

24th Annual

# Strawberry Festival

May 8, 1971

Stilwell, Oklahoma



Queen  
Donna  
Padgett

# County's history is traced

Adair County, home of the Cherokees, is one of the state's smallest counties. It is only 584 square miles in area and contains 100 square miles of low mountains known as the Ozark foothills.

The county was carved from two districts of the old Cherokee Nation—Flint and Goingsnake Districts.

Many American Indian tribes favored this area because of its superior hunting and fishing. The western Cherokees, however, had become a predominant tribe in the area by 1808. These were Indians who had left voluntarily the main tribe and their homes in Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina to migrate west. More than 7,000 already had settled in Arkansas between the Arkansas and White Rivers before their title to the land was confirmed by the United States by the treaty of 1817.

A new treaty 11 years later gave them in exchange for their homes in Arkansas a grant of seven million acres, part of which extended west to the 100th meridian.

Many of the Western Cherokees that were forced to move into the Indian Territory elected to settle just across the border in the rugged, mountainous area in which they had hunted and fished, and which became the last Cherokee stronghold.

The Western Cherokees were joined by the Eastern Cherokees, who were forced to leave their homes in Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina and were driven over the Trail of Tears to this area, in about 1838.

In 1839 this area, as part of the Flint and Goingsnake Districts, belonged to the old Cherokee Nation. In 1907 when the Indian Territory was admitted to the Union as the State of Oklahoma, this area was included as a county and named Adair in honor of a prominent Cherokee



**Pounding corn at Tsa-La-Gi**

jurist and educator.

A historian notes that only the most daring white people, mainly those of Irish descent, settled in the area ruled by the Cherokees. But after the construction of the Kansas City Southern Railroad, many other white families moved in from Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Georgia.

## **ABOUT THE COVER**

**Official photograph of Miss Donna Padgett, who will be crowned queen of the 1971 Strawberry Festival in Stilwell on Saturday, May 8.**

**The cover was made possible through the contribution of Stilwell Foods, Inc.**

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**Green Country Village  
S.H. 100, West of Stilwell**



# YOU'LL HAVE A FINE TIME Come to Stilwell

It is my pleasure to extend a warm and happy invitation to each of you to attend the 24th annual Stilwell Strawberry Festival. The Kiwanis Club of Stilwell is anticipating that this will be the greatest Festival of them all. But, you must come to make this hope a reality.

Come prepared to have a good time. This is a festive occasion, and many enjoyable events are planned to insure this.

This year's parade promises to be even better than last year, and the program will have something for everyone. Then, to wind up the day's activities, strawberries and ice cream will be served. Is there anyone who does not want to get in on that?

This is Green Country and we hope that while you are in the area, you will take advantage of the many beautiful and enjoyable places to see and visit. This is the Land of the Cherokee, a great people with a beautiful heritage. The people who live on this land love it. You will find no one leaving, only people coming to become a part of the great future which lies ahead for this area.

Come to the Festival, and you might want to stay, too.

Phil Keeter,  
President,  
Stilwell Kiwanis Club



Phil Keeter  
President

Jack Perry  
Vice President

Joe H. Carson  
Past Lieutenant-Governor

H.D. Gound  
Past President

Berry A. Ferguson  
Secretary-Treasurer

W. Neil Morton  
Lieutenant-Governor Elect

## Other Kiwanis Club members

Bob Baker  
Charles Cosby  
Homer Dunn  
Burl Doyle  
J.B. Goode  
Norvell Henley  
J.L. Hallford  
James W. Hardwick

Burnell Isaacs  
Sam O. Love  
Dewey Moss  
Gene Mowery  
Charles McFarland  
Tobe O'Neal  
W.B. Pemberton  
Larry Roberts

L.T. Spray  
Oliver Stuhmer  
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Julius Thomas  
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# PROGRAM

