

RR

60TH ANNIVERSARY

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

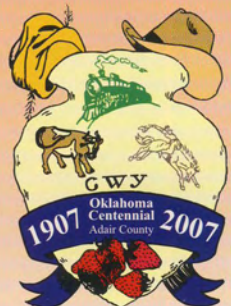
STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

1948

MAY 12, 2007

2007

Queen
Charbrace Rhea



Celebrating 100 Years of Statehood

This book is dedicated to a Great Kiwanian



~ Gary Johnson ~
(1952 – 2006)

"My grandfather once told me that there are two kinds of people: those who work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group, there was less competition there." – Indira Gandhi

Gary was certainly in the first group, not because of less competition, but because this is who he was. Kiwanis service projects relate to "Young Children: Priority One", working to stop substance abuse, helping the elderly, promoting literacy, and supporting youth sports and recreation to name a few.

Gary certainly had a love for the children. He didn't just talk about it, he lived it! Here are just a few things to let you know that Gary was a "doer": he was very instrumental in bringing soccer to Stilwell, he spent countless hours improving the little league baseball experience which now touches over 450 kids each year, he served on Stilwell Schools Board of Education for 3 years, he gave hundreds of hours annually to our Kiwanis Club and the Stilwell Area Chamber of Commerce.

An expression we hear so very often now as we prepare for the 60th Annual Strawberry Festival is "I don't know...Gary used to take care of that..." From videoing the queen contest, to ordering the float for the parade, to making arrangements for the annual fireworks display! We never had to ask Gary to do these things, he just volunteered, showed up early, and did it.

"Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value." – Albert Einstein

Gary was a dedicated husband and father to Lori, Jeff, and Jamie Johnson. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him!

Gary was truly a man of value to our kids, our club, and our community. We could all do well to follow his example as we continue to serve as Gary did!



President's Welcome

To everyone who is attending the 60th Annual Stilwell Strawberry Festival, I extend on behalf of the Stilwell Kiwanis a very friendly welcome to you, and we hope you have a wonderful time as you experience all of the activities that have been planned for your enjoyment. This year's festival is a most significant event because not only it is our 60 year to celebrate the Strawberry Festival and our great history and heritage locally, but also the Strawberry Festival is an officially recognized event, which is helping celebrate Oklahoma's State Centennial in 2007.

Stilwell Kiwanians together with many civic and private organizations have worked very hard to organize the 2007 Stilwell Strawberry Festival. We have come a long way since 1948's first Strawberry Festival. Our day's events are numerous; our notoriety is far reaching; and Stilwell has become known as the place where some of the most delicious strawberries in the world are grown for everyone's enjoyment.

By your attendance and participation, you are helping support many worthy causes that the local Stilwell Kiwanis clubs provide to our community and surrounding areas. We are committed to helping children and youth, senior citizens, and other worthy charitable activities in our area. All the proceeds we derive throughout the year are put back into our community.

Have a fun filled day with family and friends and make new friends as you help celebrate one of Oklahoma's oldest and most prominent celebrations. And please make plans to come back for next year's Stilwell Strawberry Festival.

Larry E. Adair
President, Stilwell Kiwanis



2006-2007 Kiwanis Club Members

President - Larry E. Adair
Vice President - Matt Hoyt
Secretary - Tony Pivec
Treasurer - Charles W. Crozier
Past President - Ralph Keen

Full Name

Larry Adair
Alan Adams
John Auffet
John Bailey
Betty Barker
Liz Brown
Drew Carson
James Carson
Lynn Carson
Matt Crawley
Charles Crozier
Marty Green
J.L. Hallford
Barry Hayes
Mark Holman
Fred Howe
Lillian Howe
Becky Hoyt
Matt Hoyt
Gary Jackson
Sharon Jackson
Ralph Keen
Janet Matthews
R. L. McCalman
Hiram McFarland
Jodi McPhearson
Jim Panter
Brenda Partain
Tony Pivec
Robert St. Pierre
Mike Wininger

-special thanks to-

Stilwell Fire Department
Stilwell Police Department
Stilwell EMS
County Sheriff Department

Thanks for their valuable service in preparing city streets, controlling traffic and assisting us for parade line-up each year.

Rowan's IGA
Blue Bell Ice Cream
Schwan's

Thanks for their contributions of free strawberries and ice cream served to the public on festival day.

AD-CO Kiwanis
Chamber of Commerce
Democrat Journal

Thanks for their assistance in making festival day a success.

ReeImaged

Our official photographer of the Strawberry Queen Pageant





Brad Henry
Office of the Governor
State of Oklahoma

May, 2007



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Stilwell Strawberry Festival, one of Oklahoma's premier outdoor festivals and, this year, an official Oklahoma Centennial event.

This is also one of the tastiest festivals of the year. It is a chance for Oklahoma families to enjoy our beautiful spring weather, great entertainment and, of course, the most delicious strawberries to be found anywhere.

I want to thank the Stilwell Kiwanis Club for hosting this great event. Every year it's bigger and better than the year before. I hope you and your family enjoy this year's Stilwell Strawberry Festival

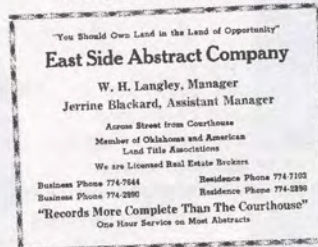
Sincerely,

Brad Henry
Governor

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Griffin's Ad from 1963



East Side Abstract ad 1966



Carlo Brannon and son Harold, both first prize winners in 1957



Serving strawberries 1968



John Auffet
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Miss Charbrace Rhea

Queen - Miss Charbrace Rhea, Charbrace is a Senior at Westville High School with a 4.0 GPA. She plays basketball and soccer and has been accepted to the World Scholar Athlete Games. Charbrace has been accepted to the Duke TIP Leadership Institute. A member of the Cherokee Nation, Charbrace has been a U.S. Representative for the Native American to Mexico. Miss Rhea performed a jazz dance to the tune "I Could've Danced All Night".

