



9658

THE Exchange National Bank of Tulsa

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$4,000,000.00

TULSA, OKLA.

November 19, 1929

WALTER FERGUSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. G. Guy Cutlip
Wewoka, Oklahoma

My dear Mr. Cutlip:

I would like very much to have for my Oklahoma library a photograph of yourself. I want to get together all of the photographs of those who participated in the Statehood Day program here, and will appreciate it if you will send me an autographed one. I prefer a small size one, if convenient to you.

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Ferguson". The signature is written in dark ink and is located to the right of the typed name "Sincerely yours,".

WF:MBM



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CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$4,000,000.00

TULSA, OKLA.

November 18, 1929

WALTER FERGUSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. C. Guy Cutlipp
Wewoka, Oklahoma

My dear Mr. Cutlipp:

It is with the deepest feeling of gratitude that I write you to express my appreciation of your splendid and outstanding contribution to our program last Saturday night. You told the tale of the Seminoles in a fascinating way that I don't believe any other man in Oklahoma could do. I have heard many favorable comments on your speech, and we are all deeply grateful to you for the contribution you made to the success of the occasion and to the permanent contribution you have made to the history of Oklahoma. I have always been fascinated by the tale of the Seminoles. I regard Oceola as the most tragic figure in American history, and the way you wove in the story of the Everglades and the trail that lead to Oklahoma deeply impressed everyone who heard it. Just to give a concrete example, the young lady who is writing this letter was present at the meeting, and I asked her which one impressed her the most and she readily said she liked the story of the Seminoles better than any other feature.

It was difficult to pick out the one feature of the program claiming the most interest. They were all splendid and I believe we have done something for the preservation of Oklahoma history that is well worthy of perpetuation and the effort well worthwhile.

The first time I have the opportunity, I want to visit your office in Wewoka and talk with you about these things.

Thanking you again, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

WF:MBM

**PROGRAM
STATEHOOD DAY BANQUET**

Boston Avenue M. E. Church, South
Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 16, 1929
In Celebration of the Twenty-Second Anniversary of
Oklahoma's Statehood
WALTER FERGUSON, Toastmaster

INVOCATION Rev. C. W. Kerr

THE BANQUET

Prepared and Served by the ladies of the
Boston Avenue M. E. Church, South

- I.
THE PROMISED LAND
Picturesque Old Oklahoma Frank H. Greer
- II.
THE EMPIRE OF CIMARRON
"No Man's Land" Maud O. Thomas
- III.
THE LAST OF THE ABORIGINAL AMERICANS
The Cheyenne and Arapahoe Country Omer K. Benedict
- IV.
THE LAST OF THE RANGE
The Cherokee Outlet Erskin W. Snoddy
- V.
THE FABLED LAND OF CANAN
The Osage Nation J. George Wright
- VI.
HELL ON THE BORDER
The Sac and Fox Reservation Charles J. Wrightsman
- VII.
EVERGLADES TO OIL FIELDS
Story of the Seminoles C. Guy Cutlipp
- VIII.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST LOTTERY
The Kiowa and Comanche Country Judge H. L. Standeven
- IX.
TOWARD THE SUNSET
Last of the Algonquins Mrs. E. B. Lawson
- X.
ANDREW JACKSON TO JACKSON BARNETT
Story of the Creeks Judge A. L. Beckett
- XI.
TRANSPLANTING AN EMPIRE
Coming of the Choctaws and Chickasaws Miss Muriel Wright
- XII.
BY DUE PROCESS OF LAW
Old Greer County Everett Petry
- XIII.
THE TRAIL OF TEARS
Removal of the Cherokees Judge O. H. P. Brewer

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November 19, 1929

WALTER FERGUSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. C. Guy Cutlip
Wewoka, Oklahoma

My dear Mr. Cutlipp:

Your letter of November 18 is at hand, and I want to thank you most sincerely for your kind invitation to address the Lions Club next Tuesday. I will state, however, the invitation, like a Texas norther, comes "sudden and soon", and it is with the deepest regret I find myself unable to accept at this particular time. I have to leave the State the latter part of this week and it is very uncertain whether I will get back in time to make the trip to Wewoka. I would appreciate very much having a rain check, as I want to come down, and not particularly to make a speech, but to look after some other things in Wewoka. Almost any other time I could make it, and you may be sure that the compliment of the invitation has not been overlooked.

