

TRUEBLOOD, EMMETT C.

INTERVIEW

12677

James Russell Gray,
Investigator,
December 13, 1937.

An Interview with Emmett C. Trueblood,
300 East Lehigh,
Hartshorne, Oklahoma.

The Hartshorne Sun.

The Hartshorne Sun was the first newspaper in what is now Pittsburg County. I have worked on it longer probably than any other one person, though not right from the first. But I know a lot about its history, and I have often wished I could have been with it in the days when the mines around Hartshorne were young, when everyone could find a job if he wanted it, when cattle ranching was a big industry here, when I could have helped to build up the country.

The paper was founded in 1895 by a man named B. Wilson Edgell. I never saw him personally, but I'll bet he was a forceful character; he'd have to be to make a success with a weekly newspaper in a tough young mining town.

The next record we have of the paper is a calendar dated 1898. On it is an advertisement of "The Hartshorne Sun, owned and published by B. Wilson Edgell."

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For a time, I'm not certain just how long, the Sun was "temporarily suspended," according to a brief sketch in a booklet I once saw called "An Illustrated Souvenir of Hartshorne." There was a paragraph or two in the booklet about a man named C. P. Anderson who came to Hartshorne in September, 1908. This man bought the Sun and began operating it again. As I said, we have files since 1901; they show that Anderson owned the paper then. That leaves the three years from 1898 to 1901 unaccounted for, but feel certain the paper wasn't suspended long. This Anderson was from Pratt, Kansas; he had been a bank teller at the First National Bank of Pratt after finishing high school. Then he founded a newspaper at Grenada, Missouri, called the Grenada Times.

In 1902 Mr. Anderson started a drug store in Hartshorne called "The C. P. Anderson Drug Company." This took up so much of his time that he hired a man named T. W. Hunter,

then working as foreman on the South McAlester News, to come and manage the Sun for him. This T. W. Hunter bought the paper, and the files show him as owner by October of 1903. He sold it in 1908, bought it again in 1912, and

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finally sold it again in 1925; altogether he owned the paper longer than anyone else up to the present.

T. W. Hunter was an interesting character; he is the one who gave the Sun the motto "Hope and Hustle." Hunter was a Texas man; went through high school at Weimar. He farmed some, then bought a half interest in the Santa Anna News at Coleman, Texas. Later he helped publish the Coleman Democrat. He had a good background of journalism when he came to Hartshorne.

I like to look through the old files of the paper. Here is an issue dated 1901 that gives the city officers; and remember that the town at that time had a city charter from the Choctaw Government. A. J. Bateman was city treasurer, S. C. Williams was marshal, John A. Hunt was deputy marshal; J. B. Hilling, E. McNeil, Mike Grege, T. W. Harris, and J. V. Maysey were councilmen. and the county officials were: Frank Battles, county judge; J. W. White, sheriff; George Nelson, clerk; Isaac King, ranger. That was November 14, 1901. And W. J. Hulsey was mayor of Hartshorne then and C. M. Jones, recorder.

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Here's an advertisement from the Sun on August 29, 1901; you won't find many advertisements like that now.

"Livery and Feed Stable; J. P. Thomas, Prop. Hacks meet all trains--Headquarters for rigs for traveling men-- Double and single rigs--'Phone Thomas'."

And I like to get out the files for the year 1904 and read about the war between the Japanese and Russians.

In 1908 T. W. Hunter sold the Sun to Jasper M. Allen, and the September 24th issue came out under Allen's management. And that's when I started work on the paper. Allen installed the first linotype machine to be used on the Harsthorne Sun. It was a small machine called Linotype Junior. I learned to operate a linotype and have done that sort of work, off and on, ever since; that's what I am doing now for the present owner of the Sun. In September of 1912 Allen sold the paper back to T. W. Hunter.

I went right on working on the paper. Hunter took out the Linotype Junior and installed a larger one, Model K. In 1912 I helped move the paper from its home on Pennsylvania (on the south side of the street), to the old stone building behind Paul's Drug Store on Tenth. The Sun stayed

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there until it was moved about four years ago to its present location back on Pennsylvania, one door west of its 1912 home. And I helped the present owner, E. J. Thrower, make that move.