The Strawberry Festival Queen is always someone I wanted to be, because they help influence how we think and what we do as a county and within our community. The Strawberry Festival Queen has a very important responsibility of being a positive role-model for the community, and in this day and age, that is something our world needs more of. My grandmother, Mary Hogner-Parris, always respected and looked up to whoever the Strawberry Festival Queen was, and in a way I feel this opportunity has brought me closer to knowing her. I never met my grandmother, because she passed before I was born, but my mother has told me about her, and I feel somehow she has impacted my life and the way I view the world. She is who inspired me to want to become the Strawberry Festival Queen, and who has made me want to change the world. The message I want to give is, everyone has a chance to do something great, keep believing, and never give up!

Charbrace Rhea is the daughter of Barbara Skaggs & Wesley Rhea of Westville, sister of Eddie & Angela Skaggs, and the granddaughter of Mary Hogner-Parris & Aron Parris.



Good Luck To All Contestants! **Rosetta's Flower Cottage**

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2007 Strawberry Festival Royalty



Left to right- Kate Huggins, 2nd Runnerup
Queen - Charbrice Rhea
Haley Hunt 1st Runnerup

First Runnerup- Miss Haley Hunt. Haley is a Senior at Stilwell High School where she has performed with the Reflections Show Choir for 4 years. She is also a member of the Cherokee National Youth Choir and has had the opportunity to sing for President Bush. Upon graduation she plans to attend NSU and major in pre-physical therapy. Haley loves spending time with family and is a member of Rocky Mountain Bible Church. Haley performed a vocal solo entitled "A Broken Wing".

Second Runnerup- Miss Kate Huggins. Kate is the 17 year old daughter of Jim and Dede Huggins of Watts. Kate is a senior at Watts High School and salutatorian of her class with a 4.37 GPA. She participates in cheerleading, softball, basketball and is the 2007 Basketball Homecoming Queen. Other school activities include FFA, and Student Council President. Kate is a member of the ARVEST Jr. Leadership Board and the Peoples Bank Junior Board. She has participated in the Ozark Mission Project for two years. Her talent was a lyrical ballet to "Step-Up".



2007 Strawberry Queen Contestants-left to right: Haley Hunt, Charbrice Rhea, Kate Huggins, Neysa Ellis, Brittany Crittenden and Christine Morse.



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2007 Strawberry Prince and Princess Royalty



First Runner-Up:

Boy – Bryar Thurber – Parents – Brian & Stacy Thurber (Left)

Girl – Alexandria Delaine Rios “Lanie” – Parents Xavier & Regina Rios (Left)

2006 Prince & Princess:

Prince Cheyton James Sims – Parents - Benton & Karen Sims (Boy in Center)

Princess Blair Noblin – Parents – Derrick & Tracy Noblin (Girl in Center)

Second Runner-Up

Boy – Jesse Winkler – Parents – Jackie & Amy Winkler (Boy on Right)

Girl – Courtney Jo Holloway – Parents – Mark & Misty Holloway (Girl on Right)



Strawberry Prince & Princess

1982 Amie Guffey & James Ex

1983 Heather Stilwell & Shane Garrett

1984 Deana Louise Martinez & Jason Kelly

1985 Joshua Eubanks & Lee Ann Mahaney

1986 Chad Jackson & Dala Dyan Kelley

1987 Kelley O'Neal & Timothy Nettles

1988 Susan Hill & Patrick O'Neal

1989 Matthew Terrell & Melissa Dawn Henson

1990 Jamie Lou Owen & Christopher (Cody) Willis

1991 Robin Owen & Travis Jon Thomas

1992 Jennifer Kookan & Joshua Kuykendall

1993 Holly Crittenden & Nicholas Pfeiler

1994 Tandy Ritchie & Zachary Taylor

1995 Tamara Thirsty & Caleb Taylor

1999 Taylor Garrett & Landon Decker

2000 Hailey Cochran & Micah Hatchett

2001 Gabrielle Hope Bolin & Benjamin Scaper

2002 Breydon Hammer & Kaitlyn O'Neal

2003 Maegan Fletcher & Logan Brack McPhail

2004 Tabitha Fishinghawk & Seth Fritts

2005 Tayler Fishinghawk & Joshua Noisewater

2006 Kanean Catron & Sydneigh Ray-Ruth Forkiller



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Festival Day 2006



Prize berries



Stilwell's Community Choir.



Stilwell High School Band



Queen and her court enjoying strawberries and ice cream after serving the public.



Kiwanis Dignitaries and Festival Royalty.



Berry Run winners of the men's division.



Future Strawberry Queen



Lining up for Free Strawberries and Ice Cream—a Festival Tradition

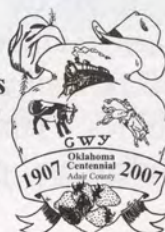


Festival crowd was abundant on a sunny day.



Start of the Berry Run.

Expenses
for 1948
Festival
\$309.75



Rex Earl Starr
Attorney at Law

Stilwell, Oklahoma 74960



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Job Coaching Services

For individuals who aspire to work in community employment. A trained job coach assists in obtaining and maintaining community employment.

Residential Services

A residential program for people with developmental disabilities. Services include home staffing, transportation, room and board as well as a vast array of recreation and leisure opportunities. This enables the individual to lead healthy, independent and productive lives to the fullest extent possible.

Youth Services

Offers individual, group and family counseling to youth and families who demonstrate a need for assistance in adjusting to current life circumstances.

Outpatient Counseling

To promote the health and well being of persons as they confront challenging issues in their lives.

Substance Abuse Counseling

Provides screening and assessment, counseling, and relapse prevention services to adolescents and adults who are experiencing issues caused by substance abuse or dependence.

Stilwell Kiwanis Club

61st Anniversary

by J.L. Hallford



Shipping barrels of strawberries to England, World War II

The Stilwell Kiwanis Club celebrates its 61st anniversary this year. The history of the club is so closely related to the now famous annual "Strawberry Festival", which they conceived and brought into existence as to seem almost synonymous terms. However, strawberry promotion was not the original basis for the club's foundation.

The credit for its creation must go to seven civic-minded leaders of Stilwell, all of whom are now deceased. These men were: Jack Chaffin, Otto Alderson, Norvell Henley, Dick Brodie, Max Holcomb, Paul Chambers and Joe H. Carson.