Not only am I much interested in the invitation to participate in the festivities of the Lions Club, but the one you suggest in the next to last paragraph of your letter regarding the determination of the commercial value of an Ace in the hole sounds very attractive. I have come up against Aces and Eights in almost every County Seat in the State except Wewoka and feel that my experience will not be completely rounded out until I test the valor of the Seminole Pokerateers.

Assuring you of my sincere appreciation and deeply regretting my inability to comply, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

WF:MBM

WALTER FERGUSON
310 TULSA BUILDING
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

DECEMBER 21, 1935

Mr. Guy Cutlepp
Wewoka, Oklahoma

Dear Guy:

Anticipating that you will attend the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Bar Association in Tulsa next week, I am extending you a very cordial invitation to visit my home at 1647 S Elwood, between the hours of four and six p.m. on Friday, December 27. You will not only meet a lot of your old friends and associates, but I want to show you my very large and interesting collection of Oklahoma history. This museum contains many rare items that had a part in the making of the story of Oklahoma and the library of several thousand volumes is said to be the most complete thing of its kind in existence.

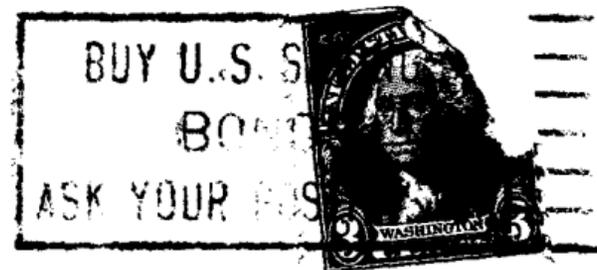
Arrangements have been made so that this does not interfere with any other part of the program, and I am sure that you will enjoy seeing this very extensive collection of Southwest Americana, which has particular reference to the saga of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory.

With the kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,



WF:MM



Mr. Guy Cutlepp

Wewoka, Oklahoma

WALTER FERGUSON

310 TULSA BUILDING

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Ghosts of Early Territory Days in Big Parade

Pioneers at Statehood Day Banquet Recall Empire Building

Living, walking, talking ghosts of what was Oklahoma before statehood rolled across the stage of the community hall in the beautiful Boston Avenue Methodist church Saturday night at the banquet celebrating the twenty-second anniversary of statehood. Nearly 500 attended and reveled in history between 7:30 and 11:30.

Thirteen speakers, pioneers each of a different segment that in 1907 went by presidential proclamation to make the whole of the forty-sixth state in the union, presented the ghosts of Indians, buffalo, sheep men, cattlemen, hunters, settlers, farmers, lawmakers, oil men, builders, business men, preachers and politicians in the order of their entries into the picturesque southwest.

The pageantry was a purposeful bit under the guidance of Walter Ferguson, Tulsa banker and son of Thomas B. Ferguson, noted territorial governor. Though each speaker took but 10 or 15 minutes to sketch his or her subject each had prepared or is preparing a manuscript of some length dealing with the historical origin of his section. Once gathered by The Tribune, originator of the Statehood Day celebration in Tulsa, these will be published in the newspaper and later in booklet form to be made Oklahoma's complete and accurate history of the period before Nov. 16, 1907, when the state was admitted to the union.

AN EASTERN COMPLIMENT

"The most unique and valuable Statehood Day celebration I have ever heard about," a New York newspaper editor wired Chairman Ferguson after he had heard of the plan.

The half thousand men and women, pioneers and youngsters alike, applauded this tribute to their gathering.

Straight as a young tree but with hair gray and voice volume diminished by the years since he went to old Oklahoma with the run and began publication of the first newspaper in the settling settlement, Frank H. Greer, Tulsa investment dealer, opened the program with his prepared address on "The Promised Land, Picturesque Old Oklahoma."

"Congress intended to make Indian Territory an exclusive Indian state," he said at one point. Then he told the history of the encroachment of the whites, of Capt. David Payne and his bombardment of congress to open the land for settlement, of Payne's legal victory that paved the way for the opening, of the settlement by a run. "Nothing like the run into Oklahoma in 1889 had ever before happened in the world, nor since," he declared.

