

HUGO IN THE BEGINNING,
REMINISCENSES OF OLD RESIDENT
BY W. E. SCHOOLER

Transcribed from the Choctaw County Democrat - February 23, 1922, & submitted by Doris Dykes - iisixmillionii@1starnet.com

When we begin to think of the hilarious times awaiting us on next Tuesday night our mind goes back to the early days of our city and the men who helped put the go in Hugo almost a score of years ago. As we look back at the development of the city we smile at the many incidents that occurred, but while they were happening they were serious. As we look through the list elsewhere in this issue, we see many names that recall incidents in our early history that are worth relating, and no doubt that all that attend the meeting will recall many more. It is our purpose to give a few high points in the development of our city and give brief sketches of the men who helped make Hugo a city.

Jim Means

Jim Means came to Hugo in 1901, worked as a section foreman for the Frisco, later engaged in the bottling business.

Shull and McDonald

The leading law firm in the early days was Shull & McDonald. Mr. Shull arrived in Hugo in 1902, and Mr. McDonald in 1903. Their office was located on Winnie Street (now Broadway) and their library consist of a Arkansas Digest and a Texas Almanac. Office equipment was a small kitchen table, pen and ink and three cane seat chairs. But we will let them tell the rest at the meeting.

The Henry's

The Henry's came to Hugo in 1903 and established the Henry Confectionery. Otis Henry was the manager and his chief stock in trade was soda pop. They would buy a case at a time and when that was sold, payment would be made and another order given to Mr. Rodgers.

R.D. Wilbor

Mr. Wilbor came to Hugo in 1902 and took over the First National Bank in 1903, he was joined by Rush Record. The First National is one of the strongest institutions of its kind in Oklahoma.

Barbers all have whiskers

A check of the date of arrival of Hugo Barbers will show that most of them have been here long enough to have whiskers. Bob Woodson came in 1901, R. M. McNabb came in 1902, R. L. Childers in 1905, W.V. Allen in 1902, J.W. King in 1902, and D. M. Grady in 1905.

M.S. Watson

Marion Watson came to Hugo from Bonham in 1903, and for many years was known as the village blacksmith. Afterwards Mr. Watson served the city as Chief of Police, making the city an officer that all was proud of.

J. O. Daughtry

J.O. Daughtry and wife came to Hugo in 1902, since which time both have been among the city's most highly respected citizens. Their place of business is now in the Wright Building.

D.C. Patterson

D.C. Patterson claims to have the oldest deed to property of any person in Hugo. He will have these ancient documents at the meeting Tuesday night and challenges anyone to produce anything that out dates them.

R.V. Womack

The Womack Mercantile Co. was established in Hugo in 1905, but Mr. Womack did not move to Hugo until 1907. The Womack store is known all over the country and enjoys a splendid patronage.

W.E. Terry

W. E. Terry left Clarksville Texas in 1906 for Hugo. After landing here he began boosting for the city and has always been on of our best town assets. Mr. Terry is now county commissioner and owner of the Hugo Brokerage Company.

Luther Knox

In the beginning Luther Knox ran an oasis in the desert from an eating establishment. He came to Hugo in 1902 and opened a restaurant, and is at present engaged in the same business. Mr. Knox has some very old photographs which he will bring to the meeting Tuesday night.

J.J. Terry

Mr. Terry is the oldest of the oldest, having come to this country from Mississippi in 1884. Mr. Terry had much to do with the early history of Hugo and the Indian Territory in the early days.

Will Biard

The waves of the Gulf of Mexico washed Will Biard up on dry land and shoved him up as far as Hugo in 1900. Soon after arriving here he began hustling around and is still one of the towns best hustlers. We wish the waves had sent more like him.

Natives

Tom Hunter, George Oakes, L.W. Oakes and Tom Sanguin are all native born and have been very prominent in the old Indian Territory Days, and are all good citizens.

"Soda Pop"

It is not often that we ever call Senator Rodgers "Soda Pop" but we believe he will forgive us this time, for in the good old days that was the nickname given him by reason of the fact that he use to manufacture that palatable beverage. Mr. Rodgers will tell us many interesting things at the meeting Tuesday.

Sam Landau

The Star Store under the ownership of Sam Landau was opened for business in a small wooden shack on the lot occupied by The Army Store in

1901. Mr. Landau has the distinction of being the only business man here who has conducted the same kind of business and under the same name.

