

SOUTHERN, JOE.

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL OF ATOKA.--

7889
47

SOUTHERN, JOE : FIRST HIGH SCHOOL OF ATOKA 7389

Joe Southern,
Investigator,
October 21, 1937.

The First High School of Atoka.

For many years the white children of Atoka went to the Murrow Indian Academy and were required to pay for such schooling, and at that time only a grade school existed. E. H. Rishel was known as the Principal of said school.

In July, 1903 a school board was formed with J.G. Ralls as President and they set out to build a high school and in order to build a building, Eva A. Ralls donated five acres of land where the high school now is and the following named persons were the main ones in getting up money that a schoolhouse might be built and the amount each of them donated:

The Cobb Mercantile Co.	\$500.00
J. D. Lankford	250.00
D. C. Blossom	100.00
Wm. Bassett	250.00
W. H. Reynolds	100.00
G. T. Ralls	60.00
J. G. Ralls	250.00
Mrs. A. E. Scratch	200.00
C. P. Cobb	100.00
A. J. Cline	51.00
E.C. McLaughlin	100.00
L.V. Officer	100.00

SOUTHERN, JOE

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL OF ATOKA

7889

- 2 -

A. R. Faudree	\$100.00
John Mahner	100.00
Julius Haas	100.00
D. N. Robb	200.00
G. A. Cobb	250.00
R. Y. Morrison	100.00
Mike Conlan (Mayor)	200.00
S. Damie	50.00
A. M. Surrell	25.00
J. C. Downing	25.00
W. A. McBride	60.00
Mrs. G. L. Alexander	25.00
J. D. Catlin	25.00
Sam Downing	25.00
Geo Bell	25.00
A. J. Harkins	25.00
M. Wagner	25.00
J. B. Dean	25.00
A. D. Ralls	60.00

Total \$3306.00

There was a total sum of \$4500.00 donated which included donations down to \$1.00. A school was then erected and on the first day of October, 1903 with Mike Conlan as Mayor of Atoka Ordinance Number 42 was passed and gave bonds to all who had donated and all who had donated received bonds for their donations.

After the school was completed E. M. Spain was elected Superintendent of Schools and served until 1904 and then I. L. Cook was appointed in his place and he remained for five years. E. T. McArthur was then elected

SOUTHERN, JOE

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL OF ATOKA 7889

- 3 -

for a year. J. P. Battenberg was then elected and served until 1919. G. T. Stubbs was then elected and served until 1927. C.M. Conwill was then elected and served until 1932. W.H. Underwood was then elected for two years and then Furman Phillips was elected and is still serving.

Our first high school burned in 1904 and on October 6, 1904 the following bids were submitted on a new brick school building:

Watterslvi & Colston	\$10,790.00
J. P. McDonald	10,000.00
J. P. Steger	10,325.00
Elvey Tibbetts	10,170.00
Faudree Brothers	9573.00

two story brick building was erected by Faudree Brothers and in 1934 the building burned. A WPA grant was obtained and a new school was built where we now have our High School. In 1919 a site was secured in the down town section of Atoka and a school was built and the high school was held there until the last school was completed. The building down in the town is now used for the grade school and the building is now crowded. Our High School now has an enrollment of three hundred pupils.

SOUTHERN, JOE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL OF ATOKA 7889

- 4 -

In 1936 the High School got a WPA grant and a football field was constructed with flood lights. Atoka now has a complete High School. Grade School and everything is up to date and the School system is one that any city should be proud of. Atoka has always been a town to be proud of her schools. Atoka High School now has a thirty-five piece band and have just received the best band uniforms that could be bought. Atoka was one of the first towns in what is now Oklahoma to have a complete High School.
