

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX A

HISTORICAL STORIES OF EARLY PLAINS BY PIONEERS

"My Sod House and Family"

Told by Mrs. Rosetta Singley

For seventeen years we lived in a one room sod house. As time went by many experiences came along. One of these was the time when six big portly, nice looking young men dressed in the best of Western Kansas garb and armed to the teeth, rode up on their fine horses and asked for a place to stay all night. We had no room in our small house for that many men, but we were afraid to tell them that they couldn't stay. We told them that they could stay in the granary where our hands often slept. They slept in the granary, but when we awoke the next morning they were gone. It really didn't give one a very comfortable feeling at the time, but in a few days we heard that a bank in Dodge City had been robbed and then we had a queer feeling for we have always believed that these men, no doubt, were connected with it.

Several times we experienced the danger of prairie fires. One, I remember, started down by the Cimarron river and burned its way within a few miles of our community. Men came from all over the county and took their turn fighting the blaze with wet sacks and by plowing fire guards.

From time to time there were these typical Western Kansas storms. Some were more severe than others. One evening a driving rain blew in from the northwest. Mice had cut the tar paper between the board roof and the sod that covered it, so soon the rain was pouring in until practically every place in the room was wet. The only place we could find to sleep where it was dry, was under the table. We put the leaves up on the folding table, stretched the oilcloth over it. Under this we put the feather bed, and that is where we slept to keep dry.

From year to year the old soddy became weaker and weaker, especially one corner where the milk cow would go when she got loose from the rope and hook the corner with her horns until she practically took the corner out.

Several times, I remember, I would take the children to our cellar during a storm. We would take the ax with us for fear the house might blow over on the cellar door and trap us.

After seventeen years in the soddy, we built a cement house over by the well which was about a quarter of a mile northeast and close to a dugout which was used for hired hands to sleep in and afterwards as a bedroom for our own family. In 1912 the foundation for a larger house was finished and by 1914 we finished our eight room frame building which really was a pleasure after being crowded up for twenty-eight years in a one or two room house with a family of five children.

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"Nirwana, The Ghost Town"

Told by Mrs. May Murphy

It was ten years or more before the Indian territory was admitted to the Union as the Territory of Oklahoma that the town of Nirwana in the extreme southern part of Meade County was surveyed.

The dedication of the town took place in 1887. At that time there were only two buildings in the so called town. One of these buildings was a store which housed the U. S. Post Office of which Jim Byers was the proprietor and the postmaster. The other was a new store building in which, on the day of the dedication, the dinner was served and the exercises were held. About one-hundred people were in attendance. I remember that this celebration was in the late spring. The reason I know it was late spring was from the dishpans of leaf lettuce grown in my mother's garden, seven miles down on the Cimarron River, at what was later known as the UJ Ranch, which bordered on the south Kansas line, in what was then the Indian Territory.

The town well, just recently dug, was the favorite spot of recreation, with its pulley and bucket. Enough water was drawn from the well, and used in the water battles to have irrigated an acre of land.

Several families had built sod houses on what is now the town site. My father, J. M. Rhodes, had rented a two room sod house, that the school age children might attend the school at Nirwana the winter of '87 and '88.

In the summer of 1888 the exodus of the settlers left no pupils for the school. Before another year had passed, nothing was left of Nirwana but crumbling sod walls. The lumber in the roofs had also been sold. Even the bucket and pulley had been stolen from the well, and Nirwana was just another ghost town of the "New West."

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"A Pioneer Story"

Told by Mrs. Belle Mackey

In the year of 1879 on September 10th, the J. C. Marts family, foster parents of mine, located on a claim near the Jones and Plumer Trail on the Cimarron River. The hardships they endured were terrible. Their house was a dugout covered with tree limbs and dirt. The door was a buffalo hide and the windows were made of corn boxes. Their furniture was made of hides and sticks, and the bed springs were strips of hides woven together. They had one chair that they had brought with them. My father had brought a supply of food with them which he expected to last a year. He had four covered wagons, horses, mules, and cattle.

The Indians roamed the country in those days, and white people had to be on the lookout for them all the time, for there was danger of being killed. However, there weren't many white folks in the country at that time. One evening just before dark two cowboys rode up to their dugout. Mrs. Mackey, my mother, and a sister-in-law were alone, as the men were away from home after timber for their buildings. The cowboys said for them to put out all lights because there was a band of Indians coming, five hundred in number, and to take the guns they had and prepare to fight. Mrs. Mackey took a gun and lay all night watching and listening for the "war-whoop." When morning came they found that the warriors had camped just a mile above them.

One evening when Mr. Mackey was out doing his chores a man rode up and asked to stay for the night. He proved to be one of the Dalton brothers. They took him in and found there were three bullet holes in his hat and that he was wounded in the side. Mr. Mackey dressed the wound, and when morning came the man rode away, guns strapped on, for he was an outlaw.