They were enjoying a coffee break at a local café and began talking of an international organization called KIWANIS, formed in Detroit several years previously. The name was an Indian name that means WE SERVE. This title appealed to the hearts and minds of these seven men. They each had a desire to serve their community and their fellow man.

They soon recruited twenty-eight other men of Stilwell with like vision and petitioned the international organization for a charter which they received in early 1946.

By making personal contributions and conducting fund raising activities they financed a summer baseball program for the youths of the surrounding area that summer.

Also a swimming program was started when one of the original joiners, M.N. (Doc) Beene, loaned the use of his private swimming pool for that purpose. The club had raised sufficient funds to pay for an instructor, lifeguards and chemicals for the pool.

By the second year it was apparent that the club was determined to be in existence for years and other organizations began to lend assistance. Many small programs that had struggled to exist under a single sponsoring group were now able to expand and grow.

It wasn't until 1948 that the idea of a festival to promote the delicious strawberries being produced in Adair County was conceived and attempted.

It has been a giant step from that single baseball program in 1946 to baseball and swimming program in 1947. The step became a "Leap" with the beginning of a Strawberry Festival in 1948. This festival featured a one block long parade and a ten-year old "Strawberry Queen". She was selected by the applause of the crowd assembled at the steps of the Court House on the festival day. No one could have dreamed it would grow into the tremendous production you see today.

In the midst of this wonderful celebration today, the Stilwell Kiwanis wishes to pause briefly and remember sixty one years ago and the club's humble beginnings. Most of all to pay tribute on this sixtieth anniversary to those farsighted men who wanted to SERVE their fellow man and did so in a far greater sense than even they would have ever believed possible.

In looking over the names of those thirty-five men on the original roll of the club, only one is known to still be alive today. He is Tom J. Carson. Tom Carson still lives in the community and although no longer an active member of the club, he still promotes Stilwell and its youth in every possible way.

We members of the club today only hope that on this sixty-first anniversary we can have the vision to carry on and SERVE our community as well as it has been served in the past.

Original Charter Members: Paul B. Chambers, Bruce Cox, Jack B. Fletcher, J.L. Greer, Norvell Henley, John W. Hill, Rev. A. Max Holcomb, J.C. Hopkins, Dr. C.W. Mehegan, Joe D. Mitchell, R.E. Mitchell, G.N. Mounger, Quintin Reed, W. Darrell Roberts, Ted Sebastian, Leroy C. Towery, Geo. W. Waters.

Otto C. Alderson, M.M. Beene, Tom E. Berry, Jesse W. Brock, W.N. Brodie, W.W. Burch, Tom J. Carson, L.L. Chaffin, O.B. Chambers, Charles M. Huyllbut, Buryl Kelley, Frank S. Kimmel, E.C. Leslie, Joe Littlejohn, Dr. J.D. McAnally, James B. McBride, J.O. McCalman and Cecil McGee.



Undated photo Stilwell town band.



1928 Hill's Barber Shop.

**Welcome to the
60th Annual
Strawberry Festival**



**Join with us as we celebrate
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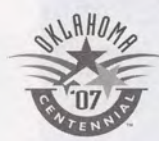
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Truck winner Joy Parker is given the keys by Ralph Keen Kiwanis President, along with Gary Johnson and Marty Green-Kiwanis members.

Photo at right-young cow-girl from the rodeo audience draws the lucky winner's name.



Stilwell Kiwanis Club 60th Annual Strawberry Festival May 12, 2007



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Place	Auction Winner	Price	Buyer
1st	James Family Farm	\$ 2,700.00	Bank of Commerce
2nd	David Guevara	\$ 1,900.00	Schwans
3rd	Harold Brannon	\$ 1,900.00	Armstrong Bank
4th	Bobby & Jane Doyle	\$ 1,850.00	Armstrong Bank
5th	Andrew Cain	\$ 1,700.00	Armstrong Bank



Ray Campbell judging prize berries



Jerry Means-Auctioneer for many decades.



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List of Growers/Winners

The festival records indicate that competition among the growers was always present but it was not until 1957 that the festival booklet lists the name of the winner in the berry judging. It was not until 1961 that a winner is given, the amount the prize berries brought and who purchase the prize-winning berries was found.

Year	Winner	Price by whom
1957	Carlos Brannon	No record
1958	Carlos Brannon	No record
1959	No record	
1960	No record	
1961	Earl Woodward	\$145.00 -??
1962	W.E. Luethje	\$150.00 -??
1963	Edward Wolf	No record
1964	Edward Wolf	\$150.00-Vanderherden Oil
1965	No record	
1966	Willie Means	\$300.00-Vanderherden Oil
1967	Bob Cain	\$305.00-Stilwell Canning
1968	No record	
1969	Jack Wright	\$350.00-no record
1970	Bruce Wheeler	\$350.00-Stilwell Foods
1971	Leonard Baird	\$375.00-Stilwell Foods
1972	Leonard Baird	\$400.00-Stilwell Foods
1973	Gene Brannon	\$400.00-Stilwell Foods
1974	Leonard Baird	\$400.00-Stilwell Foods
1975	Leonard Baird	\$400.00-Stilwell Foods
1976	Johnny Auffet	\$675.00-James Leake
1977	Gene & Harold Brannon	\$1,025.00-James Leake
1978	O.D. Hooper & Son	\$1,350.00-James Leake
1979	Robert Bennett	\$-???-James Leake
1980	O.D. Hooper & Son	\$3,100-Razor Clam
1981	Boyd Holiman	\$3,600.00-Razor Clam
1982	O.D. Hooper & Son	\$3,000.00-Razor Clam
1983	Bill Auffet	\$2,750.00-James Leake
1984	O.D. Hooper & Son	\$2,500.00-Big B. Deli
1985	Andrew Cain & Sons	\$2,900.00-bank of Commerce
1986	Andrew Cain & Sons	\$2,150.00-Big B. Deli
1987	Homer Hignite	\$2,000.00-Reasor's Foods
1988	O.D. Hooper	\$1,250.00-Stilwell Foods
1989	Baird's Stoney Pt. Farms	\$2,000.00-Bank of Commerce
1990	Darryl Lockard	\$2,100.00-Bank of Commerce
1991	Darryl Lockard	\$2,800.00-Bank of Commerce
1992	Darryl Lockard	\$3,000.00-Bank of Commerce
1993	Harold Brannon	\$-?- Only Crate Shown
1994	Leonard Baird	\$2,200.00-Bank of Commerce
1995	John Auffet	\$4,700.00-Vian State Bank
1996	Leonard Baird	\$4,500.00-Bank of Commerce
1997	Daryl Lockard	\$5,000.00-Bank of Commerce
1998	John Auffet	\$4,800.00-Armstrong Bank
1999	Dave Guevara	\$4,500.00-Stilwell Foods
2000	James Family Farm	\$5,000.00-Mrs. Smith's
2001	Bairds Stoney Point Farm	\$4,000.00-Armstrong Bank
2002	Adair County Orchard	\$4,200.00-Bank of Commerce
2003	Adair County Orchard	\$4,050.00-Rowan's IGA
2004	Adair County Orchard	\$3,000.00-Armstrong Bank
2005	Adair county Orchard	\$3,500.00-Royal Filter, Inc.
2006	James Family Farm	\$2,700.00-Bank of Commerce