May 8, 1971

Neil Morton, master of ceremonies

The Shades, Guy Hawk's rock band .....	9:00 A.M.
Parade .....	10:00 A.M.
Parade Marshal, Charles McFarland	
National Anthem .....	11:00 A.M.
Larry Eubanks	
Invocation .....	11:03 A.M.
The Rev. James Hardwick, First United Methodist Church	
Salute to the Flag .....	11:05 A.M.
Boy Scouts	
Crowning of Strawberry Queen for 1971 .....	11:07 A.M.
Earl Walker, Okemah, Lt. Governor, Division XXI	
Texas-Oklahoma District Kiwanis International	
Presentation of scholarship to the Queen .....	11:20 A.M.
Dr. Robert Collier, president, Northeastern State College	
Welcoming Address .....	11:23 A.M.
Phil Keeter, President, Stilwell Kiwanis Club	
The Singing Minstrels of Lewis College, Lockport, Ill. ....	11:25 A.M.
Directed by Enoch Estep, formerly of Stilwell	
Introduction of Former Queens .....	12:30 P.M.
Phil Keeter	
Introduction of Distinguished Guests .....	12:35 P.M.
Phil Keeter	
Shrimp Fisher and His Western Band .....	12:40 P.M.
The Chieftains Quartet .....	1:25 P.M.
Stilwell High School Girls Ensemble .....	1:40 P.M.
Mrs. Neil Morton, Director	
Awards to Champion Strawberry Growers .....	2:00 P.M.
Strawberry Auction .....	2:15 P.M.
Stage Entertainment .....	2:50 P.M.
Free Servings of Strawberries and Ice Cream .....	3:00 P.M.
Rodeo on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 6, 7 and 8 .....	8:00 P.M.
Sponsored by Stilwell Roundup Club	

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**Prairie Grove, Ark.**

**Associated Producers Coal Co.**  
**Oklahoma City**





Queen Donna Padgett and attendants, Ginger Malcolm, left, and Renee Morgan

CORONATION MAY 8

## Festival Queen for 1971

Miss Donna Padgett, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jimmie Padgett, Route 3 Stilwell, will be crowned queen of the 1971 Strawberry Festival here Saturday, May 8 as one of the highlights of the 24th annual event.

The new queen, 18, who won the competition over nine other Adair County girls here in February, will succeed Miss Margaret Couch, daughter of Mr and Mrs Fred Couch, Stilwell.

Miss Padgett's attendants are Miss Renee Morgan, 16, daughter of Mrs Bettye Leath-

erwood, Stilwell, first runnerup; and Miss Ginger Malcolm, 16, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Malcolm, Route 3 Stilwell, second runnerup.

Selected as alternate was Miss Brenda Swepston, 17, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.L. Swepston, Route 3 Stilwell.

A standing-room-only crowd of nearly 400 attended the queen contest. Out-of-county judges selected the queen on the basis of beauty, poise and personality.

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Stilwell Study Club's prize-winning float

## LOTS OF MUSIC

# Nineteen bands in parade

Nineteen bands were in the hour-long parade that kicked off the 1970 Strawberry Festival. The bands came from Spiro, Sallisaw, Westville, Chouteau, Commerce, Locust Grove, Quinton, Jay, Vian, Muldrow, Coweta, Okmulgee, Tahlequah (three), Muskogee, Edmond and Stilwell (two).

The procession also included many beautiful girls, more than a dozen floats, several clowns, and over 200 horses.

The Stilwell Study Club won first prize in the senior division of the float competition, and the Stilwell FFA Chapter won first in the junior division.

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Welcome to the Festival  
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Meals — Bakery Goods  
Stilwell Orchard & Nursery  
Joe and Bernice Worley  
Jerry Pruett's  
Derby Station

George's Propane  
and Fruit Market  
Caviness Service Station  
"Your Business Appreciated"  
T.V. Collins Grocery  
Groceries - Meats - Dairy Products  
S.L. Isaacs Grocery  
Welcome Visitors  
Barbara's Beauty Shop  
Barbara Wininger — Ph. 774-2249  
George Philpott's  
Grocery





Float, left, entered by Stilwell Future Farmers of America Chapter, placed first in the Junior Division of the 1970 Strawberry Festival parade.

At bottom of page is the Stilwell High School Band which annually adds spirit and color to the long parade.



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Phillips 66 Distributor

Stilwell Ready Mix  
U.S. 59 North



Queen is crowned by Kiwanis Lieutenant-Governor

MISS MARGARET COUCH

## Queen of 1970 Festival

Miss Margaret Couch, daughter of Mr and Mrs Fred Couch of Stilwell, was queen of the Strawberry Festival in 1970. She was crowned by Lt. Gov. H.L. Helton, Tahlequah, of Division XXI Texas-Oklahoma District, Kiwanis International.