"Trials and Triumphs of a Pioneer Family"

Told by C. E. Boyer

Edward H. Boyer with his family, consisting of his wife, Lydia, and four children, Meda, aged eleven years; Richard, six years; Jennie, nearly four years; and Charles, eighteen months, located in Meade County, Kansas, in the late summer of 1880.

The first house was a half dugout in the side of a hill and built up with sod above the ground, with shingle roof and dirt floor, divided into three rooms. The lumber in that house was freighted from Dodge City, a distance of about fifty miles, with a team and wagon.

The first barn was built of sod and roofed over with cottonwood logs and covered with hay. These improvements answered the purpose for about seven years.

While the sod house was being built the family lived in a tent. There came a heavy rain and wind storm in the night and father and mother had to get out in the storm and watch the support of the tent to keep it from blowing down. They fitted the tent down tight to the ground and shoveled dirt on it to keep the water from running under. When the storm was over and they went inside they found that the wet canvas was air-tight which nearly smothered the children. The storm turned to snow and it got so cold that they had to move inside the unfurnished house to keep from freezing. As the roof was not on they put the bed of the covered wagon inside the house and it served as a bedroom for the children while a temporary roof was placed on the house.

APPENDIX B

COPY OF THE BUDGET APPROVED AT THE ANNUAL SCHOOL
MEETING AT PLAINS, KANSAS, ON JUNE 8, 1952

General Fund	(1) Preceding Year	(2) Current Year	(3) Ensuing Year
General Control	1779.23	2421.98	2250.00
Teachers' Salaries	55344.56	54813.23	64000.00
Instructional Supplies	2168.50	2062.44	2000.00
Janitor's Salary and Supplies	5984.42	6442.15	7000.00
Utilities	3466.37	3146.45	3250.00
Fixed Charges	1136.39	1140.92	1000.00
Auxiliary Agencies	1103.31	2089.34	1500.00
Bus Driver Salaries	5760.00	14457.41	11000.00
Maintenance of Equipment	4566.20		
Maintenance of Grounds	2498.98	2427.78	2500.00
Capital Outlay	14091.29	15562.77	11000.00
Total Expenditures	97557.80	104564.47	105500.00

Read copy thus: A total of \$1779.23 was spent the preceding year on general control; for the current year the total was \$2421.98; and the proposed budget for the ensuing year was \$2250.00. Read the rest of the copy in a like manner.

VALUATION OF THE PLAINS DISTRICT FROM 1892-1952

Year	Valuation	Year	Valuation
1892	\$71,429.00	1931	\$2,514,262.00
1893	94,023.70	1932	2,215,972.00
1894	82,150.00	1933	1,936,565.00
1895	79,295.00	1934	1,810,919.00
1896	71,597.00	1935	1,723,332.00
1897	61,858.00	1936	1,879,163.00
1898*	62,892.00	1937	2,055,017.00
1905	73,380.00	1938	2,249,875.00
1906*	93,363.00	1939	2,091,233.00
1917	1,098,057.00	1940	2,069,057.00
1918	1,165,872.00	1941	2,194,261.00
1919	1,176,978.00	1942	2,210,642.00
1920	1,400,931.00	1943	2,321,258.00
1921	2,120,169.00	1944	2,294,705.00
1922	2,095,540.00	1945	2,263,358.00
1923	2,082,483.00	1946	2,321,258.00
1924	2,037,597.00	1947	3,221,543.00
1925	2,201,991.00	1948	4,952,300.00
1926	2,229,268.00	1949	5,429,762.00
1927	2,166,559.00	1950	5,689,665.00
1928	2,197,570.00	1951	6,294,732.00
1929	2,510,615.00	1952	5,984,231.00
1930	2,984,082.00		

Read list thus: In 1892 the valuation of the Plains district was \$71,429.00. Read the remainder of the table in a like manner.

* Figures for the periods, 1898-1905 and 1906-1917, could not be obtained from logical available sources.

APPENDIX C

COMPARISON OF THE 1899 CURRICULUM WITH THE 1953
CURRICULUM OF THE PLAINS GRADE SCHOOL

Subjects Listed in 1899	Subjects Listed in 1953
Spelling	Spelling
Reading	Reading
Writing	Writing
Written Arithmetic	Arithmetic
Mental Arithmetic	English
Grammar	Art
Geography	Vocal Music
History	Band
Physiology	Social Studies
Drawing	Health
Composition	Science
Algebra	
Civil Government	

STATISTICS CONCERNING THE TEACHERS IN THE PLAINS SCHOOL
FOR THE 1952-53 SCHOOL YEAR

Teacher Number	Age	Hours	Exp.	Exp. Here	Field	Salary
1	41	184	17	4	Supt.	\$5650
2	45	156	19	2	Coach	4300
3	47	124	18	5	Shop	3700
4	26	136	5	2	Commerce	3500
5	43	130	18	8	Social Science	3850
6	28	150	6	3	Band	4400
7	23	125	2	2	Home Econ.	3450
8	28	148	3	1	Science	3400
9	24	124	2	2	Voice	3450
10	25	124	2½	2½	Driving	3600
11	27	148	7	5	Grade Prin.	3900
12	24	134	1½	1	Spec. Ed.	3500
13	21	60	2	2	Fifth	2650
14	41	124	12½	4½	Fourth	2850
15	64	71	6	3	Third	2750
16	23	120	3	1	Second	2500
17	51	87	11	4	First	2750
18	29	155	5	1	English	3400

Read table thus: Teacher No. 1 is 41 years of age, has 184 hours, 17 years experience, been at Plains 4 years, serves as Supt. with a salary of \$5650. Read the remainder of the table in a like manner.

