

NULL, O. E.

DAY COUNTY TRIBUNE.

9099 429

HISTORICAL COLLECTION FORM

NULL, O. E. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION DAY COUNTY TRIBUNE 430

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

9099

Field worker's name Linnaeus B. Ranck

This report made on (date) October 27, 1937 1937

Name of person owning collection O. E. Null

Address Arnett, Oklahoma

Name (if any) of collection Day County Tribune. Old Day County Paper.

This collection contains the following types of material Much history of early days in Old Day County and of the old town of Grand.

Amount of material About four copies.

Material deals with Note above.

Approximate period (dates) material is for 1893 to 1902

Locations of the collection (where it is kept) Null's office.

Condition of storage place Good.

Condition of collection Fair.

What does the owner intend to do with this collection Keep them.

Would he be willing to part with it? Dont think so.

Any other information about the collection, including its history

The first paper published in old Day County and the first issue run off under an elm tree on the south of the river from Island.

Does this owner know of other people who have or might have collections. Give names & addresses

The press was operated by hand power.

NOTE: In the event that any of the above questions cannot be answered fully in the space allowed, attach blank sheets, clearly, and give all available information. Referencing to questions by number.

Linnaeus B. Ranck
Investigator
October 27, 1937

EXCERPTS FROM THE OLD "DAY COUNTY TRIBUNE

The Day County Tribune was a weekly newspaper established in old Day County shortly after the opening of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Country April 19, 1892. The first owners and publishers of this old paper intended setting up shop at the old town of Ioland, the first county seat of Day County; however, they approached Ioland from the south and east and had the South Canadian River to cross before they could reach Ioland. Arriving at the river they found it on a rampage with flood-waters. So they set up their press under an elm tree on the south side of the river rather than risk the extreme hazards of venturing into the South Canadian. The first issue of the old Tribune as well as a number of later issues was printed under the old elm. The paper was published at Ioland until the Day County seat was moved to Grand.

Those were hectic and turbulent days during the early history of Day County, I believe without parallel in the history of any other county of the state.

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Throughout this stirring period the old Tribune was the public mouth piece for the people of the county and the news of its pages shows them to have been a virile and enterprising folk.

From the issue of November 23, 1893, I quote the following:

On Monday 13th, ^{inst} the county officials, together with all county effects, were moved from Ioland to Grand near the center of the county where a large tent was awaiting occupancy in a fine grove of timber and was soon converted into a courthouse. On Tuesday and Wednesday the townsite was surveyed and platted, and Saturday at 10 o'clock several selected their lots and are making preparations to build at once.

Sealed bids will be received up to the 25th for a courthouse which will be built immediately. It will be small but will meet with the demands of the people for a few years and will cost the county less than a half years rent, then can be sold as a business house for all it cost and go towards building a more elegant and commodious courthouse. Our commissioners wisely economize.

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and by their acts the wealth of the county will be on a sound basis and the prosperity and contentment of her citizens assured.

COME TO GRAND: The county seat has been removed from Ioland to Grand on account of the water supply.

Grand is destined to be a city within a few years. It is located in the center of the population and near the center of the county. Its water supply cannot be over-estimated. There are several springs located about 45 feet above the town which run a stream 2 feet wide by 4 inches deep, pure and soft.

Anyone can see that Grand has natural water-works which excel any in Oklahoma. There is no getting out of order, no limit to the supply of water, it is always running. It doesn't cost the city 50 or a 100 thousand dollars per year either.

In two short months a quiet farm will be transformed into a thriving little city of over 100 inhabitants, but unlike most cities we will continue to grow. Why? Other towns have sprung up in a day and in less

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than a year faded away; why not Grand? It is simply this, other towns sprang up one day and began to decline the next because the town was far in advance of the country. To live, a town in this country must have a country to support it, and these cases the cities needed the country, but in this instance the country is in need of a town, and is loudly demanding one. Under such circumstances we cannot keep from growing.

NOTICE: Is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the county clerk at Grand, Day County, Oklahoma Territory, on and up to 12 o'clock noon on the 25 day of November A. D. 1893.

The building to be 20 x 32 feet, 9 foot ceiling, partitioned as follows: one room 16 x 20 feet, one room 8 x 9 feet, 2 rooms 8 x 12 feet and hall 4 x 12 feet.

Bids in native lumber will be considered. Plans can be seen at the above named office. The county commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all

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bids. H. I. Walck, County Clerk of Day County,
Oklahoma Territory. By order of the Board of
County Commissioners.

NOTICE: All members of the Day County Town-
site Company are requested to meet at Grand in Day
County, Oklahoma Territory, on Saturday November
25th, 1893, at 2 o'clock P. M.

Some business of special importance will come
before the members of said company that should be
attended to at once.

All members should make a special effort to be
present and have a voice in said meeting. Yours
Resp., Shannon McGray, Town Secretary.

Should the County Commissioners of Day County
deem it of sufficient importance to the citizens of
Day County and the traveling public to survey, locate
and open a county road from Grand to Cheyenne, Mills
County: Said road to cross the Canadian River about
6 miles south of Grand at or near the mouth of Dugout
Creek, thence south across the table land and divide

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west of Dead Indian Creek to the south line of the County about due north of the town of Cheyenne.

