short time as a bookkeeper in the general store of William M. Gibson. He then returned to farming and relocated on a farm in Washington County, Indian Territory, near Caney, Kansas. Here he remained until 1906, when they moved to the town of Caney. For some 7 years he had been interested in the oil and gas fields of northern Oklahoma and acquired 3 sections of land in Washington County, known as the Canary Oil Field. He worked for some time with Harry Sinclair of Independence, Kansas, in their procurement of oil and gas leases.

In April, 1919, he became president of the newly organized First State Bank of Caney, Kansas, and was also president of the Bank of Copan, at Copan, Washington County, Oklahoma. In addition to his banking and gas and oil interest he was interested in the glass industry at Caney and in the raising of fine Hereford cattle. He had thus, in a few years, built up large business interests by his own unaided efforts, and at the same time gained an enviable reputation for accuracy of business methods and soundness of judgement. Fraternally, he was a member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.



Mr. and Mrs. James D. Canary home
now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rolls

Simeon Cecil Canary

Simeon Cecil Canary was one of the progressive young business men of southern Kansas, and was a member of a pioneer family that had some of the largest holdings in the ranch and oil districts of southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma and also operated ranches in other states. He was born at Webber Falls, Indian Territory, May 15, 1892.

His ancestors were among the pioneers of the state of Ohio, where his father, J.D. Canary, was born in 1869. J.D. Canary was reared in Texas and in 1898 moved to Indian Territory living on his ranch just south of the Kansas border and moved with his family to Caney, Kansas in 1906. He was president of the Canary Oil Company and general manager of 2 large ranches, owned by himself and sons. J.D. was an active Democrat.

J.D. Canary married Anola Gibson, who was born at Collins, Texas, in 1872, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M.W. Gibson. Her father was a native of Texas, was an extensive cotton raiser and owned a number of cotton gins both in Indian Territory and Texas. Mrs. M.W. Gibson died at Wagoner, Oklahoma. The children in the Gibson family were: Anola, wife of J.D. Canary; James, a farmer at Wagoner; W.M., Jr., a general merchant and farmer at Webber Falls, Oklahoma; and Nettie, wife of Omer H. Ellington, a general merchant at Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Canary had the following children: E.P. Canary, wife of I.D. Williams, who had an orange grove at Lakeland, Florida; Simeon C.; James H., manager of their ranch in Wyoming; and Elmira L., who was a student in the Monticello Seminary at Godfrey, Illinois.

Simeon Cecil Canary received a public school elementary education in Oklahoma and later graduated from Caney High School in 1912. In the following year he completed a course at the Culver Military Academy at Culver, Indiana, and then entered the University of Wisconsin, where he majored in agriculture work, preparatory to the large responsibilities he was to assume. He remained in the university through his sophomore year.

Since July, 1915, he was engaged in the oil business and in ranching. He was a stockholder in the Canary Oil Company, had interest in the J.D. and S.C. Canary Oil Company, the J.D. Canary and Sons Oil Company and the Tyrone Oil and Gas Company. The last named company was operating in the Kansas fields while the others were principally in the fields along the state border line between Kansas and Oklahoma, as the Canary Oil Field. The Canary Oil Company had given a name to an important oil field in Washington County, Oklahoma, as the Canary Oil Field. The officers of this company were: J.D. Canary, president, J.W. Ernest, secretary and treasurer. The J.D. and S.C. Canary Oil Company operated entirely in Oklahoma.

Special mention should be made of the 2 large ranches controlled by the Canary family. Simeon C. was personally interested in the management and control of the 3,000 acre ranch 6 miles east and a mile south of Caney. The family had a ranch of 1,500 acres in Wyoming, located in one of the richest farming districts of the state along the North Platte River and at the town of Saratoga.

Some of the finest cattle in the world was bought and handled by the Canary interest. About this time they paid \$8,100 for a bull called Repeater the 63rd. This marked the record highest price ever paid for a yearling bull. Repeater the 63rd combined the blood of the greatest sires and dams of the breed, being a grandson of Distributor by Distributor; dam by Lamplighter by Don Carlos; second dam by Don Quixote by Anxiety 4th and third dam by Don Carlos.

Simeon C. Canary owned a fine residence on East Fourth and Vine Streets in Caney and also 3 business blocks in the city. He was unmarried and politically a practicing Democrat. He was affiliated with the Caney Lodge No. 324, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Caney Lodge No. 1215, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and a member of the Independence Country Club.

Charles Wilson

Charles Wilson was born near Oxford, Chester County, Pennsylvania. At the early age of 10 his family moved in 1870 to Cherokee County, Kansas, where he was reared and educated. His first business experience was at Cherokee, Kansas, retailing hardware and farm implements which he successfully conducted for 6 years. He then was affiliated with the Long-Bell Lumber Company and during his 15 years of creditable employment progressed from office man to yard manager then to a traveling salesman. Mr. Wilson traveled for the Long-Bell Lumber Company, located at Kansas City, for 7 years. He was a brother to Mrs. R.A. Long whose husband was a partner in the Long-Bell operation.

In February, 1903, Mr. Wilson moved to Caney, and with R.A. Long, purchased the Home

Lumber Company from A.A. Truskett and son. They organized the Bon Ami Lumber Company. The lumber yard was located on the southwest corner of Fourth and Wood Streets. After 2 years Mr. Long withdrew from the partnership, with Wilson being sole owner. In 1912 Mr. Wilson purchased the Frank Brothers Lumber Company on the southwest corner of Spring and Third Streets.

Mr. Wilson was the last of 10 children. He married Eva C. Lucas on October 27, 1886. Following their move the Caney they resided at 202 South Wood Street. Their marriage provided 2 sons, Jesse of Caney and Edgar of Longview, Washington.

The Caney News in 1905 reported, "Caney has had the advantage during the past year and a half of having at the head of the city government a live, wide awake, progressive man as mayor." The Honorable Charles Wilson was just bringing to a close his 2 year term as mayor of Caney. Since his election as mayor in the spring of 1904 Mr. Wilson was foremost in the promotion of public improvements and the fostering of projects contributing to a greater Caney. Not only did he faithfully perform his official duties, but he gave generously of his time and effort outside of the requirements of his office to the upbuilding of the community which conferred upon him honors and responsibilities.

It is due Mr. Wilson to say that in the discharge of his duties as mayor, he won the confidence and esteem of the entire community, all of his official acts being characterized by the same ability and sterling integrity which marked his successful career in business. Any movement having for its object the promotion of Caney, whether a Fourth of July celebration, boosting for the local baseball club or the securing of some big industrial plant for the city, his honor was foremost in the work. His efforts helped encourage large manufacturers to locate their plants in Caney and some of the general industrial improvements which had come to the city.

Mayor Wilson was president of the Cheyenne Window Glass Company, whose plant when completed cost \$50,000.00 and employed 200 men.

T.W. Truskett

The real estate brokerage business established by Thomas W. Truskett in 1908 had gone hand in hand with the development of Caney since its inception and undoubtedly had contributed largely toward the advantageous disposal of property and the honorable and satisfactory placing of loans, as any concern of the kind in Montgomery County. Mr. Truskett was one of Caney's substantial citizens, his success was self-made and in its scope and usefulness directed attention to qualities of perseverance, business integrity, and ability and high regard for the welfare of the community.

Mr. Truskett was born in Monroe County, Ohio, March 28, 1852, a son of Thomas W. and Elizabeth (Williams) Truskett. His paternal grandfather was a native of England who on coming to the United States located in the state of Maryland and there passed the remainder of his life, while on his mother's side his grandfather Betts was a German emigrant to Pennsylvania. Thomas W. Truskett the elder, was born in Maryland in 1823 and was reared and educated in his native state, from whence, as a young man, he went to Monroe County, Ohio. There he became a pioneer farmer, married, established a home, and continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1859, when removed to Cooper County, Missouri, again becoming a pioneer. In 1862 he enlisted in the First Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and joined the command of

Gen. John Seaton, with whom he participated in a number of the most important engagements of the war, including the battle of Shiloh, Helena and Fort Donelson and the siege of Vicksburg. He was taken prisoner by Shelby's men near Springfield, Missouri, but was shortly thereafter exchanged and rejoined his regiment, with which he fought until the close of the struggle. He established an excellent record for bravery and fidelity, and when honorably discharged and mustered out of the service, at Omaha, Nebraska, returned to his Missouri home. Mr. Truskett continued to engage in farming in Cooper, Morgan and Moniteau Counties, Missouri, until 1870, and in that year went to Vernon County, where he made his home and carried on his agricultural activities until 1890. In that year he located in Washington County, Indian Territory, settling on a farm 10 miles south of Caney, Kansas, consisting of 100 acres, where he was living at the time of his death in 1896. He was laid to rest in the cemetery at Caney. Mr. Truskett was a Republican and a faithful member of the Christian Church. He was married in 1841 in Ohio to Miss Elizabeth Williams, who was born September 1, 1820, at Crabapple Orchard, Pennsylvania, and who was a schoolmate of the great statesman and politician, James G. Blaines, at one time a candidate for presidency of the United States.

Mrs. Truskett died at Caney, Kansas, in September 1894, having been a mother of 8 children, they were: John O., born in 1843, enlisted in 1862 in the First Nebraska Infantry, and discharged for disability toward the close of the Civil War, returned to Missouri and engaged in farming, and died in Nevada, in 1885; James H., born in 1845, who was engaged in farming on Hog Shooter Creek, Washington County, Indian Territory; Joseph I., born in 1847, who was engaged in farming at Mulberry, Kansas; A.A., born in 1851, retired and resided at Montverde, Lake County, Florida; Mary E., who died at the age of 17 years; Thomas W., of this report; H.A., born in 1855, was a farmer of grain and a lumber merchant, founder of the Home National Bank of Caney and one of the city's most prominent citizens, and died in 1906; and Harriet M., who married first, Jacob Russell a barber, later deceased, and then was the wife of John Wyatt, a retired farmer at Independence, Kansas.

Thomas W. Truskett received his education in the public schools of Missouri, and was reared as a farmer, remaining on the homestead until he was 20 years of age. When he started upon his career, however, he was a school teacher, and for 5 years was engaged in teaching in Missouri and Kansas. He first came to this state in 1873, when he took charge of a school at Godfrey, in which vicinity he remained 2 years. In 1875, he engaged in farming along the Drywood Creek 12 miles south of Fort Scott, where he remained for 5 years. He then moved to Elgin, Kansas, where he farmed for 3 years. About this time Mr. Truskett's wife died, and for a period thereafter he did not have a settled home, although he was engaged for a time in the shoe business at both Independence, Kansas, and Joplin, Missouri. From the latter point Mr. Truskett went to Washington County, Indian Territory, engaged in farming and the cattle business for 20 years, and in 1891 came to Caney, which city remained his home and the scene of his successful business operations.

On first coming to this city, Mr. Truskett engaged in business as the proprietor of a livery barn, but after 2 years thus spent, turned his attention to mercantile lines and founded a store on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Spring Streets. There he successfully handled general dry goods and groceries and through good management and honorable dealings built up a prosperous establishment. In 1908 Mr. Truskett disposed of the business to his nephew, W.O. Truskett, although he still owned the building. He then devoted his attention to the real estate brokerage business, handling properties in Colorado, Old Mexico, Florida and Montgomery County, Kansas. He was the owner of 5 residences at Caney, these among the finest in Caney, 2 smaller residences, and his own handsome home at the

corner of Sixth and Main Streets, 4 of Caney's business buildings and 966 acres of valuable land in Old Mexico. He also had various other interests, prominent among which may be mentioned his flourishing feed business, which had also been built up under his personal direction. C.J. Reynolds and his father, Sam Porter, W.S. Brown, and T.W. Truskett financed the first telephone company in Caney. Reynolds' father invented it and established a city line. Messrs. Porter, Brown and Truskett signed off on the Reynolds note when he wanted to extend the line to Independence and other Montgomery County communities.

Mr. Truskett was formerly a Republican in his political views but became an independent Democrat. He served one term as mayor of Caney, during which time he displayed abilities that won him the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. On another occasion he was a candidate for a place in the Kansas State Assembly, but was in a district which had a Republican majority of 800 and met defeat with the rest of the Democratic ticket. Mr. Truskett was an active member of the Christian Church and generously supported its movements. He was well-known in fraternal circles, was the first past president of the state organization of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and at the time of his retirement from his official position was presented with a handsome watch charm as a memento and appreciation of the services he rendered that organization.

Mr. Truskett was first married June 5, 1876, to Mrs. M.J. Gepford, the widow of Silas Gepford. She died November 20, 1880, leaving 3 children: Metta May, born November 20, 1877, died in Texas, and had married L.L. Peterson who resided at Caney and managed the feed store in partnership with Mr. Truskett; Harvey A., born March 26, 1879, who died in infancy; and Harriet E., born October 10, 1880, the wife of Dr. C.E. Wyatt, a practicing dentist at Independence, Kansas.

Mr. Truskett was again married February 13, 1887, to Miss Theodosia V. Ross, of Missouri, who died April 22, 1904, leaving 2 children: Benjamin O., born October 31, 1888, who graduated from a school of embalming and then was associated in business with his father; and Beatrice, born January 16, 1901, who attended the public schools. Mr. Truskett was married the third time March 15, 1908, to Miss Bertha Berger, a native of Belgium, and they had one daughter: Cleo Lenora, born September 13, 1910.

James F. Blackledge

Protective laws are passed in every state that seemingly assure the safety of all money that may be deposited either by the laborer or the capitalist in a bank, and still permit enough latitude in the bank's policy to make the business profitable. On the president of the concern rests the responsibility and thus, at the head of the financial institutions of solidity are usually placed men of business experience and known integrity, of sterling character and conservative habits. It reflects credit on Caney, Kansas, that just such a man was president of the Caney National Bank, James F. Blackledge.

James F. Blackledge was born October 29, 1869, at Rockville, Parke County, Indiana, and was a son of William and Phebe (Johns) Blackledge. William Blackledge was born in 1829 in Columbiana County, Ohio, and died in 1913 at Caney, Kansas. He grew up in Columbiana County and worked as a builder and contractor, moving to Rockville, Indiana, prior to the opening of the Civil War. In 1861 he enlisted for service in the same, in an infantry regiment, and continued his soldierly duties until the close of the war when he returned to Indiana. He had survived the many dangers to which he had been exposed but he found business conditions disturbed in his old home and in 1876 moved to

Peoria, Illinois. In 1878 he came to Kansas and located at Oswego, subsequently, as his business demanded, living at different locations, going to Salina then back to Oswego, then to Carthage, Missouri, and to Kansas City and in 1896 settling permanently at Caney, Kansas. In politics he was a Republican. He belonged to the Masons and was a member of the Rockville Lodge. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church and brought their 6 children up honest and industrious and gave them every advantage their means would allow.

William Blackledge was married to Phebe Johns, who was born in 1832 at Columbiana County, Ohio, and died at Caney, Kansas, in 1909. The following children were born to them: Nettie, who was the wife of G. Tobert, a retired farmer and vice president of a bank at Altamont, Kansas; Seward, who owned a farm near Chetopa, Kansas, and for 5 years built mills in Old Mexico; Elmer E., who traveled over the county as his trade of millwright demanded; Mary E., who was the wife of J.F. Johnson, a school teacher at Altamont, Kansas; Sallie F., who was the wife of A.L. Utterback, who terminated 2 terms as postmaster of Caney in 1916 and was employed as a metal weigher for the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company.

James F. Blackledge attended the public schools of Oswego, Kansas, and then took a commercial course in a business college at Salina. From 1888 until 1893, he was a United States railway official between Fort Scott and Webb City. On May 10, 1893, he came to Caney, Kansas, and became bookkeeper for the Caney Valley Bank. Two months later he was made cashier of the institution and in 1914 he was chosen its president.

The Caney Valley National Bank was established as a state bank in 1886, with capital of \$25,000.00. Its founders were: Thomas G. Ayers, Joseph Savage, George Slosson and P.S. Hollingsworth. The bank became nationalized in 1900 and its officers were: James F. Blackledge, President; Charles Owen, Vice President; H.V. Bolinger, Cashier and R.L. De Hon, Assistant Cashier.

The bank was in a very prosperous condition, with a capital and surplus of \$70,000.00, all made out of the original capital. The bank building was situated on the southwest corner of Fourth and State Streets, and the bank owned the entire business block which included the post office.

At Independence, Kansas, February 19, 1891, Mr. Blackledge was united in marriage with Miss Martha H. Allen, daughter of E.P. Allen of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Blackledge were blessed with 4 children: Ralph P., who died at the age of 13 years; Pauline B., who was the wife of Dr. B.E. Fellis, of Chicago; Mercedes, who was bookkeeper for the Caney Valley National Bank; and Gwynn E., a remarkable person, being a successful electrician and Studebaker automobile agent until his loss of eyesight. His first wife and helpmate was Mrs. Flossie (Jordon) Blackledge, who died July 28, 1962. Gwynn then married Maxine (Jones) Blackledge who was associated in their furniture and banking businesses. They owned and successfully operated one of the finest furniture stores in southeast Kansas and northeast Oklahoma. Also, Gwynn was president of the Caney Valley National Bank and its major stock holder.

In politics James F. Blackledge was always a staunch Republican, never wavering in his allegiance to the party. On numerous occasions he was called on to serve in public office and capacities, and his whole course, in reference to every duty, had been honorable and efficient. He served on the board of education of Caney for 5 years and served on the city council as treasurer. He was long

identified with standard fraternities and belonged to the Caney Lodge No. 324 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 1215 and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, No. 1,000, all of Caney.

The Blackledges were of Welsh, Scotch and Irish extraction but they had been Americans for a very long period, having settled in Pennsylvania prior to the Revolutionary War and participating in it. Both Mr. Blackledge and his wife were eligible for membership in the exclusive societies of Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Sylvester W. and Elizabeth Wood

We are indebted to Elizabeth Betty (Frost) Russell of Caney, a great-granddaughter of S.W. and Elizabeth Wood, who provided most of the information as outlined in this family history.

Another early day pioneer family arriving at Caney in early 1872 was that of Sylvester William and Elizabeth Wood with Henrietta, Jessie and Della; a fourth child, Otho was born in Caney. The family had moved from Independence, Kansas, and S.W. purchased a building from Jasper West and operated it as the Cana Hotel. The Wood family found Caney had a school house, a few business stores and 5 or 6 houses, including log cabins. Mr. Wood purchased land south of town and engaged in cattle raising in addition to his hotel business.

It became controversial as to whether their home was in Kansas or Indian Territory. However, they later moved to what is now 121 North Wood Street, and of course the street was initially named after the Wood family.

S.W. Wood was born March 4, 1823, and information on his place of birth and his parents could not be located. It was known that as a young man he moved from New York State to LaSalle County, Marseilles, Illinois, and married Miss Elizabeth Hobart, January 18, 1859. A few years later the Civil War broke out and like all other women of the nation, Mrs. Wood's heart was saddened as she saw company after company of soldiers marching away. Finally as the war dragged on, the married men were called to the colors and Sylvester W. Wood bid farewell to his wife. He was conscripted as a carpenter on board a ship. He performed his duties well and was later awarded the Grand Army of the Republic medal, which remains in the family today.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Hobart) Wood was born July 5, 1834, in Delta County Ohio. Her parents, who originally were from England, settled first near Boston, Massachusetts, and then moved to New York. And still later, they joined the great tide of western migration that sought new homes in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Although Ohio was admitted to the union in 1803, it was not yet thickly settled in the 1830's. Many Indians were living in the state. Most of the land was thickly wooded and wild game abounded in the forests. Mrs. Wood's father built a sawmill and cleared 600 acres of land. He was enterprising and built a kiln where he burned all the small, crooked and knotty pieces of timber. From the ashes thus obtained he made potash, which he sold to a local refining company to be made into soda.

When Elizabeth was about 20 years of age, the Hobart family migrated to Illinois, settling in LaSalle County. Although they had seen many Indians in Ohio, the Indians in Illinois were more

hostile toward the white settlers. The first house in which the Hobarts lived in Illinois was one in which the wife and youngest child of the previous owner, a Mr. Munson, and had been massacred. The story of that tragedy was well known to Elizabeth Hobart. Mr. Munson and his 2 boys were working the fields when the Indians attacked the cabin, killed the mother and youngest child and carried away the 2 daughters whose ages were 15 and 17 years. The men in the fields saw from a distance what had happened, tore the harness from their horses and rode at breakneck speed to the fort 12 miles away and called for aid. In the meantime the Indians had tied the 2 girls on to horses and were headed for their village across the Mississippi. The Munson girls related afterwards how the horses they were on swam the river and the girls, dripping wet and half dead with fright, were given into the keeping of 2 squaws. It was stated that the Indian women were kind to the girls, giving them dry clothing, broth made from venison, and a great bed of deer and bear skins to sleep on. The soldiers arrived a day or 2 later but the Indians exacted a sum of money for ransom before the Munson girls were liberated.

Both S.W. and Elizabeth Wood were true pioneers who endured the many difficult hardships of frontier life. Mrs. Wood once stated, "I have pioneered all of my life and that's a long time." Life had its pleasantries in the early years at Caney, but this was mixed with some difficulties including a major drought and grasshopper plague.

The houses were little more than shacks of native lumber, warped in the blistering summer sun. Food was much harder to obtain than in Ohio and Illinois. Every autumn the men organized a hunting party and went 100 miles or more west where buffalo were plentiful and brought back a good supply of meat. Cattle rustlers and horse thieves were active in and around Caney, but after a few "neck-tie parties" under the auspices of the vigilante's committee, they ceased their depredations. What few Indians remained were the peaceful Osage so their white neighbors had nothing to fear from them.

One day when Mr. Wood was in the outskirts of the village he saw a gang of thieves approaching. He hurried back the Main Street and gave the warning and the thieves found the "vigilantes" waiting for them. Another time after robbing a store and a bank, robbers, marched "Uncle Ves," as Mr. Wood was called, down to his home at the point of a gun and forced him to search his house for money, which they believed he had hidden there. Mrs. Wood and the children had seen them coming and taking the money with them they ran out to the field and hid. One of the girls held the dog's nose to keep him from barking and revealing their hiding place. The robbers ordered Mr. Wood to call his family so he called several times but no one answered and they finally left empty handed.

Of the 4 Wood children, only one, Jessie, married. She, the oldest daughter, became the wife of C.F. Herring. Della died of appendicitis at age 42. She was a school teacher. Henrietta was a milliner and Otho a plumber. They remained at home with their parents. Mr. Wood passed away March 25, 1909. Mrs. Jessie (Wood) Herring October 10, 1916, and Henrietta March 4, 1925.

On August 8, 1874, Elizabeth gave birth to their only son, Otho Hyatt. He attended public school in Caney and entered business in 1908. For 5 years he was associated with the firm, Woods & Franks, who were plumbers. From 1913 to 1923, he was a partner of E.J. Ehemann who had purchased the interest of Mr. Franks. In 1923, Mr. Ehemann bought the interest of Otho Wood as he retired to his home to care for his aged mother.

Elizabeth's whole life had been characterized by patience, fortitude and kindness. In the twilight hours of her long and useful life, she lived in her quiet little home, tenderly cared for by her devoted son, Otho, and her granddaughter, Mary Herring. Elizabeth maintained a strong interest and dedication to her church and to the Relief Corps and the Violet Rebekah Lodge No. 163 in which she was a charter member.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wood died March 28, 1927, at Caney, Kansas, reaching 93 years of age.

W.K. Godden

We are indebted to Mrs. Dorothy Mc Burney who provided background information on Mr. W.K. Godden and family, longtime business and community leaders.

For 50 years, W.K. Godden was an influential business man in Caney and served his city in many ways. He moved to the area before the city was incorporated and was initially employed as Caney Township Clerk. Mr. Godden arrived in early 1884 and, among other interests, raised sheep for a period of time. Later, he started a mercantile company and most of his activity was directed to general merchandise, having a trading post utilized by the Indians.

In dealing with the Indians, he purchased or traded for many artifacts, including a beaded and feathered headdress, tomahawk and a peace-pipe. Many years after his death, most of these items were donated to the Frank Phillips Wooloroc Museum, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, by his daughter, Mrs. Frances Godden-Apitz. These items are currently on display, noting the gift sponsor.

Mr. Godden discontinued the grocery business in 1912 and handled only dry goods and shoes. The Godden store was located on Caney's Fourth Street and was recognized for excellent merchandise. Following Mr. Godden's death in 1934, the store was managed by his sister-in-law, Mrs. Jennie Fell-Knapp, a long-time employee, until the store was sold in 1945.

The Caney Daily Chronicle reported November 13, 1934, "His stories of the trade here in the early days, of giving people credit when he hardly knew them and of the payment of these bills, the early raids and the development of the county would make very interesting reading and give one an idea of the real hardships these pioneers passed through."

W.K. Godden was born in Ohio in 1862. As a young man he was a member of the Ohio National Guard. In 1881, his company acted as an honorary guard at President Garfield's funeral. Three years later he removed to Caney, Kansas.

He was always a booster for a better community, serving on the city council and helping the development of the oil and gas industry. Both he and his wife, Anna, worked hard to build up the beautiful Sunnyside Cemetery, being on its board of directors. Mr. Godden was also quite active in the Red Cross.

A great lover of outdoor sports, he kept up his hunting, fishing and golfing until his death. A trophy of his deep-sea fishing, a large mounted marlin, hung in his dining room for several years and later at the Godden store. His interest in horticulture resulted in his 3 close friends, William Heeman, T.W. Truskett and Bert Stone, joining him in ordering grafted paper shell pecan trees. Three of these

trees are still alive and bearing pecans today. He and Anna planned to build a greenhouse at their home, 108 South Main, and she completed it following his death.

Anna Knapp-Godden was born in Iowa in 1873 and educated in Osceola, Iowa and Caney, Kansas, where her parents located in 1887. W.K. Godden and Anna Knapp were married in 1893. They had a son, Hal, who died at age 2, they also had 2 daughters, Isabel, who died in the 1918 influenza epidemic, and Frances Godden-Apitz who survived.

Anna Knapp-Godden was "one of the builders of Caney into the city that it is, of church influence and cultural environment." She was a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church and for more than 50 years an active worker in every department, "an inspiration to co-workers of all ages by her tireless endeavor, yet unassuming attitude".

She and her sister, Elizabeth Knapp-Dye, were charter members of the Sigourneyan Club, a study club and reading circle, formed to promote learning. Through these 2 and their niece, Helen Knapp Mc Burney and great-niece, Dorothy Mc Burney, this family has been in Sigourneyan for its entire 101 years of existence. Mrs. Godden was a particularity interested member of the Caney Garden Club, also, cultivating her greenhouse until her death in 1938.

W.K. and Anna Godden were both admired citizens in Caney and their home extended a welcome to all affairs concerned with church and was a center of cultural interest in the community. Mrs. Dorothy Mc Burney now resides in the family home.

Chapter 6

Border Town Scandals

Caney may well have been the "Queen City Of The Border" but with that early day distinction accompanied the fact that it was a very rough community. Murder was not unusual, gun fights common, bank robberies you could count on and robbery of business establishments not unusual. Considering Indian Territory was only a mile south, many outlaws seemed to escape and vanish quickly within this wilderness area. For those interested readers, a few incidences of importance are as follows:

TURKEY CREEK MASSACRE...Dr. J.W. Minner reported that in the spring of 1872 at the age of 12 years he started out from his home in Hickory Valley, south of Caney, to Hart's Mills. This was a distance of about 25 miles, with a load of corn to be ground. On his way he had to cross Turkey Creek where there had been a terrible massacre the week before. Two white men had been killed by Osage Indians though no reason for the deaths was ever known.

Doc said that in coming down to the creek he had to go down a very steep hill and he got out and held one steer head of his team which consisted of 4 steers. Well, down into the creek bottom they went and started across into a thicket when 2 Indians appeared. One of them drew a long knife and old Doc thought he was going to lose his scalp. However, it appeared that the Indians were not interested in scalps but a watermelon that he had brought along for something to eat during the long trip. As the Indians grabbed the melon young Doc jumped into the wagon and gave his steers a whack, not looking back. Doc said he got his corn ground and stopped by old man McClarney's who fixed him up with some food. It was a trip he would never forget.

THE BARKER RAID...The year 1879 ended with an event that was to rock the town and cause more excitement than a prairie fire or a cloud of grasshoppers.

That summer Barker had kept a beautiful black race horse named Black Bess in Jeff Booth's barn. The mare was owned by Jim Barnes and Lon Sennet. No one suspected Barker of being connected with a gang of outlaws. In the raid he used the mare to make his getaway. The raid occurred August 2 at about 9:00 A.M. Four men, later known as the "Barker Gang," rode into town from Indian Territory. Sid White had started out of town and met the raiders who compelled him to return with them to the Dunlap & White store.

Two men dismounted and 2 remained on guard. After robbing Dunlap they went up the street to Jeff Booth's store but Booth saw them coming and locked the doors, so they returned to the Dunlap & White store. Sid was in the store tying up goods for the raiders when one of them ordered him to

go to the street, and as he went the man kept punching him with a Winchester to hurry him along. Sid reported that he thought he was shot every time the fellow would punch him. In the meantime, S.W. Wood had come running up the back way to warn Mrs. Taylor, the Booth's and his own family. Mrs. Booth ran across the street to the Woods home and they all went back some place near the Price Hotel to hide. The rest of "the townsmen" were away from home so the robbers had things their own way.

During the robbery 3 men rode in from Indian Territory intending to warn the people, but were too late. The robbers ordered them to halt, and the men turned aside to hitch their horses at Dave Howard's blacksmith barn across the street north of the Dunlap & White store.

The Barkers fired into them and one man named Kirkpatrick was shot dead and fell into the well in Dave Howard's yard. It is noted that this well is located under the floor of the old Winkler Pharmacy. A second man, John Roberts, was shot in the elbow and carried a stiff arm for the rest of his life.

In the meantime the Barkers were holding all the bystanders to one side. Among the men they lined up were Dr. A.M. Taylor and John L. Carinder. John was just a lad and he managed to get away. He said that he didn't stop running until he reached home 2 miles out of town.

Barker was riding a white horse which had nearly played out so he exchanged it for Black Bess and the others exchanged horses with the men from the Territory and marched bystanders down the road a short distance, then turned and galloped away.

Barker was later shot and the other 2 were never captured. The fourth member of the gang, named Triplett, was captured and one Caney settler was in Coffeyville when he was brought in by the territorial peace officers. He was badly shot up and in a critical condition; however, he was not in such poor shape that it prevented him from giving Sid White and others who identified him a good cursing. Triplett was later tried, convicted and sent to the penitentiary.