APPENDIX D

LIST OF PLAINS SUPERINTENDENTS AND THEIR SALARIES
FROM 1930 TO 1953

School Year	Supt.	Salary per Month	No. of Months
1930-31	W. E. Woodward	\$311.12	9
1931-32	W. E. Woodward	311.12	9
1932-33	W. E. Woodward	286.67	9
1933-34	W. E. Woodward	133.33	12
1934-35	W. E. Woodward	177.77	12
1935-36	W. E. Woodward	195.56	12
1936-37	W. E. Woodward	175.00	12
1937-38	W. E. Woodward	200.00	9
1938-39	W. E. Woodward	200.00	9
1939-40	E. A. McFarland	187.50	9
1940-41	E. A. McFarland	200.00	9
1941-42	Carl C. Riggs	250.00	9
1942-43	Carl C. Riggs	212.50	12
1943-44	Carl C. Riggs	333.34	9
1944-45	A. H. Bergen	333.34	9
1945-46	A. H. Bergen	400.00	9
1946-47	A. H. Bergen	425.00	9
1947-48	A. J. Seely	530.00	9
1948-49	A. J. Seely	555.34	9
1949-50	D. C. Brandner	555.34	9
1950-51	D. C. Brandner	577.78	9
1951-52	D. C. Brandner	600.00	9
1952-53	D. C. Brandner	622.23	9

Read list thus: During the school year, 1930-31, W. E. Woodward was superintendent with a salary of \$311.12 per month for 9 months. Read the remainder of the list in a like manner.

PLAINS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS 1918-1953

Year	Director	Clerk	Treasurer
1918	R. C. Elliott	J. W. Russell	Roy Traylor
1919	R. C. Elliott	J. W. Russell	Roy Traylor
1920	R. C. Elliott	J. W. Russell	Roy Traylor
1921	R. C. Elliott	J. W. Russell	Roy Traylor
1922	R. C. Elliott	J. W. Russell	Roy Traylor
1923	R. C. Elliott	J. D. Golliber	Roy Traylor
1924	R. C. Elliott	J. D. Golliber	Roy Traylor
1925	R. C. Elliott	J. D. Golliber	Roy Traylor
1926	R. C. Elliott	J. D. Golliber	Roy Traylor
1927	R. C. Elliott	J. D. Golliber	Roy Traylor
1928	R. C. Elliott	J. D. Golliber	Ed M. Angell
1929	R. C. Elliott	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1930	R. C. Elliott	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1931	E. R. Brown	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1932	E. R. Brown	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1933	E. R. Brown	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1934	Leo L. Smith	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1935	Leo L. Smith	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1936	Leo L. Smith	A. C. Krause	Ed M. Angell
1937	Leo L. Smith	A. C. Krause	H. C. Bender
1938	Leo L. Smith	A. C. Krause	H. C. Bender
1939	Leo L. Smith	A. C. Krause	H. C. Bender
1940	Ed M. Angell	A. C. Krause	Karl Utz
1941	Ed M. Angell	A. C. Krause	Karl Utz*
1942	Ed M. Angell	A. C. Krause	E. D. Geisinger
1943	Ed M. Angell	A. C. Krause	E. D. Geisinger
1944	Ed M. Angell	W. P. Elliott	E. D. Geisinger
1945	C. L. Utz	W. P. Elliott	E. D. Geisinger
1946	C. L. Utz*	W. P. Elliott	E. D. Geisinger
1947	H. A. Holmes	D. F. Bromwell	E. D. Geisinger
1948	H. A. Holmes	D. F. Bromwell	E. D. Geisinger
1949	H. A. Holmes	D. F. Bromwell	E. D. Geisinger
1950	H. A. Holmes	D. F. Bromwell	E. D. Geisinger
1951	H. A. Holmes	D. F. Bromwell	J. M. Dunn
1952	H. A. Holmes	D. F. Bromwell	J. M. Dunn
1953	H. A. Holmes	Marvin Reiss	J. M. Dunn
		Marvin Reiss	J. M. Dunn

Read table thus: In 1918 R. C. Elliott was the Director, J. W. Russell was Clerk, and Roy Traylor was Treasurer. Read the remainder of the list the same way.

* Resigned before term was completed.