

WARREN, CLARENCE O.

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By
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"I was born in Iowa on January 8th, 1876, and came to Oklahoma in December 1894. Our mode of travel was different from a lot of pioneers as we came all the way on a train. My father and mother and myself. The Frisco Railroad had been completed as far as Tulsa then, and we came into Oklahoma over that line, by way of Kansas City.

Our first stop was at Vinita, where I had an Uncle. I remember it was an unusually warm winter, for we went over to the station where our household goods were, at Vinita, and got out our light underwear. It remained warm all that winter.

We stayed only a day or two at Vinita, visiting, when we came on to Tulsa, our destination.

Tulsa at that time, December 1894, was a good town, that is, compared with other towns we had seen in Oklahoma. The population, I would say, was around 200 and business was pretty active.

Our first home was upstairs over Lunny Price's Harness Shop at 2nd and Main, where the Security Building now stands. There weren't any business houses south of that, except a barber shop on the southwest corner of 2nd and Main. All the business was north of point and on Main street, which, of course, at that time was just a dirt street, dusty when it was dry and muddy when it rained. The business men and their stores were located as follows. I knew, personally, these men. On the west side of Main street, running north from 2nd and Main, were the following business houses, all frame.

Moore's Eating House

Dock Morrow's Store, General Mdse.

R. T. Bynum, General Store

J. M. Hall's General Store

Sam Ching Cafe

Sam Ching is the Chinaman who was later killed. I don't remember the details connected with his killing.

Then, just north of the railroad tracks was the store of Fate Brady. The Methodist Church was about 2 blocks north of the railroad on the west side of Main. George Mowbray was the pastor, but others preached there from time to time.

Across on the east side of Main, opposite the church, was the blacksmith shop of Charlie Robertson.

South of that and opposite Fate Brady's store was located the St. Elmo Hotel, the main hotel of that day.

Dickson and Smily Lumber Yard was next. Then came the store of Jeff Archer, who had been killed previous to my coming.

Bud Wallace and George Kilcorn had a meat market.

Now, south of the railroad and on the east side of Main, was the Lyric Building, which at that time was only one story high. It has since been raised to two stories. So this Lyric Building is the only building standing on Main street, Tulsa, that was there when I came to the town (Tulsa). This was owned by the Lynch Brothers. Some of them are still living in Tulsa.

Next came the bank, Tulsa Banking Co., run by Jim McBirney at that time. Sometime later, his brother came down and was employed as bookkeeper. They were very much interested in sports, especially baseball. This bank continued under various names, until now is the National Bank of Commerce and Jim McBirney is President, although Sam, has passed on, having died in 1936

Next, was Huff's Barber Shop.

Drs. Mainr and Border had here their office. The first doctor's office in Tulsa, outside their residence. Dr. Sam Kennedy was practicing here then, but had his office in his residence.

Next, Brobeck and Lewis had a hardware store. I worked here some, as a clerk, and being fond of hunting, and being able to get all the shells I wanted free, or a little cost, I soon had lots of company on my hunting trips. I was liberal with ammunition as it cost little or nothing, and was soon very popular. So much so that I saw something had to be done. So seeing a 16 guage shotgun, the only one at the store, or in town, for that matter, I saw a solution of my problem. I bought this gun, and the others having 12 guage guns, had to buy their own ammunition.

Grouse, turkey, quail and deer were plentiful at this time. Out near Wellyville, in Creek County, I have seen as many as a dozen deer at one time. The Osage country had the most deer. One reason, I suppose, was the restriction there. You had to have a permit to hunt there, and they were not so easy to get. I remember some of my friends went up there, not knowing a permit was required, and were doing fine, they thought, until they were seen by a deputy U. S. Marshal, who came up on them and, to their surprise, arrested them. Not only did he arrest them but confiscated everything they had with them. So it was better to hunt elsewhere or get a permit when you went to the Osage Country."