

INDEX CARDS

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the other side of the abandoned claim, divided it between them, each securing in this way 160 acres in strips three quarters of a mile long joining the Cherokee Outlet.

When it became apparent that other business men were ready to locate at Marshall, given ice was willing to cut a farm out toward the miles high and low. Cromer then letted off a portion of their farms, using the division line to divide tract and thereby locating half the town on each side. Given ice then moved his store to the site, other buildings were constructed, and by the time the Cherokee Outlet was opened Marshall had become a village.

This location was the first important event in the history of the little town. For some time home-seekers had been collecting on the border, working for the farmers, living in the abandoned "dugouts" of such settlers as had abandoned their low habitations, or camping on the sun scorched prairie. The water in Marshall was always scarce as it was bad, and in this time of drought the shortage became acute. Finally the

1. Louis Cromer, Jan. 1, 1900.
2. Louis Cromer.

sixteenth of September arrived. Many of the "old settlers" came in to town ^{as} sympathetic spectators of even a wilder race than they had engaged in four years before. The entire country had been burned off in order that the corner stones could be more easily located, and the level blackened plain stretched north to the horizon hardly drier than the grass beneath their feet. The waiting became more tense; the signal was given, the furious race began, and the Cherokee Outlet became a land of homes. Marshall had doubled her trade territory in one day.

The settlers, however, had very little money to spend. There were a few staple groceries; bolts of dry goods--mostly

1. Sometimes they assisted the newcomers in a sort of legal "soonerism." The following story is told of Ed McKean, who later became rather prominent in Logan County politics. While waiting for the opening he was working for a farmer named La Seur, who lived on a claim four miles south of Marshall. As there was no law to prevent La Seur from entering the country he selected a fine claim; then he undertook to train McKean's pony to find it. Every day he started at the line, raced to the claim he had located, and gave the pony a good feed of oats. The intelligent animal soon developed a strong partiality for the spot where oats grew so abundantly. When the signal was finally given for homesteaders to enter the forbidden land young McKean's pony raced straight as an arrow to one of the best claims in the "Strip." (Told by E. P. Debo.)

2. Mabel Rice Cromer.

3. There was some actual hunger among the settlers. The writer has heard several of the pioneers tell of living on boiled kaffir ^{corn} because they had no money to buy flour. Sylvan Rice once discovered a farmer's wife stealing groceries. When confronted with her guilt she answered, "Yes, I stole. And if you don't want me to steal again you'd better watch me. My children are hungry, and as long as I can't get food for them any other way I intend to steal." The kind hearted merchant loaded her arms with provisions, and the family still owns the farm that was held at such a sacrifice (Incident related by Mrs. E. P. Debo.)

called and plugged in the ground wires for the electric lines
 and the necessary telegraph lines. The first store was a general
 shop, the doctor's office, and the drug store. There were
 extravagant night purchases and the first four days there were
 the real estate men who always had plenty of business in the
 sale of the frontier lands. The first of the winter of
 settlers and as they were as busy as the first of the winter
 as they had been in the winter of these memorable days in
 and September. Then there were the sales of the number
 which always seemed something of an uncertainty to the population.
 All the goods were freighted about twenty miles across the country
 from Mulhall or Orlando on the east, by the ~~Rock Island~~ or
 Rock Island, at a cost of 11 to 20 cents per hundred, and the
 farmers had to haul their produce to the same markets. Certain
 legal business had to be transacted at Guthrie, which was the
 county seat as well as the territorial capital. To reach this
 town one had to drive thirty miles through the black jack
 sand, and cross the treacherous timberline.

1. All of the children and some of the women were barefooted except during the coldest weather.
2. A school reader was a very acceptable Christmas present for a child.
3. The Marshall Tribune, July 4, 1902.

delightful water. The sale was announced as "a poor
sale with by-bidders" but a great deal of actual values.
It was to begin 7:30 A. M. 1901

The sale was successful. In the afternoon, the
lots were sold. The Marshall Tribune
states probably the largest amount of property was
telephonically sold. The Tribune asked for
lots reserved for the new town. The price of

the people who also drove the idea of a new town
order to sell lots and the history records that the
people began enthusiastic preparations for making the
buildings. Myer's store was first in the section.
landings of the no. founded in 1891. The
Wyckoff's saloon was second. Its enterprising proprietor

1. One cannot appreciate this statement if unfamiliar
with the water. It has an odd taste, and a tendency to
curdle in great sticky flakes when it came into contact with
soap. To make matters worse the supply was inadequate.