"Ours transformed from a stretch of prairie land to a beehive of humans in a day. Law and order established by the gun on every man's hip. Preparedness that worked. Bat Masterson and Bili Tilghman as heads of the de facto council's cleanup survey. Dong, dong went the toastmaster's bell. A history crowded in 10 minutes.

Presentation of Miss Maud Thomas of Beaver. Beautiful and dignified as the church despite her early life in a cave in No Man's Land, the Empire of the Cimarron. Capable and spirited, too. A ready speaker. She used to be a newspaper publisher. Her topic "The Empire of Cimarron, No Man's Land." "It's no man's land still so far as I'm concerned," she said, and joined in the laugh.

A moving history of the orphaned empire that saw the parade of Indians, hunters, settlers and the other from 1863 on. Once under the emblem of France, ceded to the United States but refused, then a part of Spain, and Mexico, and of the Republic of Texas, then of the Territory of Kansas and Colorado and later of New Mexico. Still later omitted from each one and left out of Indian Territory and literally No Man's land, 34½ miles deep by 166 miles long, it struggled along as best it could until it was finally admitted to the Territory of Oklahoma.

Now a prosperous section with registered cattle, the best poultry in the country, a great wheat country and a broom corn leader. But the goal wasn't reached without trials and tribulations. A tribute "to the bravest settler of No Man's Land, the heroic wife and mother who came to help hold down the claim," and Miss Thomas finished with the song of the section:

"Picking up the bones to keep from starving,
Picking up the chips to keep from freezing,
Picking up courage to keep from leaving—

Way out west in No Man's land."

She sang it to the familiar tune. A salvo of applause.

FROM NEWSPAPER TO BANK

Omer K. Benedict next. The boy who made every run into the new section and who turned to newspaper work and politics later and now is anchored in a Tulsa bank as vice president.

His story of "The Last of the Aboriginal Americans, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Country." A tribute to the Indian from him, the first of many during the evening. "Every bad thing a wild Indian ever learned he learned from a bad white man. A moving tribute to the cowboy, too, the fellow who had a use for everything he wore that we think was ornamental. "When civilization came the cowboy went out half of them became deputy United States marshals and the other half outlaws. When they met it was Greek meeting Greek—a battle to the death."

The toastmaster called for Erskin W. Snoddy. A studious, careful man approached the rostrum. He read his address, "The Last of the Range, the Cherokee Outlet." A terse story of the lost battle of the Indian against white civilization. The Cherokee country given him by treaty "for so long as grass grows and water runs." Division of the Cherokees over the Civil war. A new treaty forced on them by the government. Gradual occupation of their wide lands by other tribes and finally by the whites. A tribute to the surveyor, "the vanguard of civilization." The great cattle range. The invention of the barbed wire fence in 1874, an invention that changed Oklahoma. Politics and cattle grazing. The brand book, the cowboy's Bible and dictionary in one. Every sentence a story in it-

self. A quick ending to the story, the 10 minutes were up.

J. George Wright presented, with the best tribute of the evening. "The man who was picked to administer the greatest trust the world has ever known," the toastmaster said. The dean of the Indian service, agent assigned to the Osage Nation, home of the wealthiest tribesmen on earth.

A studious man of old-line brokerage house appearance. He read his talk, too. On understanding of the Osage in every paragraph. The Osage never took up arms against his government. The Osage has always paid his own way. He sold his lands in Kansas for \$10,000,000 and bought a nation in Oklahoma.

TRIBUNE TO PAINT HISTORY

"Every school room in Oklahoma should have the history of the sections that went to make up Oklahoma as they have been given here tonight," Charles J. Wrightsman said at the Statehood Day banquet here Saturday night.

Fortunately that is to be made possible. The histories written by the speakers will be printed serially in The Tribune in the near future. Oklahoma educators are invited to watch for them in the paper and to direct the preservation of the complete story by as many school children as possible.

The announcement of the starting date will be made later in The Tribune. The stories will be illustrated with pictures of the authors and scenes of pioneer days.

for less than \$2,000,000, pooling the \$8,000,000 for the common good. Oil and untold riches — \$233,346,605 worth taken from Osage lands in all to date. Osage war history. Arthur Bonnicastle, an Osage, the first to scale the walls of Peking in the Boxer rebellion. Sacrifice and soldiers in the Spanish-American and World wars. An offer of 5,000 acres of oil lands to the navy in 1917 free of any bonus. A certificate of thanks from the president of the United States for loyalty to the country. A numerous people yet, 3,263 living and 1,453 of them of the original roll.