The coronation ceremony, which followed the parade, took place on a specially-built platform on the lawn of the Adair County Courthouse.

Miss Couch's attendants were Miss Carla Salazar, Northwest Adair County; and Miss Charlotte Wisehart, Westville.

### HOME OF COMPOSER

Stilwell is the home of the late Dr. Jack Kilpatrick, author and composer, whose musical works include the Cherokee, N.C., pageant, "Unto These Hills."

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Stilwell, Oklahoma**

**Stilwell Municipal Hospital & Staff  
Welcome you to the Festival**





Bruce Wheeler shows championship berries

## TOP CRATE BRINGS \$350

# Growers get extra cash

Strawberry growers received \$1,515 at the annual strawberry auction held in connection with the Festival in 1970.

Bruce Wheeler's championship crate of berries went for \$350 at the auction. The berries were purchased by Stilwell Foods.

In addition to the \$350 check, Wheeler also received a trophy and \$20 in cash from the Stilwell Kiwanis Club.

Mrs Jack Wright had the second place crate of berries which sold for \$300 to the Kelley Canning Co. of Prairie Grove, Ark.

The auction total was somewhat lower than 1969's record sale, due to the smaller

number of entries in the judging contest, but bids were generally higher than ever before.

## EASY TO LIVE WITH

Stilwell's weather is unusually easy to live with, principally because it's 1,112 feet above sea level, located in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains. All this adds up to mild winters and cool summer nights, and year-round outdoor sports. Stilwell's great climate makes its own important contribution to the friendly people you'll find here.

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You-All Come to See Us

DeJarnatt Brothers  
Dirt Contractors







Thousands jam downtown Stilwell for the Festival

## STILWELL IS JAMMED

# Festival crowd sets record

Stilwell was jammed with the largest crowd in the 23-year history of the Strawberry Festival in 1970. Unofficial estimates placed the crowd at about 15,000.

The Stilwell Kiwanis Club-sponsored Festival had something for everyone.

The program from the platform included music by Leon McAuliffe and his Western

Band, the Muskogee Manual Training High School Band, and the Stilwell High School Girls Ensemble.

The day was climaxed by the serving of 10,000 cups of strawberries and ice cream. A few failed to get their share, and Kiwanians have ordered more ice cream this year.

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Osborn's Laundry  
Welcome to Our Festival  
Farmers Supply Co.  
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Stilwell FFA Chapter  
Welcomes You to the Festival  
Welcome to the Festival  
E.G. and Ella Mae Carroll  
Hunter's 5 and 10  
Clifton & Christine Hunter  
Waldroop's Store at Watts  
"If You Need It, We Have It"

## STILWELL GRADUATE IS DIRECTOR

# Folk singers to be on program

Folk and popular music, as sung by Illinois college students and directed by a former local man, will fill the air on Strawberry Festival Day in Stilwell.

It will be homecoming for Enoch Estep, a 1957 graduate of Stilwell High School, when he and his 25-member Singing Minstrels of Lewis College, Lockport, Ill., arrive here to present two shows.

The first performance is at 8 p.m. Friday, May 7 in the Stilwell Junior High School Auditorium, and the second is at the Strawberry Festival the following day, Saturday, May 8.

Admission will be charged at the Friday night concert, but the show at the Festival is, of course, free.

Enoch, whose wife Sue is the daughter



**Enoch Estep, director-pianist**

of Mr and Mrs Cecil Ritchie of the Stoney Point Community near Stilwell, volunteered to bring the Singing Minstrels, composed of 18 voices plus guitars, banjo, bass, marimba, flute, percussion and piano. The Stilwell Kiwanis Club is paying part of their expenses.

"I want my students to see Stilwell and meet the friendly people," Enoch said.

The Singing Minstrels are regarded as one of the Nation's most outstanding collegiate vocal groups. They have appeared in numerous concerts, including performances in the leading Chicago resorts and hotels.

In addition, they have recorded two albums under the direction of Enoch, their pianist-director.

Enoch, born and reared at Vian, came here with his parents, Mr and Mrs Earl Estep.