Dave Howard's well was to play a role in another episode in Caney's history many years later. After the Howards moved to a new location, a building was built on the site. D.M. Leach, a jeweler, occupied the store and was in the process of setting a diamond in a piece of jewelry and the diamond slipped out of place and fell to the floor, entering a crack in the wooden floor. He immediately summoned workmen and they proceeded to take up the floor to recover the diamond. The first thing they discovered was the old, long-forgotten well standing wide open just as it had been the day the building was built. On the very edge of the well's rock rim was the diamond!

ELISHA BOOTH ROBBERY...In the fall of 1889 a robbery occurred at the Elisha Booth's general store on Caney's Main Street. A man by the name of Triplett led a gang in broad daylight and was shot and killed. The gang quickly rode off on their horses but had only a wagon to carry Triplett as he expired. They headed for Coffeyville, Kansas, with little money as Elisha had heard them coming and took almost all of his money and hid it in the garden behind the store. There was some question whether this was the Triplett who ran with the Barker gang or a relative.

HENRY STARR ROBBERY...Both Henry and his wife Belle Starr were beginning to obtain quite a bad reputation as outlaws in Indian Territory in 1892-'93.

For some time Henry, a periodic visitor to Caney, had been looking for a prosperous bank to get into the "big money." Caney looked to Henry as a likely spot, so on March 27, 1893 he and a man by the name of Cheney headed in that direction. Starr knew the country well and was very familiar with the town. They had well-bred horses with speed and endurance which they hid out and used common cow ponies as their first getaway transportation.

They camped south of the Kansas state line the night before. The next day as a gloomy drizzling rain came down they leisurely rode into Caney at about 3:00 P.M., their destination being the Caney Valley National Bank!

The Chronicle of March 28, 1893, reported the details: "The robber who entered first proceeded to obtain command of the situation. The only persons in the bank were Cashier F.S. Hollingsworth, Clerk Harry Scurr and M. McEniry, Vice President of the First National Bank Of Coffeyville, Kansas.

"As they entered, one of the robbers proceeded toward the back room. Cashier Hollingsworth, looking up, spoke saying, 'How do you do.' The robber merely nodded and replied, 'How d' do,' and passed on as if looking for someone. Hollingsworth turned and looked after him, thinking he would tell him there was no one there.

"Just then, something attracted his attention in front of the bank, and he discovered the other man standing right in front of him with 2 six-shooters pointing at his face, saying, 'That's all right, hold up your thumbs.'

"Meantime, young Cass Todd had entered the bank, pushing in front of the last robber, and not noticing anything wrong or unusual. He stepped up to the change window, laid down a check book, and stood leaning against the counter expecting to make a deposit of \$75.00, which was folded in bills between the leaves of his check book.

"At this junction, the robber who had passed into the council room found Judge McEniry, who, thinking it was some drunken man making a play with his pistol, retired into the private room back of the vault. The robber followed him and forced him out again into the business room, where Cashier Hollingsworth and Clerk Scurr were. Now the robber who had been standing in the other room behind the counter turned his weapon on young Todd and forced him to throw up his hands and go before him around through the council room and into the business apartment. He then made all those present stand in the corner at the west side in front of the vault.

"The one who had cornered Judge McEniry found in the private room a Winchester belonging to the bank, had reinforced himself with the weapon and now came to the exchange window near where Hollingsworth was standing. Seeing 2 revolvers hanging under the counter, he reached and took possession of them and said to the cashier: 'What do you keep these things for? Don't you know you can't use them?'

"At this juncture another citizen walked unsuspecting into the jaws of peril. This was Enos Parsons, who says, 'The first thing I saw was a man pointing a weapon at me saying. "Walk right in, pass right back this way; you won't be hurt if you behave yourself." ' He says at first he thought it

was merely some young man having a little fun, and he merely looked up and grinned. But the fellow says, 'B- G-- I mean it'! And then Parsons looked around and saw the others standing with their hands up and he concluded something was up and he instantly obeyed. He then passed around through the council room and took his place with the rest, and put up his hands.

"Then followed 2 other citizens, Len Peterson and Stephen Sanders, both of whom were disposed of in the same way that Parsons and Todd had been. This took some little time, perhaps 5 minutes, none of them having time to realize what was going on until the act was accomplished and the robbers were in possession of the loose money, and had emptied the contents of the vault into their sack.

"They then proceeded to make the 7 men go out of the building into the high enclosure at the rear of the bank, and cautioned them to keep quiet. They then locked the door and ran out the front way and turned on a trot down State Street, toward their horses. As they were making their way toward their horses, the little man carried the money, which was quite a load, and the taller one covered the rear with his Winchester.

"Just across the street were 3 men passing by Burris' livery stable. These were Mr. Shinn, Geo. Garlinghouse and Harry Dunn. He, the man with the Winchester, called to these men to hold up their thumbs. They did not understand the importance of the first call, and he called to them in louder tones: 'Hold up your thumbs.' Even then they paid little attention to him, thinking he was merely some fellow amusing himself. But when he called out to them the third time and raised his Winchester to his face they began to realize that something was wrong, and Mr. Shinn dodged in at Henderson's and the other 2 passed around the corner.

"By this time the men who had been cooped up like rats in the back yard of the bank managed to break through the fence at the west side and running around to the front, raised the alarm. Then there was such hurrying and scurrying as has not been seen this side of Gotham since the surrender of the Dutch at New Amsterdam. Men rushed hither and yon, everybody calling everybody else to do something and nobody doing anything. The robbers quietly got on their horses...and rode off. They went out of town the same way they came in, and did not seem in the least hurried or flurried.

"The only person who made any effort to follow in a reasonable length of time was Ed Pearce, our young marshal, who immediately mounted and followed them at a distance of perhaps half a mile. Meanwhile great crowds of curious gazers and gawkers had gathered at the bank and on the corners, and the yawpers were foremost in the crowd and each telling what he would, might, or could have done before any organized effort was made to pursue the robbers or reinforce the young marshal.

"Finally, some system was organized out of all the confusion and a fine and able posse started out...No results however are reported from the chase. The riders all returned in the evening and it was then an assured fact which must pass into history that Caney had a genuine bank robbery by real live robbers and the robbers had ridden away in broad daylight, and carried with them whole skins and a goodly weight of boodle...Various rumors concerning the amount of the loss sustained by the bank were set afloat but at this writing we have reasonable reassurance from officials that the amount of the 'crack' was not over two thousand dollars, or twenty-five hundred at the most.

"It would appear from a casual survey of the features of the case that the Daltons have been outdone altogether...For coolness, smoothness and daring, this adventure has not perhaps its equal in the history of the state...not been equaled in this intensely interesting line of human activity since the days of the Youngers and Jameses..."

At least 25 men were within calling distance of the bank and yet not a single person knew what was going on until the robbers were on their horses and riding out of the city. Not a single shot was fired, not a drop of blood was spilled.

At the time no one knew it was Starr who had pulled the job and he was never convicted of it though he was shot and arrested in late March 1915 and convicted of other robberies. In later years he told about the Caney robbery and his story pretty well confirmed that of the Chronicle, except he said they had gotten away with \$4,900.00, a sum considerably smaller than had been expected. The hero of the day was the cashier who managed to hide a stack of large denomination bills behind some ledger books. Thus some \$16,000.00 was saved.

Starr rode south out of town and as soon as they disappeared from sight took off at full speed to the east for some miles and then off to the southeast. The posse which followed surmised they had headed for the Osage Hills and went southwest and never came anywhere close to catching them.

FIGHTING AND SHOOTING COMMONPLACE...Col. Porter reported that he had no intention of reentering the practice of law as he arrived in Caney in the early 1890's. However, as there were shooting scrapes every day or so he seemed to have no choice in helping to maintain law and order.

He said, "One of my first cases in Caney was J.J. Stone, a farmer on the river, and Wash McClure who got into a big fight. The latter beat Stone over the head with a club and was thereupon sued. Stone was a homeopath doctor. He built the first large stone building in Caney and I bought it. My office was started then on the present site. The post office was located in that building also, and Levi Glatfelder was postmaster there in 1896."

"Another queer tragedy was the shooting of a fellow named Vaughan who perhaps was a desperado, but withal, a kindhearted fellow. It seemed to me that Vaughan knew something about the doings of Al Beagles and the latter was afraid he might tell it, so he captured him and placed him in the school house to be guarded. Later, they made the excuse that they wanted to place him in a safe place, and took him behind the building and he was murdered. Their excuse was that they thought he was trying to get away, but the public opinion was that he was murdered maliciously and with premeditation. There were no arrests."

DR. MC COY MURDERS WIFE 1906...The Caney Chronicle of April 12, 1907, reported that "last Saturday closed the term of court and in the afternoon Judge Flannelly passed sentence on those who had been convicted of crimes, among them being Dr. E.B. McCoy of this city, who was convicted of killing his wife here last June.

"A.B. Clark, his attorney, fought to the very last, but the judge told him he could no longer defer the passing of his sentence, and gave him 50 years in the penitentiary at hard labor. Mr. Clark served notice of an appeal and in default of \$10,000 bond the doctor will have to go to the penitentiary pending the hearing of the case before the supreme court.

"This terminates, so far as the courts or the county are concerned the saddest case that has ever come before the courts of this or any other county. While the evidence was all circumstantial, yet so strong were the circumstances surrounding the crime that the jury was out only 2 hours before bringing in the verdict, and every part of the evidence was offered."

Again, the Caney Chronicle June 22, 1906, reported the suicide of Mrs. McCoy "last Monday morning, and the incidents in connection with it, are the most horrible that has ever fallen to our lot to record.

"Dr. W.F. Blewett has lived in Caney 2 years and was called by phone by Dr. McCoy, who said, 'Hurry up my wife has shot herself.' I found Mrs. McCoy lying on the bed facing the west, one limb drawn up, one hand resting on the bed bolster, baby asleep, Dr. McCoy sitting in a chair by the bed in a night dress, revolver on wash stand. Hemorrhage from forehead made examination of Mrs. McCoy difficult, she was gasping for breath from bullet hole, one inch above left eye."

And so it was that Dr. McCoy paid the price in the penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

WILL GARR MURDER...The Caney Chronicle in April, 1908, reported that "Tuesday night at about 11 o'clock Mark Killion, armed with a big 44-revolver, walked to the entrance of M. Earnheart's Restaurant and called Night Officer Will Garr out. After walking a few steps and immediately in front of the Todd Hardware & Supply Company's store, where they talked together a few minutes, shot him down in cold blood, putting 3 balls into the officers body, 2 other shots glancing off.

"As Killion fired the first shot Officer Garr threw up his hand, and thus warded off the effects of the bullet. It is said that Killion then stepped out of reach of Mr. Garr's arm and fired several times more. Three shots entered the officer's body and 2 more glanced off. After Mr. Garr was down, and he lay helpless on the sidewalk, Killion beat him over the head with his gun. He then took Garr's gun and walked down the street, flourishing both revolvers. Mr. Garr's shots went wild, only one glancing Killion's neck. Two marks on the front of the Todd building told that Garr fought to the last.

"There were several parties on the streets, but they were so shocked and from fear of their own lives did not attempt to interfere with Killion in his work of murder. After he left, Mr. Garr's body was taken to Sipes & Sharp Pool Hall across the street. Dr. Blewett was called, but nothing could be done. Mr. Garr lived about 30 minutes after the shooting, and the only statements he was said to have made were that Mr. Killion had shot him, and that Killion fired the first shot.

"Mrs. Garr was called, and arrived before Mr. Garr died. His body was taken to the undertaking parlor, where it was prepared for burial.

"Killion went to the home of his sister, Laura Killion, where he barricaded himself, and where his wife is said to have gone for the night. Evidently he expected a mob, or either sell his life as dearly as possible. Mrs. Killion ran across the street to borrow a revolver from a neighbor, stating that Mark had killed a man and that they had surrounded the house and she was afraid and wanted something to defend herself with.

"When it was learned where Killion was, City Marshal George Boggs organized a posse armed with shotguns and surrounded the house. Members of the family denied his being there, but he was seen to go in, and the posse was scattered around the house, and close guard kept.

"It was the intention of the officers to guard the premises until morning, and then, if he did not give up, to get Winchesters and bombard the house. But Ex-City Marshal Bishir thought he could effect his capture, and the assistance of Killion's brother, and other members of his family, persuaded him to give up without a fight.

"Mr. Bishir says he did not attempt to capture Killion until requested to do so by the sheriff and mayor. He went to the house and after satisfying Killion that he would be protected against mob violence, and the promise that he would be allowed to carry his gun until he got as far as Dearing, concluded to give up and to accompany Mr. Bishir to the sheriff's office.

"Mr. Bishir said that Killion did not express any regrets for what he had done. He said that if the other officers had undertaken to have arrested him he would have killed as many of them as he could, and been glad of it. He also stated that Garr fired the first shot, and that when powder burned his face he thought it was time to defend himself.

"The brutal killing of Officer Garr by Mark Killion is the culmination of a life of profligacy. Naturally, Mark Killion was a bright fellow. He was capable of making a good citizen. But liquor and the card table were his ruin, and when he was under the influence of liquor he was a demon, and would do most anything.

"Officer Garr arrested him a short time before, and it was reported that Mark told him then that he would 'get him.' But Garr did not think that he meant that the performance of his duty meant that his life would be taken.

"At the time of the tragedy, Killion was out on parole. He was sent to the county jail only a few weeks before, and had been paroled less than 2 weeks. And this is one of the sad results of the parole laws, or perhaps the abuse of the intent of the law.

"Mr. Garr had not been on the police force very long. He was a carpenter by trade, and until his appointment as night policeman, worked at his trade. He was a quiet, unoffensive man, and had the reputation of attending strictly to his own business. He was a good citizen, and no one ever heard of his causing trouble in any way. The fact that he did his duty as an officer was a thing to commend him. He died a martyr to the cause of law enforcement, and his life was a sacrifice for the toleration of law breaking in the community. Will it serve as a warning?

"It was a sad affair, and excitement was intense. There was some talk of lynching, but we are glad to say it did not get very far."

SMOKING GUNS...On the morning of March 17, 1916, 2 Mexicans, Joe Diaz and a fellow named Antonio underwent an incident that neither lived to tell about. The incident took place on the Missouri-Pacific railroad tracks close to the depot.

At what must have been a prearranged meeting the 2 approached each other, Joe coming from

the west and Antonio from the east, and as they got within about 15 or 20 feet of each other both drew their side arms and fired.

Most certainly murder was in the mind of each, and in an accidental twist of fate, each was killed. Joe was buried in Sunnyside Cemetery with a marked grave. However, Antonio has no burial record so probably was buried in Sunnyside's Potters Field.

NIP VANN MANHUNT...Charles Clayton Drake published *Who's Who of History of Kansas and Montgomery County*, including the cities of Coffeyville, Independence, Cherryvale and Caney in 1943. In this excellent publication he included a brief story of the killing of Marshal John McInroy at Caney and the pursuit of Nip Vann, the slayer, by Bert Ziegenfuss then Montgomery County deputy sheriff.

The article reported at 9:45 o'clock on the night of November 12, 1913, a shot rang out in the city of Caney 18 miles west of Coffeyville...and 23 years and 4 months later, handcuffs were clamped on the killer at Nogales, Arizona, ending one of the longest manhunts in the annals of American crime.

The victim of the slaying was John McInroy, marshal of the city, while the man responsible, more than any other, for the final rounding up and conviction of the slayer on a manslaughter charge was Bert Ziegenfuss, a blood first cousin of the slain officer. The man convicted was Nip Vann, early movie showman.

McInroy, Ziegenfuss and Vann had been associates from childhood. They had attended Caney public schools together, played ball in the same sandlots and entered early adult activities in Caney.

Why did Nip Vann kill his life-long friend McInroy, apparently in cold blood in the dead of night? The question was never fully answered.

Trial Was Held Here

"Vann's trial on a first degree murder charge was conducted in the district court of Montgomery County sitting at Coffeyville in July, 1937. But the state did not show a motive for murder and despite the finding of the jury that the defendant was guilty of fourth-degree manslaughter, there continues to lurk not any criticism for the jury or the court, but veiled mystery as to the actual cause of the shooting.

"Then there was the companion issue to motive: 'If Vann did not purposely kill McInroy, why did Vann flee immediately from the scene and remain a cringing fugitive for nearly a quarter of a century'?

Ziegenfuss Makes Vow

"Bert Ziegenfuss, a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Bob Lewis at the point of the slaying, was not always a salaried deputy sheriff.

"Ziegenfuss was attending the district court room at Independence the night of the Caney

tragedy. A night session was being held. He was called from the court room to the telephone. His informant from Caney said Marshal McNroy had been shot and critically wounded. Court was adjourned and County Attorney Chas. D. Ise, Sheriff R.W. Lewis and Deputy Ziegenfuss drove to Caney.

"Upon the arrival of the sheriff's party at Caney, inquiry was made as to the condition of the wounded officer. 'He died 30 minutes after the shooting and Nip Vann fired the shot and had fled'! was the reply received. After viewing the body, Ziegenfuss made this vow: 'If we both live, I'll get him.' He made good on that pledge, though it required more than 23 years to accomplish the task.

"Bert Ziegenfuss, once chief of the Pussyfoot Detective Agency of Caney, pursued his man, Nip Vann, nearly 24 years before he caught up with him and brought him into the district court of Montgomery County sitting at Coffeyville, in July 1937.

"Besides the ties of blood and friendship, Ziegenfuss and McNroy had been associated for several years in the 'Pussyfoot' Detective Agency, which derived a part of its title from 'Pussyfoot' Johnson, famous foe of liquor and political corruption, at the turn of the century. Their business card read: 'Pussyfoot Detective Agency, Caney, Kansas, Bert Ziegenfuss, chief, and J.H. McNroy, assistant chief.' A Caney telephone operator, now Mrs. C.W. Mecum of Tulsa, and then City Attorney George Wark, now a retired brigadier general in the new army, made up the remainder of the personnel of the agency. General Wark in his capacity as legal adviser for the city gave the marshal advice, but was not a partner in the agency. The Pussyfoot agency had handled successfully several more or less important cases and gained a reputation for meritorious and dependable performance, when one of its principles was struck down in death.

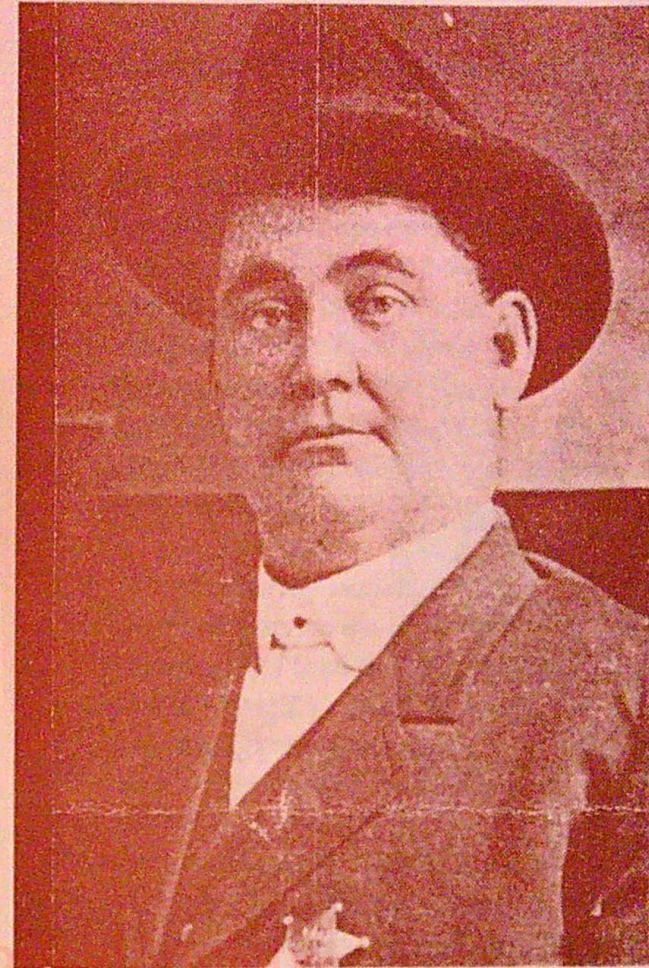
Under Tom Mix

"Vann was of Cherokee Indian extraction. He early took to riding ponies and always exhibited a flare for showmanship. In 1907 the Bell-Vann family consisting of Nip, his mother, Mary Bell, his sister who moved to Hollywood 20 years ago, his brother John Vann and a half-brother, Alfred Bell, moved from Caney to Bartlesville. Through Tom Mix, director, Vann got employment with the Miller Bros. 101 Ranch and did a thrilling horseback act at the Jamestown, Virginia, exposition in the same year they left Caney.

"Vann later joined an early movie company on location in the South, going from there to an Arizona location. In 1910, Vann married Fannie Travis of Bartlesville. The following year he hired to the Gorman Film Company of New York City and he was in its employ at the time of the Caney slaying. In his sworn testimony in district court in 1937, Vann testified that the late Tom Mix, famous western movie star 2 decades later and once deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, was a director on location at Okesa, where the Gorman Company was preparing to stage a western movie picture. Mix, as director of the Millers' 101 Ranch, had hired Vann for that show.

Career Is Blighted

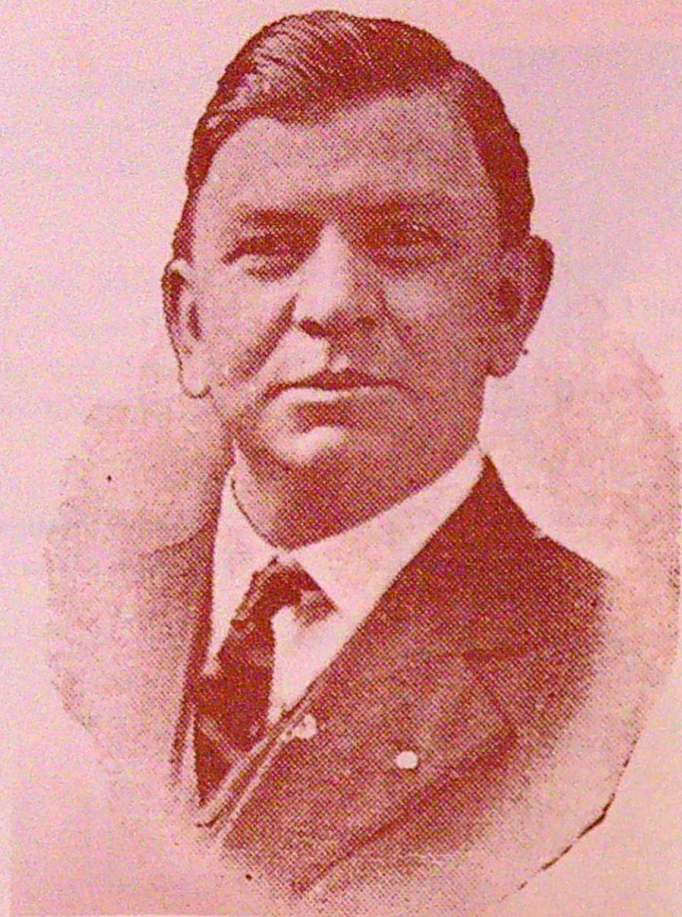
"Tall, dark-eyed, strong, self-confident, even handsome and a bit braggadocio, Vann doubtless was destined to go places in the movie world and his friends so believed. But somehow that destiny had a rendezvous with death, yet perhaps cowardly murder. His magic rise in the picture world was



John H. McNroy, Marshal
Caney, Kansas

Nip Vann and wife





Bert Ziegenfuss, Montgomery
County Deputy Sheriff



John H. McInroy headstone
November 12, 1913

blighted by the single shot that rang out on that fateful night in Caney, Nov. 12, 1913, and he was forever doomed by his ignominious flight into oblivion.

"Vann's defense in court, he was represented by former County Attorney Warren B. Grant and J.R. Charlton of Bartlesville, also a former county attorney, was that the shooting was accidental. It was a long and tragic descent that Vann had made in his fugitive years from the swashbuckling showman of 1913 to the bent, pain-racked, blood-poisoned, haunted, voiceless, coughing, trembling specter that was borne into the court room on a stretcher in 1937. A showman still however, in a way, Vann laboriously lifted himself a hitch at a time to an upright posture on a hospital cot, carefully surveying the while, the judge, jurors and newspaper men. Then in an almost spectacular gesture, he turned his head half way around and slowly appraised the faces of some 200 spectators in the room, his sweep taking in his own brother, John, 2 McInroy brothers, and Bert Ziegenfuss who relentlessly pursued him for nearly 24 years.

"Supremely confident of his psychic powers to elicit the emotions of the jurors, Van proceeded to tell his story on the stand. Testifying in that husky, rasping, sanded half-whisper and half audible voice that had been shattered by dissipation and disease, Vann, in the opinion of some spectators, proved himself a master of dramatics and easily constituted himself his most valuable witness. He said in his opening testimony:

Shooting An "Accident"

"As God is my witness, the shooting of Officer McInroy was wholly accidental, and was wholly unintentional. Why, your honor, John and I grew up together and we never had a harsh word. But judge, I was scared. I was so frightened when I saw blood coming through his shirt and heard him say: "My God Nip, you've shot me," that I ran from the scene as fast as I could. I feared later they would not believe me if I returned to Caney and told them the truth about the shooting."

"Waxing eloquent and dramatic, Vann told the court and jury of his alleged wanderings over the world, of his travels to European ports with cargoes of horses, mules or cattle. Tears welled up in his dark brown eyes and his throat filled deeper with phlegm as he told of his wife's pathetic death after she had traveled 7,000 miles in a vain effort to overtake her husband.

"Three times before his final capture and conviction, Vann was definitely located and documentarily identified, but in each case the fugitive wriggled out of the net thrown about him and again became a comparatively free man. First, in 1915 at Richmond, Virginia, again in 1916, at Camp Douglass of the National Guard Montana unit, under the name of John D. Douglass and the third time in 1927, he was discovered in Mexico. A provisional territorial arrest was issued and signed by then President Calvin Coolidge, but Vann had flown by the time this red tape had been unwound.

Had Several Aliases

"Vann went under various aliases, such as Douglass, Martin, Stewart and others. He was arrested as Frank Martin, at Nogales, Arizona.

"Ziegenfuss recalls also that once he traced Vann to Hollywood, but that he was foiled by an

apparent collusion of a former resident of Bartlesville and certain detectives in Los Angeles and San Pedro.

"The former chief of the Pussyfoot Detective Agency experienced many disappointments and few encouragements. But his complete story would fill a sizable volume in itself and cannot be given the space it justifies in this historical volume.

"It may be set down here that Nip Vann was paroled from the state penitentiary November 6, 1938. Had he served 6 more days his departure from the penal institution would have marked the 25th anniversary of the shooting at Caney. In the opinion of some of his friends who extended financial and other assistance before and during his trial, Vann failed to come back into their world. They do not complain, rather they are convinced that nearly 24 years as a fugitive from justice had destroyed that something that makes a man wish and determine to be a man. At one time, Vann, they point out, had charge of a railroad construction job of great magnitude, in charge of hundreds of workers, both skilled and unskilled. But he had to be Dick Martin. After his capture and trial, he became in reality Nip Vann, the murderer and no fooling. His friends now deny that he is the Nip Vann, they knew in 1910-12, and the fact will probably operate to prevent Nip Vann from ever permanently coming back. Then too, he is now right at 60 years of age. Endowed with every quality of leadership and possessed of a genius for making and holding friends . . . the specifications of greatness . . . they killed Nip Vann. Pride made him kill, friends kept him a fugitive, and the humiliation of being regarded as a cold blooded murderer broke his spirit. Vann's soul went from his body, he is only alive. That body that has tasted the whole gamut of evil and has suffered for years the torture of pain, still refuses to die."

Chronicle Editor H.K. George Brief

Some additional comments referencing Nip Vann, extracted from an article by the late Chronicle Editor, H.K. George, seems appropriate to mention:

"His full name was Napoleon B. Vann and he lived in Bartlesville. He had been a police officer in his hometown and was a candidate for Washington County Sheriff only months before the shooting took place in Caney.

"Nip Vann was an actor in traveling wild west shows, also performing in numerous silent movies, many of which were filmed in Washington County, just south of Caney.

"He is credited with introducing famed actor Tom Mix to the movie trade . . . he and Mix shared credits in many western moves.

"But on the night of Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1913, life turned a fateful twist for the handsome young actor. He and his half-brother, Eph Bell, and another companion, H.C. Lannom, came to Caney to look for a shooting site for a cowboy movie. After their work, they apparently started drinking, and they headed for the Elks Club which was located in downtown Caney.

"At the Elks Club, Vann and his companions were turned away because they were visibly drunk, and the rejection apparently did not set well with them. They headed down Fourth Avenue on foot where they were confronted by Marshal McInroy. He arrested Vann and started marching him

toward the jail. But the trip ended in tragedy when at the corner of Fourth and Spring, Nip Vann pulled a revolver from his boot and pointed it at McInroy. Vann started walking at the Marshal, making him back up, all the while McInroy was saying, 'My hands are up, Vann. Vann, don't shoot. You don't have to shoot me.'

"The shot rang out and Marshal McInroy slumped to the brick street beneath him. Nip Vann and his comrades fled the scene in a motor car, heading south into Oklahoma.

"A posse was quickly organized, but it was nearly 2 hours before a car could be borrowed from T.W. Truskett. The posse returned early the next morning reporting no trace of the fugitives. A well-known owner of blood hounds was called in from Newkirk, Oklahoma, and by Thursday there was quite a manhunt underway throughout the area.

"Several noted citizens in Caney went together and posted a \$500.00 reward for Vann. His reward posted read: 'Napoleon B. Vann, one quarter Cherokee Indian, 6' tall, 145 pounds. Eagle-like features, black and straight hair, dark eyes and was last seen wearing cowboy hat, striped vest and boots.'

"All flags in town were flown at half mast and local lodges were draped in mourning for several days until after the Sunday funeral of Marshal McInroy...."

WELL, WHO IS TO JUDGE IF NIP VAN RECEIVED HIS PROPER DUE FOR THE COLD BLOODED MURDER OF MARSHAL MC INROY. THERE WERE MANY WHO WERE DISAPPOINTED CONCERNING HIS LIMITED PRISON TERM AND YET HIS REMAINING LIFE WAS IN REALITY...NO LIFE AT ALL. ONE COULD SAY, WHAT A WASTE OF HUMANITY, TALENT, SUPERB PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES, FUTURE SUCCESS...AND DESTRUCTION OF A BOYHOOD FRIEND, A COSTLY PRICE FOR A BOTTLE OF BOOZE AND A NIGHT ON THE TOWN....

NIGHT MARSHAL'S GUN ENDS HI-JACKER'S CAREER... As taken from the Caney Chronicle, September 27, 1935 it related: "A man identified as Johnnie Pryor, of Pawhuska and Sedan was shot 4 times by Night Marshal Ross Hays about 8 o'clock last night when he refused to put up his hands but started shooting at Hays. He died about 3 o'clock this morning at the Caney Hospital, where an emergency operation had been performed about midnight last night. Two shots hit him close to his left breast, and one near the middle of his body. All 4 shots went through his body. Hays used a 45 revolver and received only a small wound on the inside of his right hand, near the wrist. The bullets also left a mark on the handle of his revolver. Other shots fired by Pryor went wild. The shooting took place at the Lindsey Service Station at the corner of Third and Vine.