ON THE RESERVATION

Introduction of Charles J. Wrightsman with his story of the Sac and Fox reservation. A millionaire oil man who came up from the legal branch. Courtroom oratory never forgotten. The crowd a jury and the Sac and Fox on trial. A spirited defense of "the first of the great tribes of American Indians." A tribute to the integrity of the full blood. A plea for the impoverished red man. Side trips into illuminating political history.

C. Guy Cutlipp of Wewoka comes to the front. An earnest, witty lawyer saturated with the strange history of the Seminoles and fired with enthusiasm for their staying qualities. Quick, personal bits about famous fighters. A Seminole settlement in old Mexico, led from Oklahoma. Subduing of the fierce Yaqui tribes around Sonora, Mexico. Thanks from the Mexican government and a deed to a tract of land. It went the way of all Indian land. Landmarks of Seminole history in Oklahoma.

Judge H. L. Standeven, calm and expansive, tells about "The World's Greatest Lottery, the Kiowa and Comanche Country." This section was opened after all the manpower and horsepower of the new country had been exhausted, the toastmaster explained humorously. The Tulsa banker traced Coronado on his trek westward, across Oklahoma. He told about the first great lottery down here, where names were drawn from a box and land parceled out according to the fortune of the hand grab.

Mrs. E. B. Lawson, one of the last of her tribe of Indians, wove a story of the romance of the Algonquins. There was mention of Pocahontas and Tecumseh. The speaker was an interesting figure in a red dress.

A PLACE IN THE SUN

Newspaper reporters were withdrawing reluctantly. Sunday edition deadline times were drawing near but the history feast was on for an hour or so yet.

Judge A. L. Beckett of Okmulgee was presented. A small, wiry fellow with a wit that was just as taut. He jested a bit about Tulsa's growth and then jabbed the earlier historians of Oklahoma with the declaration that they had devoted their pages usually to the west side of the state, overlooking the east side where the Creeks had migrated early and established their government. He pleaded for a place in the sun for the Creeks.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS

Miss Muriel Wright of Olney, tall in stature and in family history in Oklahoma, cut her speech to two minutes. "Transplanting An Empire, the Coming of the Choctaws and Chickasaws" was her topic. These roving Indians had camped on what is now Tulsa townsite. Had hunted here, with better success than our 1929 duck hunters.

Everett Petry, the lawyer, told of the settlement of old Greer county, the land of the unsettled settler, unsettled because he couldn't get title for years and more than once faced disappointment but finally won his claim for recognition from the government.

A striking tale of "The Trail of Tears, the Removal of the Cherokees," by Judge O. H. P. Brewer, of Muskogee, concluded the speaking program. It was midnight and Statehood day went out in the blaze of oratory unleashed by the judge, a Cherokee tribesman himself. With graying hair and fluent speech he told a moving tale of the Indians who were pioneers in the establishment of free schools.

The crowd remained to the end—fully half of them. Then a quick vote to continue the Statehood day celebrations in Tulsa and the banquet broke up, to gather in informal knots about the big church. Old acquaintances renewed. Another year of dodging Father Time. Rain outside. A cold trip home but with a lot to think about, and a fine turkey dinner served by the ladies of the church to make the way a little easier.

FIRE BURNS 15 YEARS

When it comes to endurance records, long-lived fires deserve the championship. A fire in a refuse dump at Rikers Island, near New York City, for example, has resisted for 15 years all attempts to extinguish it, says Popular Science Monthly. Yet this is a mere baby compared to the famous Kentucky coal mine fire that burned for half a century and was put out only when a nearby river was diverted into the shaft of the mine. The Kentucky inferno has a rival, now over 45 years old, in the Hocking Valley coal mine region near New Straitsville, Ohio. Started in 1884, this fire (P. S. M., Aug. '28, p. 30) is estimated to have destroyed billions of dollars worth of bituminous coal.

Reports from the U. S. Forest service indicate that more than 650,000 acres of National forest land has been destroyed by fire in the territory west of the Mississippi river.