After graduating from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, with a bachelor's degree in music education, he went on to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor to earn his master's degree in vocal and in-



**Folk Singers**

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**Catron's Store**  
Welcome to the Festival

**Day Discount Co.**  
Best Place to Trade

**Vera and Max Baker**  
Welcome to the Festival

**B.G. Stewart Wholesale**  
Candy - Notions - Drugs





Group will present two performances in Stilwell

strumental music.

He taught at high schools in Spearman, Tex., and Plainfield, Ill., before going to Lewis College in 1967.

While at Plainfield, his choir received an invitation to sing at the famed Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was the first high school choir ever to be accord-

ed such an honor.

His honors include being named in the 1969 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America."

Enoch, in corresponding with Stilwell Kiwanians, didn't say so, but he may be planning a special surprise song for the Singing Minstrels' performances here.

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Welcome, Visitors**

**Smay Auto Supply  
Welcome, Visitors**

**Jim's Service Station  
Coin-Op Car Wash**

**Ideal Fruit Farm  
Strawberry Plants, Peaches, Apples**

COUNTY IS NO. 1 PRODUCER

## Strawberry glamor crop



The luscious strawberry is not Adair County's biggest crop—but it is by far the most glamorous.

Hundreds of people, including migrant workers, students and housewives, jump in each year to help harvest the strawberry crop that in 1969 set a record yield per acre.

Only about 750 acres are in strawberries in Adair County, but this county is still Oklahoma's biggest producer.

Strawberries mean about \$500,000 annually in the county's economy.

A good picker can pick about 100 quart boxes in a six-hour day. He receives an average of from 8 to 10 cents a box. In good years, the grower can clear as much as 12½ cents per box.

Seventy-three pickers working in a patch in 1969 picked 250 crates from 2½ acres for one of the best days on record anywhere in the county.

The experienced pickers use a variety of positions. Some stoop, others squat, kneel or sit. Those who sit say they remain seated and scoot from one plant to the next. Scooting on rocky soil, however, is hard on pants.

Local strawberry growers like the Blake-

more variety best. Tennessee Beauty runs a poor second. Growers agree that Blakemore berries hold up better on the plant in hot weather and that they have a better taste. Besides, Blakemore plants are good for at least three years as compared with Tennessee Beauty's two.

The strawberry season is short, starting early in May and ending about June 1.

Thousands of pounds of berries are sold to Stilwell Foods, Inc., to be frozen and packed. The remainder is sold at Stilwell area markets, and to retail outlets (mostly chain stores) in Tulsa, Muskogee, Fort Smith, Ark., and other cities.

Many people from miles around drive to Stilwell each May to buy berries to take home for themselves, neighbors and relatives.

Besides the commercial growers, many others have small patches in their own gardens. Commercial patches range in size from less than an acre to about 15 acres.



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774-7058 — Building Supplies

Lloyd Brewer City Filling Stat.  
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Van Buren Ice & Cold Storage  
Van Buren, Arkansas





Stilwell, a growing, bustling community

## Facts to remember ABOUT STILWELL

Population (1970 census)—City, 2,134;  
Adair County, 15,141.

Labor force—Male, 2,185; female, 792.

Transportation—Federal Highways 59

and 62; and State Highways 51 and 100.  
Interstate 40 is 30 miles south. The Kan-  
sas City Southern Railroad, six truck lines  
and a bus line serve the area. Stilwell also

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**108 S. 4th, Muskogee, Okla.**

**Leo Beller Athletic Goods**  
**Muskogee, Oklahoma**



**Stilwell's new Community Facilities building**

has a city airport with runways of 1,600 and 2,000 feet.

**Government**—Mayor-City Council. Active volunteer fire department. Five city police officers and three county officers. Two Oklahoma Highway Patrolmen are stationed here.

**Banking**—Bank of Commerce has total capitalization of \$671,049.75 with \$7,757,709.78 in deposits and total assets of \$8,683,986.22.

**Organizations**—Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Garden Club, Roundup Club, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Stilwell Study Club, Strawberry Capital Square Dance Club, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Masonic Lodge, Order of Eastern Star, Oddfellows Lodge, Rebekah Lodge, Adair County Quarter Horse Association.