"At the Lindsey station, but not at the hijacking, Pryor had with him a woman, who allegedly is Mrs. Pearl Pappos, of Bartlesville. She had nothing to do with the hijacking, so far as has been learned as yet. She had been at the Lindsey Station 3 times, yesterday, according to Victor Lindsey, and admitted she had been up this way several times lately. She claimed Pryor met her on the highway south of the Southland Station about a mile south of Caney, and used a rifle to make her park the car at the station and get in with him. The attendant there said he did not see any gun and that she seemed to be in a hurry to go with the Indian. The Pappos car, a Dodge Sedan, contained nothing of value to the officers and was released.

"Pryor is said to have been released a few weeks ago from the Oklahoma penitentiary at McAlester, where he had been sent 7 or 8 years ago for shooting Pawhuska officers, so far as local officers can learn. Marks on his body indicate that he has been in other scrapes of some kind and Mrs. Pappos said she knew he would shoot if he took a notion. That was why she was afraid of him and finally agreed, if he would put the rifle in the seat and sit on it, to get into the car with him.

"Pryor it seems, earlier in the evening had held up Harold Alexander, attendant at the service station at the "Y" 4 miles north of Caney, at the junction of 166 and 75. Alexander had helped the man, an Indian, out of the ditch, it is reported, and the Indian, in return had pulled a gun on him. Alexander grabbed the gun but Pryor pulled out a second gun and took the other gun back and also what money Alexander had. The Indian was drunk or had been drinking heavily. Officers found part of a bottle of liquor in the car when it was searched late last night. This second revolver had not been located so far.

"C.R. Bradley, of Sedan, came along about this time and he and Alexander followed Pryor to Caney. Alexander got out at Ferguson's service station, and Bradley followed Pryor to State Street where Pryor got out of his car and pulled out a 30-30 rifle he had with him forcing Bradley to go back. Bradley went to the Ferguson service station, where Alexander had called the officers and the men went to Kelly's Lunch, where they met officer Hays. The 3 got onto the car, drove around awhile, down to the state line, in the north part of Caney, and finally out to the Ideal Station on the east edge. Coming back from there they passed a car near McGee, on Fourth, that both men recognized. It was a Ford V-8 coupe. They went on a way, turned around, and again passed the Ford, being driven by Mrs. Pappos. They again passed the car and it stopped at Lindsey's supposedly to get some gasoline. Lindsey came out to wait on the car and about that time Hays, Bradley and Alexander drove up to the Ford, and told Pryor to get out and 'stick 'em up.' The man did this but before Alexander, at the request of Hays, could get his revolver, a 38, Pryor pulled it out from under his jacket, and started shooting.

"At almost the same time Hays pulled the trigger on his gun. Later he emptied the gun, most of the bullets taking effect. There are 5 marks on the station where the bullets hit. One flattened bullet was found near one of the piers, where Lindsey, the attendant, was standing during the shooting, it having bounced back from the building across the driveway.

"George Dunaway, Jr., who happened to be at the station, got inside the men's toilet and stayed there. Neither he nor Lindsey were hurt in any way. During the shooting Mrs. Pappos got out and went into the women's rest room and stayed until the battle was ended.

"After Hays had emptied his gun, he went across the street west to reload. As Pryor started to come around the car he ran into Lindsey and had his gun pointed at him for some time. Fortunately he did not shoot but Lindsey had to do some talking. When Pryor could not find Hays, after he was badly shot, he got into his car and drove it across the street north trying to make the turn west. Failing to make the turn, he drove into the yard of the Carinder place, occupied by the Adrian Todd family. When the car finally stopped after hitting several trees and damaging both fenders, he fell over his seat where he was found by the men after Mr. Hays had called the ambulance, knowing he badly wounded the man. Joe Carinder's ambulance took Pryor to the Caney Hospital, where the emergency operation was performed, but he failed to rally.

"County Attorney Richard L. Becker and Sheriff Mel Gibson were called and they did considerable investigating last night. John Wright, the stenographer for the county attorney, also, was along and took a statement made by Mrs. Pappos. Later in the evening Mr. Pappos came up, but the officer decided to take Mrs. Pappos to Independence for further questioning.

"Mrs. Pappos stated last night that she used to go with Mr. Pryor before he went to the penitentiary and that since he had been out he had been bothering her very much. She said he had been down to her home in Bartlesville several times but she was trying to get him to stay away before there would be trouble.

"Mrs. Pappos had been married to her present husband only about 2 years, she stated. She had 2 sons, one 20 and one 15, and an adopted daughter about 4. She says she was trying to protect their names and so came up this way to meet Pryor to get him to go away. That was the reason, too, she says, why she gave 2 different names, last night.

"The officers found plenty of ammunition to go with rifle and the revolver that was found. The revolver had only one empty shell in it when found but Pryor had plenty of time to have reloaded it. The man had about \$30 on him when searched. Part of this was probably the money he got off of Alexander. Mr. Pappos works for the Jitney Bar at Bartlesville and had a good reputation, it seems.

"The body was taken to the Joe Carinder Funeral Home where it will be held until word comes from relatives. Some kind of a hearing by the county coroner will probably be held today.

"This afternoon Pryor's sister, Mrs. Josephine Hamilton, of Pawhuska, came to get the body of her brother. His father Bill Pryor of Fairfax, also survives. Pryor also has a wife but he had started a suit for divorce, and it had not been settled yet.

"Special officers for the Indian Agency at Pawhuska, W.D. Musgrave and Bob Cooper, were in Caney today checking up on the death of Pryor. They stated he had recently been paroled from the penitentiary on the agreement that he would stay away from Oklahoma for 5 years. So he rented a room at the Palace rooming house at Sedan and paid for a week's rent in advance. However, he had not been back to the room since he rented it.

"The special police said that Pryor was known as a good and quick shot and that he was ready for a fight and to kill after he had a few drinks. The Pawhuska officers knew that if he stayed around that city there would be another shooting scrape similar to the one for which he had been in the penitentiary for the last 6 years. He was known as a 2-gun man, which would back up the statement of Alexander.

"The special officers said they were informed by Sheriff Gibson that Mrs. Pappos had been released and was returning to Bartlesville by bus. They expected to meet her, Sheriff Gibson and Sheriff Green of Sedan, here this afternoon.

"They considered Hays very fortunate to be alive today as Pryor was a very accurate shot. Pryor had been in many cuttings and shooting scrapes, they say. He had recently received \$530 from the government as a quarterly payment. Mrs. Hamilton told one of the officers, their father, Bill Pryor also had some land in the Osage hills. The officers found out this morning that Pryor had tried to

hold up a station at the north end of Havana last night. A car drove into the driveway and the attendant went out to give service. Instead of coming back into the station he went on home and stayed there until Pryor drove on."

THE WOMAN IN BLACK...Seemingly, every community has its unexplainable happening and there has been no exception. The tale of a so called "Woman In Black" has been told and rehashed by many old timers. Also, published stories on this event have all continued to challenge the imagination. One of the most interesting articles on the subject was written by Andy Taylor and published in the Caney Chronicle, October 27, 1993. Andy wrote as follows:

"There was a time when the citizens of Caney locked their doors and bolted their windows each night for fear of a ghost...a woman dressed in solid black.

When she appeared, people went into a frenzy. When she tried to speak to people, their teeth chattered and knees buckled. When she was cornered by a few brave souls, she would disappear into thin air.

This was a true ghost story, newspaper accounts claim. No ice jingling mysteriously in a glass. No slamming doors or windows in old houses. No white sheets floating in the breeze. This story was for real.

According to the *Caney Chronicle* and *The Bartlesville Magnet*, August 1902, Caney was visited by a female ghost for one week. She was dressed in a long black dress and her face was hidden behind a veil fastened to her dress.

The *Chronicle* first wrote about the ghost on August 22, 1902. Editor H.E. Brighton wrote that the ghost would appear each evening at dusk when she would walk around the entire town. This was Caney just prior to its oil and gas boom. The town had a few thousand more people than it does today.

The apparition would say nothing to those who dared to cross her path. But she did cause plenty of frightened arousal to the people who saw her.

The *Chronicle* claimed that she was once confronted by several local men who thought the ghost was a hoax. But when she was confronted by the lariat-carrying, shotgun-toting men, she disappeared in a wink.

This only added to the confusion and mystery of the ghost.

More doors were locked, more windows were bolted, more people tossed and turned in their beds each night.

The *Magnet* claims that the ghost finally talked to one of Caney's citizens, a man named Sid Bell.

The newspaper said: "He managed through chattering teeth to ask the lady in black what she wanted. Her reply was that some years ago she and her husband had been traveling through the area and were camping on Cotton Creek in the Territory when their little daughter died. Lacking the

means to bury the baby in a conventional cemetery, the remains were interred beside the trail. She and her husband continued on their way traveling around the country and finally went back to Des Moines, Iowa.

" 'We always intended to come back and move the baby to a conventional cemetery,' she continued, 'but never got around to it. Then 4 years ago this month I died in Des Moines.'

"At this statement Mr. Bell exclaimed aloud, 'Great God'! and his knees almost gave way beneath him.

" 'If you died in Des Moines 4 years ago, why in blaze didn't you stay there'? Sid Bell asked the ghost. 'We have enough dead people of our own walking around Caney.'

"But as he spoke the lady in black dissolved into thin air."

That was the last that Caney saw of the ghost. Both the *Magnet* and the *Chronicle* wrote that Sid Bell immediately agreed to get a subscription going, and raise enough money to have the baby's body removed to a conventional cemetery, although it wasn't written where the body was reburied."

Ruby Cranor, author of "Caney Valley Ghost Towns and Settlements," wrote that the parents buried the child along the north bank of Cotton Creek, south of Caney, near an old town called Busby Trading Post.

"It was common knowledge at that time that there was a lonely grave on the bank of Cotton Creek near the old trail and that Sid Bell was probably aware of the grave," Cranor wrote. "It's not known by this author if the body was ever moved to a conventional cemetery."

But the *Chronicle*, Dated August 29, 1902, said that citizens of Caney did offer a subscription drive to have the body removed although it never mentioned where the remains were moved.

The effort apparently worked. The ghost was never seen again in Caney.

The Busby Trading Post was located on the north bank of Cotton Creek, between Caney and Copan, Oklahoma. Busby was one of the natural water crossings, or fords, on the trail that connected Caney with Bartlesville, Indian Territory. The small trading post didn't amount to much...just a few homes, a trading post, cemetery and orchard...and died because of the growth of the railroads.

Eventually there were 124 graves in the Busby Cemetery and all were moved by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in the 1970's when the Copan Reservoir was built on the Little Caney River near Copan. The old trading post and cemetery are now inundated by the reservoir's waters.

It's unknown if one of the removed graves was that of the ghost's daughter."

Well, this little mystery continues to baffle many, both young and old, and will no doubt remain so. However, to believe that the "Woman In Black" was a ghost seems to add more puzzlement to the tale than reality. You be the judge!

THE ABOVE MENTIONED BORDER TOWN SCANDALS ARE ONLY A FEW OF SOME RATHER INTERESTING HAPPENINGS THAT SEEMED TO BE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY'S EARLY DAY GROWING PAINS AND MATURING. BUT IT IS TRUE, CANEY DID NOT BECOME "QUEEN CITY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY" WITHOUT PAYING A PRICE!

Chapter 7

Education

Caney, being a new settlement, was a beehive of activity in 1870. What we know today as Fourth Street was a long dirt road with the town spring-well right in its middle. Obviously, it was busy with both local residents and travelers passing through, stopping to lower the old oaken bucket to replenish their water supply for home, livestock or personal thirst. Dr. Bell had been wise in locating his little trading store next to the well. One block east, Uncle Dave Howard and wife Mary Ann established their home and a blacksmith shop on the north side of the street. Directly across the street south, Jeff Booth moved into a building from Ennisville setting up a general mercantile store. Bill Copen soon arrived and established a second blacksmith shop.

Jasper "Jap" West was busy traveling to Parker each week to pick up mail. Both Dr. Taylor and Dr. Stout were busy with their general medical practice. Also, Dr. Tann, a Negro physician, set up his practice. Joe Purcel reportedly operated a drug store with his patented medications. Ennis of Arkansas arrived in town and set up both a general store and hotel. This was followed by White and Dunlap moving to Caney and establishing their trading stock. Mr. Dunlap was a well-known trader with the Osage Indians. Billie Emehiser started the first of 12 taverns and "O.M." Smith continued his mercantile business.

It's difficult to realize just how primitive Caney was at this time with a few dirt roads for wagons, buggies and horses. There was no electricity, no sewage system, no water system, no fire protection and limited law enforcement. However, lack of such conveniences was not a deterrent to the early community development.

With all of the early activity in establishing homes, family and businesses, an area of primary importance was not forgotten . . . education for their youth!

John W. Hodges, who arrived in Caney on April 3, 1870, after a 22-day overland wagon trip from Centralia, Illinois, was a member of the first school board. It was concluded definitely that one of the first concerns of those early pioneers was for the education of their children. Furthermore, some such pioneers were well educated for the time.

The self or community appointed school board of which Mr. Hodges was a member began school immediately considering one Berryman Smith provided a one-room log cabin to be used for a school building. It was located near the present Methodist Church on East Third Street. The first teachers were Miss Billie Smith and Mrs. Omer M. Smith. The furniture was 2 long wooden benches without backs, and hickory sticks were inserted for legs. A shelf was placed along one wall for

pupils' books. Some of the first students who attended were James Ridgeway, Juni Ridgeway, Mary Hodges, Nell Hobert and Charles Badgely.

The first term of this school paved the way for organizing a school district. There was a great deal of opposition to be met within the way of public opinion and hard times, and it was quite a bitter fight, but the pioneer fathers of Caney had a strong conviction of right and great stability of purpose. Right usually prevails and did in this case. After mapping out the boundary line, Dr. Taylor was riding from house to house to secure signatures to a petition to make it legal in order to vote bonds to build a school house. He noticed a piece of paper tacked to a fence post across the river. He dismounted and read the notice which was an announcement of a meeting to organize another school district west of the river which included part of the land that was mapped out to belong to Caney.

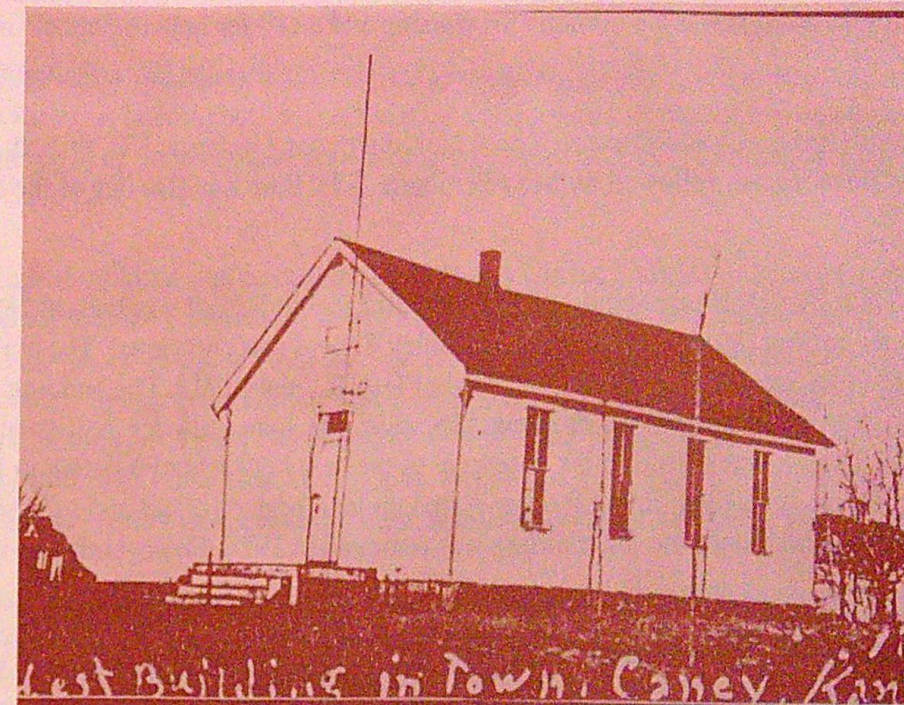
The meeting was only 2 days off to be held at St. Paul, a small village across the river west of Caney. Both Caney and St. Paul were great rivals and this seemed to be just one more confrontation. Dr. Taylor made up his mind not to be outmaneuvered, so he saddled his horse the next morning and started across the prairie for Independence for a meeting with Nathan Bass, County Superintendent of Schools. This meeting proved a success and the territory St. Paul coveted would remain in the Caney district.

The order came from Mr. Bass April 13, 1871, establishing Caney School District No. 34, Township 34; Range 13 and 14E. Under the direction of Dr. A.M. Taylor the citizens met April 28, 1871, in the small general store of O.M. Smith. The first District No. 34 school board was elected including Dr. A.M. Taylor, treasurer; C.H. Smith, clerk; and Sam Ridgeway, director.

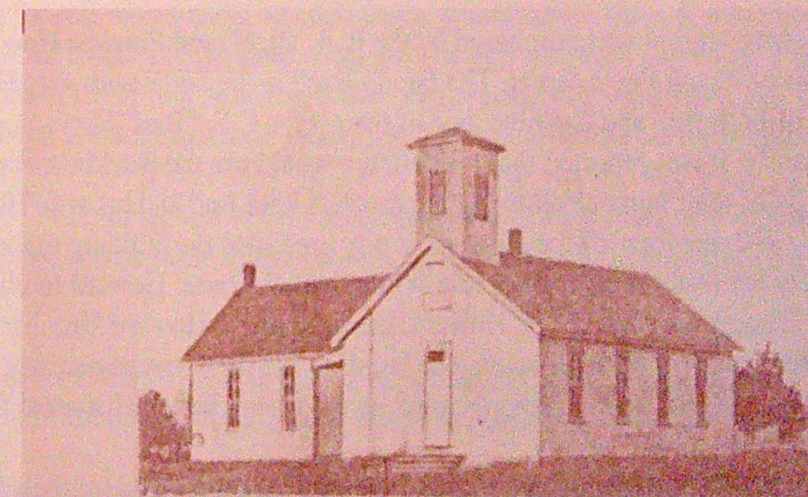
The selling of the bonds was, however, another problem. The land had not been entered yet and a certificate of valuation had to be made before the bond could be sold. The list was made and taken to the county clerk, Seth Beardsley, who approved of it, and the bonds which amounted to \$1,500.00 were ready to be sold. After much delay, they were sold, September 3, 1871, to a banker at Independence at 90-cents on the dollar. Right away the work began on the rectangular frame building to be known as the Little White School House which was to be built on the northeast corner at Fourth and Main Streets. The land was donated by J. Hardin Smith on condition it should always be used for school purposes. The lumber used was transported by wagon from Chetopa, Kansas, with the total building cost being \$900.00. The fact that the Little White School House was at that time the only wooden frame building in Caney with a coat of white paint relates the value those fine people placed on their school building.

The Little White School House was ready for occupancy in 1872 with the first teacher being Mrs. Barrington. The sign on the front door was impressive which read:

School District #34 1871
"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"



Little White School House 1872



Little White School House 1885

Dr. Taylor and J. Hardin Smith purchased a bell for the new school building and the contractor who built the belfry in which it hung did so free of charge. Also, the bell and building provided a community meeting place, a town hall! The bell not only called the children to school, it tolled out the old year and rang in the new, announced the new births, called for the last services of the dead, joyously pealed for weddings, was a summons for worship and a call for help in time of fire or emergency.

In 1885, a north wing was added to the school building making it appear "T" shaped. Miss Allie Cochrane was the next teacher followed by Miss Pettibone. S.H. Barr was also one of the early teachers.

The Little White School House served all grades until Lincoln School was built in 1891. It was then used as a grade school through 1908 when McKinley School was completed. The building remained in community service, being occupied by the "G.A.R." until 1913. The building was purchased by Mr. Martindale and moved to another location. Mr. John Carinder requested that the motto sign be saved and it was placed in the basement of the new high school building in 1914. Years later, Jack Jesson, custodian, found it there buried under a heap of bricks and rubbish. The sign remained at the high school until the old building was removed in 1974. However, it was never recovered.

It should be noted that the Little White School House building was never destroyed, but somewhat altered. George Martindale had the building cut in half, removing the front section and relocating it at the end of East Third Street where it served as his home. He sold the home in 1929 to Charles W. Harris who moved in an old smelter house and combined the 2. It served as a good home for Charles, his wife Etta and 13 children until 1975. It was sold to the Victor Hollandsworth family who remodeled the home with a field stone exterior and sheet rock walls and ceiling on the interior. They continue to live there today.

The back half building section was purchased by the R.A. "Bob" and Emaline Howard family and moved to a location on South Fawn Street. The family lived in the home with very little change. Following the passing of both Bob and Emaline, one of their sons, C.E. "Bud" Howard, continued to use the home for his family. It was reported that his children would use the blackboards that were still in place on the walls of their home. Following the death of both Bud and his wife Hallie the home was not used. In 1990 members of the Howard family presented the building to the Caney Valley Historical Society for restoration as the Little White School House. Howard family members are Mary Ann Howard-Thompson, David Lee Howard, Dorothy Marie Howard-Urquhart, Emma May Howard-Dockendorf and Bill Glen Howard. The building has been moved recently to the corner of Fourth and Wood Streets and is being restored by the Caney Valley Historical Society.

As a point of interest, Montgomery County school superintendent records for the years 1871-'72 states there were additional area school districts and school houses adjoining Caney's School District #34. To the north was School District #70 (1872) and Stony Point School starting with 20 students. The school closed in 1920 and the building sold October 8, 1921, for \$310.00. The last teacher was Mrs. Wilma McCall. To the northeast, School District #71 (1871) and Caney Center School was established starting with 27 students and by 1900 they had an enrollment of 36 pupils. The school was closed in 1959 the building sold for \$605.00. To the east, School District #35 (1871) was approved with the Pleasant Hill School. Their opening enrollment was 40 students. The school

was closed in 1966. To the west just across the Cana river was the St. Paul School (1872) located on the east boundary of Chautauqua County. It was closed in the early 1900's.

Lincoln School 1891

Both population and education continued to progress in Caney which required additional teaching facilities. A building site was selected at the northeast corner of First and High Streets. Approximately 1/4 of the city block was purchased for the proposed building, playground and future expansion.

The original building was completed in 1891 at a cost of \$6,000.00. It was stately in appearance and a complement to the community. It was a two-story structure with four-classrooms and was built of native cut sandstone obtained from the J.A. Fleener farm north of Cheyenne Bridge. An attractive belfry was constructed atop the edifice which housed the bell originally located on the Little White School House. Four new teachers were employed including Professor Lewis as School Master, Lou Blair, Jappa Mason and Edna Stevens. Students were Pearl Cooper, Will Gray, Lillie Gray, Jessie Hodges, Zella Peterson, Wallace Smirl, Arthur Sone, Amy Taylor and Della Wood.

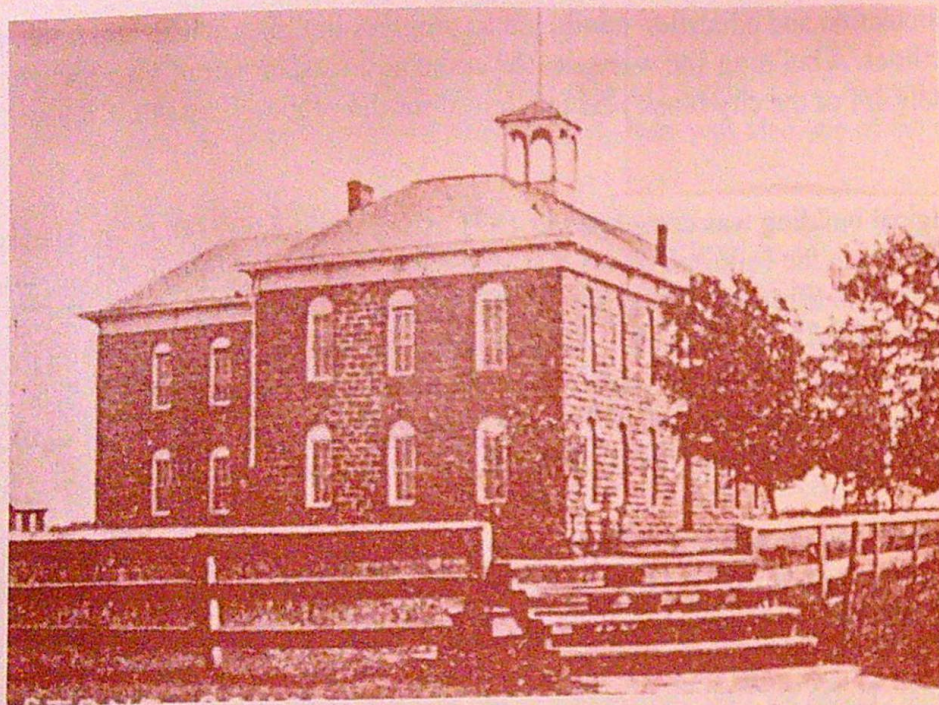
The students had the privilege of naming the school and Lincoln was unanimously chosen. The first commencement exercise was held in the Methodist Church. Col. S.M. Porter handed out the diplomas. He was the father-in-law of George H. Wark.

Additional classes for first and second grade students were held in a story-and-half building located on the northwest corner of Fourth and High Street. Also, the Little White School House was used for primary grades. Educational facilities were still very overcrowded, even with the new Lincoln building. Within a 6 to 8 year period the Lincoln building was expanded by constructing a new classroom and auditorium on the structures north side. Also, constructed in 1908 was a separate brick building for rest rooms and a wooden frame maintenance shop. It was noted at this time the wooden belfry had rotted and required removal. The bell was then placed on a small elevated platform at the front of the school building. It has been reported by Fred Franks of Caney that the bell was later removed and sold to a local individual but the name had been forgotten.

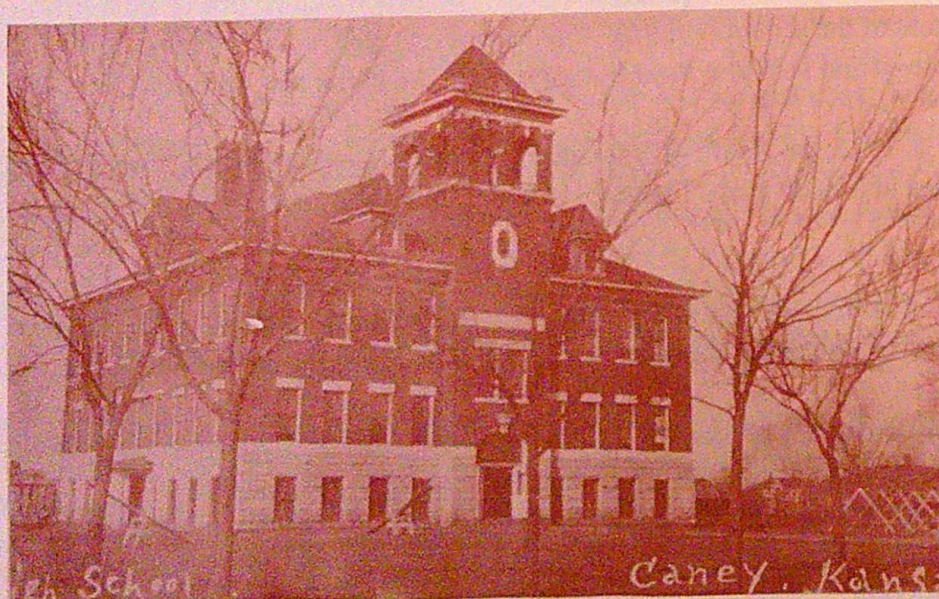
On May 5, 1922, the Board of Education approved the purchase of 5 lots north of Lincoln School at a cost of \$50.00 each. These lots were later used as a football field for the high school team.

The school served well for many years but eventually became old and unsafe. On August 4, 1952, the Board of Education voted to abandon the building for the following stated reasons:

1. Because of the unsafe conditions of the Lincoln building the Board of Education does not want to take the responsibility of sending children to the school.
2. The building was not safe and no one could predict when the roof would fall.
3. The building was obsolete and even with a new roof and other repairs it will not make the building safe.
4. It would be more economical to abandon the Lincoln School.
5. There were very unsanitary toilet facilities.
6. Patrons of the school asked that the Lincoln School be closed.



Lincoln School 1891



Washington High School 1905

Washington School 1905

Pious B. Humphrey, reporting some history of Caney schools, stated that there was talk of a Caney High School for the first time in 1897 with Mr. J.H. Dana being superintendent. No students graduated until 3 years later. There were 11 community boys and girls who stood up for their reward of merit known as a "Diploma" for what was then considered 2 years high school work. With due respect for teachers, high school and college work could be compared quite favorably with what we designate today as junior and senior high school work. But we have progressed, and Caney High School has kept pace with time.

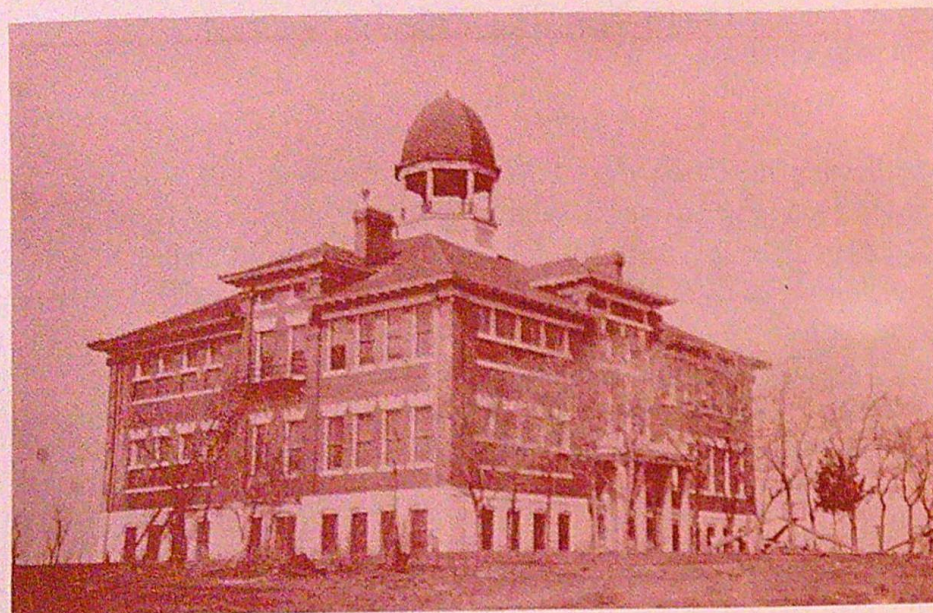
The year following, the Caney High School course was increased to 3 years. The course was further extended in 1905 to what was then considered their first regular 4-year course. In this course, Caney High School as all others, held closely to convention. New thoughts and action toward breaking away from staid and stale courses dictated by the colleges was not dared. No thought of practicality had entered our minds as high school possibilities. From 1900 the possibility of Caney becoming a city with a population of 1,201, was beginning to be apparent. New school buildings springing up and much temporary means resorted to, for accommodation of pupils, soon dispelled the doubt, and illumined the vision with the reality that we were on our way to a greater and grander organization of schools and school possibilities.

