

37 Years Ago Things Didn't Look the Same
But Some of the Same People Are Here Today

The Hugo Daily News August 21, 1939 - transcribed by Ron Henson

"It seems only yesterday since I made a bed under a willow tree where the county court house now stands and slept through my first night in Hugo," said W.E. Schooler, publisher, as he turned back the pages of the mind's memory book this morning. "Yet it was exactly 37 years ago last night."

Much has happened to the city and its citizens since 1902 all old timers will admit.

For instance.

"There was a cotton patch here where the News office is," the publisher said.

"The railroad was completed as far as Boswell and a crew was coming this way from Durant."

"J.P. Ward was running a furniture store on West Main street.

"The leading store was operated by Kelly Smith where the Graves Drug store now stand.

"Joel Springs also was operating a large general merchandise store.

"I bought my first bill of groceries from Gordon Wilkins who was a clerk in the Davanport Grocery store north of where the Ward Ice Cream company now stand.

"There was a school house where Senner's Funeral home now is located. Mrs. M.E. Walker, now of Boswell, was one of the teachers.

"The Chamber of Commerce - yes, we had one in those days - was trying to get a Chinese Laundry located here. They made up \$250 - and got one, but it later burned and was never rebuilt.

"Hugo was divided into two factions - an east side and a west side group. R.L. Overstreet was the leader of the east side bunch and J.J. Thomas the west side leader. Overstreet's bunch stole the post office from west main street and moved it to a building where Roy Marshall's barber shop is located. Thomas' bunch stole it back the next night.

"J. Tom DeWeese, father of the publisher of the Southeast Oklahoman, was city marshall.

"Ben Roebuck, negro, was U.S. Marshall.

"The population of Hugo was 2,000 and the slogan of the Chamber of Commerce was "20,000 in Hugo by 1910."

"John Simpson, father of Lloyd Simpson, was manager of the Lockwood furniture store located where the Henry building now stands.

"The railroad depot was a frame structure at the crossing.

"The leading hotel ws the Eagle, situated near the Hugo Bottling works' present location. The two story structure later burned.

"The City water system consisted of four or five wagons on which sheet

iron tanks were mounted. Water obtained from a well in second ward was peddled to all parts of the city. One of those peddlers was Bob Woodson.

"The leading business industry was the soda-pop factory operated by J.A. "Soda Pop" Rodgers.

"The leading livery stable was operated by J.D. Collier, who now resides north east of Hugo. It was located across the street north from the Caylor Lumber company's present location.

"Floyd Caylor, father of Don V. Caylor, was manager of one of the town's two lumber yards, the Hastings Lumber Company.

"Bailey Springs was postmaster. The office was located in the J.J. Thomas store on West Main street.

"The Hugo Housonian, oldest continuously operated business in Hugo today, was located where the Polly Wynn store is on West Main street. W.J. Baldwin was the publisher.

"The leading amusement concern was a shooting gallery on the Simpson Drug store corner. Men used to think it important to keep in practice."

"R.L. Cook was the country's leading rancher."

"Yes, 37 years is a long time," the publisher reminisced [sic]. "Many things can happen and many things have happened. But it seems only yesterday that I slept under under [sic] that willow tree."