**Industrial foundation**—Stilwell Industrial Foundation is a non-profit organization.

**Recreation**—Water sports, fishing and

picnicking at nearby Lake Tenkiller, small game and deer hunting, city park, city swimming pool, two gymnasiums, movie theatre, and four golf courses in 30-mile radius.

**Communications** — Independently-owned telephone company offers direct distance dialing, touch tone and mobile dial telephones. Stilwell will be among the first in Oklahoma with one-party service in initial rate area.

**Television reception**—Three stations in Tulsa, Okla., and one in Fort Smith, Ark.

**Special events** — Strawberry Festival, Dogwood and fall foliage tours, rodeos and Adair County Fair.

**Health**—Thirty-six-bed Stilwell Municipal Hospital, and Adair County Health Building. The city has one dentist, three M.D.'s, an osteopath, one optometrist and a chiropractor.

**Climate** — Average winter temperature is 37.4 degrees. Average summer tempera-

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Stilwell's new public library



Low-rent housing project has 36 units

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**Drop By and See Us**

**Stilwell**  
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**Chamber of Commerce**  
**Stilwell**



Stilwell's new state park is location for many outings

ture is 82.1. Rainfall averages 42.46 inches per year. Stilwell's elevation above sea level is 1,112 feet.

**Education**—One elementary school, one junior high and one high school. Eastern Oklahoma Experiment Station is located north of Stilwell. Three institutions of higher learning are within 50-mile radius of Stilwell—John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Ark., 35 miles; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 50 miles; and Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, 25 miles.

**Industrial buildings available** — Two metal buildings, one 340 by 100 feet, and one 240 by 100 feet.

**Industrial sites available**—Thirty acres, located  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of city limits, can be easily secured. Land is also available on Kansas City Southern Railroad right-of-way.

**Prevailing wage scale**—U.S. minimum wage and hour law prevails.

**Major industries**—Stilwell Canning Co., Alabama Charcoal Co., Cherokee Nation Industries, Inc., Reese Tie Co., Adair County Orchard Co., Stilwell Frozen Foods, and Ideal Fruit Farm.

**Motels and Restaurants**—Three motels with 56 units. Numerous good eating places.

**Water and sewer system**—Stilwell has an abundance of clean, pure water—4,000,000 gallons per day—from 140-acre city lake. The lake is large enough to serve Stilwell for three years without a drop of rain falling. Present sewer system is large enough to accommodate a city of 10,000. A \$500,000 industrial sewer system, which will handle 2,000,000 gallons of industrial wastes daily, was completed recently.

**Electrical power**—The City owns its own electrical distribution system, and gets its

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Arst Equipment Company  
Clark Fork Lifts — Tulsa

Compliments Of  
Colonial Bread Co.

The Fadler Co., Inc.,  
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables





**Renee Morgan, left, and Candice Holt admire the dogwood blooms**

own power from the Grand River Dam Authority. Special industrial rates are offered. Present capacity of 5,000 KW could easily be enlarged. Ozarks Electric Cooperative serves the rural areas.

**Indian Industrial Development Assistance**—The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with Oklahoma employee service agencies, will assist industry in recruitment of qualified applicants to meet personnel staffing requirements.

With the Arkansas River only about 30 miles away, Adair County is looking hopefully for an industrial boom now that the

Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers are opened to navigation.

Industries interested in this area are invited to write R.L. (Bob) Baker, president of the Stilwell Chamber of Commerce.

#### **GOLDA'S OLD MILL**

Golda's Old Stone Mill, located off SH 51 West of Stilwell, is over 100 years old. The water wheel still provides power for grinding. Hundreds of tourists visit the mill each year.

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First Quality Merchandise**

**Rock's Iron & Metal Co.  
Scrap, New and Used Iron**

**Rex's House  
of Bargains**

## Stilwell churches

Most religious faiths are represented in the immediate Stilwell area.

Other denominations have churches in communities surrounding Stilwell.