April 25, 1905, the city Board of Education met and decided to move forward to plan for a new four-classroom school and appointed a building committee, J.L. Carinder, J.D. Booth and A.G. Winkler. They agreed to visit other school buildings in the area. Also, the board approved a proclamation for a bond issue and building completion by September 8, 1905. The following month preliminary plans were provided by E.A. Smith, an architect from the George P. Washburn firm, Iola, Kansas. It was determined that the building erection along with grounds, furnishings and heating would cost approximately \$25,000.00. A resolution was then passed that a bond election would be held as soon as the law would permit. On June 5, 1905, the school board voted approval to call the new school Washington School.

There was local opposition to the new school even though school Superintendent Brown reported that if all students attended class there would be 779, which translates to 19 teachers and 41 students per classroom, which they did not have. Also, it was stated that all students did not attend regularly. Present school facilities provided a total of eight classrooms at Lincoln, Little White School House and a temporary wood frame building.

Population in Caney was 3,300 and growing with an increase of 1,000 from 1904. The school building program was promoted with the architect furnishing plans for four classrooms, an auditorium, foyers upstairs and down, two rest rooms facilities on the bottom floor, heating and maintenance rooms, basement with concrete floors and belfry and bell. Building to locate on a full city block between West Third and Second and North Fawn and North Foreman.

The bond election was successful but building construction slow. Superintendent Brown reported in September 1905 that total school enrollment was 646 with 16 teachers, requiring 40 students plus per teacher. Contractor J.T. Riley & Blakney reported in November that the school would be ready for occupancy in December. However, problems arose with contractors over cost of



McKinley Grade School 1908

“extras” and heating system problems. Most of the problems were resolved in March 1906 and the school was operating.

The Washington School building, placed on the western border of our city limits, housed our first 4-year preparatory high school. Though it was necessary for the building to accommodate both grade and high school classes, it was a major step forward in providing an excellent educational facility and opportunity for the youth of Caney. G.A. Brown was Superintendent of Schools and Frank Aldrich the first principal. Graduation exercises were held in the downtown Opera House or Hobson’s Theatre. It’s interesting to note that the first Caney High School band was started at the Washington School by J.R. Hopkins who played a sousaphone. Sports, including basketball and track, were just starting to become a part of the school program. Considering there were no gymnasiums, a building was rented for basketball games. A strong emphasis was placed on debate and singing groups as school attendance increased.

The building provided educational service until the early 1950’s with the last principal being Ruth Dow. It was sold to the Assembly of God Church in February 1956 and remodeled for Church assembly, Sunday school classrooms and an apartment. In May 1964 an unfortunate fire completely destroyed the building. The building site is now used for a community playground and ball park.



Washington School Building Fire 1964

McKinley School 1908

In 1907 The city population had exceeded 4,000 and another and more pretentious school building was being considered. In February of 1907 the school board called a special meeting and took formal action on a bond election for another new school building to be located in the south part of Caney to further relieve the strained high school conditions. The bond resolution was for \$35,000.00, and eight-classroom school to be designed after the Washington school building.

In March 1907 the school bonds carried but the community had only limited interest. There were only 147 votes cast with 114 for and 33 against. On May 15, 1907, the school board selected the L.B. Riney & L.H. Petty Company as general contractor with a low bid of \$25,643.40. The building was completed for occupancy in 1908 and served the community well until 1952 when it was closed. Mrs. Inez Youngblood was the last principal.

The Board of Education determined the building should be disposed of and advertised it for bid. On October 26, 1953, Phillip Brooks of Caney provided a low bid of \$2,222.22 and was awarded the building with the requirement that he remove all brick, lumber and refuse within an 18-month period. The building was removed as contracted though during its removal a worker fell from the rafters to his death.

Caney High School Athletics 1909-1910

Frank Aldrich, president of Caney High School Athletic Association in 1911, reported the season of 1909-1910 was, practically speaking, the beginning of athletics in the Caney High School. They soon became a strong factor in building up the school as to advancement in studies, and especially recognition from surrounding high schools which before did not know that a high school existed at Caney.

The main reason for the great success was due to the interest and combined efforts of the whole school. That year the boys' basketball team won 7 games and lost 7; the girls won 5 and lost 5, each team finished with the same average, 500 per cent. The girls played 10 games and the boys 14, and out of 9 games played at home they made money each time above expenses, clearing from \$10.00 to a high of \$50.00.

School sports interest then turned its attention to a newly formed association of schools along the Santa Fe Railroad which was organized for the purpose of holding an annual field meet among high schools which held membership in the association. This was new and Caney had no athletic coach or trainer, no advice from anyone as to the amount of training required or instructions as to how they should train. Nevertheless, with the same spirit that had won recognition from the best high schools in southeastern Kansas, they started their own system of training for the next year's field meet.

On the day of the meet, April 16, 1910, they went to Bartlesville, which was the town chosen for the holding of that year's annual field and track meet in the association. Great to the surprise of the Caney group of enthusiastic supporters who had journeyed to Bartlesville, Caney High School captured the loving cup by a large number of points, scoring 51 while their nearest competitor, Bartlesville, scored 41. Concluding the track season, interest then turned to baseball and



Track and Field Bleacher



Caney High School Track and Field Meet 1911



C.H. S. Early Day Football



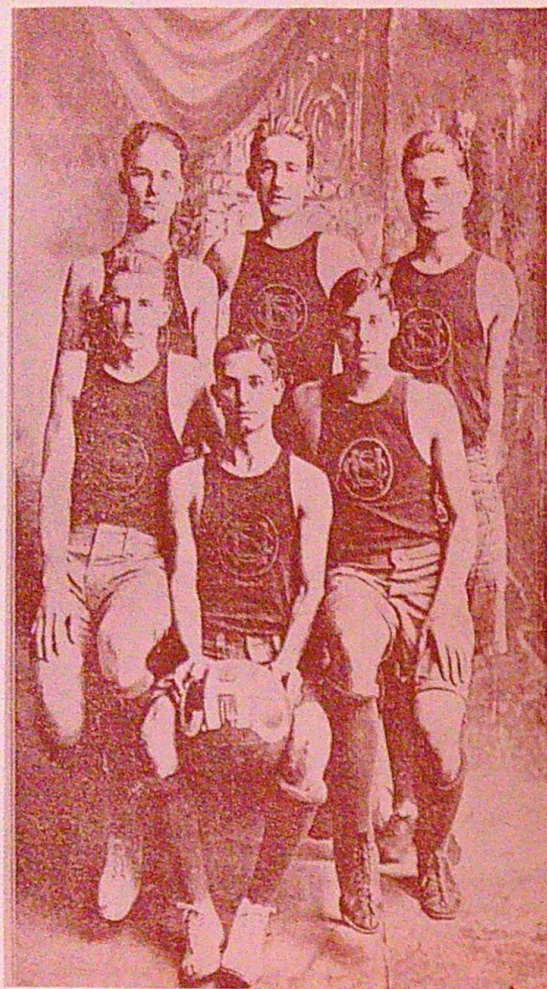
Caney High School Trophies



Lincoln School 1890's



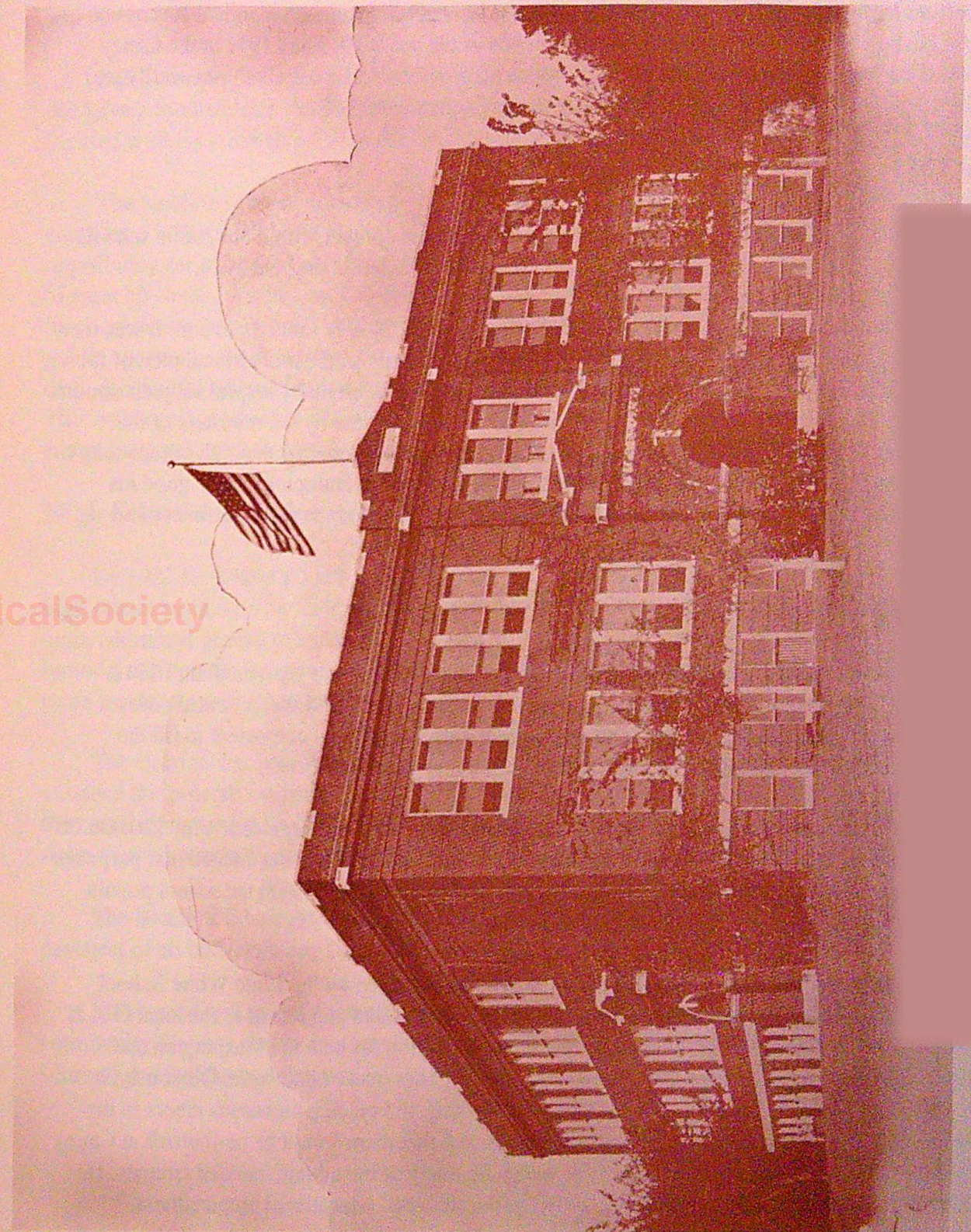
Washington Grade School 1915



C.H.S. Men's Basketball Team 1913-1914



C.H.S. Women's Basketball Team 1912



although the schedule was not very large, they did not lose money on this particular kind of athletics, which had been barred from many of the surrounding high schools because of it being a losing financial proposition. The Caney track and field team practiced and held their regular meets north-east of McKinley school about where Mrs. Jean Lambdin lives today. It is also noted that Caney had no football team though the following year they did field a football team with marginal success on an intramural basis. Therefore, in summing up the athletics of the years 1910 and 1911 in the Caney High School we had, in basketball, baseball, field and track unlimited success both financially and athletically, which record no high school in southeastern Kansas could equal.

Chapel 1913

In our current age of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling against prayer within our public schools it's interesting to note what the Caney High School program included in the year 1913.

Chapel in the high school was held **every morning** from 10:20 a.m. until 10:40 a.m. It was then the most interesting things happened. Through the kindness of many of the professional men of the city it was the privilege of the students to listen to the lectures given on many helpful subjects about which everyone should know. Often the devotional exercises were held by the ministers of the different churches of the community. It was during the chapel period too, that the high school songs and yells were practiced. Also, it was at this time that Superintendent Humphrey made good his chance to exercise his eloquence on various subjects, such as grades, grade cards, tardiness and "don't's."

Caney High School 1914

Following the construction of McKinley our school system grew and prospered until 1913, when evidence was given that our high school had outgrown its rooms and that practical courses must be established, equipment installed and all things made efficient and competent to fill the community's needs and to pave the way for general educational advancement.

The Caney School Board discussed and approved a resolution to call an election for \$20,000.00 in bonds to build an educational structure for manual training, library and other educational purposes and benefits of public need. City population had leveled off at about 5,000 with the school population exceeding 1,150.

The structure was to be built on the same location then occupied by the Little White School House building which had been vacated by the school system in 1908 and rented to the local G.A.R. organization. The community was still feeling the effect of paying for both the Washington and McKinley buildings and was now being asked to support another major bond issue. Obviously, it was not well received with many prominent citizens objecting and placing numerous letters in the local Chronicle. Then Superintendent Humphrey announced that there would be no football at Caney High School the coming year, which did not set well with many of the athletic minded citizens. He reported he did not think it was necessary or added to the students' educational preparedness.

Fortunately there remained adequate support for the new educational facility. The Caney Chronicle reported in April 1914 that the city voted its approval of the \$20,000.00 bond issue "for a new educational building and to replace the shack" at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets.

Soon thereafter in July bids were received for the building construction with Eugene Steadewn of Medford, Oklahoma, being the successful general contractor and low bidder at \$19,317.00. The building would have eight classrooms, manual training facilities, gymnasium-auditorium seating 1,000 patrons and a library. The building was to be constructed of brick and cap stone. Physical size was 83' by 97', 2-story with basement and to be occupied in December 1914.

It is interesting to recall that Caney High School, against Superintendent Humphrey's wishes, did have a football team in 1914 and it had a victorious season. Apparently the school board was pleased with his leadership and he received a salary increase with a total annual salary of \$1,800.00.

The building construction completion did not make the proposed December date but was completed in April 1915 and ready for occupancy. A new expanded high school facility provided opportunity for an expanded curriculum development. The course of study was revised and adjusted to meet up-to-date conditions. The courses included domestic art and science, manual training, mechanical drawing, normal training and agriculture. Special work was also arranged for in debate, public speaking, music, etc. Nor was this all, the progress of the school along other lines was up to date. A beautiful athletic field was purchased just across the railroad tracks to the west of the city. This well-equipped field in addition to a new basketball court in the new high school building, had added materially to the general pleasure and comfort of the school, townspeople and community.

High School Auditorium and Gymnasium 1923

By 1922 the school student population had reached 1,998, requiring the necessity to enlarge the high school building. The Caney Board of Education passed a resolution February 9, 1922, to acquire additional ground to add to the present site of the Caney High School and to alter, improve, remodel and enlarge the present city Caney High School and to equip and furnish the same and to issue bonds in a sum not to exceed \$85,000.00

The election was held April 4, 1922, and passed. J.L. Zollars of Independence, Kansas, was awarded the general construction contract for a sum of \$65,020.00. He was requested to complete the building expansion by November 30, 1922. The building was to include an auditorium, gymnasium, four classrooms, manual training room at ground level and enlarged heating system.

The Board of Education accepted the building as complete September 3, 1923, and approved payment of all bills including certain costs to Architect Thos. W. Williamson.

Many good and successful years passed with Caney High School providing students and the community the very best in an educational facility. However, as time moved forward and after 39 years of service, the building was laid to rest in 1973 and demolished in 1974.



C.H.S. Championship Basketball Team 1920



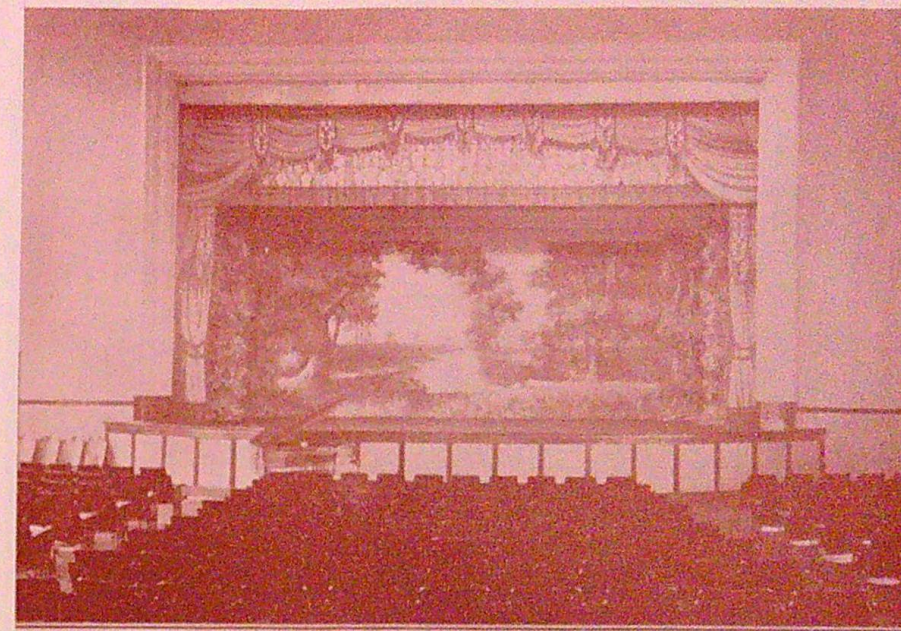
Construction of C.H. S. Expansion 1923



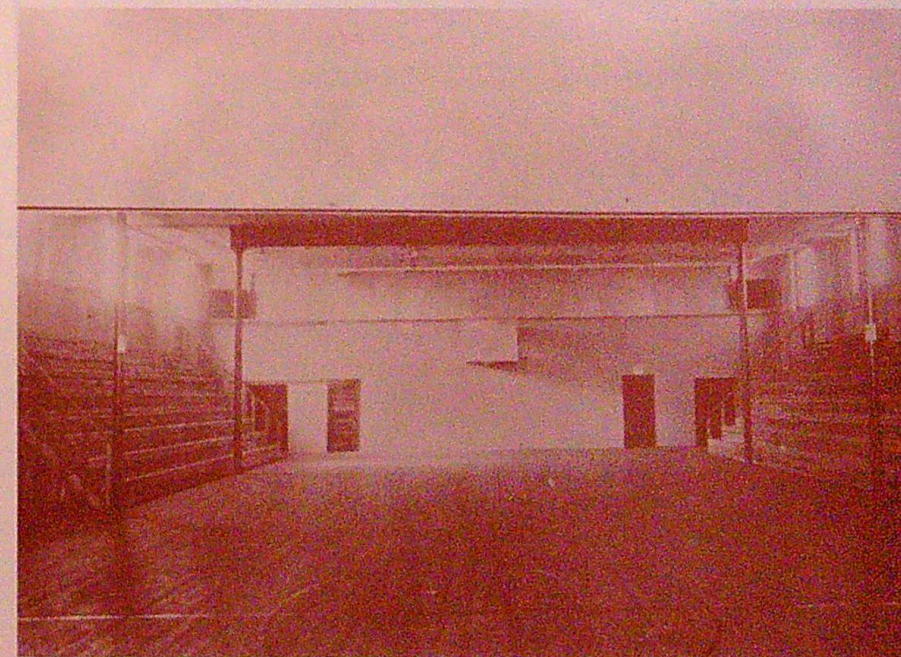
Caney High School Library 1914



New C.H.S. Auditorium 1924



C.H.S. Auditorium and Stage



C.H.S. Gymnasium 1924



Manual Training Class 1916



Chemistry Class 1916



CARL KILLION held down the fullback position and captained the team through a very successful football season. Carl's cool steady playing and his ability to make gains makes him an ideal football player. Carl has one more year to play for Caney.

ROY GARR, a two-letter man, and the most aggressive guard in the valley. No opposing guard ever experienced the sensation of rolling Garr out of his position. He has two more years to play for Caney high.



ROBERT HARRIS played his fourth year at tackle for Caney. Bob played a stellar game in the line, always making a hole when necessary and was a stone wall against the enemy. Bob was also a hard man to stop when put in the backfield.



JULIAN FALLEUR was a reliable and steady guard. He always made a hole when the play came his way, and the opposing man thought of him in terms of a brick wall. He is a two-letter man and graduates this year.



C.H.S. Football Team Members 1924

Lincoln Memorial Elementary School 1954

Considering the closing of Lincoln School by the Board of Education August 4, 1952, it was necessary to prepare for another modern building. On September 8, 1952, a Citizens Building Committee was appointed consisting of Elbert Baker, Charles Haddock, Lloyd Jenkins, Charles Gibbs, Dr. T.C. Hanson, Glen Seaver and Messrs McKale and Hedges.

The Board of Education retained the architectural firm of Bissman, Matthews & Shelton who prepared plans and specifications. And on December 11, 1952, a resolution was passed calling an election for the purpose of voting on bonds in the amount of and not exceeding \$258,000.00. This funding would pay for the cost of acquiring a site and erecting and equipping a building for school purposes.

The election was held November 25, 1952, with the school bond issue passing. Following the bond election, bids were advertised for the school construction, being awarded to J.E. Pyle on May 11, 1953, for a sum of \$219,018.00.

The school was completed and dedicated on March 11, 1954, and was called the Lincoln Memorial Elementary School. It was one of the most modern elementary schools within southeast Kansas. It provided a single floor design for ease of access with numerous classrooms, cafeteria and a large multipurpose gymnasium-auditorium. The excellent lighting, interior colors, central air conditioning and heating provided year-round comfort for both children and teachers. Actual final cost of the building was \$253,350.00.

On September 10, 1980, a disastrous fire destroyed the multipurpose gymnasium-auditorium. However, the damaged building was rebuilt and other necessary repair completed.

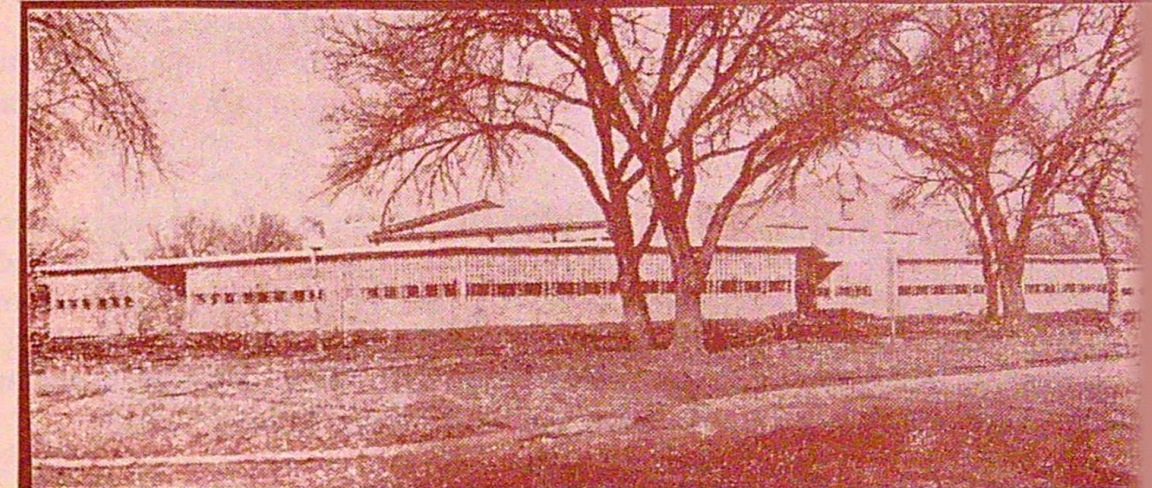
Lincoln Memorial Elementary School completed a \$1,000,000.00 expansion in 1991 keeping the facility up-to-date with the latest state of the art educational accommodations and equipment. Both its media center and elementary computer program are among the best in the state.

Unified School District #436, 1965

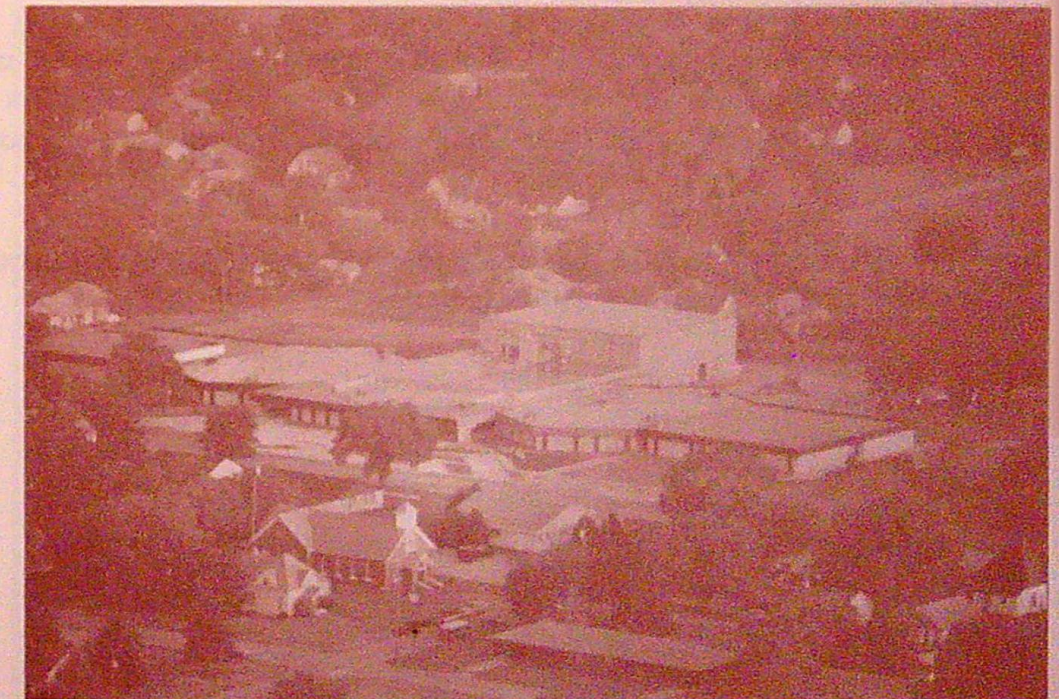
Ray O. McKinney, superintendent reported to the Board of Education February 15, 1965 that the State Superintendent had officially confirmed the unification request of the Caney School District which includes Districts 34, 35, 109, 75 and R-4, now to be called Unified District #436.

This consolidation was a dramatic change after 94 years of School District #34 but the change was deemed necessary to meet the demands of educational requirements, service, facilities and economics.

On June 6, 1966 a resolution was passed transferring all District #34 assets to Unified District #436 effective July 1, 1966. The new Board of Education included: Russell Powell, president; Glenn Jamison, vice president; John R. Dodson, Frank Fichtl and Lee Songer.



Lincoln Memorial Elementary School 1954



Lincoln Memorial Elementary School Expansion 1991

It was not until February 6, 1967, that the Board of Education approved an official name, Caney Valley Unified School District #436, which continues today.

Caney Valley High School

In the spring of 1971 the voters of Unified School District #436 gave an overwhelming "yes" to a newly proposed high school. It was under construction for almost one year by the Powell Construction Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, before completion. Algeier-Martin Architects of Joplin, Missouri, designed and approved specifications for the ultra-quiet educational plant which cost the local and area taxpayers about \$975,000.00.

Elegant in appearance yet practical in scope, the building represented Caney's progress in education. The classrooms, decorated in mostly blue and green colors, provided well-lighted, attractive surroundings for the educational process and a better layout of rooms to ease the flow of traffic between classes.

A first-class kitchen with every convenience for the modern chef was provided and its accompanying cafeteria doubled as a study hall during class periods. Also, the gymnasium was painted in school colors and outfitted with new foldback bleachers for games and assemblies. Locker rooms for the athletic department and ball teams were laid out behind the gym. A separate Vo-Ag building was placed just east of the main building with walkway. Yes, a library, auditorium, band room and much more were included.

This great school system currently operates both days and evenings, providing elementary, high school and adult education classes. Student enrollment for high school in 1992-'93 was 382 and elementary 441. Adult education exceeded 200 with many local and area patrons preparing or improving their educational skills.

In the year 1992-'93, the Caney Valley Unified School District #436 school system, under the direction of Superintendent Harold Howard, is one of the best. The school has 61 teachers and administrators, providing an annual payroll of \$1,779,380.00, a positive contribution to both employees and community.