2. The Tribune, May 1, 1901.

3. The Tribune, May 30, 1901.

4. The writer distinctly remembers hearing one of these
irreconcilables declare that he never expected to see his
church after it was moved with all his things, unless it
might be on the occasion of a funeral. He seemed to convey
the impression that he hoped funerals of members of the Town
Company would be prompt and frequent.

5. The Tribune, Aug. 1, 1901.

"Getting ready for the rush of business which is already in sight."¹ At the same time so many new buildings were under construction that the exultant cry of "Marshall's booming! booming! booming!" became almost a chant. With an optimism not vindicated even at the present date the Marshall Tribune declared

"now it is only a question of a short time until instead of a little village of 200 inhabitants we will have a thriving little city of 1200 or 1500. Instead of the rickety old buildings which have done duty since the opening, we will have new substantial wood and stone buildings."

Best of all for the farmers whose weary horses had hauled the wheat twenty miles to a railroad, grain elevators were being constructed. The moving and building continued during the fall and winter until by the spring of 1902 only a few scattered dwellings remained on the old site, and a thriving village stood where wheat had grown the year before.

1. The Tribune, Aug. 22, 1902.

The following advertisements in the Tribune are interesting in this connection:

"A cold glass of beer at Miff's when you are warm will refresh you." June 6, 1902.

"Best whiskey in Oklahoma at \$3.00 per gallon. Miff (Elyokott)." Aug. 1, 1902.

"The place to refresh yourself is at Miff's in the next town." Sept. 5, 1902.

And the following news item is characteristic:

"Nicholas Bourger has erected a porch in front of his saloon which adds materially [sic.] to the appearance of his building." Sept. 26, 1902.

2. The Tribune, July 4, 1902.

3. Ibid., Aug. 22, 1902. See also Aug. 22.

In the meantime all the honor of the little community were centered on the railroad. The beginning of construction at Bird was in July. Inquired the Marshall Tribune the most interesting feature of the work on the line pressed southward, was hailed as a sign of progress. were filled with the news of the construction of Guthrie was possibly the first was a bridge over the river while Bird was still a hole in the ground. The construction of Clark of Montana was called in the Marshall Tribune the ocean could check its ultimate extent. In western Kansas were reported to be building. The citizens of Denver were expected to be some place on Upper Sound was the first terminal. The Gulf, for a grand road was

The first year of construction and construction was

1. Ibid., July 2, 1902
2. Ibid., July 2, 1902. Clipping from Guthrie State Capital
3. Ibid., Aug. 2, 1902. Clipping from Bird Ave.
4. The Tribune, June 2, 1902. Clipping from Garfield County Democrat.
5. The Tribune, Aug. 2, 1902. Clipping from Bird Ave.
6. The Tribune, July 25, 1902. Clipping from Guthrie State Capital.
7. Probably about Oct. 31. The Tribune, Oct. 24.

the southern terminal. A few years later work was begun north of Ehid,¹ and the road eventually reached Kiowa, Kansas. It was then purchased by the Santa Fe system, and forms a connecting link between the two main lines, the one that runs through Amarillo to California, and the one crossing Oklahoma from north to south before the opening. The other one of Marshall's two railroads failed to reach even this limited realization.

By the spring of 1903 Marshall was possessed of a new location, a railroad, several new business houses, and boundless civic ambitions. The next step was its incorporation under the name of New Marshall. C. I. Matt was the town's first mayor. One of the first ordinances, if not the very first, was an act forbidding saloons to open before 5:00 A. M. or to remain open later than 12:00 P. M., and providing for Sunday closing.⁴ As there were five saloons for a population that could hardly have reached 400 it would seem that they must have been able to accommodate the most of their patrons within these legal limits.

Unfortunately water was not so abundant as other liquors. The wells drilled on the residence lots proved disappointing,

1. The Tribune of Dec. 15, 1905. Clipping from Guthrie State Capital.

2. Thirteenth Census Report, 111,448.

3. The Tribune, May 8, 1903.

4. Passed May 7, 1903. Marshall Tribune, May 8.

yielding only a scanty supply of water, vile in taste, impossible to cleanse, and with a propensity to eat holes in cooking utensils. Finally a city well was dug that produced a fairly abundant supply of usable water. A windmill was installed and the water was pumped into an elevated tank and piped to a couple of hydrants on Main Street and to a watering trough for teams.^{1.}

The Marshall Tribune could exult, "Now let those who have been sneering at Marshall's water go away, away back, and keep still."