The local churches are:

Assembly of God Church

Central Baptist Church

Church of Christ

First Baptist Church

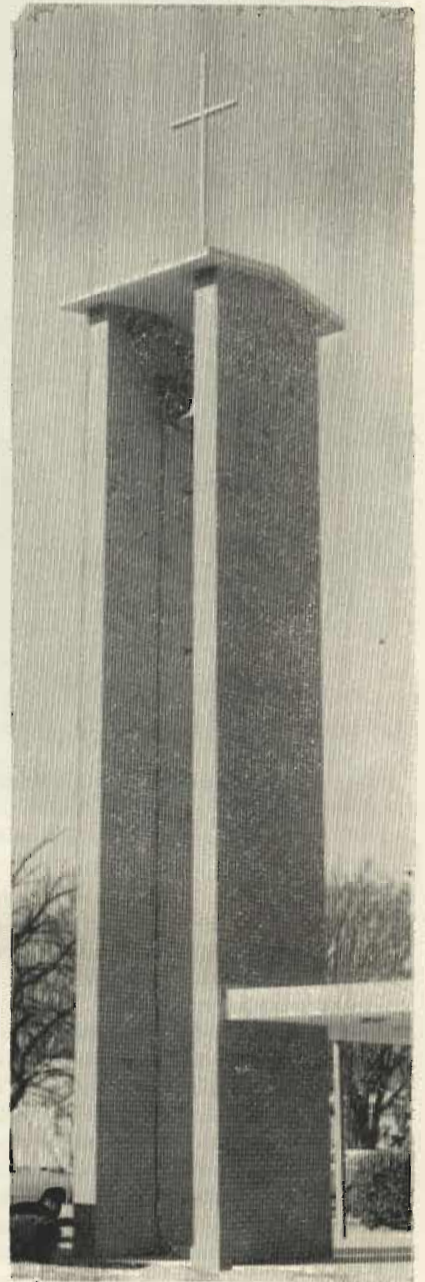
First Christian Church

First United Methodist Church

Free Holiness Church

United Methodist Indian Church

Pentecostal Holiness



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**Consolidated Industrial Equip. Co.**  
Fort Smith, Arkansas





**Livestock is a Growing Industry**

## AGRICULTURE

# Diversified, mechanized

Apples and peaches—along with strawberries and other agricultural products—are big business in Adair County.

In the past 50 years, sale of livestock and livestock products has been the principal source of agriculture income in Adair County.

Adair County products—including strawberries, green beans, apples and peaches—are sold all over the Nation. Some are processed locally, while others are shipped

fresh.

Stilwell is the home of Stilwell Foods, Inc., which has nationwide distribution; the Adair County Orchard Co. which is the largest in this four-state region; and the Ideal Fruit Farm.

Corn, small grain, grain sorghums and improved grasses and legumes for hay are grown mostly as feed for livestock. Timber is regarded as an important cash income.

Several poultry processing plants also flourish in this area.

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"Strawberry Shortcake Always"**