Featured Entertainment **The Bonhams**

DAVID BONHAM - vocals and guitar
JIM P. BLAIR - vocals and banjo
CLIFFORD PARRETT - vocals and bass
VIRGIL BONHAM - vocals and mandolin
SHILAH BONHAM - vocals and fiddle
BRITNEY BONHAM - vocals

The Bonham Revue is carrying on a family tradition now for over 35 years in bluegrass entertainment. Having roots dating back into the 1970's as the Kiamichi Mountain Boys then into the 1980's as Signal Mountain and the Bonham Brothers. In 1992 came the Bonham Revue. Over the years, the Bonhams have been a part of over 20 records. In the Bluegrass Unlimited, Shawn Camp, songwriter of songs for Garth Brooks and Brooks and Dunn, referred to Virgil Bonham as one of his influences as a songwriter, as Virgil recruited him in the Band, Signal Mountain... Jim P. Blair is the president of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and picked in a former band with Garth Brooks, the Red Valley Barn Stormers... Clifford Parrett was a member of a National Dixie Land Jazz Band and performed on the David Letterman show. A first for The Bonham Revue came in 2004 when they traveled to Europe to perform at a major music festival in Schleusingen. This group has had the honor of sharing the stage with such bluegrass greats as Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, Ricky Skaggs, Vince Gill, the Whites, Emmylou Harris, Jerry Douglas and Byron Berline. They have performed at such shows as Grants Bluegrass Festival in Hugo, Oklahoma, River Fest in Farmington, New Mexico and the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and many more over the years. The Bonham Revue is one of the few bands listed on the Oklahoma Arts Council Touring Program. View our page at www.arts.state.ok.us our personal web site is www.thebonhamrevue.com.



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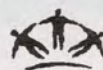
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Adair & Bigby Families



The Adair family home at Piney , 1910 left to right: seated Eula (Edmiston) Adair,, baby-John Ballentine Adair, Virgil Ballentine Adair, standing is Julius K Adair.

The Adair and Bigby Families are among the oldest families who reside in Adair County, Oklahoma. Both of these families were originally of Scottish-Irish descent and came to the United States from Europe in the 1700's and settled in areas that were in the heart of the Old Cherokee Nation. The Adairs settled in northern Georgia in a place that later became known as Adairsville. The Bigbys settled in eastern Tennessee in the Amohee District of the Old Cherokee Nation.

Both of these families intermarried into the Cherokees pre-removal to Indian Territory. Our ancestry can be traced back to a Cherokee woman, Nancy Ward who was known as the "Beloved Woman of the Cherokees."

These mixed blood Cherokees, the Adairs and Bigbys, were farmers, educators, political leaders, ministers, and business people. They either learned to speak or understood the Cherokee language.

The Bigby family members were forced to leave their homes when the Cherokees were removed over the "Trail of Tears" in 1839. The patriarchs of the Bigby family were Thomas Wilson Bigbey, Sr. and his wife, Margaret Catherine (Adair) Bigbey. With them on the journey to a new land in the west that became known as Indian Territory were many other relatives. Upon arrival in Indian Territory, the Bigbys settled in an area that later became known as Oak Grove which is east of present day Stilwell. Just as they had lived previously, the Bigbys cleared land, built homes, established businesses, opened schools, and organized churches in their new homeland in Indian Territory. Some family members became active in Cherokee Tribal Government. The Bigbys became prominent citizens in Indian Territory.

While some of the Adair family were very early settlers in Indian Territory pre-removal of the Cherokees, other Adairs remained in Georgia until 1868 when John Adair and his wife Annie Berry (Graham) Adair and their families left Georgia by wagons and carts pulled by horses and oxen as they traveled to Indian Territory. Most of the Adair men in this group had served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. They came west to join other family members who already resided in Indian Territory.

After a long and very difficult journey that lasted over several months, John and Annie Adair settled in the Chalk Bluff community, which is also east of present day Stilwell, Oklahoma. Other Adair family members also settled in the surrounding area and built or acquired homes and farms.

Virgil Ballentine Adair and his wife Talitha Jane (Bates) Adair purchased a large two-story log home from the Wright family in the Piney community in 1869. This Adair home is still owned by the present day Adair family. The Piney community was home to many of the Adairs. The Adairs in the Piney community established homes, schools, farms, country stores and even an early day post office. The Adairs also became a prominent family.

Six generations after their arrival to Indian Territory, the Adair and Bigby families still reside in Adair County, Oklahoma. Many of the families still reside on the original land settled by our ancestors who came to this area of Northeastern Oklahoma over 168 years ago. And yes, we are still educators, farmers, ranchers, business people, ministers, and political leaders in our area.

(Submitted by: Larry E Adair a direct descendent of both the Adair and Bigby families who settled this area)

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Stilwell High School Outstanding Male Alumni

John was born and raised in Stilwell and graduated from Stilwell High School. He attended University of Arkansas on a track scholarship and graduated from the U of A with a B.S. in Business Management. John lives, works, and raised his family on the same fruit farm he grew up on in Stilwell. He was manager and owner of the Adair County Orchard Co., Inc. for many years until he had to close due to changes in the economy and damage done to his building and cold storage from a wind storm in 06. The farm is now a cow and calf operation.

