

History Of Hugo, By School Paper, Proves Interesting  
**City Was Named By Mrs. Darrough After Author**

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By Mary L. Biard and Jack Horne  
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"I rode in here in front of a posse, and a bunch of the old boys standing around all yelled 'U-go to the posse, "don't allow no law around here."

This is how one Hugo man accounts for the present name. But the town's first name was Raymond.

"Why, when I came here," said the old settler, "Hugo wasn't anything more than a wide spot of the railroad called Raymond where the trains stopped. There was no large brick station then like there is now. The station then was the present freight office. After I left Raymond, it was named 'Hugo' by Mrs. Darrough after her favorite author, Victor Hugo."

### **Environs of Hugo**

South of Hugo was Grant, a town much older than Hugo and at that time one of the largest in the Indian Territory. Near the site of the present Fort Towson was old Doaksville, whose crumbling walls are all that now remain. To the north was Goodland, who boasted of two mercantile stores, a livery stable, a drug store and a doctor. Southwest was Old Goodland, where a mission school was established by the Presbyterian church years before Hugo was thought of. Grant is now a little village of about 300 people. Not even "a wide spot" in the road remains of New Goodland. The mission school still remains at the old place but it seems just as much a part of Hugo as if it were in the city limits.

A cotton crop was made on the exact spot where the main part of Hugo is now, the year before it was surveyed by J.Y. Collins of Grant, October 1 1901. He received the two blocks where the National Bank building is.

### **Board Walks**

The old setter continued, "All of the business district which consisted of a few frame stores was on West Main and instead of having a large post office like you now have, the only post office we had was a cage with a few pigeon holes in it. The streets were terrible! The first sidewalks we had were boards and it was not until 1910 that we had any concrete sidewalks."

"Say," he exclaimed. "You kids are lucky. When I came here we had no schools for our children and the first school was in a room above J.P. Ward's building. The teachers were Professor Yates and Vanderpool."

"We did not have water piped to each house. We got water from the Vanderpool and Springs well. A water wagon came around each morning and we bought water at 25 cents a barrel until somebody put lime in the wells. The water was piped from Kiamichi river.

### **Fight Over Postoffice**

Soon Joel Springs began to get people to build on the east side of the railroad. The first store in this section was moved from New Goodland and was located where the Graves Drug store is now. Kelly Springs built a mercantile establishment where the postoffice is now and Joel Springs also had a store where the Belmont now stands.

S.B. Springs, a well known educator in Choctaw county, was the first postmaster. There was an argument between the east side and the west side about the postoffice, court house and Main street. It is said that Darrough Sr., was *[unreadable]* on two blocks where the Palace Drug store is now to steal the post office for the east side. However the postoffice was taken back because it was against federal law to move it....."

*transcribed by Ron Henson*