

INDEX CARDS

Forum
Collections

May 10, 1937.

FRED B. EICHLING
Porum, Oklahoma.

-Jas. S. Buchanan

Note: To Judge F. B. Eichling of Porum we are indebted for the privilege of copy of the following historic note inscribed in an old record and minute book of the town of Porum, which was found in the files in his office at that place. The following was recorded by S. C. Cavender, (Now judge of the city court of Muskogee) when he was city attorney for the city of Porum in 1911.

P O R U M.

The name of "Porum" having been subject of much interested inquiry, it is deemed proper to state that this name for the town was proposed by Mr. Sam T. Davis in the later part of 1903, shortly after the completion of the Midland Valley railroad through this place.

Its generic signification is "opportunity" and is peculiarly fitting the bounteous condition nature has bestowed upon the country surrounding the town.

The word however possesses added interest from the fact that this was the name borne by a prominent and gifted Cherokee friend of Mr. Davis, who was born in Texas, came to the Territory in the early days and located on a place about eight miles northwest

(2)

FRED B. EICHLING

-Jas. S. Buchanan

of this town near the Dunnegan farm and known in his tribal relations as Oo-La-Soda, in English, Porum.

When anglicised for convenience in his representative capacity he was known in Washington as Porum Davis. Oo-La-Soda died during the winter of 1866-7 and was buried near Texana.

Following the advent of the Midland Valley railroad in 1904, the town was surveyed and laid out and had rapid growth by the establishment of several stores, the coming of tradesmen and investors and on the 3rd of February, 1905, though sometime after its completion, the acquisition of a real hotel was celebrated by a ball and banquet at the Commercial House which was attended by a large party of prominent people from Muskogee, including Hon. C. N. Haskell (then Governor), his wife and two daughters.

On the 5th of March the same year, the United States court, at Muskogee, granted the petition for incorporation and on the 1st day of May, following, the first city election was held and on the ninth of

(3)

FRED B. EICHLING

-Jas. S. Buchanan

that month, the first meeting of the first Council was called to order in the second story hall of the Shoemaker building and the newly elected officers were sworn in over a desk improvised by the use of rough oak boards, supported by cement barrels, while the recorder noted down the proceedings from the smooth end of a dry goods box. These constituted the rude and primitive furniture of the first Council Chamber.

The first year was a strenuous one at times in municipal matters and the first Council had to deal with two rival factions in the franchise field, finally granting the privilege of our present telephone system.

On the 4th day of May, 1908, the City threw off the mantle of municipal government under the old Federal regime and took up the duties and responsibilities of local autonomy under the new State government of Oklahoma.

(4)

FRED B. EICHLING

-Jas. S. Buchanan

List of City officials of Porum elected May, 1906.

Mayor, A. T. Ingram

Aldermen Walter S. Owens, M.D.

R. A. Payne

V. C. Miks

T. H. Williams

M. C. Jordan

Recorder J. B. Crouch

Treas. Chas. J. O'Keefe

Marshal John H. Guest

City Atty Fred B. Eichling

Note: We learn from the old records that S. C. Cavender was elected as City attorney for Porum in the year of 1908 to succeed Fred B. Eichling, who at the time of this writing is Judge of the Justice Court of Porum.