John married Shirley Blakemore in 1967. They have two sons Rodney Auffet DVM and Derrick Auffet. Rodney is a veterinary in Benkelman, Ne and Derrick is a field supervisor for Peterson Industry. They have three grandchildren Shelby, Logan and Nate.

In 2002 John went to work for the Conservation Commission where he served as a Field Representative for the 319 Program in the Illinois River Project. In 2004 John was elected to Representative District 86 in the State House of Representative. He was reelected in 06 for a second term. John is serving on the following committees: Appropriations & Budget, Economic Development and Financial Services, and Health.

John was a charter Member and President of the Oklahoma Fruit Growers' Association and is active in the Adair Cattleman's Association. He has been president of the Stilwell Strawberry Association many times and won first in the strawberry festival grower contest for five years in a row until he no longer grew berries. He is a deacon at the Rock Springs Baptist Church and a past president of both Stilwell and Tahlequah Camp of The Gideon's International.



John Auffet



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Stilwell High School Outstanding Female Alumni

Alicia Ketcher, daughter of Clarence and Pat Woodward (2001 Outstanding Alumna), is a 1986 graduate of Stilwell High School. She completed kindergarten through twelfth grade at Stilwell Public Schools. She then attended Oklahoma State University and received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Northeastern State University.

While in college, Alicia served as the Northeast State FFA Vice-President and President of Kappa Delta Pi. Alicia began teaching at Maryetta. She then taught for eight years at Stilwell Elementary upon completion of her Master Degree, she began working as the administrator of a federally funded program, GEAR UP. She then accepted the position of principal at Stilwell High School and remains in that position at this time. While at the high school, she has developed and implemented a Credit Recovery program for students who need to make up credits for graduation. She has also implemented a mentoring program for students in need of such services.

She is an active member of Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration and Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals. She is also a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary organization for women educators, holding offices of secretary and president on the local level.

Alicia has received Stilwell Elementary and Masonic Lodge Teacher of the Year. She has also been honored as the Adair County 4-H Volunteer of the Year.

FCCLA, TSA and FFA, student organizations, have awarded her honorary membership for her dedication to the students and their activities. She continues to serve as a 4-H volunteer and is a member of the FFA Advisory Council.

Alicia is a member of the Stilwell Church of Christ, where she has been a Bible class teacher for years.

Outside of school, Alicia has served as the Chairman of the Adair County Relay For Life. She also was named by the Stilwell Chamber of Commerce as Stilwell Citizen of the Year in 2003.

Alicia married Mike L. Ketcher in 1987. Mike is the broker of United Country Farm and Home Realty. They have two children, Colt Michael and Dakota Ann.

Alicia has dedicated her life to God, her family, community and students. She lives by the quote, "No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."



Alicia (Woodward) Ketcher



Paula "Sam" McCarter Adair County Court Clerk

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ASSOCIATE
DISTRICT JUDGE

OL JL&C Dh



The Origin of Strawberries

When first man was created, he lived with the mate Creator gave him. When they began to quarrel, first woman left her husband. The man followed, sad and crying, but first woman kept going and never looked behind. Unetlanv, the Creator, took pity on first man and asked him if he was still angry with his wife. He said he wasn't, so Unetlanv asked him if he would like to have her back. He answered, "yes!"

Unetlanv put a patch of the finest ripe huckleberries in the path of first woman, but she passed right on by. A little further, he put a big clump of blackberries, but she didn't notice these, either. One by one, Unetlanv put fresh fruits in her path, but these she also refused to see. Suddenly, she saw a patch of large, ripe strawberries in front of her. She had never seen these before. She bent down to gather a few to eat, and as she picked them up, she thought, "My husband would love to eat these!" She gathered a bunch of the finest berries and started back along the path to give them to him. He met her with joy, and together they went home.

Today, strawberries are often kept in traditional homes. They remind us not to argue, and are a symbol of good luck.

Welcome to the 60th Stilwell Strawberry Festival!

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Principal Chief



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Joe Grayson, Jr.
Deputy Principal Chief



ADCO Kiwanis Officers for 2006-2007 from left to right are T. J. Mankiller, Treasurer; DeLois Buckner, Vice President; Lynda Hagar, Secretary; and Penny Dotson, President. The Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 a.m. at Americinn. Its two main projects are the arts and crafts booths at the Strawberry Festival and the Bell Pow Wow, the first weekend in August

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2006



1998



1978



1979



1980



1981



1982

60th Annual Strawberry Festival

Wednesday-Saturday May 9-12

WED. The Miller Spectacular Carnival is set-up on Highway 100 west and Section Line Road

THUR. Channel 8 Morning Show 5:30-9:30 a.m. live broadcast and Interviews at historic bandstand.

Center Stage Performing Arts Studio competition team, the Starzz Performance Team, will be performing on the bandstand at 5:45 p.m.

Adair County street dance May 10th from 7-10 p.m.

Dance directly north of court house with dj and concessions.

FRI. The Stilwell Roundup Club sponsors the Strawberry Festival Rodeo each night at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Rodeo Grounds are located one mile north of Stilwell on Highway 59 north.

Saturday May 12, 2007

7:00 a.m. - Second Street is closed from the north end to Highway 100 west on the south. Division Street is closed from First Street to Fourth Street. No cross traffic is allowed.

7:30 a.m. 5-K Run for the Berries Check in/start line at First Christian Church on Second Street.

8:00 a.m. - 3 ON 3 Basketball Tournament on Division & 3rd Street beside the United Methodist Church. \$50.00 per team. **Also Horseshoe throwing contest** at 3rd and Olive Street.

8:00-10:00 a.m. Live Entertainment Stilwell Middle and Senior High School Select Choirs, and at **9 a.m.** Stilwell Community Choir - Co-Directors Mary Catherine Worsham and Damon Hall.

