

The Incorporation of Hugo

transcribed from newspaper clipping from an unknown newspaper (probably the Hugo Daily News) with unknown date
transcribed by Ron Henson

First, it was a settlement, then it was a town in Indian Territory.

In November, 1901, it opened a post office, probably inside the Raymond Trading Co. store.

The first post office in the area was at Doaksville, then capital of the Choctaw Nation. it was established November 11, 1847.

The first church in Hugo was the First Presbyterian, established in 1902. The first school opened that year, too. The school became tax supported in 1906 with a 10 mill tax levy.

Then, on August 3, 1903, Hugo officially became an incorporated town by order of William H.H. Clayton, district judge of the United States Court, Central district.

Action for incorporation began on April 14, 1903 with a petition filed by "more than 20 of the qualified voters resideing within the limits of the town of Hugo."

The judge noted: "Hugo is proper and sufficient to distinguish it from others in the Indian Territory that there are more than 200 persons residing within the limits of said proposed incorporated town..."

J.W. Green was the first mayor Hugo. Serving with him on the council were: I.B. Rainey, J.P. Ward, E.L. DeWitt, J.L. Goolsby and Floyd Caylor. C.G. Shull was city attorney and W.L. Lance was recorder.

According to a newspaper (the Husonian) report a few months earlier, Hugo had a total of 398 buildings.

The next big milestone came when Hugo became the county seat of Choctaw County, United States of America on November 16, 1907. At about this time, the Husonian enumerated Hugo businesses; Five drug stores, 48 general stores, two stables, one bottling works, three lumber yards, four brick plants, two weekly newspapers, three schools, four frame hotels and one brick hotel, two tin shops, four hardware stores, four meat markets, three blacksmith shops, four photo galleries, three barber shops, eight doctors, 12 lawyers, two dentists, one telephone company, one hardwood factory, a planing mill, one electric company and one steam laundry.