Harry Boyd

Harry Boyd popular Frisco employee came to Hugo in 1901. Like many good men Mr. Boyd began life as a printer's devil in the office of W.J. Baldwin.

Hooks Blakeney

Hooks Blakeney came to Hugo in 1903, and engaged in the Hardware business, after which he entered the automobile field, which business he now conducts being agent for the Dodge cars.

Dr. H.H. White

The Democrat Editor was a member of the serenading in 1903 and the home of Dr. White was on our list. We fiddled and fiddled and all that the doctor would put out was a peck of apples. Them was the good old days.

Enoch Needham

Enoch Needham, Hugo's second postmaster came here from Talihina in 1901. When we told him on next Tuesday night we were all going to get together and live over the old days, he said "If you can bring back those days I am for you"

George Rosbach

Mr. Rosbach says that he brought the Arkansas & Choctaw railroad into Hugo from Arkansas but that he was delayed for a few weeks on account of being unable to ford the Kiamichi River at Sawyer.

J.M. Patterson

J. M. Patterson cut quite a dido in the early days and has been a factor in the building of the city. He is now meeting his old friends in the big A.P. Brown Company Store.

J.P. Ward

J.P. Ward came over from Paris in 1901, and engaged in the furniture business on West Main Street. In the beginning his stock in trade consisted of two dozen cane seat chairs, two bedsteads, three mattresses, and nine jugs. Mr. Ward is now one of the cities largest property holders and leading business men.

J.S. Nabors

Mr. Nabors came to Hugo in 1901 and was one of the surveyors that layed off the city. Mr. Nabors is now a contractor and builder.

C. S. Lambeth

Mr. Lambeth came up from Copper Texas in 1907 and opened the big Stevens-Lambeth Company Store, which today ranks with the best institution of its kind in Southern Oklahoma.

Cabe and Henry Parks

In the early part of 1902 Cabe and Henry Parks came to Hugo from Waxahachie Texas, since that time they have been among the most constant

boosters the city has had. They are now with the Parks, Hill, Nease Company.

Judge Glenn

Judge Glenn left Stoneville North Carolina going to Paris where he spent several years before coming here in 1900. No man in this portion of the State is better known than Mr. Glenn.

Lloyd Simpson

Lloyd Simpson came to Hugo when a mere boy and by hard work and close attention to business, has become one of the druggist of the city. He and his parents came to Hugo in 1903.

W.L.Loftin

Lee Loftin came to Hugo in 1905 from Lamar County Texas. He has served as sheriff, being a candidate for that office at this time. Mr. Loftin and sons own and operate the Hugo Auto Company and are authorized Agents for Henry Fords Limozines.

Jim Tom DeWeese

No man played a more active part in early history of the city than Jim Tom DeWeese. Mr. DeWeese served the city as town Marshal, city police and chief of police and is one of the best known old timers in the city.

A.M. Merrill

When Shorty Merrill left Pecan Gap, Texas in 1902 he woke up in Hugo, and has always been awake for the interest of the city since that time. Mr. Merrill is now engaged in the lumber business being associated with the Caylor Lumber Company.

The City Square

It was the plans of the city builders to have a square on the block between Broadway, Second, Duke and Jackson streets, but the laws permitted the pre-empting of ground, and it was an uncommon sight to see a man go to the Hastings Lumber Company, make a frame six by four feet and squat on a lot. In the good old days possession was nine tenths of the law, and a shot gun made the tenth point.

Paris Very Popular

The city of Paris was much more popular in the good old days than now, and we pause in our story to ask the old timer's why? If Van Williams was here the answer would be forthcoming.

Floyd Caylor

Mr. Caylor says that he did not come to Hugo, but that Hugo came to him. All that Mr. Caylor had when he came to Hugo was faith. With Faith in the town as a foundation he has built himself a reputation as a city builder and large property holder.

R.L. Jones

Dr Jones came to Hugo in the beginning. For a few years he practiced Medicine at Goodland, then came to Hugo, where he was engaged in running a drug store. He has been mayor of the city so many times that he has lost

count. Much of the substantial growth of the city can be credited to him, but we will let him tell the rest of the story Tuesday night.

Conclusion

We might go on indefinitely for there are many more men here now that played no little part in the building of the city that we might mention, but space forbids. We hope that all will be at the meeting and we will let them tell their story.