8:00-3:00 Stilwell Public Library Friends Society Book Sale 108 W, Division, Books-Magazines & Videos

9:00 a.m. Parade Check-in starts in front of Ed's Auto Parts. 1020 North Second Street.

10:00 a.m. Strawberry Festival Parade on Second Street.

NOTE: City ordinance, no throwing of objects from vehicles entered in the parade.



1964



1968



1965



1969



1966



1970



1967



1971



2001



2002



2003



2004



2005



1976



1977



1983



1986



1998



1987



1984



1985



1962



1963

Strawberry Festival Program Of Events

*Following the parade
the queen coronation ceremonies
will be held at the bandstand.*

Noon-1:45 p.m. Live Entertainment Bonham Revue on the Bandstand

Noon-2:00 p.m. Stilwell Post Office Special 60th Annual Strawberry Festival Pictorial Cancellation in front of the Post Office.

Noon-4:00 p.m. Adair County Historical and Geneological Association will host an Antique Quilt Exhibit at The Depot..

2:00 p.m. Awards and Auctioning of the Champion Berry Growers.

3:00 p.m. Free Strawberries and Ice Cream served Courtesy of Stilwell Kiwanis, Schwan's, Rowan's IGA, and Blue Bell Ice Cream.

3:00-4:00 p.m. Live Entertainment Shell Family Gospel Singers on the Bandstand.

4:00-5 p.m. Live Entertainment Tick Fever Band on the Bandstand.

5:00-6 p.m. Live Entertainment Paul's Mission on the Bandstand

All Day-Arts and Crafts booths open on Division Street and surrounding areas. Food booths and various other venders all around town. Pow Wow at Maryetta School grounds-Carnival on highway 100 west of Stilwell high school & section line road.

Evening-All School Reunion, Stilwell High School, Rodeo north of City, Pow Wow at Maryetta School grounds Carnival.

Drawing for winner of ATV at the Rodeo



1972



1994



1973



1995



1974



1996



1975



1999



1988



1989



1990



1991



2000



1997



1992



1993



1927 Store Front



Present-day Store Front

Fletcher's Hardware

The Fletcher Family has been in this area since 1855 when Robert Harrison Fletcher was recorded in the Flint District of the CNIT (Cherokee Nation Indian Territory). This area is the current area of Adair County. He married Charlotte Elizabeth Bigby in 1858 and they lived in the Goingsnake District of the CNIT. They had 9 children. The oldest child was Benjamin Gilreath Fletcher. He and his wife, Mary Harriet Guthrie, had many business ventures during their marriage. The one that has lasted for 100+ years is the Fletcher Hardware Store of Stilwell. It began in Flint District in the late 1800's and moved it to Stilwell in 1906.

Ben and Mary Harriet's son, Calvin Lorenzo (Wren) Fletcher, one of 8 children, operated the hardware in conjunction with his father until Ben died in 1920. Wren then operated it by himself until his oldest son Jack Blake Fletcher, Sr. returned from Naval Duty in World War II. Wren stayed active in the hardware with his son Jack, until a short time prior to his death in 1974. Jack ran the hardware until both his and his wife Margaret Ann (Mitchell) Fletcher's, untimely death in a car accident in September 1984. The Fletcher Hardware Store has continued to operate with the Fletcher's still involved for 100 years in the same building. In 1985, Bill and Linda Roedenbeck bought interest in the hardware and now manage it along with the Fletcher's.

The Fletcher Family has many descendants still living in Adair County and the nearby area.

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Strawberry Festival / 5K Run/Walk



Saturday, May 12, 7:30 AM
Stilwell, Oklahoma

Race Day registration and packet pick-up starts at
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For more info. contact:

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*Alice Rankin-Ad Manager, Keith W. Neale - Editor, Gary Jackson - General Manager,
Martha Neugin - Office, Brittany Tatum - Typist,
Ramona Brown - Contributing Editor, Kakiowa Beaver - Composing*

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Re-Elect Chief Chad Smith & Deputy Chief Joe Grayson



Elect
Rita Bunch
Tribal Council
Seat 1 - DIST.2 ADAIR



Re-Elect
Jackie Bob Martin
Tribal Council
Seat 2 -DIST.2 ADAIR

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Thanks for your continued support_____

Principal Chief Chad Smith, Deputy Chief Joe Grayson, and Tribal Councilman Jackie Bob Martin stood up for and supported the sovereign right of the Cherokee people to vote on March 3. The Cherokee people exercised the tribe's sovereign right to determine who could be a citizen of our Indian tribe. This is a right affirmed in 23 treaties with Great Britain and the U.S. and paid dearly with 4,000 lives on the Trail of Tears.

Principal Chief Chad Smith and Deputy Chief Joe Grayson ask for your vote on June 23 for District 2 Tribal Council Candidates Jackie Bob Martin and Rita Bunch. They are dedicated, proven Cherokee community leaders and independent thinkers with an outstanding diversity of skills and experience.

No one has worked any harder then Councilman Jackie Bob Martin on behalf of Cherokee people. He takes the time required to study and research all issues and does his homework before making any important decisions. He is a true statesman who respects and honors his role as a public servant and those who elected him to serve.

He unceremoniously gets things done behind the scene. Everywhere you go in Adair County you will see his accomplishments for Cherokee people such as; the high school scholarship programs and school projects in Stilwell and Rocky Mountain communities, the Rock Fence water line, self-help housing projects , a new food store in the Cherry Tree Industrial Park, funding for rural fire departments, purchase of the Wal-Mart facility in Stilwell for Cherokee Nation Industries, the football field and track facilities in the Dahlenega and Rocky Mountain schools, the Chewy, Fairfield, Bell and Greasy community buildings, sponsored fishing and hunting codes on our tribal lands, scholarships, roads, senior citizen housing in Stilwell, and his dedication to consistently helping individual Cherokee citizens are just a few of many things that Tribal Councilman Jackie Bob Martin has accomplished.

Tribal Council candidate Rita Bunch also exemplifies the concept of a selfless public servant. She has dedicated 28 years of her life as educator and administrator increasing our people's quality of life. She knows the important issues to Cherokee people and has the proven experience and skills to make a positive difference. She will be an effective Tribal Council member for the Cherokee citizens in the Adair District.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION▪THE RIGHT LEADERS▪THE RIGHT TIME

mayor's welcome...