Yes, the school system is one of the best, supporting that little sign placed over the front door of the first (1871) Little White School House in Caney which read:

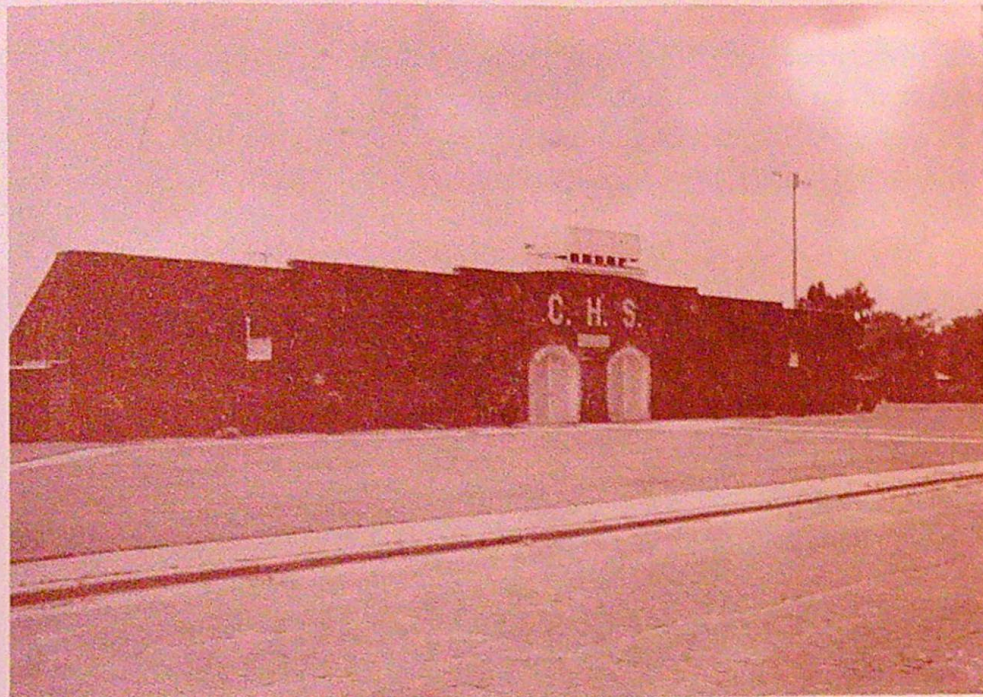
"Knowledge is Power"



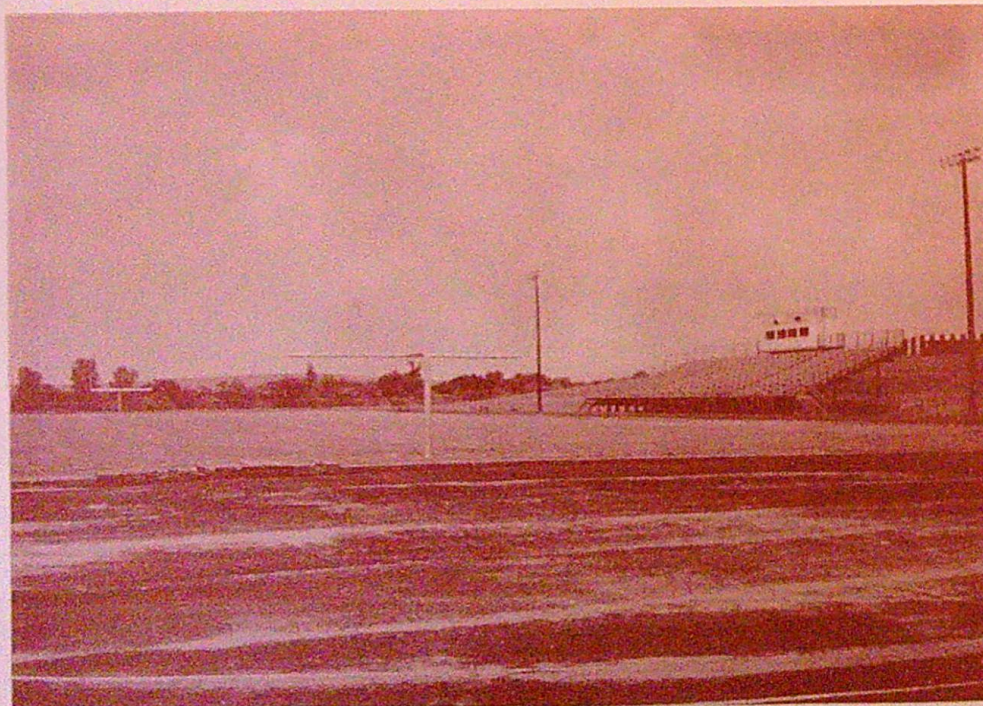
Caney Valley High School Rear View 1973



Caney Valley High School Front View 1973



C.H.S. Football Stadium 1938



C.V.H.S. Football Stadium and Track 1973

Public School Buildings and School Districts Caney, Kansas

- 1870 Log Cabin (one room)
- 1871 School District #34 approved.
- 1871 "Little White School House"
- 1872-1873 ... "Little White School House" added bell tower and bell.
- 1885 "Little White School House" added north section (1 room).
- 1891 Lincoln School
- 1905 Washington High and Grade School
- 1908 McKinley Grade School
- 1914 Caney High School
- 1924 Added Auditorium and Gymnasium to C.H.S.
- 1954 New Lincoln Grade School
- 1965 Unified School District #436 replaced School District #34
- 1973 Caney Valley High School, USD #436.
- 1980 Fire at Lincoln - Rebuilt Gymnasium.
- 1991 Major expansion for Lincoln Grade School.

Caney School Head Teacher, Master or Superintendent

1870-1871	Mrs. O.M. Smith, Teacher
1872	Mrs. Barrington, Teacher
1885	Miss Alice Cochran, Teacher
1891-1892	Prof. Lewis, School Master
1893-1894	Prof. McKee, School Master
1895-1896	J.H. Dana, Superintendent of Schools
1897-1898	N.T. Adams, Superintendent of Schools
1898-1900	Chas. McKinley, Superintendent of Schools
1900-1901	J.L. Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools
1901-1905	Rose McIlwain, Superintendent of Schools
1905-1907	G.A. Brown, Superintendent of Schools
1907-1912	R.R. Rankin, Superintendent of Schools
1912-1914	E.A. Funk, Superintendent of Schools
1914-1923	P.B. Humphrey, Superintendent of Schools
1923-1925	A.M. Herron, Superintendent of Schools
1925-1939	J.R. Popkins, Superintendent of Schools
1939-1947	J.B. Hutton, Superintendent of Schools
1947-1952	G.A. Yeargan, Superintendent of Schools
1952-1956	J.C. Witter, Superintendent of Schools
1956-1964	Kenneth Ritchey, Superintendent of Schools
1964-1966	Ray McKinney, Superintendent of Schools
1966-1973	Charles Short, Superintendent of Schools
1973-1977	John Picard, Superintendent of Schools
1977-1978	Larry Martin, Superintendent of Schools
1978-1994	Harold Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Chapter 8

Churches

It has been written . . . "the CHURCH must grope her way into uncharted frontiers by relentless pioneers, and bounds of the city, and alleys, and courts, and up the broken staircase, and into the bare room, and beside the loathsome suffer; she must go down into the pit with the miner, into the forecandle with the sailor, into the tent with the soldier, into the shop with the mechanic, into the factory with the workers, into the field with the farmer, into the counting room with the merchant. Like the air, the CHURCH must press equally on all the surfaces of society; like the sea, flow into every nook of the shore line of humanity; and like the sun, shine on things foul and low as well as fair and high, for she was organized, commissioned, and equipped for the moral renovation of the whole world" . . . Simpson.

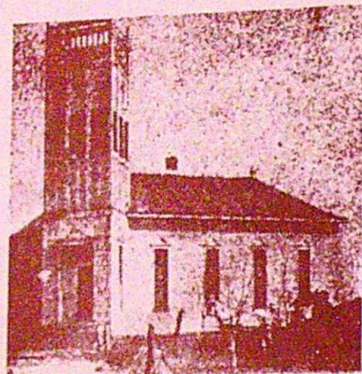
And so it was in 1870 as Caney and the area west continued to receive those early pioneer families. The unyielding faith and love of God of many was a sustaining power as they faced difficult circumstances, such as the procurement of food, raiment, shelter and the facing of pestilence, disease and death itself.

In September, 1871, William Taylor, the youngest child of Dr. A.M. and Mrs. Fannie Taylor, was taken from them by that "Grim Reaper, who is no respecter of persons." Mrs. Taylor could not bear to have the little boy laid to rest without a Christian burial. An early day circuit rider, Rev. E.J. King, who paid periodic visits to the area, was contacted to conduct the funeral. The loss in the home was great, but instead of making Mrs. Taylor bitter, it made her want to help others to know the comfort and safety in true believing.

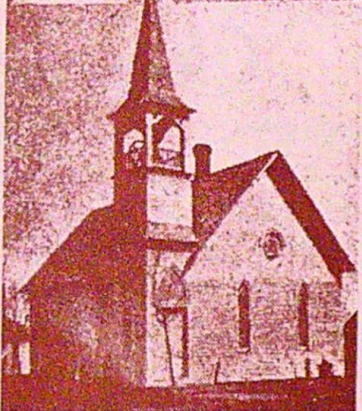
United Methodist Church 1871-1993

The Spring Hill circuit, consisting of Spring Hill and Harrisonville, Kansas, was organized in 1870 by Rev. E.J. King. Both Dr. Taylor and his good wife Fannie were anxious to have Christian services held regularly in Caney. They encouraged Rev. King to organize a local Methodist society which he successfully accomplished. Mrs. Fanny Taylor, Samuel Ridgeway and his wife Nancy, A.G. "Gus" Decker and his wife Mary, Mrs. Jane Hodges and William Smith were all charter members. It should be mentioned that Dr. Taylor was a member of the Congregational Church from his boyhood and did not join the Methodist Church at this time.

Methodist services were held in a log building which stood on the site now occupied by the W.L. Hodges home at 111 East 4th Street. The church membership multiplied quickly and services were moved to the Little White School House. It was reported, "the work of the Lord prospered as

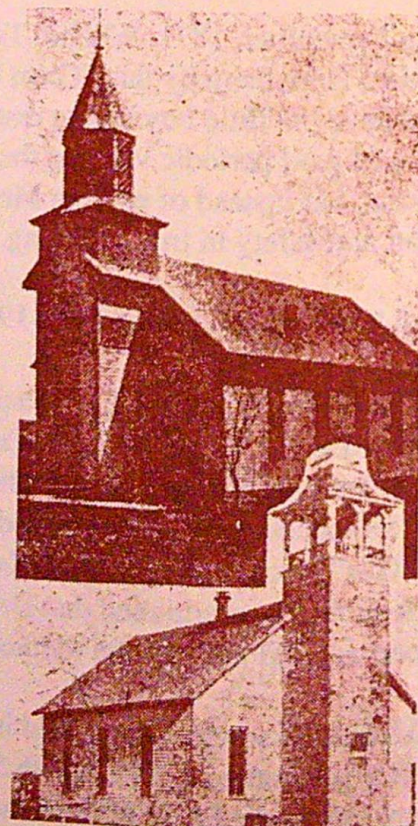


First Christian Church 1894



United Methodist Church 1885

CaneyValleyHistoricalSociety



United Presbyterian Church 1888

First Baptist Church 1908



Baptist Church

A. WARD.
Two months ago Mr. Ward left to a flock of sheep on the East Florida coast and has since been in the business of raising sheep. He is a native of the state of Florida and has been in the business of raising sheep for many years. He is a very successful breeder and has a large flock of sheep on the coast of Florida.

F. A. POST, D. D. S.
The dentist profession in Caney is represented by a gentleman, residing here with his family and has been in the business of dentistry for many years. He is a native of the state of Florida and has been in the business of dentistry for many years. He is a very successful practitioner and has a large number of patients.

J. W. METZ LUMBER CO.
The J. W. Metz Lumber Co. is one of the most prominent lumber companies in Caney. They have a large sawmill and a large lumber yard. They are engaged in the business of cutting and selling lumber. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

DR. G. B. WOLF.
The physician who is practicing in Caney is a gentleman, residing here with his family and has been in the business of medicine for many years. He is a native of the state of Florida and has been in the business of medicine for many years. He is a very successful practitioner and has a large number of patients.

DAVIS & SON.
The Davis & Son is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

C. F. BERGMAN.
The C. F. Bergman is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

E. S. McGOY, D. D. S.
The E. S. McGoy, D. D. S. is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

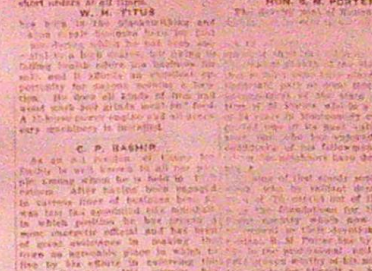
A. C. CLOUGH.
The A. C. Clough is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

BRIGGS & DANIELS.
The Briggs & Daniels is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

W. D. WARREN.
The W. D. Warren is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

Dr. T. A. Stevens' Residence.
The Dr. T. A. Stevens' Residence is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

Christian church.
The Christian church is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.



Methodist Church

HON. S. M. PORTER.
The Hon. S. M. Porter is a very successful business in Caney. They are engaged in the business of selling and repairing machinery. They are a very successful company and have a large number of customers.

Dr. J. W. Minner.
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Presbyterian church

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new people were coming to the settlement and sons and daughters were growing up and taking their places to labor in the Master's vineyard." Gus Decker said they would sometimes have a church supper to raise money and would call on him, then a widower, to bake a pie and biscuits and if anyone questioned his ability to cook they just needed to ask Mrs. S.W. Wood or Mrs. Tom Steele. He frequently went among the cowboys who were herding cattle in Indian Territory and had fine success in getting money from them for the church as they were very liberal with their donations. The record reveals the first year they raised \$35.00 and received \$50.00 from the missionary board of the Methodist Church. The next year they did better and in addition to what they gave the preacher, helped build a parsonage at Harrisonville, Kansas.

The Little White School House could not accommodate the continuing church growth and a larger meeting facility was needed. In view of this situation a new church building was planned and representatives began looking for a building site. However, Gus Decker praised the use of the school house and later in 1921 said, "I WONDER IF WE HAD ALL REALIZED HOW MUCH OF THE HISTORY OF CANEY CENTERED ABOUT THAT SMALL BUILDING IF WE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED IT KEPT AS SOME OF THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF THE PAST HAVE BEEN."

Now the great enterprise of building a church building was undertaken in 1885, the first such edifice in Caney. Capt. J.E. Stone made an offer of property, where Dr. Rader's office was later to stand at 118 South State Street. He also offered to break the ground and haul rock for the foundation, but it seems there were more Methodists in the east side of town who refused the proposal. The board of trustees then accepted an offer of ground provided by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ridgeway. This property was located where the current Methodist Church and parking lot is now in service. At a later time this property provided the church parsonage and home of Dr. and Mrs. Rodgers.

Mrs. H.H. Graves reported that Rev. R.A. Cullison was the pastor and the house grew and was finished for us "in the time Nehemiah and the people had a time to work." The church building was completed but it lacked one thing, a bell. This did not seem to be a great problem as the bell was purchased with funds obtained by holding a contest for "May Queen." Votes for queen were auctioned by J.L. Carinder. Miss Lou Summer and Miss Hooker were the contestants and Miss Hooker received the highest honor. The Caney Chronicle reported that many cowboys attended the contest and bidding became quite spirited, finally reaching a point where the auctioneer called time out. However, ample funds were raised to pay for the bell and it continues in use today.

The little church continued to grow in numbers and an addition became necessary. It was built on the north of the building. Later another addition was built on the building's east side, and as the church continued its growth another addition was built on the south of the building.

Movement for a new and finer church was launched by Rev. J.M. Mason in 1918. Plans were drawn for the building and a portion of the basement. The building was to be built on the corner lots replacing their old edifice. This sufficed until 1922 when the building was completed during the pastorate of the Rev. H.E. Crane. Methodism in Caney, as in every pioneer community, grew through perseverance and hard work of a small group of faithful men and women. The pioneers had passed away but others who were just as true had taken their places and are carrying on the work today under the pastorate of Rev. J. Ray Swearingen.

One cannot minimize the passing and loss of little Willie Taylor in 1871. But, how ironic it is that his passing and funeral actually prompted the establishment of Caney's first organized church, the United Methodist. THE LORD DOES WORK IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS!

First Baptist Church 1888-1993

It was reported by Albert W. Atkinson that on Saturday morning, May 20, 1888, a group of 12 Christian people of Baptist persuasion and background met in the Methodist Church of Caney, Kansas. At that time Caney was a typical western frontier town of modest homes and frame, false front business houses. There was not a brick or stone structure among them, according to an early record.

When the Saturday's meeting was dismissed with its benediction, that which had convened as a group of like minded people adjourned as the First Baptist Church of Caney, Kansas. It has carried that name without change until the present day.

The organizing members of the church were Annie Allen, Isis Barnes, Alice Blevins, Mrs. C.A. Blevins, Adelaine Hemphill, J.J. Hemphill, Margaret Pettibone, David Stevens, Mary Stevens, and Mary E. Wadman. The meeting for organization was led by Rev. D.K. Scott, but he did not become a member at that time. The original members, along with Rev. D.K. Scott, make a total of 11 in attendance although the records mention 12. Nothing is known of the twelfth person.

The first meeting following the church's organization, 4 people presented themselves for membership. Of these, Dr. W.P. Booker was the first man to be received by letter and his wife, Elizabeth, was the first woman to be received as a candidate for baptism. The other two received at this time were a Mrs. Cribbs, received by letter, and Thomas Hemphill who was a candidate for baptism.

During the early days, meetings were held on the second floor of Blevins Hall, which was rented. Also, a part of the time meetings were held with the local Presbyterian and Methodist people. During the 12-18 months that Rev. Scott was pastor, new members were added. After the departure of Rev. Scott the church was without a pastor for 7-12 months, though the membership remained together loyally and kept their Sunday services fairly well.

Rev. D.K. Scott again returned and was called to become the church pastor, which he did, serving half time for a salary of \$150.00 per year.

By 1900 the church was paying \$650.00 per year for, seemingly, full time pastoral leadership and this seemed to have caused some difficulty. Reference is made to an arbitration meeting in Coffeyville, Kansas, to settle a back salary dispute. Under various pastors following the turn of the century, mention is made of solicitors, apportionment of back salary, etc. and in 1915 the trustees were instructed to borrow money from the Ladies Aid Society to pay the pastors in full.

The church became incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the state of Kansas about September 1892. This was under the pastorate of Rev. A.E. Lewis. He served one quarter time for a salary of \$150.00 per year.

In 1893 Rev. Henry Clark became pastor soon after his conversion in the East. He was born in

London, England, around 1869, being 23 years of age when he arrived in Caney. Immediately after his arrival many new members were added during a protracted meeting which was held in the Presbyterian Church. The "Gospel Wagon" was brought to Caney by Rev. Clark providing both singing and street meetings from a wagon with additional conversions. The first ordination of deacons was on June 5, 1892, but no further information is available concerning the event.

As membership grew, they felt a need for a church building of their own. A building committee was formed composed of Dr. E.P. Booker, J.K. Uptergrove, J.J. Hops and A.L. Troxel. A lot was purchased from Mrs. Shultz for \$50.00 and the building was quickly constructed, including a bell tower. It was located on the northwest corner of Sixth Street and Spring Streets or 208 South Spring Street. The building cost about \$2,000.00 without any furniture and much of the labor was donated. On April 7, 1893, as the sun was setting, the church's cornerstone was laid with Rev. H. Clark speaking.

After the building was occupied funds were very low; therefore, it was decided to wait a while to purchase pews, so rough board seats were used for about 2 years. Then the pews were bought for \$200.00 and used for several years. The last feature to be installed was a hitching post in 1908 for members' horses.

From the earliest days the church seems to have cooperated with a "South Concord Association." On July 7, 1893, a proposal was made to invite the association to have its annual meeting with the Caney First Baptist Church but the proposal was defeated. Yet, another proposal was made to separate from the "South Concord Association" and to join with the "Southeast Association" and was agreed to. However, a month later the decision was reversed.

Interest in the business meetings of the church at this time must not have been general for it is recorded that "three male members shall constitute a quorum." It is not known whether the ladies of the church "bought" their way into consideration as part of the quorum but we do know that frequently the Ladies Aid Society made up funds that were not obtainable from other sources. At a later date the quorum was raised to 10 members without other specifications. Presumably the women had started being counted worthy of "quorum stature" as well as to raise money.

During the last 2 weeks of September, 1894, some kind of special activity was evident in the church. This seemed to have been a revival meeting. If so, it was the first recorded for the church. People were being received into membership almost nightly with Rev. A.E. Lewis preaching. He had been formerly the church pastor and at a later date again held that position.

The Rev. Edith Hill Booker was called to become pastor of the church on December 26, 1897. She is the only woman pastor recorded, although she served in that capacity on 2 different occasions.

At one time, during the year 1900 the church had "Sister Troxel" serving as a deacon and on August 29, 1901, the church voted to ordain Sister Troxel as a deaconess. Her ordination is not recorded but she resigned from that position on October 3, 1901.

In 1907 the church started considering more adequate housing for the church itself. A proposal



United Methodist Church 1871 - 1993

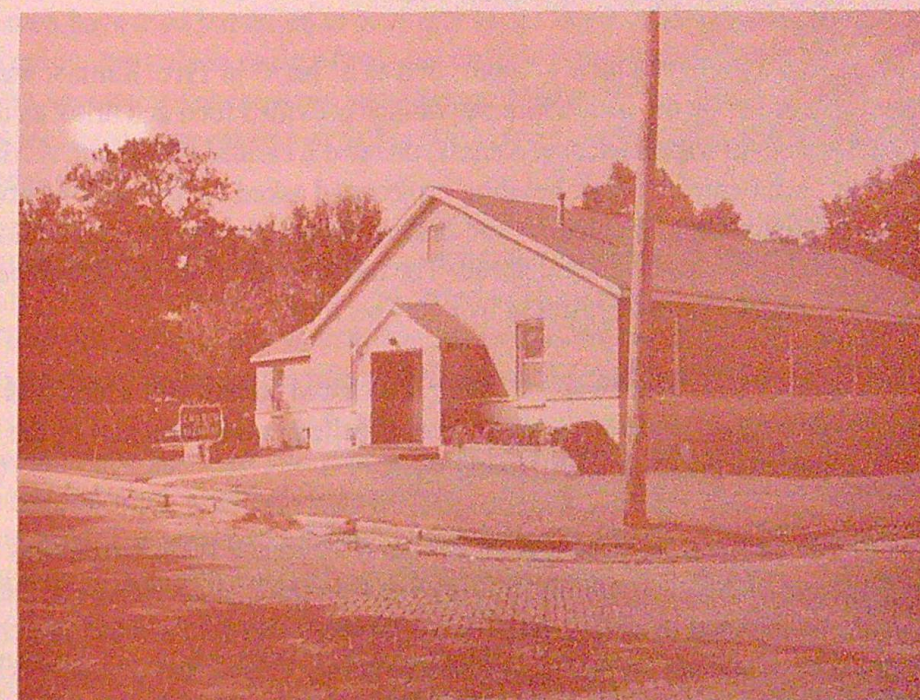


First Baptist Church 1888-1993



First Christian Church 1886-1993

CaneyValleyHistoricalSociety



Nazarene Church 1923-1993



United Presbyterian Church 1888-1972



Assembly of God Church 1942-1993

was made that the house of worship be sold to the Episcopalians. After proposals and counter proposals were made, the project to sell the building was dropped. A new building was not again seriously considered until the fall of 1917. At that time a committee was instructed to investigate improving and enlarging the old building. The committee investigated and reported that there was more interest in a new building than the improvement of the old.

An old building, variously referred to as a "store" and as a "barn" in Tyro, Kansas, was bought. In 2 days it had been dismantled by the men while the women provided food and drink as the men worked. A brother Al Shulthis of Independence, Kansas, donated a carload of cement. A Mr. Charles Owen visited the pastor, commented on their building project and asked the privilege of donating \$500.00. These gifts, plus the boiling of chickens and baking of cakes by the Ladles Aid Society, seemed the extra push needed to put the project ahead. The building and finance committee for this work seems to have been replaced and augmented by many persons.

The church was quite interested in the youth of the church and community which was shown by the mention of "gymnasium rules." Basketball goals were installed in the north part of the building and athletics had a firm place in the church for several years.

The dedication of this building, at the southeast corner of Third and Main Streets was an impressive period extending over 3 days from September 29 to October 2, 1921. However, the old church was now empty, unused and available. In 1922 the property was sold and the church building was never moved, though completely remodeled into a fine home. The current occupant is H.A. Sheldon who with his wife Lucy and children lived there for over 46 years.

It should be noted that the Rev. E.J. Ryals was pastor following the new church dedication and had loaned the church board a substantial amount of money for the building program. And he successfully encouraged his congregation to have a debt free church. On September 12, 1937 special services were held to celebrate the burning of the note, showing the church free from their building debt.

Since that time other improvements have replaced the old stucco exterior with shingles, developed a second floor Youth Chapel and Sunday School rooms, installed central heat and air conditioning and enriched the musical life of the church with an organ.

The church has a long history of being a "singing church" and continually having had a choir to enhance the Sunday morning worship, also, joining the choirs from other cooperating churches in the community for cantatas and other presentations for city-wide events as programs for Christmas, Easter and other special times.

For several years the church sponsored a singing group called the "Pass It On Singers." They furnished musical programs and witnessing ministries in the local church and in response to invitations from churches far and wide. A large number of youth had their introduction to contributing to worship experiences through this group. Several of the former "Pass It On Singers" now fill responsible leadership roles within the church.

A subsidiary of the women's missionary work of the church is known as the "Guild Girls." The young women are introduced to the relationship between the church and the missionaries both state-

side and abroad. The influence of this group is indicated by their having been approximately 200 invitations sent out to present and former members for the centennial reunion of the organization.

There is no record of when the women first organized their work but it has been evidenced that they always played a major part. Credit has been given to the efforts of the women to raise funds after "the men have tried but failed to have any luck." Those efforts have reached out into the life of the organization, not only in raising funds but in forwarding the work of the church. The women's organization now known as the American Baptist Women, or frequently used, A.B.W., now ministers in ways as locally serving dinners or as far-reaching as sending quilt-blocks and roller bandages to needful areas world-wide.

The men of the church have their own organization, known as the "Men's Fellowship." It is a loosely knit group that meets from time to time for fellowship and various programs of general interest. They also support, with both money and work, the restoration and development of denominational properties throughout the region. The men also constitute the official boards of the church.

The youth are organized into groups by age and interest to meet their particular needs. The American Baptist Youth meet before evening worship on Sundays for training and inspiration of the upper youth ages. The younger children's needs are met through "Children's Church" on Sunday morning and through the "Kings's Kids" for younger mid-week attendees.

In the life of the church the 41 pastors, prior to the current pastor, Rev. Marvin Alley, served an average of about one and one-half years. Plans are underway to build a new church as property was purchased in 1992 in the southeast section of Caney close to Highway 75. The Baptist heritage and Christian work continues to grow and move forward under the leadership of Rev. Alley who will have completed 10 years of pastoral service in Caney through June of 1992.

United Presbyterian Church 1888-1972

Without question the Methodist Church was the first religious denomination to establish its roots in the village of Caney in 1871. However, in the years to follow starting in 1887-1889 there is evidence that the Presbyterians, Baptist and Christian persuasions all organized within this given time.

The Presbyterians initially met in the Blevins Hall, located over the store room where J.A. Roberts Jewelry store was doing business. The Caney United Presbyterian Church was organized at a meeting held by the Rev. J.L. Amlong on April 7, 1888. The evening was very stormy and the hall was lighted by coal-oil lamps. Charter members recorded were Mr. and Mrs. Braden, Mr. and Mrs. Cribbs, Mrs. S.B. Knapp, Harry and Libby (Dye) Knapp, Anna (Godden) Knapp, Mr and Mrs. James McFarland, Robert McFarland, Fannie McFarland and James McFarland, Jr. The church functioned as a mission for a number of years and was linked to the Sedan Presbyterian Church with their pastor filling both pulpits.

The site of the first Presbyterian Church building, at the southeast corner of Fourth and High Streets was donated by Capt. J.E. Stone. He was a church trustee and on the building committee. The coal-oil lamps were obtained through the efforts of Mrs. Stone, by donations from friends in Independence, Kansas. The first pulpit Bible was a gift from Mr. Stone's sisters in Independence.

Mrs. W.S. Brown said most of the money that bought the bell was earned by the Mite Society sewing carpet rags and selling the carpet. After the ladies had earned the money we are told that Mrs. Cribbs went ahead, man-like, and bought the bell without consulting the ladies and they were terribly "put out" because it was not as good as they expected to buy. The church was a stately edifice with a splendid bell tower when completed. Also, it was used on occasion by the Baptist Church as they had no building until 1893.

As the years passed the need for a larger church was felt, but nothing was really accomplished until after the "Raybourn's Meetings." Rev. Raybourn held several productive meetings emphasizing the importance of adequate meeting facilities and the congregation's stewardship responsibility to build a new church. He willingly made the first pledge to emphasize the sincerity of his testimony. It was reported that planning for the new building progressed underlining the importance to provide room for the church and Sunday school work and to provide every accommodation of a modern church structure. After carefully considering a number of plans and outlines, the building committee decided that this structure would best suit the local needs and at the same time come within the reach of the congregation financially. The main auditorium would seat approximately 200, and by opening the doors into the side rooms that number could more than double. There would be 14 Sunday school classrooms besides those which could be had in the auditorium or the new basement. Ample room was provided for the choir, pastor's study, library room, etc. The construction was to be of brick with white rock trimmings. A large front window facing Fourth Street was planned as a focal point of the church. The estimated cost was \$20,000.

After adopting the plans and agreeing on all of the several details of the building, the congregation found itself confronted with the usual task of raising the complete funds with which to erect the structure. Then a plan of work was outlined and 24 appointed men started out to help raise the money and the results were more than pleasing. Following a 3-day canvass it was found that the necessary amount of money and pledges had been secured and a report of this activity was made to the church board. Of course the entire amount was not subscribed but with what had been pledged and what could be obtained from those not yet solicited, it was reasonable to believe that the total funds would be forthcoming by the time they were needed.

The response to the appeal for money to build the church was quite successful though even the most optimistic were agreeably surprised by the results. The new church was built and dedicated in 1923.

It served the community well for several years. One of their well-known ministers was Rev. Ben Walker who directed the church in the 1930's to 1946 to a significant growth. He also was a strong advocate of the local Boy Scouts whereby troop #31 held regular meeting in his church for a number of years.

Over the years, hard times took its toll, congregational unrest and a drop in membership resulted in the church closing in 1972.

First Christian Church 1886-1993

Only limited information can be found concerning when and by whom the Caney First Christian Church was started. By 1886 only the Methodists had an organized church body, but we are told that on occasion a circuit rider preacher did stop in Caney representing the Christian Church and/or "Disciples of Christ." A gathering of local families soon organized under the guidance of 2 Caney businessmen, T.W. and A.A. Truskett. Initially they held their weekly Sunday services in the Little White School House with about 40 in attendance. Actually this was a goodly number considering that Caney's population was between 250 to 300 active souls.

In 1887 the Caney Chronicle published an ad inviting "strangers and friends" to attend the Christian Church Sunday service and Sunday school. It was signed by Elder Dale.

The First Christian Church of Caney, Kansas, was incorporated in 1892 continuing with a regular weekly Sunday school though preaching seemed to be on an occasional basis. Charter church board members were John Todd, R.E. Carter, Alex Pattison, H.L. Gregory and H. McCarty.

In 1893 property was purchased at the southeast corner of Fourth and Main Streets from Mr. H.L. Gregory for a sum of \$250.00. The church was growing in attendance and the need for larger facilities was necessary. Evangelist W.E. Harlow was called to Caney in August of 1894 and pitched his large tent on the land the church members had purchased. We are told that this meeting was very successful with the addition of 80 new converts. Also, funds were raised to build a wooden frame church (30' x 50') with hardwood pews, chairs and communion table to match. The large "pulpit" was custom made locally, probably by Mr. Gregory. The building was painted white with stained glass windows and a large square bell tower with a bell that continues to be used today. Following the new church building construction at a cost of approximately \$1,700.00, it was dedicated December 16, 1894. Head carpenter and cabinet maker on the building was church board member, Mr. H.J. Gregory.

An interesting note is that the tall square bell tower was used on numerous occasions by the local fire department's hook and ladder crew as a training facility. Fires were usually a disaster considering the fire department's horse-drawn ladder and hose wagons had only a limited supply of well water to pump from.

