

Mr. Pennington recalls that in the center of the town square there was the court house and jail. The Town Marshall always seemed to have one or more customers lodged in the stone block building with its heavy steel doors. Several miles to the west ~~was~~ the Big Creek country and in early days it was not without its share of outlaws and those that ran afoul of the "book". Many of those who chose to disregard good rules of society spent time 'on the inside looking out' of Centralia's jailhouse, and eating of the simple fare from Magarity's Cafe.

Sometime around statehood a group of German and Irish immigrants settled in a small area some three miles south of Centralia. They were a close-knit group and did not mix much in their new country. They were all farmers and apparently prospered for several years. However, by 1920 they had all left that area. While there they built a church known as St. Augustine's Catholic Church, which was abandoned and torn down after they left. The only evidence that remains of this little settlement is a little abandoned cemetery containing some nine graves.

Of a once busy and prosperous farming country town, no more than 30 people live there now. One little store and the post office make up the business district. Weeds and brush now grow where once stood stores and homes. Once in a while an automobile stirs up the dust on the road thru town, where once many saddle horses and wagon teams stood at hitch posts.

In Mr. Pennington's lifetime he has seen many changes come to his homeland. Southwest of Centralia there used to be the little village of Ruby, where the principal industry was strip coal mining. Farther to the south were the towns of Catale and Estella. Then there was another little town known as Crawford that was completely blown away in a storm. Nothing now remains of these places, but at one time they figured in the settlement and growth of their part of early Oklahoma.