James Collins
City of Stilwell
Mayor

It is my pleasure as mayor, to extend a warm and happy invitation to each of you to attend the 60th Annual Stilwell Strawberry Festival. The Stilwell Kiwanis Club does a great job and a lot of work as sponsors of the festival.

Many activities are scheduled during the day and a rodeo that night. Hope your visit here will be enjoyable, please visit us often during the coming year.



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Strawberry
Festival
Pow Wow**
Sat., May 12th
Maryetta school
football field

-FREE Admission-



Schedule of Events

2 p.m. Gourd Dance
5 p.m. Supper Break
6 p.m. Gourd Dance
7 p.m. Grand Entry
8 p.m. New Princess will be crowned

For More Information:

Nancy Oyebe: Cell 918.696.1667
Home 918.696.5484 - Work 696.8815

Jason Ross: Cell 918.316.1871
Home 918.453.2885



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Annual
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Fri. & Sat.
8 p.m.**



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Stilwell Round-Up Club officers riding in the parade.

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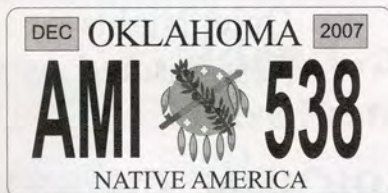
Stilwell Depot 1997



Stilwell Depot early 1900's

The old Kansas City Southern Railroad Station is believed to be built around 1912. It replaced a large frame building near that site on Front Street which had burned. The Kansas City Southern Railroad discontinued its passenger service in the early 70's and soon after closed the depot. The depot was given to the city of Stilwell and has been the home of various Stilwell organizations.

Photos courtesy of Adair county Historical & Geneological Association.

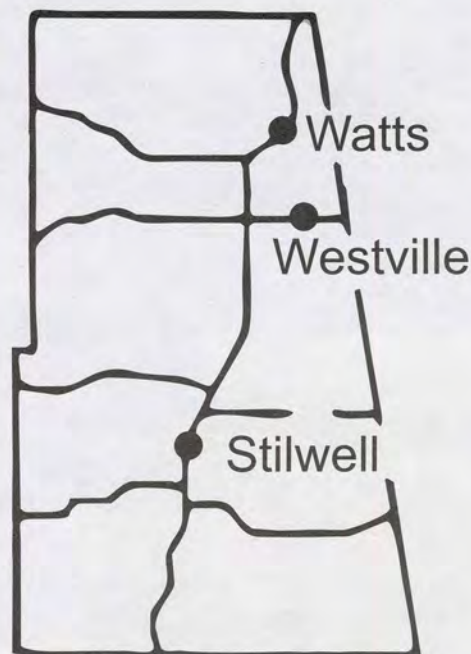


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3 on 3 Basketball game at 8 a.m. on Division & Third Street.
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Remembering The People That Went Before Us



Rachel next to the strawberry patch.



Joe collecting strawberries from pickers.

**Joe & Rachel
Lawrence**

Jim Proctor

Joe settled in Adair County after meeting a beautiful Cherokee lady named Rachel Proctor at the Stilwell Cafe. They married and began a jewelry store downtown in the early 1960's, but later bought a farm and became full time ranchers. Joe had several acres of strawberries during the 1970's along with his father-in-law Jim Proctor on top of Killer Mountain in southern Adair County.

Jim Proctor, a full blood Cherokee, lived and raised his 13 children in the Greasy community of Adair County as a full time farmer on Indian allotment land.

Jim was a direct descendent of Nancy Ward the "Beloved Woman of the Cherokees." Jim's ancestry of grandparents were Joseph "Chewey" Proctor, Nancy Bearpaw, Tahnoowee, Ellis Sanders Harlan, Nancy Barnett, Takahagi, and Charlotte Downing all making the journey from Georgia on the "Trail of Tears" in the 1830's. They all began a new life in Indian Territory, which is known today as Oklahoma.

Rachel, the eldest daughter of Jim Proctor, was also a full blood Cherokee born and raised in Adair County. Both sets of her grandparents (Paternal - Joe Proctor and Lucy Fogg; Maternal - Spencer Gonzallis and Sarah Feathers) were registered on the original Dawes Enrollment Act of the early 1900's. Rachel finished her Bachelor's degree in sociology after marrying Joe, making her the first in her family's history to achieve a college degree. She was one of the first women to ever be appointed to the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council in the late 1970's. She worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Cherokee Nation for decades and left behind a legacy of helping her people until her death in 1989.

Joe and Rachel raised two children, Larry Lawrence and Brenda Lawrence Partain (1978 Strawberry Festival Rodeo Sweetheart & 1983 Strawberry Festival Queen), that still reside in Stilwell today along with their children: Adriana, Zachary, and William Carson; Mandy, Melody, Magen, Lauren and Sydney Lawrence.

The Lawrence Family have been attending or have been involved every year in a Strawberry Festival since Joe happened to stop and have a cup of coffee while passing through Stilwell and fell in love with a beautiful Indian lady.



Joe, Rachel,
Brenda & Larry Lawrence



Jim Proctor with great grandchildren



OL and Mary's wedding day.

Crozier's

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Oliver "Ol" Charles Crozier and Mary Eliza Blakemore made a home in the Oak Grove Community after their marriage on January 13, 1915, in Dutch Mills, AR.

Oliver Charles, born September 26, 1888, was the son of Charles Oliver Crozier and Mary Elizabeth Chandler and the Grandson of Charles Barton Crozier and Catherine Oliver Crozier. Union Soldiers near Cane Hill, AR, hanged Charles Barton Crozier for being a Rebel sympathizer on November 13, 1864, at the age of 65 years and 6 months.

Mary Eliza, born October 21, 1890, was the daughter of Will W. Blakemore and Mary L. Johnston in Mangum, TX, now Mangum, OK in Greer County. She lived 102 years and 5 months. "Ol" and Mary were married almost 47 years when he died on September 21, 1961.

Five children were born to "Ol" and Mary. Every one of them made their home and raised their families in Adair County, with the exception of Billie Marie who died at 2 years of age.