J.R. Charlton preached the first sermon in the new building on December 30, 1894, and 2 weeks later was employed as their first regular resident pastor. He continued in that capacity for 2 years and then became state evangelist for the Christian Church and from reports, was very effective. For the record, Brother Charlton was a controversial individual in his roles as preacher, evangelist, lawyer and private citizen.

By 1910 church membership exceeded 100 and a new senior Christian Endeavor Society was organized with Miss Lulu Ethel Garton as president, starting with 30 members. And a young ladies' Missionary Circle organized having Miss Ethel Rhinehart as president with 15 members.

Evangelists Hamilton and Stewart were called in the winter of 1914 and held meetings for 2 months. Crowds were turned away the first week because of the small church building. This stimulated the construction of a temporary tabernacle in 2 days with seating for over 1,000 people. It was

built just south of the church building with wood stoves for appropriate heating.

The meetings success far exceeded expectations with 435 converts and the church Bible school attendance received many new members growing from 160 to 587 attendees. In the spring of 1915 the tabernacle building was removed, creating a housing problem for the large Sunday school attendance. The men's class, being the largest, solved the problem by meeting in the new high school auditorium, across the street north of the church.

By the year 1916 there were 494 church members and all past building debt had been paid. The record also revealed that the salary for the church janitor was now \$1.00 per week.

A new building enterprise was launched in 1922 under the ministry of Rev. W.B. McKinney who designed and prepared the construction drawings. Progress moved forward for a period of time but funds became limited and with the basement only partially completed the work came to a standstill for about 2 years. Rev. George P. Clark became pastor November 1, 1925 as hard economic times had their impact and the church membership dropped to 250 though the average attendance was about 200 at each Sunday service. Rev. Clark moved quickly and through his leadership work on the building was resumed May 4, 1925, and the building was completed October 4, 1925, at a cost of \$40,000.00. The building had a seating capacity for 800 persons and a complement of 21 classrooms. Officers of the board were J.W. Lee, chairman, John E. Coltharp, secretary and Dr. O.B. Bridenstine, treasurer. It was said "the congregation was composed of families poor in purse but rich in faith and courage." The work as completed was a true complement to this faith, courage and leadership.

In dedicating the new church building, the Caney Chronicle reported, "It took more than a sprinkle of rain and gray cloudy skies to dampen the spirit of the Christian Church congregation yesterday, when they set out to dedicate their new church edifice to the worship of God."

The dedicator George R. Snively of Lewiston, Illinois, was a bundle of energy and like the hero of a football game, was in every play from opening of the Bible school at 9:45a.m. to the final service at night. And after the money had all been raised and the church had been solemnly dedicated to the service of God, he took the occasion to thank the people of the church who had so faithfully worked with him. This included the pastor, choir, solicitors, and visiting ministers. He then had Volney Hilford sing "The End Of A Perfect Day."

The dedicator had accomplished some real advanced work in raising over \$17,000.00 to add to the \$12,000.00 already paid in cash, and also the \$15,000.00 previously pledged or the church could have never been dedicated. He knew the number of people who were willing to do almost the impossible in order to make this dedication possible and with such help money was provided in spite of the stress of the present day finances. This result was only accomplished with the loyal support of the generous men and women who gave until it hurt.

It seems the real feature of the dedication service was in the afternoon when Judge J.R. Charlton of Bartlesville, spoke on the theme, "The Old Days, The Old Ways, The Old Friends." For half an hour he played on the hearts and memories of the men and women who had been with the church for a long period of time. The judge said he came to Kansas in a covered wagon, stopping at Sedan on the 17th day of November 1877, and had centered his life in and around Caney ever since.

He said in 1894 when he first came to Caney, there was not a brick church in Montgomery County. He recalled Rev. S.W. Brown, Bayle, Jewett and Ferrell as among the early day Caney preachers, and his first dedication sermon in the "first" Christian Church frame building in 1894. He had with him an old book in which he had recorded all the details of his service to the church and shared that his first sermon was on the theme "Will The Investment Pay"? Several in the congregation had heard Judge Charlton give that message several years before.

Mrs. Mable Connelly, from her memory, rich in reminiscence, recalled the names of church members who had crossed over. In the list were the following: Mr. Gregory, who was head carpenter on the first church building, John Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. McCarty, Grandmother Booth, Harvey Truskett, Al Truskett, Mrs. Dora Truskett, Frank Lee, Budge Lee, Mrs. W.B. McKinney, Mr. Medford, William Garr, Mrs. Mac Abraham, Tarpena Meeker, W. Askren, Miss Addie Baker, Mrs. W.L. Callahan, A.F. Copeland, O.F. Ford, R. Rarbord, Mrs. J.A. Harris, J.S. Irick, Berry Land, Mrs. J.C. Landreth, Mrs. Bessie Lee, Walter Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Walter McQuillen, Alex Monger, Mrs. Emma Sterling Evan, Mrs. Charles Seebree, Laura Trapp, Mrs. Alfred Troxell, Paul William, Mrs. Lula Kincaid, Mrs. J.S. Mitchell, Bessie Lee Cooper, A.M. Parsons, Mrs. Elizabeth Baker and Grandma Winkler.



First Christian Church Tabernacle
and Revival 1914

The church progressed for a time, but in 1930 the depression was felt by all, there were some difficult times and many who pledged financial support for the building could not meet their commitment. The Church Board of Extension was contacted for assistance and they provided a church loan for \$10,000.00. In 1944 the church building debt was paid off in full. It should be noted that the women of the church were the primary movers in seeing that the church was debt free.

The church continues its effective outreach both within and outside of Caney. Many good pastors have come and gone and the fine church building is well used today. In 1960 a beautiful 3 bedroom brick parsonage was built at 303 West First Street. The Rev. Charles Million is present pastor.

THE FOUR CHURCHES AS MENTIONED, METHODIST, BAPTIST, PRESBYTERIAN AND CHRISTIAN, WERE ESTABLISHED EARLY IN CANEY'S FOUNDING HISTORY AND HAVE LONG PASSED THEIR CENTENNIAL YEARS. ALL ARE LOCATED ON DIFFERENT STREET CORNERS WITHIN A CITY SQUARE BLOCK AROUND WHAT WAS THEN THE "LITTLE WHITE SCHOOL HOUSE"...WHERE THEY ALL FIRST HELD SERVICES. Those same church buildings remain at the same locations today and continue to hold their services.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 1905-1993

Prior to the year 1905 there is only fragmented information regarding the Catholic Church's activity in Caney. No regular services were held and only Coffeyville and Sedan had permanent church priests and buildings. As the community continued to grow in population, Catholic families increased in number with a growing need for organized church services and facilities.

It is reported that Mrs. Charles Croff, mother of 5 daughters and one son; Anna, Marie, Nora, Mae, Ruth and Burns, contacted the area Catholic Bishop at Wichita, Kansas, requesting that a priest be sent to Caney. The response was positive and Father P.J. Tierney from Coffeyville was assigned to hold services once a month at Caney. Such services included mass, baptisms and marriages which were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P.K. Kelly at 400 North Fawn Street. Later as attendance grew, services were administered in the Little White School House where other denominational churches had met in the past.

No effort was made to build a church building until 1909 when Bishop Hennessey, moved by the constant and earnest appeals of Mrs. Charles Croff, sent the Rev. M.T. Meehan from Great Bend, Kansas, to direct the building of a new church building. Upon his arrival Father Meehan found 16 Catholic families with possibilities for continuing church growth. He immediately rented space for assembly over the Home National Bank in a large room called the Brown and Boren Hall. On October 31, 1909, their first regular Sunday service was held at this location.

Serious interest and planning now continued for a new church as Father Meehan, Mr. P.K. Kelly, Mr. J.R. Brady and Mr. A.E. Gees moved forward selecting a building site for both rectory and church building at 301 North Hooker. Also, building "fund raising" was in order and immediately a bazaar, diamond ring contest and a party were started. This festive gathering included dancing in the evening that lasted 3 full days. The contestants for the ring were; Mr. Baker, Mr. Thornburg and Mr. Scoy, managers of Caney's 3 glass plants. On the last evening excitement ran high and Mr. Thornburg was awarded the diamond ring. Total funds raised were approximately \$1,500.00 which provided funds to pay for the selected property and an existing frame home for the



Sacred Heart Catholic Church 1905-1993

priest rectory. Additional funds were quickly raised and a new church building with 2 completed and dedicated in October 1910.

In 1934 the church was enlarged and received a fine brick facing on all exterior walls. Bricks were obtained from one wall of an old smelter building located where the Caney School now stands. In 1963 a parish hall was completed and located north of the church.

Today, the church stands as a living testimony to those who labored for its creation, continuing to serve both God and mankind. Yes, both the original large bell and toll bell hang in the bell tower and ring as they did in 1910.

Other Caney Churches

There are numerous other fine Caney Churches that have come and gone over the years. A brief listing of other denominations that remain active today are:

The CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE had its beginning in the year 1922 whereby Arthur C. Tunnell, District Superintendent, reported to the Kansas District Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene that meetings had been held in Caney.

A 1993 Caney Church of the Nazarene publication, "The First Seventy Years" reported that

Pastor R.E. Tabor, of the Havana, Kansas Church of the Nazarene, helped to establish the work in Caney and became its first pastor. Meetings were held in the "Old Iowa House" at North Wood Street and Rose Avenue.

An article in the Caney Daily Chronicle, dated May 4, 1923, quotes Pastor R.E. Tabor as saying, "For nearly a year we have been laboring to bring the gospel message in Caney for the uplifting and salvation of the lost, and the benefit of our boys and girls. We have enrolled in our Sunday School 55, and have our temporary church building at 725 North Wood Street."

The process of chartering the Caney Church of the Nazarene was begun in August, 1924, and the charter was filed September 19, 1924. The church name was, Church of the Nazarene, and it was incorporated as a not for profit corporation. The charter being signed by A.B. Cochrane, E.A. Jones, Donald Whittington, Mrs. Iness Brown and Mary E. Cochrane. Following this occasion the Caney News reported an article September 19, 1924, "The Nazarene Church people have purchased a lot on North Spring Street at the intersection of Taylor Avenue, where they will begin the erection of a church building right soon. They will find a frame structure for the present, one which will meet their immediate needs and provide a suitable place for their worship this winter."

The new frame tabernacle was completed and dedicated on Sunday, October 12, 1924, and served the church for several years. However, church membership and activity flourished resulting in the need for a larger facility. The lot adjoining the church property on the south was given to the Church of the Nazarene on July 12, 1952, by A.T. Wills and Sydney Wills resulting in planning for a new and larger church facility.

The Caney Daily Chronicle reported November 26, 1954, "Erection of a new Nazarene Church, a project which will probably not be completed until next spring, was begun last month by men and friends of the church."

The old frame structure at the corner of Spring and Taylor has been torn down, and the foundation ditches for the new larger building have been dug.

The sanctuary of the new building will be 40 x 40 feet, and a Sunday School classroom 34 x 34 feet will be built as a south wing. There will be rest rooms and a nursery. Opening doors will be used between the 2 wings, and the extra space in the class rooms can accommodate overflow crowds.

Exterior of the church will be of buff brick and Carthage stone. The stone is that which was in the old McKinley school building which was dismantled. Modern "disappearing" lighting will be used on the side walls of the church.

Plans for the building were drawn by laymen of the church, F.D. Marshall, Eddie Miller and Paul Cochrane. Mr. Miller is in charge of the cement work, and Claude Cassity is supervising the rough carpenter work.

Rev. Fred Easley, pastor, said today, "The church members are very appreciative of the help, financial and otherwise, offered by the people of this community. Our other building, which was 30 years old, was deemed unsafe for further use, and the new building project was necessary immediately."

The congregation met for services in the Washington School from December 5, 1954, until they

were able to use the new building. The first Sunday in the new building was November 13, 1955.

At least 166 people have held membership in the Caney Church of the Nazarene during the seventy years 1923 to 1993. Rev. W.P. Stutts is the current pastor.

The FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH was organized in 1942 by Velma Davis of Coffeyville who held meetings and services in a vacant building on North Wood Street. Later, the members met in tents. Their first full-time pastors, Rev. and Mrs. Ted Murphy, moved to Caney in 1944. In 1956 the Rev. Ray Hollis directed church members in purchasing the unused "Washington Grade School" building for their church facility. It was remodeled and used for church services, Bible school and the pastor's family apartment. On May 6, 1964, the building was completely destroyed by fire being one of Caney's largest fires. A new building was constructed in 1964, at Second and McGee Streets and remains today an excellent church facility under the leadership of Rev. Mike Morris.

In November 1991 the Caney Thrift Store, operated by the Caney Ministerial Alliance, was destroyed by fire. The Assembly of God Church then sponsored the store under the direction of Virginia Morris, Manager. The new store was called ACTS, "Another Chance Thrift Shop," located at 410 East First. It continues today as a very successful operation as a resource for the needy.

The FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH was organized December 20, 1953, as the Eastside Baptist Church. The first pastor was Rev. Kenneth Smith. They are now located at Fourth and High under the leadership of Rev. Andy Daniels.

The CHURCH OF CHRIST initially met for worship in January of 1953 in the American Legion Hall. In March of 1953 property was purchased and remodeled for use as a worship building. Their new building at First and High was completed in May 1963 and additional classrooms added the following year.

The PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH first services were held in the former Speers Laundry building on North Wood Street. In 1959 the present church building was completed with the Rev. F.H. Nease as pastor.

The TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH was organized at Tyro, Kansas, in 1916 under the direction of Rev. Mueller. The church was moved to Caney and completed a new building in 1960 at 108 North Bradley. Present pastor is Rev. Randy Gragg.

The CANEY ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was organized in January 1969. They first met in the Caney High School Community Center. Members constructed a church building at 206 North Vine and held their first service August 17, 1969. Rev. Roy Miller was their last pastor.

The FIRE BAPTIZED HOLINESS CHURCH was organized in 1934 at 621 North State. Remodeling was completed in 1970. The Rev. Dake Shreffler is currently pastor.

Chapter 9

Caney Cemetery

The history of Caney Cemetery is a story of a place that has been a part of the community since the early days of settlement. It is a place where many of the early pioneers of Caney are buried, and it is a place that has been a part of the community since the early days of settlement.

Just to read a biography in its simplicity of a stated name, date of birth and death certainly makes the passage of time seem less real. AS FOR MAN, HIS DAYS ARE AS GRASS, AS A FLOWER OF THE FIELD, SO HE FLOURISHETH FOR THE WIND PASSETH OVER IT. IT IS GONE, AND THE PLACE THEREOF SHALL KNOW IT NO MORE. But many who flourished and perished within our community have provided a heritage of accomplishment, contributing to its business and educational growth and service to our country.

Early pioneers arriving in this area in 1869 and living along the Cana River probably, as the custom was, buried their loved ones in the so-called "family cemetery" or plot located on their farm. Evidence of this past custom is still seen on a few area farms today.

As previously reported, the Osage Indians had lived in the area with their main camp located at a water station on what was later called "water-works hill." Their burial ground was on the hill's south slope. Once the Osages moved to Indian Territory in 1870-'71 the cemetery was abandoned. Many of their grave sites were above the ground with only rocks to cover and protect the remains from animals. Often, artifacts, such as arrowheads, tomahawks and pottery, were found in the burial area. Also, it was reported that dogs could be seen at times carrying human skulls.

A second Indian burial ground was located on the southeast slope of a large hill which became a large shale-pit and remains today north of Caney. A.G. (Gus) Decker, an early Caney pioneer, reported this same burial ground became Caney's first cemetery and since the land was purchased from the Indians by the U.S. Government, it was considered government land and was not a fit place for a cemetery." He, Uncle Dave Howard and John Luppy helped dig graves on the hill and found it was such hard digging that they were interested in getting a cemetery located where it was better ground.

A number of Caney area people were buried in this Indian burial ground with such as John Badgley and Willie Taylor. As a youngster I personally observed the graves eventually they were destroyed or taken away with no evidence of a cemetery to



Sunnyside Cemetery Main Gate
Constructed in 1913



Sunnyside Northwest Hill



Samuel M. Porter and Family



Capt. J.E. Stone and Family

people were removed and re-interred at a later year when a more suitable cemetery was established. However, there remains today more than a few Caney patrons in this old Indian burial ground with unmarked graves.

As new settlers arrived Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Fanny Taylor cared for the sick and helped to bury the dead. There was no undertaker in Caney at this early date so funerals and burials were usually soon after death. There were some local individuals who did not prefer burial on the hill north of Caney so 2 other small cemeteries were reported and used. One was located on the Simpson farm on the east side of Mud Creek, later to be the property of John Foote. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Simpson and others are buried there. I contacted Dr. John D. Foote, grandson of John Foote, in 1992 who reported he had seen the small cemetery on their property when he was a youngster. But the original markers being wood were now gone and the area was now a plowed field.

The other reported cemetery was of the farm of Sam Ridgeway. He owned the land east of High Street and out to Mud Creek, and south to Third Avenue. We have no reported burials mentioned or specific location other than close to Mud Creek. There is a strong possibility this may be the same cemetery as reported on the Simpson farm.

Gus Decker and Dr. Taylor were community leaders in attempting to establish a cemetery within the Caney city limits. They tried many times to have town hall meetings to discuss the matter but to no avail. It seemed impossible to get anybody interested, so they appointed themselves as a committee of 2 and went to work.

They selected a 5 acre location in the northeast section of Caney. The property belonged to Berryman Smith, a member of the Caney Town Company. Berryman agreed to sell the land for \$200.00 or \$40.00 per acre in 1882. At this point it should be noted that Berryman Smith purchased 160 acres (including the 5 acres) of land December 24, 1874, from the U.S. Government for a sum of \$320.00 or \$2.00 per acre. Not a bad profit for community development! It was assumed that both Gus Decker and Dr. Taylor paid the \$200.00 from their own resources. Their idea was to sell lots to reimburse themselves for their cash investment.

After the cemetery land was purchased but not surveyed, Dr. Taylor's mother-in-law, Mrs. Betsey Babcock, died. With permission from Berryman Smith they measured where they thought the east west road and cemetery lots would be, and buried Mrs. Babcock. A short time after this Mrs. Elda Decker died and they buried her close by. Later Gus Decker went to Independence and brought surveyors to the Caney Cemetery where he assisted with the survey work. Unfortunately they found that Mrs. Babcock and Mrs. Decker were both buried in the roadway and they had to be re-interred at another location. After that the cemetery was used entirely as a burial ground and was owned by A.G. Decker and Dr. A.M. Taylor. Gus reported some 2 years later that they still had not sold enough lots to pay for the ground.

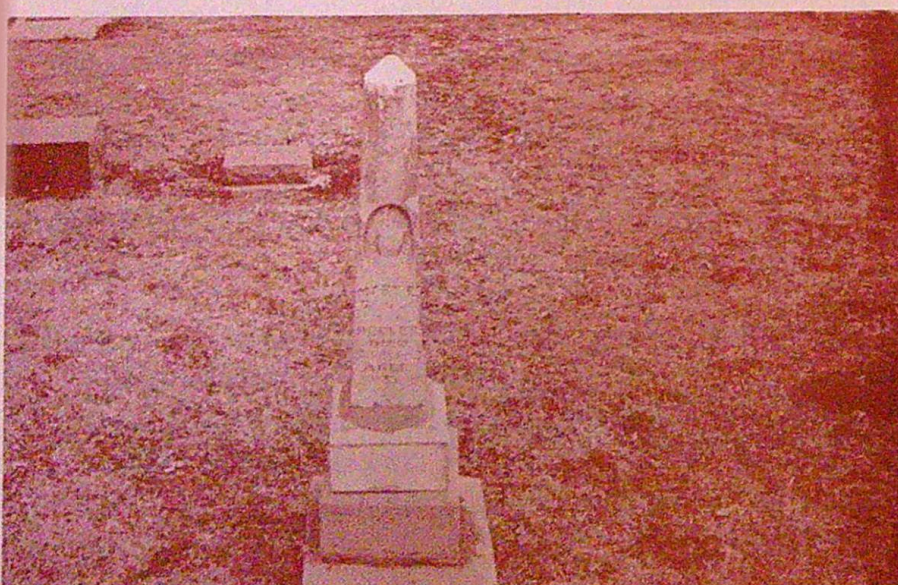
At a later date Gus Decker said, "I often think if the good women of Caney have as hard a time raising money to keep the cemetery maintained as we had in the beginning, I feel sorry for them." He continued saying that as is usually the case, those who were most able to help were the ones it was hardest to get anything from. He visited the cemetery often and in 1884 said the Caney Cemetery was maintained as nice as any that he had seen and that it was a credit to the town.



**Dr. A.M. Taylor and
Mrs. Fanny S. Taylor**



Betsey E. Babcock



Mary E. Decker



**The McRobert Headstone
Provided by Friends**



**Josie (Joe) Diaz
Killed in a gun duel**

No. 1.

LAND OFFICE RECEIPT

Recorded in Book "A" of Patents at Page 632.

Independence Kansas, December 24th 1874.
Received from Berryman Smith of Montgomery
County, Kansas the sum of Three hundred and
twenty dollars and cents, being in full for the
 $S\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12,
in Township 35 South of Range 13 East,
containing 160 acres and hundredths at \$2.00 per
acre.
\$320.00

"Cherokee Strip Act, May 11, 1872"
(See Coms. letter "C" Nov. 9, 1874.)

H. M. WATERS, Receiver.

Filed December 25, 1874 at 10:20 A.M.

No. 2.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, By,
U. S. Grant, President, By,
O. D. Cone, Secretary,

to

BERRYMAN SMITH.

Consideration: Full Payment.

) PATENT

) Dated January 15, 1876

) Attest: C. W. Holcomb, Recorder
) General Land Office (LS)

) Filed April 20, 1880 at 10 A.M.
) Recorded, Book "C" of Patents,
) at page 305.

GIVES AND GRANTS According to the provisions of the Act of Congress
of the 24th of April, 1820, and the act of the 11th of May, 1872,
 $S\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, in Township
35, South of Range 13 East, Montgomery County, Kansas.

"Cherokee Series"

Recorded in Volume 2, page 53, Records at Washington, D. C.

Berryman Smith's 1874 patent for 160 acres of land at \$160.00.
In 1882 sold 5 acres for cemetery at \$200.00.



Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Brown



Unusual Cemetery Headstones

By the year 1892 a Caney Cemetery Association was overseeing the cemetery with approval of the city council. As reported in council minutes, the city council on March 1, 1892, upon the recommendation of the Caney Cemetery Association, voted that lots 86 and 125 inclusive in section A and B be priced at \$16.00; lots from 46 to 85 inclusive, be priced at \$10.00 per lot, and all other lots at \$6.00 each; and that all lots could be divided into halves equally north and south at one-half the price of the lot . . . EXCEPT LOTS 1 TO 25 IN SECTION A WHICH SHOULD BE SET ASIDE AS A POTTER'S FIELD. Potter's Field proved 250 spaces for those who had no financial means to purchase a burial space. For the record, Sections A and B were made up of the original 5 acres purchased to start the cemetery.

The Caney Cemetery Improvement Association was chartered and incorporated April 15, 1902, "the purpose being to receive the title of all unsold portions of the present cemetery site; to purchase ground to enlarge the same should it become necessary; plat the same, and grade the streets and alleys, plant trees and shrubbery; convey lots by deed to persons who may purchase the same. Said conveyances shall be for burial purposes only, and to transact such other business as properly belongs to such association." Board members of the association were: Mrs. Rosa Cunningham, Mrs. Anna Godden, Mrs. Ida Truskett, Mrs. Sylvia Cavis, William K. Godden, George B. Atwood and William L. Cavis.

The cemetery made several improvements at this time including a fine fence with 3 gates. The cemetery was fenced and they purchased a home for their sexton and family. Additional ground was acquired for future expansion. The cemetery then maintained an area of 40 acres. A U.S. Armed Services Memorial Park was established south of the cemetery requiring one-half of a city block. The park contains a large memorial monument, WWI cannon, flag pole, flower beds and memorial walkway.

At a later date the cemetery changed its name to Sunnyside Cemetery of Caney, though the original charter remained valid. The cemetery continued to operate as an association for several years. However, father time took its toll concerning increased financial operating costs versus a reduction in income from a reduced number of interments. So the association requested the city take over all assets and operating responsibility. The city accepted title and control of Sunnyside Cemetery of Caney as of July 7, 1987.

It was found that deeded lot-space locations and recorded interments had historically been hand written in record books since the year 1882. Unfortunately through the years all records were lost before early 1900. Also, some old record book pages had deteriorated and several recorded mistakes existed. In view of such conditions, I completely surveyed the cemetery, recording correct information from headstones, monuments and lot-space locations. This information was placed in my computer data-base for use by the city business office, the Caney Valley Historical Society and the Coffeyville Genealogical Society.

The City Hall business office purchased computer software to accommodate the cemetery record program eliminating the past use of hand ledged record books. The computer system will provide immediate access to all cemetery recorded deeds, lot-space locations and past and current interments. It will also handle all receivables and payables. There are over 6,300 known recorded burials plus lots and spaces purchased for future use.

Unmarked grave locations had long been a problem from the very beginning of the cemetery. In the early days of our community many individuals of unknown name died of natural causes or were killed. Considering no burial funds were available, they were laid to rest though no headstone or marker was provided and eventually location records were lost. Even the Potter's Field, created for such instances, cannot be used today because of no records or markers. A new program has been approved providing a grave marker at every known unmarked grave.

The City of Caney continues to improve and maintain Sunnyside Cemetery with capable people and equipment. It is a credit to our community and a silent testimony to our past heritage.

Chapter 10

City Government, Development & Politics

The little town of Caney continued to grow in 1887 with its population exceeding some 250 adults. The "big dads" thought it was time to establish a local government and proceeded to successfully petition city patrons. The petition was presented to the Montgomery County Commission comprised of John Costello, chairman, Thomas M. Baily and George Foster. All commissioners approved the petition as presented, and on July 5, 1887, the community was incorporated as a city of third class with a municipal charter.

First City Election

Under the new charter, the first city election was held July 18, 1887. Election headquarters was at the First-Wine School House. The judges of the election were Dr. W.M. Taylor, John Todd, P.C. Olson and Arthur were M.L. Stone and J.P. Strider.

For the above mentioned, two political parties appeared in the field, the "People's Ticket" and the "Commonwealth Ticket." Following election success by the People's Party, the first "City Council" was composed of P.P. Hollingsworth, Mayor, and council members William Rogers, Harry P. Wiles, J. J. Tennill, J. A. Sumner and W. R. McWilliams, also, P.P. Tucker was elected as public judge and D.K. Mitchell as treasurer. The first state commissioner and city marshal was W.W. Tines. The mayor then appointed Ed. Dye to serve as city clerk.

Keep in mind there was no city hall for council meetings and the city
essentially had no lights. So initial council meetings were held in
candle-lamps for evening gatherings. For the readers interest
attached are 3 pages taken from actual council minutes
on August 11, 13, and 16, 1887.

[illegible]

at an Election held by the City of Canby
in July 18th 1887 The Following Officers
Were Elected,

J. S. Hollingsworth Mayor
 L. B. Summers
 L. P. Witter
 Wm Mc Williams
 J. H. Humphreys
 J. E. Rogers
 F. H. Hobbs
 L. K. Mitchell
 Councilmen
 Police Judge,
 Treasurer

after which a Meeting was called by the
Mayor for Aug. 11th /84 at 7³⁰ P.m.
Mayor and Councilmen all being present at
its appointed time the following Business
was Transacted - J. J. Dyer being appointed
as city clerk by a unanimous vote Proceeded
to act as Secretary
Motion made by W. E. Rogers and seconded
by J. J. Dyer that a copy of Council
Minutes be made for city purposes. Carried
and confirmed by Mayor & Clerk instructed to
Notify County Clerk of such demand
then being the further Business to transact
Meeting adjourned to meet at City Hall on
the Evening of Aug 13th /87
33

Mayor and Council met at City Hall
 Saturday Evening Aug 13/97. At 8 P.M.
 all Members Present and the following
 Business Transacted. The Question of City
 Ordinances taken up, an Ordinance
 Relating to "Council Meetings" presented
 By the Mayor and Council upon motion
 Shall Be Known as Ordinance No 100
 "Cipring by Clerk into Ordinance Book"

Moved by Councilman H.P. Miller & seconded by J.T. Rogers that the Ordinance No. Two (2) the City of Caney adopt the one found in Cherryvale Book of Ordinance and then bring Two (2) Motion Carried and Confirmed.
Said Ordinance Copied by Clerk into Ordinance Book, - Relating to Bonds of City Officers
Moved by H.P. Miller and seconded by J.T. Rogers that the amount of City Treasurer's Bond be \$1000⁰⁰ Carried unanimously (Sec 1 of Ordinance)

Clerk's Bond shall be	\$250 ⁰⁰	Sec 2	"	"
City Marshal's Bond	" 500 ⁰⁰	" 3	"	"
Street Commissioner	" 250 ⁰⁰	" 4	"	"
Police Judge's Bond	" 500 ⁰⁰	" 5	"	"

in Regard to Bonds of Officers (see Cherryvale Book Sec 6)
Moved by H.P. Miller and seconded by W.B. Rogers that W.N. Jones be appointed as city street Commissioner Motion Carried Unanimously

an Ordinance Relating to "Duties of city clerk" Presented by Mayor and Carried Unanimously Copied in Ordinance Book by Clerk and to be known as Ordinance No. Four (4)

By Motion of H.P. Miller Meeting adjourned to meet next Tuesday Evening at 7³⁰ P.M.

Tuesday Evening Aug 16/87

Mayor and Council met Sat 7³⁰ P.M. at Caney Valley Bank, and the following Business transacted all members being present

H.P. Miller made motion that the question of the appointment of city Marshal be taken up Motion being seconded By J.J. Humphrey a Ballot was taken on the names of R.B. Howard and W.N. Jones Resulting in the election of W.N. Jones in Receiving Three Votes and Howard in Jones declared the City Marshal

"an ordinance Presented by the Mayor in (7) from Section

"Relating to the duties of the City Treasurer" on Motion by H.P. Miller said ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. Five (5) Copied into Ordinance Book by Clerk

"an Ordinance was presented by the Mayor containing Four (4) Sections

"Relating to the duties of the City Marshal upon Motion being made by J.J. Humphrey said ordinance was adopted unanimously as Ordinance No. Six (6) Copied into Ordinance Book by Clerk

Mayor Presented an Ordinance in regard to duties of Street Commissioner in Five (5) Sections, this ordinance to be same as Cherryvale Ordinance except in Sec (5) to Read \$1²⁵ per day instead of \$1⁰⁰

Said Ordinance upon Motion of J.J. Humphrey was adopted and Copied by Clerk in Ordinance Book this to be known as Ordinance No. Seven (7)

"Mayor appoints a Committee of Two (2) viz H.P. Miller and W.B. Rogers to draw up and have ready some Ordinances for next Meeting

Thompson Meeting adjourned to meet next Tuesday Evening at 7³⁰ P.M.