We understand that Mills County will open a road from Cheyenne north to connect with the Day County road.

If said road should be opened the benefits to Day County and the traveling public would soon pay the expense of opening. We would then have a direct road with Greer County on the south. Texas immigration would reach us. Also to locate a road by the most feasible route from Grand to Higgins, Texas. If the Commissioners of Day County take the initiatory steps in the opening of the above road it would virtually establish a public road and U. S. Mail route from Higgins, Texas, to Mangum, Greer County, Oklahoma Territory.

The importance to Day County of such a great thoroughfare can scarcely be overestimated, as an aid to its settlement and the increase of its taxable property.

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A cheese manufactory at this place will be in operation early in the spring and will be a paying institution to those who may join in the company and a home industry that will be a great factor in causing money to come in and to keep the same in local circulation. It will open with the milk of 150 cows and later on will use the milk of more and will grow in importance as the resultant dividends reward the company. There is no reason an extra fine grade or brand of cheese may not be put on the market from the Grand cheese manufactory as we have the very best clear, soft spring water for stock and fine grass, free of weeds for pasture.

Considerable talk is being made of starting a bank at Grand at no distant day.

Weather rather cold, and somewhat retards building at Grand.

The sounds of the saw and hammer are throughout the land.

Another home industry: A broom corn factory will be in operation here in time to handle next year's crop

of brush.

R. I. Walck has the lumber on the ground for the erection of a livery and feed stable. Work on the stable will commence soon.

Adam Walck has moved into his new residence. It contains 3 rooms and a pantry and is comfortable, convenient and will be supplied with water from the springs.

There is one business matter that should not be overlooked by the solid and substantial men of Day County and that is a Day County bank wherein the officers and stockholders should all be Day County citizens.

It should be talked up by the business men and by the time grass starts in the spring it should be in shape to do business on a stable foundation. It will be a convenience to all home depositors and a good paying investment to stockholders.

AN INDIAN MURDERED: A report has reached us from a reliable source that on the 20 inst. a Chey-

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enne Indian was killed near Cheyenne by a drunken Ranger.

The particulars in the affair, as near as could be learned, are as follows: Three Rangers came into Cheyenne and became drunk, when one of them, known as Red Tom, had a few words with an Indian and when the Indian got in his wagon and left he followed him out of town, shot him and returned and gave himself up to the authorities.

The affair has caused considerable excitement among the citizens there and many families have left through fear of Indian revenge.

The oldtimers are of one mind in affirming that clashes between the whites and the Indians were not infrequent those days. In some instances such trouble reached such proportions that it became necessary to call the soldiers from Fort Supply. Such violent outbreaks did not subside till about the turn of the century. The story is still current among the old timers of this section and of old Day County that many years before Day County was settled the Cheyennes savagely

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put to death the parents of a young fellow who at the time either was or soon thereafter became a Texas Ranger. This foul offense of the Cheyennes lingered in the mind of the Ranger and he swore that if ever he contacted any of the guilty Cheyennes he would kill them. The old timers believe the Ranger in the killing of the Indian at the town of Cheyenne was the Ranger whose parents the Cheyennes killed years before and that the Indian-victim of the encounter the Ranger felt was one who took part in the savage killing of his father and mother years before.

In this same issue we find the Tribune Editor enumerating some of the things felt needed in Grand and Day County.

WANTED: A lot of high, average citizens to settle in the town of Grand and to locate in Day County who are energetic, thero-going people and in favor of schools, law, order, morality, progress, and all other enobling attributes. Drones, deadbeats and all lawless characters are requested to pass on as this county does.

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not want the expense of prosecuting them which it will certainly do if found within our borders.

WANTED: A drygoods store that will keep a general line of merchandise suitable for the country trade. Such a house would find a good opening here. A grocery store, a blacksmith and woodwork shop, a drug store, a hotel that will accommodate the traveling public, a hardware store and implement house, a barber shop and bath house, a saloon and man to run it that is capable of doing so without violating the law or forfeiting his bond and that will keep a fair line of goods.

Educational facilities evidently were being provided for in some degree in Day County at that time for in the same issue, November 23, 1893, we read:

There will be a public examination of applicants for teacher's certificates at Grand in Day County, Oklahoma Territory, on Saturday November 25th, 1893.

All temporary certificates granted in the County will expire on that day.

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All teachers and those wishing to teach in the county are requested to be present. Yours Resp.,
Shannon McCray, Co. Supt.

This same McCray was serving as County Attorney then, too, the two offices being administered by one head. Later, the Probate Judge of Day County administered the affairs of the Superintendent of Schools, but finally and in the late '90s the county had a Superintendent serving independently of any other county office. Old timers say that during the early day in old Day County history it was not a very difficult matter to get a teacher's certificate in the county.

It is singular that in this issue of the old Tribune there appears but one paid adv., that of a ranchman giving his brand and the location of his range.