

## **After 48 Years in Business, E.P. Garrett Resigns Creosote Position**

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E.P. Garrett, pioneer Hugo resident who was officially retired on June 1, said Saturday that "after 48 years in the creosoting business, I still don't know much about it."

Illustrating his statement, the man who came to Hugo in 1907 as the American Creosoting Coe's [sic] first local superintendent pointed out that ties out of the same trees react differently when exposed to the creosoting process.

Mr. Garrett has been temporarily succeeded as local superintendent by J.A. Gilbert, pending confirmation of his appointment by the main office. He has served as assistant plant superintendent here the past four years, coming here from another company plant at Edwardsville, Ill. Mr. Gilbert, who has been with the company since March, 1941, is residing with his wife at 214 1/4 East Victor.

A young man of 25 started to work for the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad as an office clerk at Somerville, Texas on April 1898. "Little later," he explained, "I got on the outside as an assistant foreman."

However, after four years he shifted to the Illinois Central railway system and launched his long career in the creosoting business. He became the assistant superintendent at the company's Carbondale, Ill. Plant, then later was promoted to superintendent [sic].

A short time later, the company built its second creosoting plant at Grenada, Miss., and Mr. Garrett was made superintendent of both plants.

He stayed with the Illinois Central until 1904. At this period at his life, he entered the employment of the American Creosoting Co. at its Marion, Ill., plant. A sort [sic] 3 years later, he came here to take over the brand new plant built on a 50 acre plot a mile and a half west of Hugo's business district.

"I remember distinctly the owner of the property," the veteran Hugo man reminisced. The 50 acres was purchased from a Choctaw by the name of Eastman Hart, Mr. Garrett recalled. At the time of its construction back in 1907, the plant consisted of a treating cylinder house, shops, boiler rooms and office building.

Then through the ensuing years, Mr. Garrett supervised the plant which annually treated 300,000 ties and employed 30 men. A great majority of the timber used in this plant has been bought in Southeastern Oklahoma, through the Frisco Railroad. The plant kept up this production figure until the second World War came along, which naturally limited their output since timber was hard to get.

The plant was constructed and put into operation at a cost of \$250,000, but its value has increased since new machinery has been installed, the veteran superintendent asserted. Eight or ten years ago, the

plant received new, improved machinery including a adzing [sic] and boring machine. This machine prepared the tie for rail plates on which the track rail rests, explained.

Mr. Garrett, who retired due to ill health, plans to continue his residence in Hugo. "This is my home, I'm a permanent resident," he stated. He owns his home at 1000 East Duke which he purchased from U.G. Phippen, an old time Hugo banker who is now deceased. This transaction took place in 1931.

With Mrs. Garrett, he plans to take a much dreamed about vacation this summer. "We're going to see some of our folks that we haven't seen for many years," he enthused.

A daughter, the former Sarah Garrett who is now Mrs. Raymond Gill, resides in Durant.