Old Time Politics

Politics had prevailed in Caney since 1870 when Jasper West sought and obtained the position as Caney's first postmaster.. Dr. A.M. Taylor's outmaneuvering the aggressive representatives from Chautauqua County to establish Caney's school district Number 34, and yes, J.E. Stone's election as the first Montgomery County Sheriff was evidence of the latter's popularity and political support. Then there was the chartering of the Cana Town Company, March 15, 1872, whereby its members, J.E. Stone, president, O.M. Smith, Berryman Smith, Jasper West and J.G. Woodruff, purchased 280 acres of government land for \$2.00 per acre in the Caney area for control and resale. J.E. Stone and Berryman Smith purchased additional land for their personal investments. In 1886, a new Caney Town Company was chartered with Capt. J.E. Stone as president and C.C. Black, a representative of the Construction Company and the railroad, as treasurer. The government was quite lenient with railroads at that time and gave them free land as an incentive to expand their lines. The Caney Town Company purchased 280 acres of land, a portion of which was donated by the railroad and Construction Company and 140 acres were platted into town lots and were sold to new residents. The new plat was filed for record in the courthouse at Independence on March 25, 1887, and was titled the "First Addition." The company ended its business in 1893 by deeding the unplatted 140 acres to Stone for his one-third of the stock, and disposing of the remaining unsold lots to Mr. W.K. Godden.

Then Caney's first mayor, P.S. Hollingsworth, lost his position after one year of service to E.B. Skinner. Mayor Skinner lasted only one year following an intense campaign by P.S. Hollingsworth to regain that position. Caney politics, without question, prevailed at its best with the arrival of S.M. Porter who was the "master politician" in bringing to the community; railroads, coal mining, zinc/lead smelters and other business interests.

Telephones for Caney

In the year 1891, Cleveland J. Reynolds, who was then the owner and publisher of the Caney Times, a weekly newspaper, and his inventor father conceived and put into execution a plan for connecting all of the towns of Montgomery County by telephone. With the financial assistance from S.M. Porter and W.S. Brown, plans proceeded. Being a man of a determined will and untiring energy, he at once organized the "Caney Telephone Company" and within a few months, the "hello girl" was at her post of duty in many of the county communities. The completion of this telephone line marked a new era in the history of Caney and Montgomery County.

City Business

The city records for 1893 revealed some very interesting material. At that time E.B. Skinner was mayor again, and J.W. Sheriden, C.I. Bergman, H.A. Truskett and John Green were councilmen. S.H. Barr and George Purcell were nominated for city attorney, and Barr was elected for a one-year term. C.J. Reynolds, of whom old settlers spoke so often, offered the city a building known as the "Booker" office building for use as a police court and city hall for a sum of \$4.00 per month. However, he reserved the right to use the building for his own office, but promised to always give way to the police court or council activity. Mr. Reynolds also offered to do all city printing and job work at full legal rates at his newspaper office. The offer was accepted and the Caney Times was declared the official paper of the city of Caney.



A.A. Truskett Residence 1891



Caney Fourth Street Progress



Ladie's Band, Director "Al Utterback"



4th of July Parade 1918

Bills allowed and recorded for one meeting were: one month salary for city marshal and killing 4 dogs, \$27.00; J.W. Sheraden, merchandise for the poor, \$3.40. One could not but wonder what the dead dogs were worth or how many poor were helped on \$3.40.

On November 15, 1889, the city council purchased 1,000 copies of the Caney Times advertising Caney, paying \$50.00, and the Times publisher agreed to pay the postage. However, at that time the newspapers were carried free in the county and for one cent per pound outside the county, so the publisher had a good business arrangement.

About this date sidewalks were being built all through the city and bills for labor were quite modest, from \$3.00 to \$6.00 per day. C.J. Reynolds was doubling as city clerk, receiving a salary of only \$6.25 per quarter. On June 19, 1890, the city council passed a motion allowing that all monies derived from licenses issued on July 4, 1890, for stands, swings, platforms, dances and all other special licenses be placed in a separate fund; known as the "Fourth of July Fund" and the same turned over to the "committee" for the purpose of defraying expenses of the celebration.

On April 6, 1891, a city election was held and the canvassing board declared that there were 224 votes cast, P.S. Hollingsworth receiving 124 votes; Dr. J.A. Rader receiving 99, the former, therefore, being re-elected. The councilmen elected were; Skinner, Reynolds, Blivins, Dye and Shultz.

On April 6, 1892, J.L. Schooley was elected mayor over J.E. Stone by a vote of 146 to 138 and S.H. Barr was appointed city attorney. On April 2, 1894, John Todd was elected mayor with 172 votes to 152 for J.E. Stone, H. Hasker was elected police judge. The councilmen were Jarvis, Smith, Ridgeway, Sheridan and Truskett. G.W. Purcell was elected city attorney and J.W. Minner, city clerk.

Caney Library

A group of literary minded women joined together and organized the Caney Sigourneyan Club on February 3, 1892, the name being in honor of Mrs. Lydia Sigourney, a literary writer and school teacher. Charter members were: Mmes. Alice Hollingsworth, president; Lou M. Blair, treasurer; E.B. Skinner, Anna Knapp-Godden, Addie Atwood-Mann, Della Cross, Eva Clouser-Jarvis, Bertha Epstine, Rose Cunningham, Flora Reynolds and Lulu Ruhle.

This "Literary Society," sometimes called the Caney Reading Club, immediately started the first Caney Library, and at one of their first meetings the members assessed themselves \$2.40 each. With the money they purchased a number of selected books. Also, many donated volumes of choice literature were received. Volunteers were initially used to provide library service until 1897 when Mrs. Eva Jarvis became the first paid librarian. The library was supported by both the Sigourneyan Club and the City of Caney.

For several years the books were kept in various places, such as: Caney Valley Bank and Post Office, 1892; St. John's Drug Store and Ruhle's Bakery, 1893; Skinner Building, 1896; Selby's Jewelry Store, 1897; Porter Building, 1908; and the Express Building with two upstairs rooms for library and reading room, 1909.

During a holiday week of 1914, the library was moved into a southwest room on the first floor of the new Caney High School building, the board of education having promised the Sigourneyan

Club a library room if they would support the bond election. The east side of the library room was used for the high school and the west side was occupied by the City Library. However, Mrs. Jarvis was responsible for both sides.

During the months of July and August, 1915, Mrs. Jarvis and Miss Becker of Emporia, Kansas, classified and cataloged both libraries and soon after the Sigourneyan Club turned the library over to the City of Caney. The mayor then appointed a library board, which has since been responsible for the affairs of the library.

In the fall of 1923 the club sponsored a street fair and funds were raised which netted over a \$1,000.00. Also, the grade school's seventh grade assisted by having a debate on the subject, "Resolved: THAT THE INTELLECT OF WOMEN IS EQUAL TO, IF NOT SUPERIOR TO, THAT OF MAN." Mrs. J.W. Titus was a member of that debate team and reported that the program was held at the First Christian Church to a standing room only crowd.

In 1924 a much needed addition was built on to the high school building, consisting of a gymnasium, auditorium, and class rooms, with a new study hall. The library had outgrown its old quarters so the old study hall on the north side of the main floor was provided for library usage. New shelves were added and filled with books for a new enlarged library facility.

In 1969 the A.J. Canary estate donated a building at 105 West Fourth Street for the Caney City Library. The estate provided an additional \$4,000.00 for building renovation. The high school library remained at the school and the city library was moved to the new location.

A devastating fire in 1978 destroyed the library with a great loss of books and literature. However, a new library was established the following year at 100 North Ridgeway and soon became an excellent resource facility having over 10,000 volumes of good books for both children and adults.

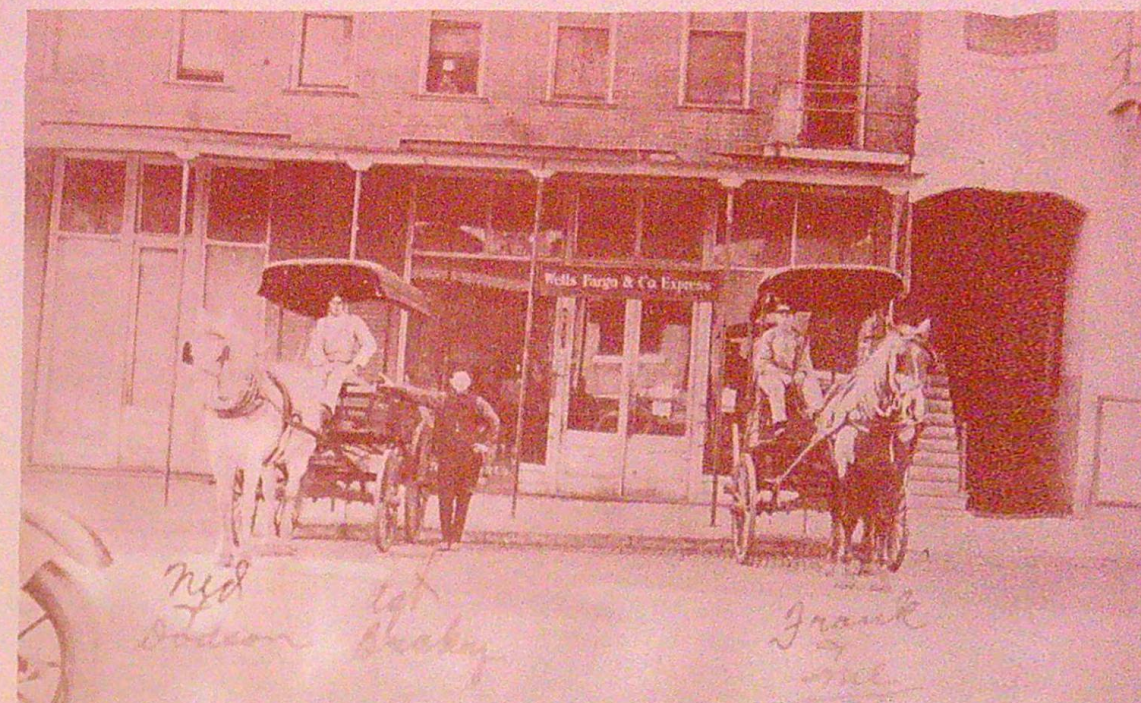
The present Caney City Library has continued to serve the community for over 100 years and has employed only 6 librarians. Those serving in the past were: Mmes. Eva Jarvis, Alma Bennett, Genevieve Cain, Ruth Dow and Miss Orr. The current librarian is Mrs. Julia Koplin.

Gas Lights and Heating for City

In 1893 R.D. Kellog drilled for oil in J.E. Stone's pasture west of Caney. A small production was found, being Caney's first oil well. The first gas well was drilled on the Frederick farm northeast of Caney, later owned by Dave Thomas.

By 1894 the city population had exceeded 1,000 and was growing. The Caney area had its first major gas field discovery. On November 16, 1894, city councilmen passed an ordinance permitting R.D. Kellog to have the exclusive right to use streets, alleys, roads, and public grounds for the purpose of furnishing gas through a distribution system to the inhabitants of the city of Caney, this being the first mention of any service of gas for heating and lighting in the city records. Gas lights were soon popular in many Caney residences and business houses. The main street, through the business area, was aglow at night with gas street lights for another Caney first.

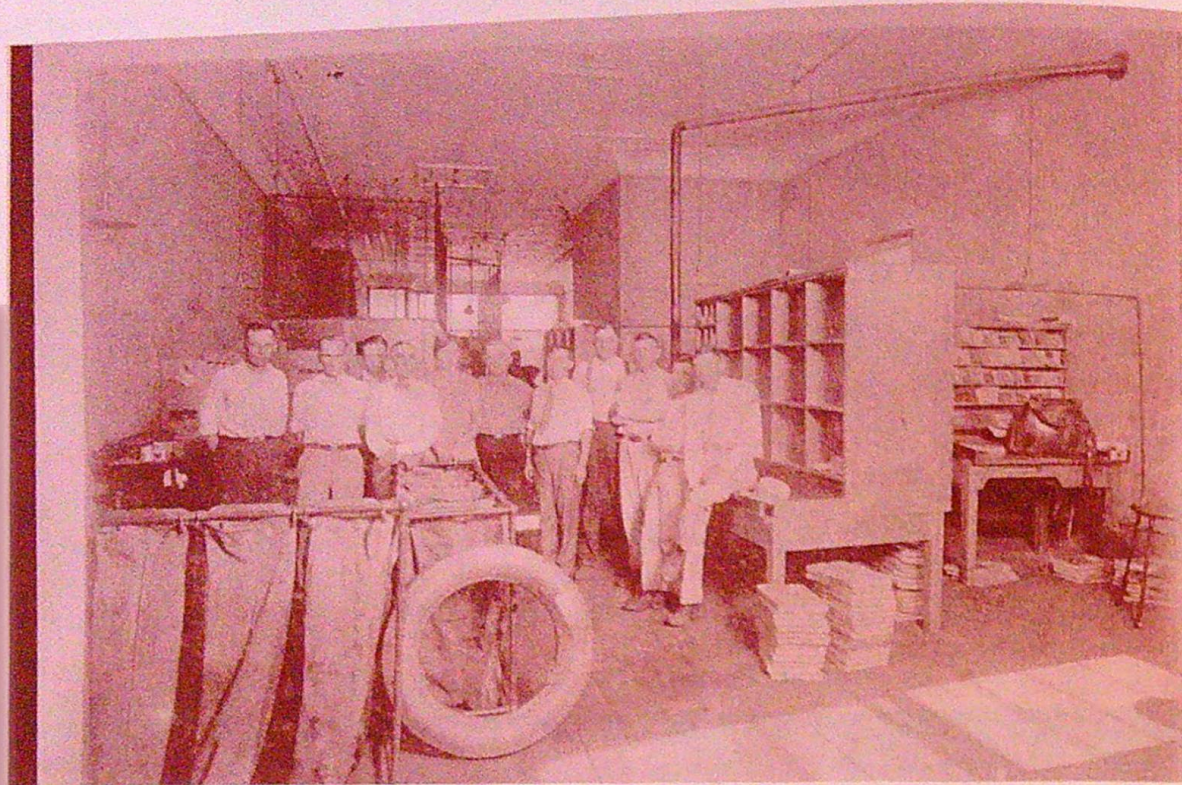
In the year 1904 Caney was incorporated as a second class city and C.M. Wilson was elected as mayor.



Wells Fargo & Co. Express Office 1905



Caney Post Office 1910



Caney Post Office in Canary Building 1930



U.S. Post Office 1993

CANEY LITERARY CIRCLE.

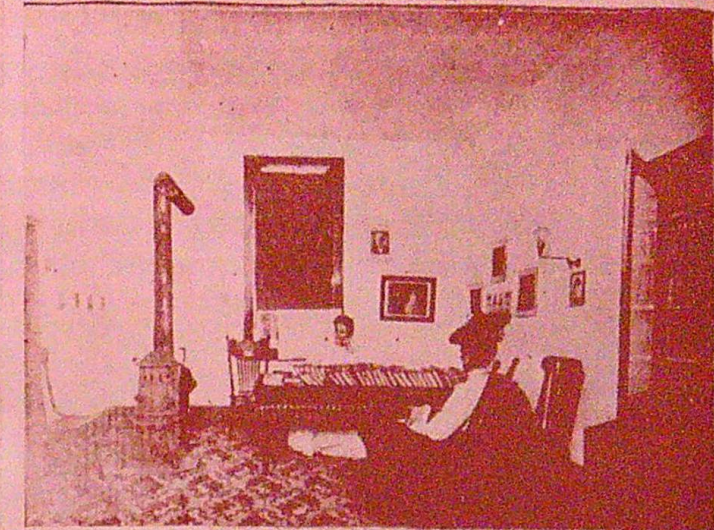
The Sigmund Freud Circle was organized in 1922, with 12 charter members. The circle has since grown to thirty members who contributed \$2.00 apiece to erect and maintain the building. The circle has since grown to thirty members who contributed \$2.00 apiece to erect and maintain the building. The circle has since grown to thirty members who contributed \$2.00 apiece to erect and maintain the building.

The object of the club is to furnish a place for the study, improvement and the support of the literary and artistic interests of the community. The club has since grown to thirty members who contributed \$2.00 apiece to erect and maintain the building.

The accompanying illustration is a view of the circulating room of the library in Senator Porter's building. The room is a large, well-lit space with high ceilings and large windows. It is furnished with bookshelves and tables for reading. The room is a large, well-lit space with high ceilings and large windows.

The organization is well established and has a large membership. It has since grown to thirty members who contributed \$2.00 apiece to erect and maintain the building. The organization is well established and has a large membership.

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Library Circulating Room.

(Photo by Bellows)



GEORGE H. WORK.
City Attorney.

George H. Work is a prominent citizen of Caney, Kansas. He has been successful in the line of his profession, but the ability, courage and honesty of purpose which has characterized his administration of the office of city attorney has earned for him the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens.

The rapid growth in population, wealth and industrial importance of Caney means a corresponding increase in responsibilities in the office of city attorney which require fully capable hands.

Mr. Work, by his superior education, his superior ability and his superior character, has been enabled to bring to the discharge of his duties the highest quality of service.



DR. T. A. STEARNS.

Dr. Stearns is a prominent citizen of Caney, Kansas. He has been successful in the line of his profession, but the ability, courage and honesty of purpose which has characterized his administration of the office of city attorney has earned for him the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens.

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The rapid growth in population, wealth and industrial importance of Caney means a corresponding increase in responsibilities in the office of city attorney which require fully capable hands.

As it appears in the football team of Valparaiso University. Upon receiving his degree Dr. Hanson returned to Caney, and in July of this year opened his office for the practice of dentistry. He has already not only with a most flattering degree of success, but in the practice of his profession Dr. Hanson is a skillful, careful and conscientious practitioner that will secure in his particular line of work.

It appears from the government report that Kansas has nearly exhausted its coal supply.

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WILSON & WINKLER Photo by Bellows

The Corner Drug Store

We Carry a Full, Complete Line of Fresh Pure Drugs and Proprietary Medicines.

Our stock of Rubber Goods, Toilet and Fancy Articles and Elegant Stationery is most complete as to quality and variety.

WE CARRY GUNTER'S SELECT CHOCOLATES.

We Solicit Your Patronage.

WILSON & WINKLER



Residence of Dr. T. A. Stearns.

Photo by Bellows

The Caney News



City 1979



Gregg's

CaneyValleyHistoricalSociety

Electric Lights for City

Electricity and electric lights were a long time coming. It was not until 1907 that the city granted a franchise to John Heckman for an electric light plant. He ran the plant 3 years before he died in 1910. B.S. Ayers and B.W. Holland then bought the plant and operated it for some time, and then it sold several times. A Mr. Phillips was their last manager with the plant being located on Foreman Street between Third and Fourth Avenue. Eventually the plant and distribution system was sold to an outside source, Caney Electric Company; currently the Kansas Gas and Electric Company owns and operates the system.

City Waterworks

One could imagine that a community with a growing populace, plus business and industry, had justification for a city-wide water distribution system. On August 6, 1895, the city council was presented a petition, endorsed by the leading businessmen of the city, asking the mayor and council to provide for a system of waterworks for the city of Caney. The council moved quickly and on August 29, 1895, a contract with the How Pump & Engine Company was read and ratified, this being the start of a waterworks project for Caney. No additional information is available as to a water source or system until 1902; however, their water source was probably the Cheyenne Creek.

The Caney Chronicle reported November 14, 1902, that the city council had agreed upon a plan to dam Cheyenne Creek for the purpose of securing an abundance of water for a waterworks program. It was stated that the dam would be located about 100' above a proposed pump house and would be 3' high, 3' thick at the base and 2' at the top. Construction material would be stone, gravel and cement. Large pipes were to be laid from the reservoir, created by the dam, to a pump house. This program was to provide an ample water supply of, reportedly, "good water." Water had been pumped from the creek since July, 1902, for city use. There no doubt was some type of a water treatment facility though no mention of it is recorded.

The Cheyenne Creek dam was completed in early 1903 and was located one and one-quarter miles north of the Caney Post Office. The proposed pump station was completed with 2 Fairbanks Morse pumps producing 350,000 gallons of water every 24 hours. The pumps discharged the water to the top of smelter hill, where they built a 190,000-gallon concrete reservoir. The water was supplied to a city distribution system by gravity flow.

City water customers were seemingly slow to plumb their homes for running water. It was reported in the Caney Chronicle dated March 27, 1903, that the City of Caney had about \$15,000 invested in its waterworks program which had been in operation since July, 1902. From that time total receipts had been \$387.11 collected by Superintendent James Dancer and turned over to the clerk.

The expense of the city waterworks was \$20.00 per month paid to W.J. Fellows for keeping water pumped into the reservoir, except for 3 months in the winter when he was paid \$30.00 per month. Mr. Dancer received \$2.00 per day for the actual days worked. At that time he had received \$25.00 for his services since the waterworks had been put into operation. It was stated that he had worked hard to induce citizens to use city water, and his only interest was to help the city. The books were open for inspection and anyone could go to the city clerk's office and see for themselves.



City Water Reservoir on Smelter Hill 1903



Caney River City Dam 1911

The records revealed that only 54 people in Caney were using city water. There was only one person using water who had not paid. The Chronicle editor said, "It seems to us that more people should patronize the city in the use of its water."

The Cheyenne water reservoir soon proved to have its limitations for an adequate water supply, and in 1904-'05 a pumping facility was constructed on the Little Caney River northwest of town. A large standpipe for water storage was constructed on a hill above the pump house; it was 30' in diameter by 70' high, with a capacity for 371,000 gallons of water. The elevation was 142' above the Caney business district. Treatment facilities were constructed for water purification. The city distribution requirements were composed of 4" through 12" pipe, some 12 miles in length.

The old pumping system on Cheyenne Creek and reservoir (full) on smelter hill were held in reserve in case of an emergency. The use of this facility was abandoned on about 1920. Fred Franks, an old-timer now living in Caney, said he could remember as a youngster in about 1910 that everyone had available tap water, but it tasted so bad no one could drink it, and they used cistern water for that purpose.

The Caney water distribution system, pumps and treatment plant have been up-graded over recent years to meet both demand and state health standards. The current system is now being modernized with a \$1,600,000.00 improvement program replacing pumps, treatment equipment and replacing about 9 miles of a 21 mile system. Caney waterworks serve over 1,000 customers daily.

Fire Department Organized

Another important development within Caney's early years was community fire protection. The city council members appointed D.N. Plowman, chief of the fire department, January 7, 1896. He was provided power and authority to have full supervision of pumps and engines and all other apparatus belonging to and kept by the city of Caney for the purpose of extinguishing fires. He was authorized to organize a volunteer fire department, assign each man his duty; and was to have fire practice occasionally in order to acquaint the volunteers with the fire apparatus.

By 1905 there was one paid fireman and 10 volunteers with one 2-horse hose and ladder wagon; one 32' and one 36' extension ladder and 1,000' of 2-1/2" cotton hose. Streets were not paved or graveled.

In 1912 the fire department had one full-time fireman with a chief and 7 volunteers. They continued to have one 2-horse wagon carrying 1,000' of 4" hose, 500' of 2-1/2" hose, and two 28' ladders. They also had a 25' hose tower with a bell and six 3-gallon chemical hand extinguishers. A fire barn was used and located in the downtown alley between Spring and State Streets. The city had 4 miles of paved streets and 41 electric arc lights.

By 1917 the horse drawn wagons were gone and the record states that the fire department had one auto hose and chemical truck; 1,800' of 2-1/2" cotton hose and 150' chemical hose. There was one paid man and 9 volunteers.

Moving on to the year 1927 there were 11 volunteer firemen with one paid driver, one auto hose and chemical truck with 2,000' of 2-1/2" hose, and one hose hand-cart with 200' of chemical hose. The city had 4 miles of brick pavement.

Quality Clothes.

There is a **QUALITY** in Cut and Fit as there is a **QUALITY** in MATERIAL in the making of Nobby Clothes of long service durability.

Fit, Finish and Style are the marks of good dressing. Why not have a combination of all these **QUALITIES** in your clothing when the cost is no more than the other kind.

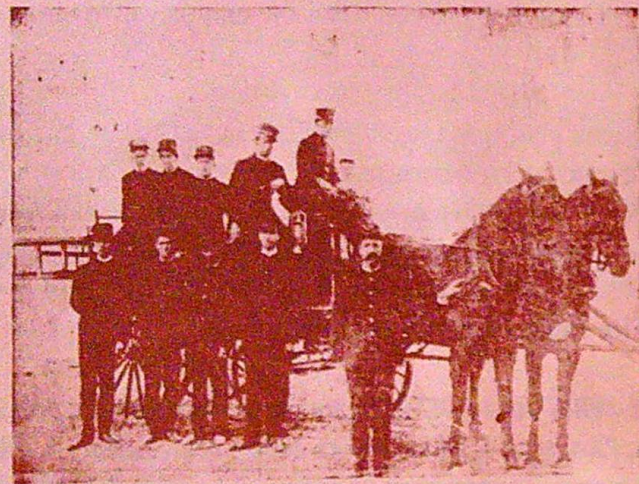
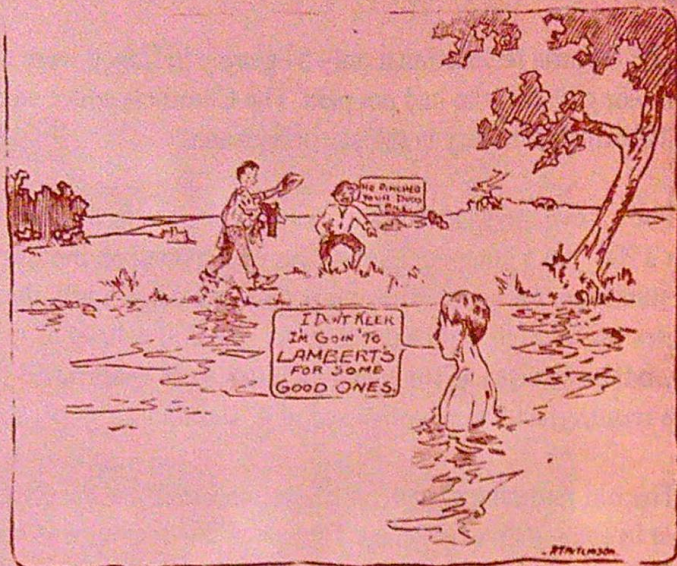
Lambert Sells Them

They bear the "Hamburger" mark, the only genuine tailor made clothing. Ed rheimer, Stein & Co's fine finish youth's and children's clothing.

Gumbel and John B. Stetson Hats.

The finest and most complete stock of elegant Suit Cases, Bags and Trunks in all styles of material and finish from 35 cents to \$35.00. Complete Line of Gents Furnishing Goods.

LAMBERT.



Caney's Fire Department.



FRED C. WHILLINGHAM
Founder of The Caney News

The Caney News
Caney's Leading Paper.



Residence of E. R. Franks

J. E. STONE, JAS. T. BRADLEY, R. H. BRADLEY, ELSIE TRUSKETT
President. Vice-Pres. Cashier. Bookkeeper.

The
HOME NATIONAL BANK

CANEY, KANS.

Capital \$25,000—Surplus \$15,000

As its name indicates we are a strictly home institution interested only in the up-building of Caney. Our business has more than doubled in two years. Your business solicited.

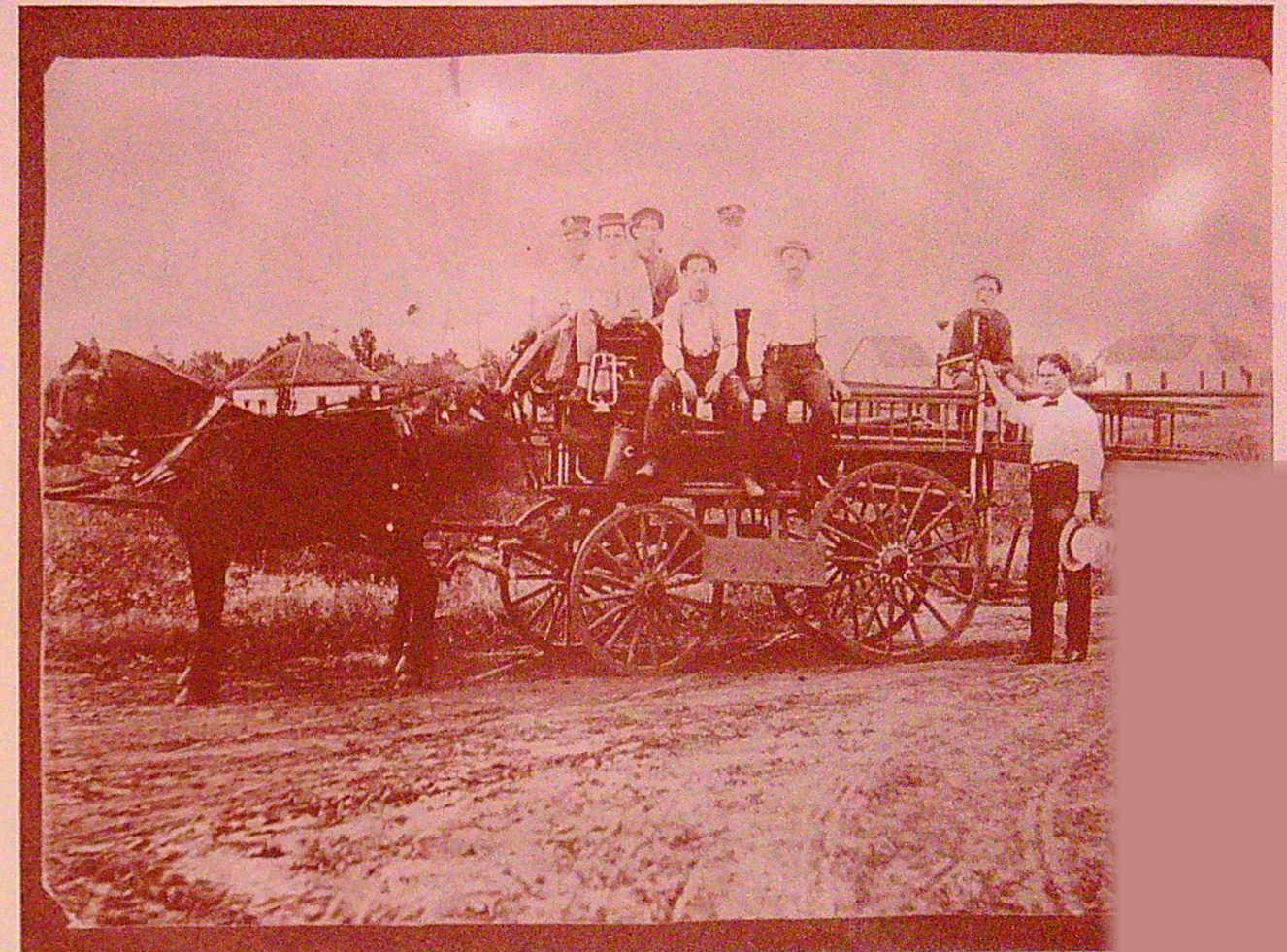
Deposits \$150,000. Cash and Exchange \$75,000

Our Cash is Insured. Our Officers Bonded.