**Jim and Leta Dawson  
Welcome Visitors**

**Dairy Berry  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts**

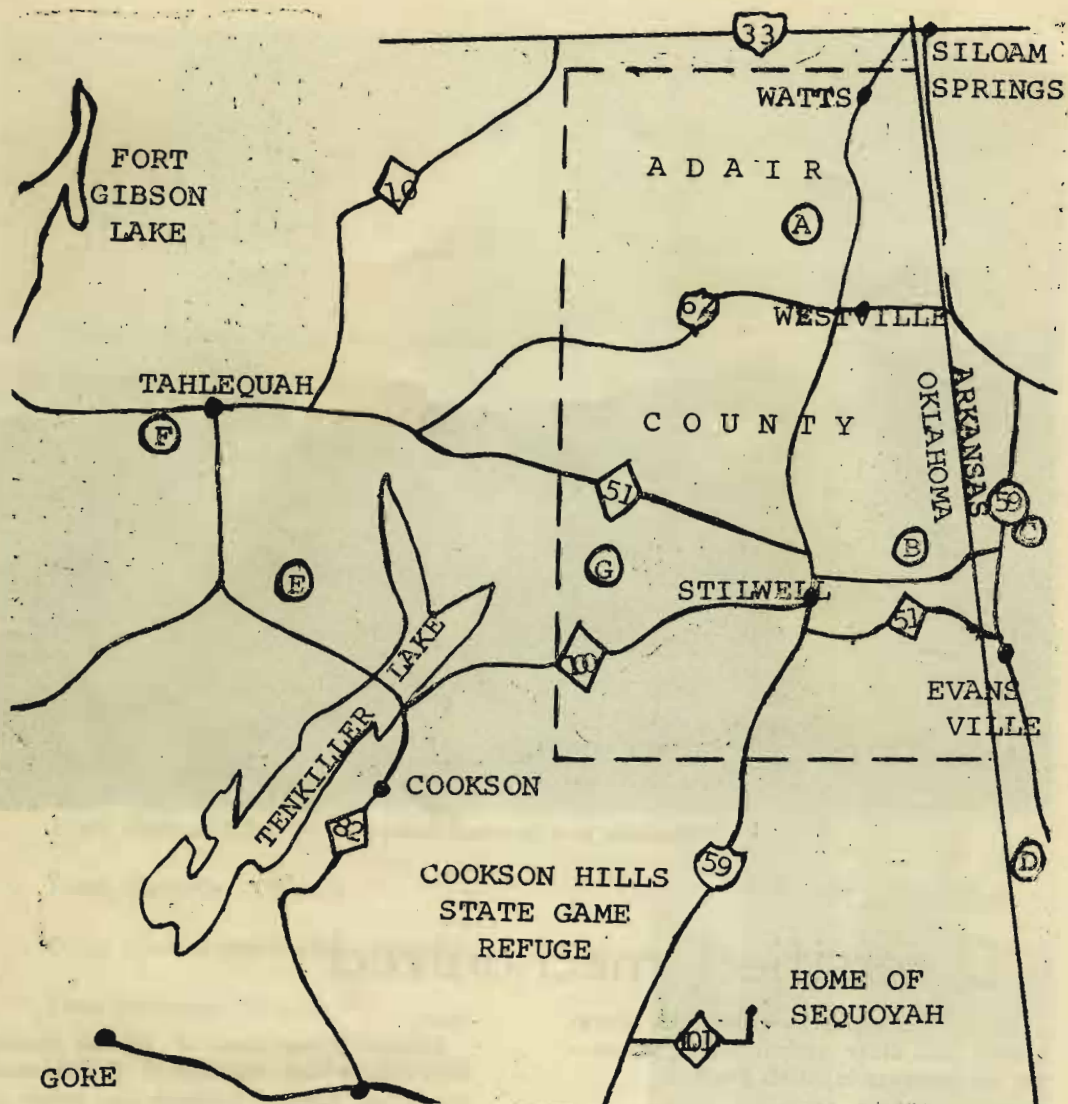
**Stilwell  
Nursing Home**

**Eagle Theatre  
Bargain Entertainment**

**Stilwell Butane Co.  
Welcome to the Festival**

**Stilwell Flower Shop  
Flowers for all Occasions**

**Cliff's Drive In  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts**



TWO-STATE MAP

## All roads lead to Stilwell

- A. Old Baptist Mission
- B. Oldest home in Oklahoma
- C. Indian Museum
- D. Natural Dam

- E. Cherokee Center and recreated village
- F. Cherokee Capital
- G. Golda's Mill

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S&H Green Stamps on Cash Sales

**Morton's Dry Goods**  
Jess and Nina Morton

**Leatherwood Grocery**  
Bob Leatherwood & Sam Reed



# Come to the 'Green Country'

Come to the "Green Country" and enjoy spectacular vistas at every turn.

Valleys, tree-covered mountains, unlimited water fun.

Come, enjoy it all—the best of Oklahoma, crowded with color, a wide variety of things to see and do. Visit colorful and historic nearby communities, enjoy the mountains, sun, swim, fish, play golf, enjoy water sports. All this and more in highly agreeable climate.

The Illinois River, which winds its way through Adair County, is the site of Kamp Paddle Trails, west of Watts, the largest private camp for boys and girls in Oklahoma.

Beautiful Lake Tenkiller, located just a few minutes' drive west of Stilwell, is among the major attractions in this area.



S.H. 51 West of Stilwell



Canoeing on the Illinois

The deep blue water of Lake Tenkiller lures fishermen, skin divers and water skiers from a wide area.

Tenkiller Ferry Dam, which impounds water forming Lake Tenkiller, is located on the Illinois River near Gore. It was built by the Corps of Engineers in 1953 at a cost of \$23,822,000, principally for flood control, navigation and production of hydro-electric power.

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Carnation Ice Cream  
is being furnished for the  
Twenty-Fourth Annual Strawberry Festival  
through courtesy of

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**"For Contented Families"**