I quit the paper to go to the World War. Then I worked as a machinist at the cement plant south of Hartshorne, and later for the McAlester Guardian, now the McAlester Democrat. But by 1921 I was back on the Sun working for T. W. Hunter again.

In March, 1923, Hunter sold a half-interest in the Sun to A. R. Garrett, and the name was changed to the Oklahoma Sun. This partnership didn't last long though; by September 27 Hunter had bought out Garrett's interest. He called it "The Hartshorne Sun" again.

Then J. Gladstone Emery, a reporter on the McAlester News Capitol, bought the Sun December 20, 1923. D. O. Groff

bought the paper from Emery August 6, 1925. By December 10, 1925, Emery had bought the paper again.

On December 24, 1925, the Sun came out under the management of Henry M. Butler. Butler kept the Sun until 1931, then

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sold it to me. I had been operating the linotype for every owner, you understand. I forgot to tell you that D. O. Groff put in the "Intertype" that we use now.

Then December 1, 1931, I sold the Sun to the present owner, E. J. Thrower.

I have just skimmed over the later history of the paper because I know you are more interested in things that happened in the early days, but I feel that you ought to get the whole story while you are at it. The Hartshorne Sun was an important factor in the history of this part of the state. Just think what it must have meant to the citizens of Gaines County back before statehood, when the coal mines were booming and the Choctaw Government was in force.

You remember I mentioned a calendar awhile back; one advertising the Hartshorne Sun in 1898? That calendar is still in the files, and it might be interesting to examine, as it carries an advertisement of every store and shop in the town at that date. It gives a picture of the city's life. Here they are:

The Avenue Bakery---J. A. Hiner

Cream Bakery-----H. F. Jeffers

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F. M. Savage, Druggist

Mrs. L. E. Glass, Milliner

Hartshorne Lime Co.--A. C. Allwell

Star Racket--George . . Coffee--Notions

J. K. Fletcher, Undertaker

J. W. Stroud, Saddles and Harness

W. H. Cleckler, M.D.

E. A. Owen, Jeweler, Optician, Watchmaker

D. L. Wood, Job Printer

Dad's Place, Confectioner

Jeff Merrill, Meat Market

J. V. Maysey, Contractor

J. W. Grady, Groceries, Feed

John M. Grady, General Merchandise, Lumber, Coal

Grady Trading Co., Gen. Mdse., Miners Supplies.

J. N. M. Shimer, Pres.; J. C. Biddle, Treas.

Baker's Cheap Cash Store, Gen. Mdse.

The New York Store, Dry Goods.

W. A. Polk, Blacksmith, Mill, and Gin

Angelo Duca, Groceries

Joseph B. Day, Blacksmith

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J. P. Thomas, Livery, Dray

Charlie Glass, Wagons, Buggies, Horseshoeing

R. B. Coleman & Co., Gen. Mdse., Hay & Grain

West End Meat Market--G. G. Fisk

City Hotel--Mrs. S. D. Forster \$1.00 day or \$4.00 week.

A. C. Ford, Saddles & Harness

Ashley Hotel & Restaurant--Mrs. A. L. Ashley

City Barber Shop--John V. Loos

Hartshorne Sun--B. Wilson Edgell

E. C. A. Woldbye, Watchmaker, Jeweler

J. H. Jones & W. C. Dodd, Short Orders

Lodges:

Masonic; I.O.O.F.; M.C.U.W.; K. of P.; Red Men;

Jr. O.A.M.

Churches:

Christian--Elder; W. A. Polk

Baptist--Pastor, Rev. Dr. Washburn

Methodist--Pastor, Rev. J. H. Godfrey

M. E. Church--Pastor, Rev. F. W. Witley

Episcopal--Pastor, Rev. Brandt

Catholic--Pastor, Murphy

Primitive Baptist--Pastor, Elder Berry.

INDEX CARDS

Openings--Cherokee Strip

Enid

North Enid

Railroads--Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific

Collections

Relief--Oklahoma Territory