Sound. Conservative. Safe.

C. H. BRADLEY, Cashier.

The Caney News



Caney Fire Department 1902



Caney Fire Department 1908



Caney Fire Department 1924



Caney Fire Department 1993

The 1993 Caney fire department is one of the finest in Southeast Kansas! There are 24 volunteers who are paid \$55.00 each quarter, a chief who is paid \$150.00 per month and a secretary, who is paid \$75.00 per month. The fire station is located at 115 South State Street and is composed of 2 buildings. Major equipment available is a 1986 1,000 GPM pumper truck, 1986 support truck and a 1976 grass water truck, 1973 750 GPM pumper truck and a 1963 reserve pumper truck. The trucks carry over 2,400' of rubber hose. The volunteers have a radio notification system as supported by city dispatchers. The fire department's excellent performance has helped the city obtain an ISO class #5 rating that reflects on a positive city insurance rating. Mark Hodges, fire chief, and Dale McBride, secretary, are the 2 top officers in this volunteer organization.

Hotel Accommodations

One of the first business establishments in Caney by the year 1870 was Jasper West's Cana Hotel. Throughout the many years that have passed, the city has enjoyed the services of many hotels, boarding houses and the popular "Rooms For Rent" establishments. All of these facilities certainly did provide comfort and rest for the weary and hungry travelers.

However, there was one very special hotel that hopefully will be recorded in Caney's history as "one of the very best," this being the Palace Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Shultz and family came to Caney in the spring of 1888. They traded a farm in Rutland Township north of Havana to Bobby Reed for the half block on Spring Street, between Fifth and Sixth Streets. An 11-room boarding house, known as the Planter's Hotel, stood there. Mr. Shultz built onto the hotel building 3 different times until it consisted of 50 rooms, later it was named the Palace Hotel and was located where the post office building now stands.

The Palace Hotel was completed in 1897, providing 50 well furnished rooms. It was the largest hotel in the city and one of the largest in the southern part of the state. The hotel accommodations of Caney were not surpassed by any city double its size, and the Palace enjoyed a very enviable reputation. The proprietor, J.T. Schultz, was from Kentucky and had lived in this country 19 years. The hotel was well arranged for the accommodation of the guests and especially adapted for drummers who found the commodious "sample room" a great convenience. The office was large, well lighted and well furnished. The dining room had ample seating capacity and the bedrooms were arranged so as to afford good ventilation for all patrons. It was stated, that the 2 outdoor restrooms for men and women were superb for their time. The trees with their luxuriant foliage made a delightfully shady place in the hot summer, and to add to the comfort of the guests, there were 2 large double swings under them for the guests' use. Everything was first-class; the table was supplied with the best the market afforded, and Mrs. Shultz looked after the comfort of the patrons of the house making everyone feel welcome and at home. The hotel was centrally located, being only one block from the business district. Horses and buggies could be cared for at a neighboring livery stable.

Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Shultz were the grandparents of Verney C. Wallar, Jr., now living in Caney.

Caney Financial Institutions

The city of Caney has had numerous financial institutions over the past 107 years that have been supportive in building the community through good times and bad. Information on all such

businesses cannot be obtained, but a partial listing is as follows:

The CANEY VALLEY NATIONAL BANK, organized in 1886 and located in a fine brick building on the southwest corner of Fourth and State Streets. J.F. Savage was president with a capital stock of \$25,000.00 and a surplus of \$4,000.00.

The BANK OF CANEY, organized in 1892 with W.S. Brown as president. A sandstone building located on the northeast corner of Fourth and State Streets.

The HOME STATE BANK, organized in 1886 with H.A. Truskett as president. Became the HOME NATIONAL BANK in 1900.

The FIRST STATE BANK OF CANEY, organized in 1911 with J.D. Canary as president.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN, a Caney branch office established in 1989, Mike Larchey, manager. The location was on the northwest corner of Fifth and McGee.

The BANK IV CANEY, a branch office established in 1989 through the purchase of the First Federal Savings and Loan by BANK IV, Coffeyville, Kansas.

The Caney Valley National Bank, Hal Taylor, president and Bank IV Caney, Independence and Coffeyville, David Wheeler, president, continue to operate today. Both being full service banks, are a contribution to the community and its financial needs.

The Ku Klux Klan

Available information on the Ku Klux Klan's past activity in Caney or the general area does not seem to be readily accessible or at least in my research. Considering, however, the organization was quite active in the Caney area in about 1921-'23, I do want to share some findings.

Governor of Kansas, Henry J. Allen, was a bitter enemy of the "Invisible Empire" before it was organized in Kansas. He was aware of klan activities in other states, and he was determined to oust the organization should it attempt to establish itself within the state. The governor was notified in July 1921 that klansmen from Oklahoma and Texas were moving northward to organize the klan in Southern Kansas.

Reportedly, a klan unit at Pittsburgh in Crawford County was among the first organized in the state. Soon, other railroad towns, including Arkansas City and Coffeyville, had klans which were controlled from the regional sub-office in Kansas City, Missouri. In a clandestine effort to conceal the klan's expansion into Kansas, local organizations often were assigned names such as the "Sunflower Club" of Wyandotte County, "The Bourbon County Industrial Association" of Fort Scott, and "Southwest Trade Association" of Caney, Kansas.

Doubt was quickly eliminated concerning the klan's existence in Southeastern Kansas. On February 16, 1922, 250 members of the Ku Klux Klan marched openly with a flaming cross at the head of their parade in Caney. In May 1922, Dr. Harry Graham of Boston, Massachusetts, debated the merits of the Ku Klux Klan with Harry B. Burton, mayor of Kansas City. Graham, a klan organizer, held that "the klan worked for the social purity, white supremacy, the welfare of the nation, and the constitution of the United States," but Burton insisted that the klan was "un-American,



Palace Hotel 1897 (50 Rooms)



Palace Hotel Back View

THURSDAY DINNER

—AT—

The Palace Hotel,

August 5, 1897.

MENU.

SOUPS.

Cream Tomato Soup.

RELISHES.

Mixed Pickles Cauliflower.

MEATS.

Prime Roast Beef with Brown Potatoes
Loin of Pork with Apple Sauce.
Baked Turkey with Grape Jelly. Baked Chicken.
Baked Heart with Dressing and Peach Roll.

VEGETABLES.

Sweet Potatoes. Cream Potatoes. French Peas.
Cream Salad.

PIES.

Lemon. Gooseberry. Blackberry.

PUDDINGS.

Fruit Pudding with Wine Sauce.

FRUITS AND NUTS.

Oranges. Apples. Grapes Mixed Nuts.

DRINKS.

Tea Ice Tea. Coffee. Chocolate. Milk.

DESSERT.

Ice Cream and Cake.

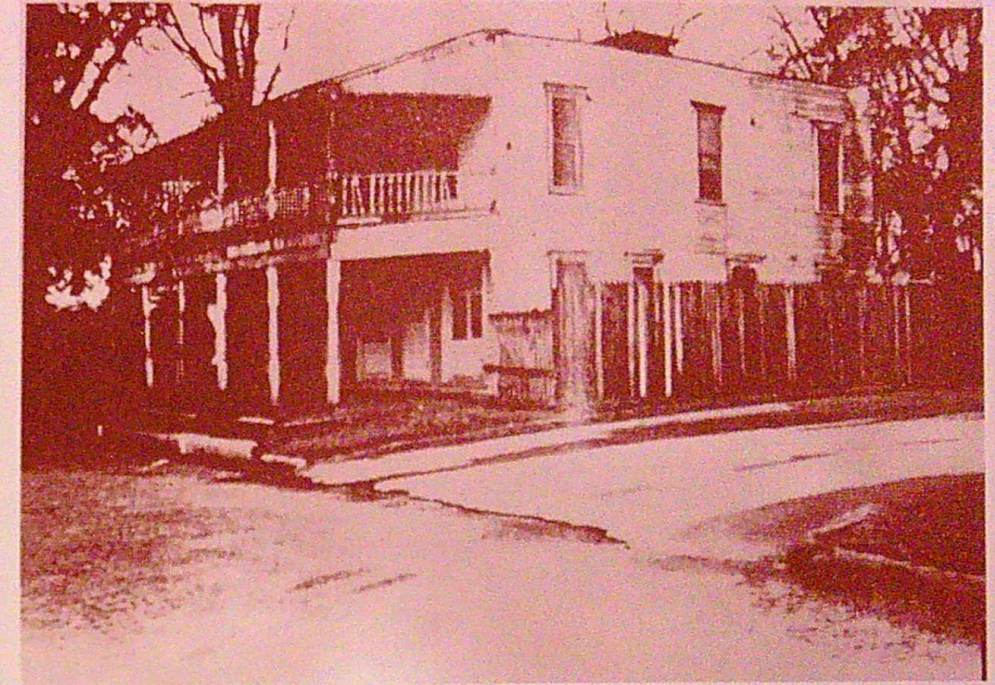
J. T. SHULTZ, Proprietor.

ARTHUR B. STEWART, Steward.

MEALS, 25 CENTS

PHOENIX PRINT, CANBY.

The Palace Hotel Thursday Menu 1897



Forrest Hotel



Hotel with Basement for Ice Storage



Caney Valley National Bank 1896



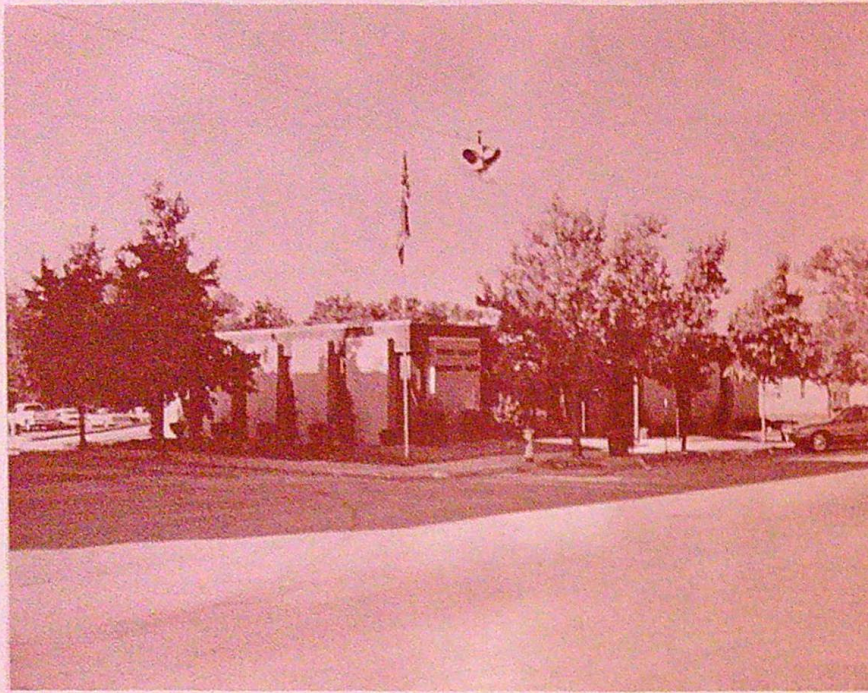
Caney Valley National Bank 1910



Home National Bank 1905



Caney Valley National Bank at
Southeast Corner of Fourth and State Streets



Caney Valley National Bank 1993

cowardly and oppressive." Shortly after this debate, organizers appeared before the ministerial association in Emporia and declared that the klan upheld law and order, opposed Catholicism, and stated that members were recruited chiefly from among the Masonic order. An overwhelming majority of the Emporia ministers denounced the klan.

On September 5, 1922, hundreds of white-robed klansmen held a meeting at Winfield, Kansas, after an airplane dropped pamphlets announcing the place and date of the meeting. Initiation ceremonies for 200 new members were held a week later near Newton, where the first issue of the Jay Hawk American, a klan newspaper, appeared on the street.

Shortly thereafter, Governor Allen was notified that some Arkansas City residents had been threatened with tar and feathers, for alleged offenses in letters signed by the Ku Klux Klan. Allen sent J.A. McDermott, judge of the Industrial court, to investigate the activities in Arkansas City.

The Caney Chronicle on February 14, 1922, reported that the Ku Klux Klan marched on 4 Caney churches February 12, 1922, during their evening services. While it is true that excitement gripped the worshipers when the white robed klansmen suddenly appeared in their midst, no outward manifestation or demonstration was indulged in.

At the Christian Church, the Rev. W.B. McKinney had just given out the closing hymn before beginning his sermon when the klansmen appeared. Two white robed individuals stepped just inside

the doorway, while the third advanced to the pulpit. The piano had played the introduction as the white robed messenger handed a letter and a donation to Rev. McKinney, and as members of the "invisible empire" turned to retrace their steps, the congregation started a hymn and carried it through to the end of 3 verses.

While the flock was singing, the Rev. McKinney had opened and read the letter and at the close of the singing he then read the letter aloud and said:

"Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,"
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, February 10, 1922

Rev. McKinney:

Reverend Sir: It is with pleasure that I send you by special messenger this communication. I know that you are not one of the klan, but we appreciate your splendid efforts for the spiritual, social and moral betterment of your locality, and assure you of the loyal support of 300 of the better citizens of your locality who are of us and stand with us and behind us in your efforts for social betterment. Wishing you the success you so justly deserve, we are sincerely and loyally, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Kleagle of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.

Practically the same scenes were enacted at the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, the visitors in each case leaving a similar letter to that given to Rev. McKinney, and a donation.

While all the ministers were unable to conceal their surprise, yet each recovered and made a few remarks of the appreciation of the motives of the klan in tendering them their moral and financial support.

At the Baptist Church baptismal services were being held when the klansmen arrived and they withdrew from the church without anybody seeing them. They did leave their pastor a letter and a donation.

The Coffeyville Journal, February 17, 1922, reported that the klan had provided a return visit to Caney on the evening of February 16, 1922. A motor car parade pulled into Caney about 9:30 p.m. and was witnessed by many. The parade arrived in the business part of town just as the local movie theatre was unloading its house at the close of the first show and a large crowd was forthcoming.

The article reported "klansmen visited the churches in Caney last Sunday night and left a donation of \$25.00 for each of 4 pastors. Also, in the motor caravan a representative of the Journal counted 35 motor cars, each filled with at least one person or more riding on the running board of each machine. It is estimated there were at least 250 men in the cars. The caravan entered town unheralded from the southeast, drove through a considerable part of the residence section and struck the main street of town just east of the Santa Fe station, and the parade then extended east the entire length of Fourth Street. This indicated to some that the klansmen were not Caney folk, but were from Copan and probably Bartlesville. However, it is pretty well known that at least some Caney men belong to the klan and there is said to be a local klan in Caney.

"The first car in the parade carried a large silk American Flag and 4 spotlights from cars in

procession were pointed on the stars and stripes all the time.

"The second car carried the 'fiery cross' which is the emblem of the 'Invisible Empire.' The cross was encased in glass and was illuminated with red lights, powered from a storage battery and arranged about the 'fiery cross' as to properly illuminate it.

"The klansmen in cars were robed and all wore masks. As they proceeded around over town, small handbills were scattered about which read as follows:

'We are here. See for yourselves. We mean business. Law violators, this is your warning to change your habits, or we will call on you. Officers, do your duty . . . Ku Klux Klan.'

"There were also scattered on the streets a number of the official publication of the klan which is printed in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Governor Allen, in a November 1922 campaign speech at Coffeyville, promised to work hard for ouster of the Ku Klux Klan in Kansas. In view of this promise 2 local men, Bruce Hinkle and D.W. Martin, were named in an ouster suit against the Ku Klux Klan of Kansas. The suit was filed in the supreme court at Topeka by the attorney general's office.

"A number of alleged officials of the klan were named in the petition. The petition alleges that by intimidation and threats and the use of trappings and masks to conceal person identity of members, the organization disturbs the peace and quiet of persons, families and neighbors and attempts to interrupt and molest religious services, etc. Also, the petition charged that the defendant corporation had not filed an application to the state charter board for the authority to engage in business as a foreign corporation on the state of Kansas, etc. It was stated that the state officials did not know the exact number of klansmen in the state but believed there were thousands of members.

"There have been many rumors about past klan activity in the city, including member names and their actions taken against selected citizenry. However, without documented fact it is best to say that this too has passed our way and now we move on to a brighter day."

Law and Order

Law and order in the early years was very much self-imposed. Caney had no local law enforcement officer until W.V. Toner became city marshal in 1887. Though J.E. Stone was Montgomery County Sheriff in 1871, Independence was 18 miles away and traveling by horse or buggy made response time limited. Early pioneers were normally armed and handled law enforcement as they saw fit, and at times, on a vigilante basis.

Records verify that at the peak of Caney's 5,000 plus population in 1917 they retained only one town marshal and 2 night watchmen. One of these night watchmen also performed the job as street sweeper during the early morning hours. The only police office was a small corner room in the old fire barn and jail. Most town marshals did not own a car, and in the early 1920's it was reported that peace officers could rent a car at the Spring Street Garage for twenty-five cents a day.

Caney has had many marshals, peace officers or night watchmen in the years gone by. However, some who were well known and remembered were Will Garr, murdered on Fourth Street; John McInroy, murdered by Nip Van; Ross Hays, who apprehended and killed fugitive Johnnie Pryor; Charlie Morris, Howard Bingham, Tricky Troxell, Bert Shutt and Fred Hipchen.

Following World War II in the late 1940's, the local population was about 2,700 citizens and law enforcement continued to have a complement of 3 officers, including Police Chief Tricky Troxell. The city purchased its "first" police patrol car in 1949. Bill Toner, owner of Toner Ford, said the city purchased a high performance Ford, but Tricky would not drive it over 30 miles and hour! By the 1970's the population had dropped some though it remained stable for several years.

Swimming Pool

In 1957 a \$25,000.00 bond issue passed for the construction of a municipal swimming pool to be located on the old site where the McKinley school building once stood. City officers and council members were: W.C. Jones, mayor, F.E. Franks, clerk and councilmen A.W. Atkinson, E.D. Biggerstaff, Frank Ikerd, LeRoy Kincaid, F.A. Martin, W.E. Toner, R.C. McQuillen and H.B. Shannon.

Caney Municipal Hospital

The next major community improvement was the Caney Municipal Hospital. The voters passed a bond issue on May 1, 1959, for \$170,000.00 and another bond issue May 1, 1961, for \$50,000.00 completing the project. The 28-bed hospital complex was completed and dedicated in the fall of 1961. The hospital building was owned by the city of Caney and operated by Great Plains Lutheran Health Alliance under an appointed hospital board of trustees. The trustees were Marvin E. Sawyer, Earle D. Biggerstaff, R.M. Weaverling, E.W. Hazel and Jake L. Liberman. W.C. Jones was mayor.

The hospital provided excellent service for several years, but a Caney and area population drop had a negative impact on the number of patrons using the hospital services. On January 1, 1989, the facility was licensed as a clinic, and operated as the Jane Phillips Caney Community Clinic under the Jane Phillips Episcopal Memorial Medical Center of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The clinic maintained 3 to 4 medical doctors plus an extended care or swing-bed unit and service.

City Hall

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company wanted to purchase a segment of city-owned land at the northeast corner of State and Fifth Streets to build a new telephone exchange and office. Eventually they offered their old 2-story building as a trade for the land and the city accepted. The city hall office and police station were moved early in the 1960's to this new location at the southeast corner of Fifth and State Streets. The telephone company completed their proposed new building a few months later.

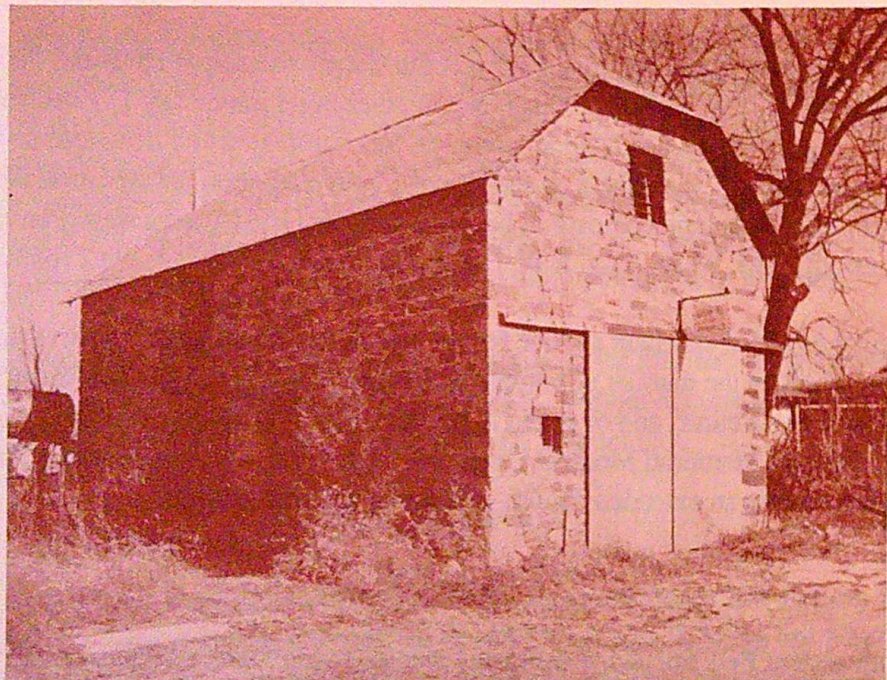
Ambulance Service

The Graves Funeral Home had provided a local ambulance service but decided to discontinue the operation, considering unfavorable economics. Rather than lose this service, the city retained the

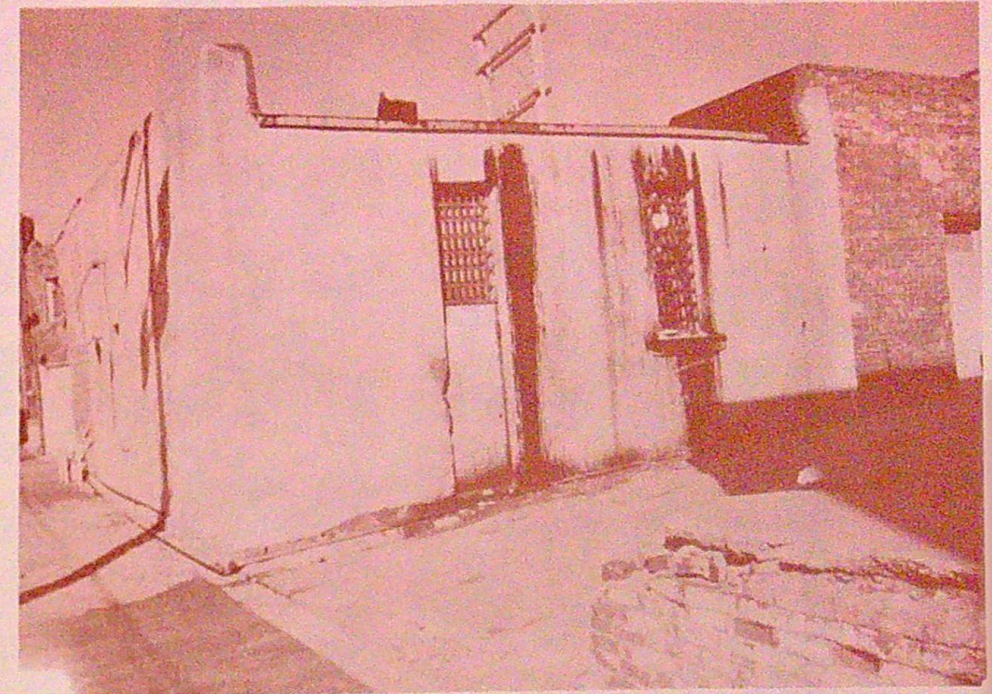
ambulance program by a favorable vote of the city council, effective February 1, 1967.

The ambulance program was initially operated with the city clerk taking emergency calls mornings and afternoons. Walter Tannahill was used as a dispatcher, operating from his home. He accepted calls during the noon hour, evenings and holidays. The police operated the ambulance, which had been a gift of the Graves Funeral Home. The city soon determined there was a need for additional personnel and operating revenue. The community responded by approving a one-half cent sales tax effective July 19, 1982. This move resulted in hiring qualified "EMT" dispatchers and patrolmen, and providing an acceptable ambulance, equipment and service under the supervision of the police department.

In 1993, Monte Lilburn, mayor, reported that the Caney Police Department under Rick Pell, chief, had 4 patrolmen, 4 dispatchers and also 3 patrol cars and 2 ambulances.



Caney's First Jail 1888-1904



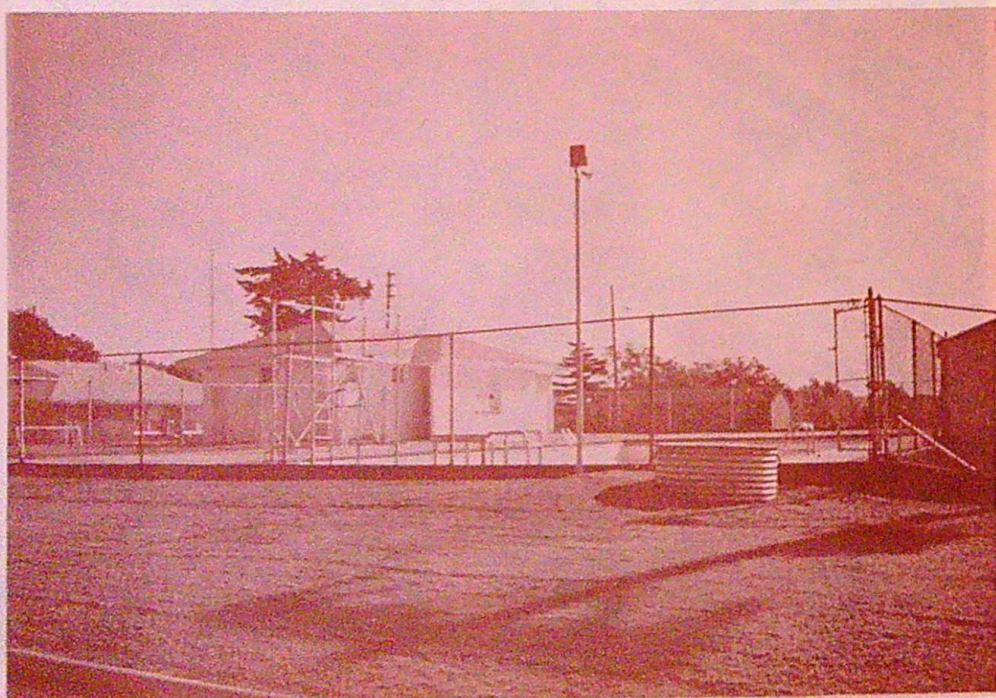
Caney's Second Jail 1905-1965



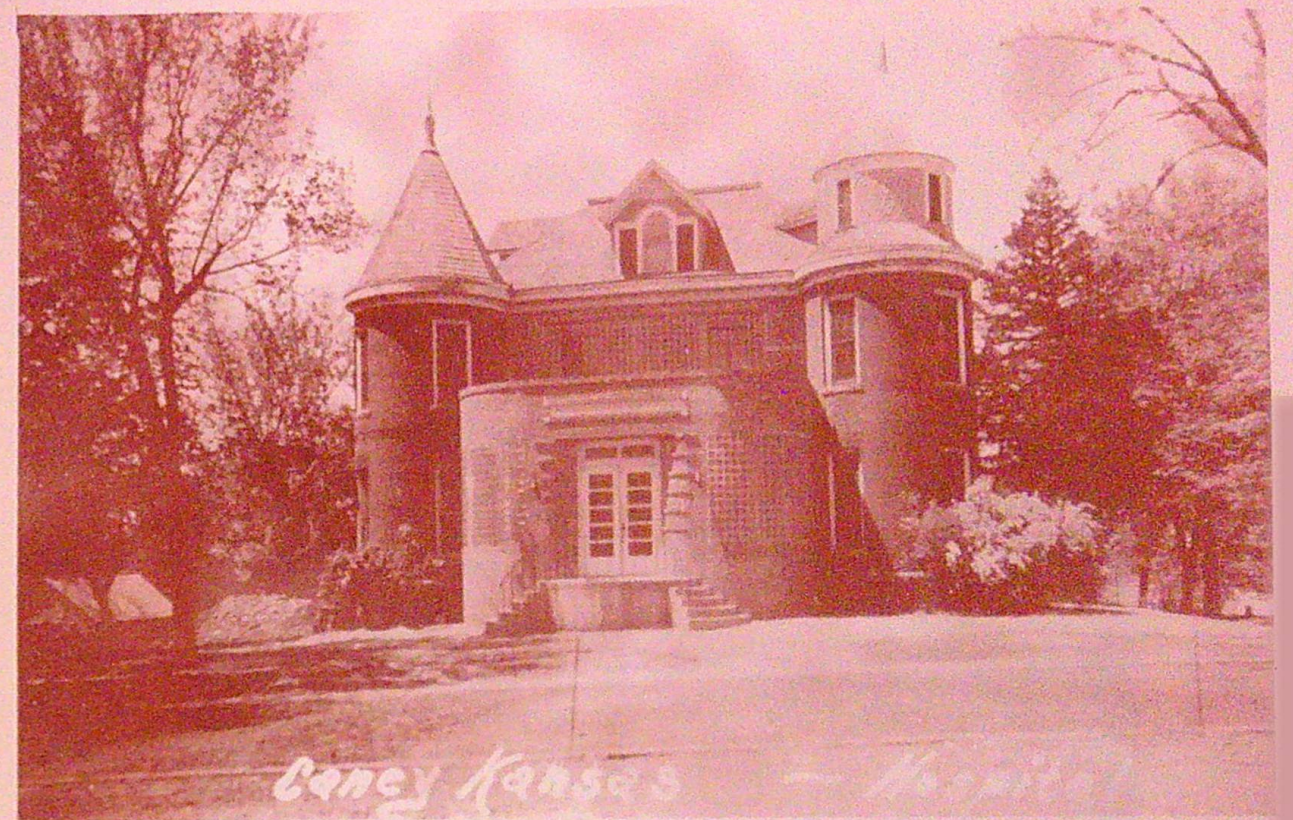
Ross Hays, Night Marshal



Ross Hays Shoe Shop



City Municipal Swimming Pool 1957



Scimeca Memorial Hospital 1956



Caney Municipal Hospital 1961