This system, of course, did not provide water for household use, and there was a man called the "water monkey" whose regular business it was to haul water from this city well and sell it by the barrel to housewives. In time cisterns were constructed at the residences and the carefully hoarded rain-water supplied most of the needs of the population.

For years Marshall lived under the constant menace of fire. In times of drought when the cisterns and even the town well had gone dry there was the certainty that any fire securing a good headway would sweep the town. It is difficult now to understand the intense indignation of the populace against two or three persons who were so careless as to start a blaze. Fortunately every incipient fire was arrested in its early stages by the volunteer firemen and the little chemical engine that they drew by hand.^{2.}

1. Ibid., Sept. 18, 1903. See also July 31.

2. For example see Tribune, June 30, 1905. A few disastrous fires have taken place in Marshall, but fortunately they came after the installation of city water.

to market and will¹ bear the oil traffic when the gushers are a reality.² That one dream of the builders of Marshall was realized.

Another interesting project was one initiated by³ the Marshall Tribune to move the Aspen and Dixon line ten miles north. All through the summer and fall of 1904 a campaign was carried on to induce the farmers to plant cotton. An editorial even carried the following argument:

Any boy or girl ten years old can pick enough cotton in the evening after school hours to board and clothe them all winter. What they pick on Saturday is clear gain to the farmer.⁴

Some of these arguments proved so convincing that a large cotton acreage was planted and a gin was built at Marshall. However, the wheat farmers soon became tired of a crop that kept them "working thirteen months a year,"³ the parents were unwilling to keep their children out of school, all the people objected to the presence of negroes in the community,⁴ and after a few years the farmers went back to wheat exclusively, and the gin fell into disuse.

1. Ibid., March 17. The form of this quotation has been changed slightly.

2. Ibid., Nov. 17, 1905. See also Oct. 13, and Nov. 3.

3. A. I. Debo

4. Marshall has an unwritten law against the presence of a negro in the town after sundown.

The most picturesque event of all this feverish period of promotion was the sale in which the remaining lots in the townsite were disposed of by lottery. The sale was carried through by W. W. Mann of Kansas City. Through extensive advertising of the possibilities of the undeveloped land of Oklahoma and the future of the new railroad center which had been a wheat field three years before, he sold a thousand lots, principally to investors in the north central states. When the time for the drawing arrived between two and three hundred contract holders were on the ground; the remainder were represented by proxies.

Fortunately for the reputation of Oklahoma there was no dust storm raging at the time. A gentle rain had cleared the atmosphere and there followed such days of blue and gold and tingling warmth as sometimes come in late November.¹ The northern visitors were enchanted. They strolled over the town enjoying the perfect weather or gathered in animated groups to repeat the language of the advertising literature so enthusiastically that even its authors began to believe it. There was no drinking nor unseemly behaviour on the part of the visitors; it was a cheerful crowd willing to accept every inconvenience with the most whole hearted good nature. The ladies of the churches served meals, and the Rebekahs fitted up beds in the Old Fellows hall.

1. The drawing took place November 23, 1905.

The drawing took place in the Methodist Church, and lasted far into the night. The books were then given for safe keeping to the lady member of the allotting committee. In the morning it was discovered that she had sold the lots for to secure first choice lots for herself and her friends. After she was confronted with the deed she admitted her guilt, made affidavit that the entries belonged to them and their original owners were notified, and departed in haste on a freight train. After this time had been passed by every one, confessed himself satisfied with the drawing and there were some who even showed their faith to the extent of buying the lots adjoining the ones they had drawn.

Of course the purchasers did not long retain their interest in an unproductive piece of land in a distant village, and soon they began to neglect the payment of taxes. People in the community began to buy up these tax titles, and crops of hay or potatoes or even wheat were grown on the vacant lots, with or without the knowledge of the owners.

From 1905 to 1927 the history of Marshall was uneventful. The people gave up trying to travel Chicago and concentrated on making their little town a good place in which to live. The

1. The Tribune, Nov. 24, and Dec. 1, 1905

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1. Before this the school was held in a building one

2. The Tribune, July 17, and other sources of the

3. Thirteenth Census Report, III, 448.

4. Loc. et op. cit.

5. Fourteenth Census Report, I, 576

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P. 170. 171. 172.

173. 174. 175.

176. 177. 178. 179. 180.

181. 182. 183.

184. 185. 186.

Section line

District
School

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Debo, Mrs. . . . , Marshall, Okla.

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