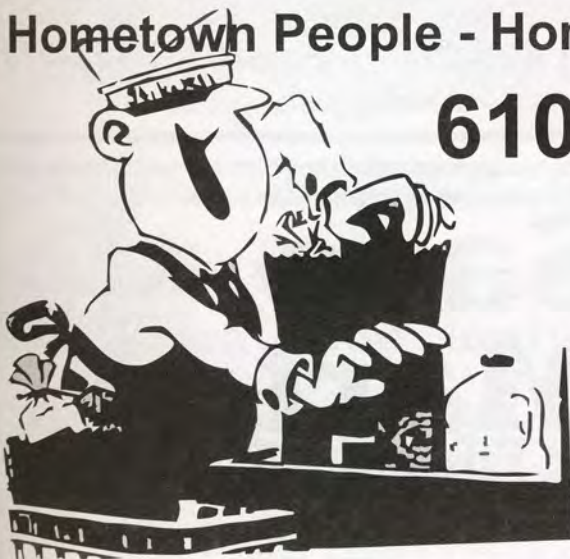
Margurite Oleta married James Garrison and they owned a dairy farm in the Horn Community west of Stilwell. Children: Joe James, Billie Jack, and Jerry Lynn. Mary Lou Irene married Ferel O. Chandler, a farmer/rancher and lived in the Whitmire Community north of Stilwell. Children: Janice Marie Vaughan, Carolyn Sue Morrison, Sammy Ferel, and Sandra Faye Barnes. Betty Jo married Jack Starr and owned a ranch south of Stilwell in the Zion Community. Children: Jacqueline Ruth Staiger and Michael Joe. Charles Blakemore married Pauline Chambers and owns a cattle farm in Pilgrim Rest Community west of Stilwell and taught elementary school at Horn, one of the last two-room schools in Adair County. Children: Charles Wayne, Robert Lewis, and Paula Jean McGarrah.

"Ol" and Mary were farmers raising wheat, oats, corn, beans, tomatoes, and apples. The only jobs "Ol" worked off the farm were when he plowed with a team to dig the basement of the U.S. Post Office in Stilwell, and he drove a team of two big horses and one mule to grade Oklahoma Highway 51 when it crossed Caney Creek and ended at Norman Isaacs Station. Later, he was also the first to grade the "new" 51 Highway when it was extended from Caney Creek to its present location that intersects U.S. 59, north of Stilwell.

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They immediately began to set up shop and with strong determination they cleared their lands and began producing various farm products to insure themselves a living. This they did without financial help from any source whatsoever.

Having progressed successfully, insofar as getting settled was concerned, they began to build schools, and by the end of 1843 they had established 18 public schools. From this modest beginning the number had increased to 120 before their tribal government was discontinued.

Many of these schools were located in what is now Adair County, Oklahoma, and which was then Flint District, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory.

Besides the public schools, the first Mission Schools that were established in what is now Oklahoma was in that portion now known as Adair County. A Presbyterian Mission which was located near Lyons, about eight miles south of Stilwell, and the Baptist Mission, about four miles north of Westville, Oklahoma on highway 59.

Adair County is the most historical section of this area. Here was located the first printing press ever to be established in what is now Oklahoma; the first Masonic Lodge ever chartered in Oklahoma; the first general conference of the Methodist church ever held in Oklahoma and the first and only Baptist Indian Association. The "The End of the Trail of Tears" over which was transported the Cherokees, is marked as being east of Westville in Adair county.

Stilwell, the county seat of Adair county, nestled among the foothills of the great Ozarks with its hundreds of sparkling springs, is justly recognized as the "Strawberry Capital of the World."

Tourists and travelers proclaim Adair county to be the most beautiful spot in Oklahoma. Here the sweet aroma of dogwood and redbud permeates the atmosphere.



Andrew Cain-strawberry grower.
Photos of Lockard's Farm. Man on top left and right
bottom is Earnest Hendrix, row boss-1987 photo.



Adair County Assessor

Rhonda Pritchett
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First Christian Church

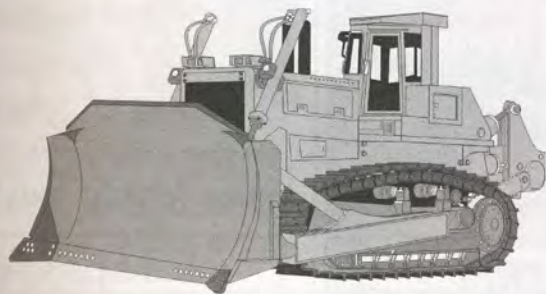
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Over a century ago...

Joe Carson lived and operated a livery stable in Stilwell. He had moved west from Georgia with his wife Eliza in 1885. They resettled in Evansville Arkansas and then moved to Stilwell, located in the Indian Territory, Flint District of the Cherokee Nation, after the turn of the century. Joe and Eliza had a son, Horace, who lived in Stilwell with his wife Viola until their deaths in 1953. Most of their children chose to live and work in Stilwell with one grandson still living and working in Stilwell. Other grandchildren are retired after illustrious careers in banking, agriculture, teaching and US Government service. The only grandson of Horace and Viola not retired is Tom J. Carson. Tom has the only centennial ranch in Adair County; the ownership is traced through his mother, an original enrollee in the Cherokee Nation. Horace and Viola have several great grand children that chose to live and work in Stilwell. In addition to working in banking, teaching, agriculture and U.S. government service (as a U.S. Representative) this generation added law and finance. The great-great grandchildren generation already has teachers teaching in local schools and many attending college.

The Kiwanis Club has been instrumental in promoting Stilwell. Tom J. Carson is a charter member of the Club formed in 1946. There are three Carson members currently serving in the Club as other Carson family members have served in the past. Congratulations to all the past and present Kiwanis members for making the annual Strawberry Festival such a rousing success!

The Carson family salutes other Centennial Families, Stilwell and Adair County. We are looking forward to the next century!



First Strawberry Festival Parade - 1948.



2006 Festival Parade.



2006 Festival Parade.

59th Annual Stilwell Strawberry Festival Parade Float Judging Results

Religious Class:

- First Place - Sanders Flats Baptist Church
- Second Place - Old Green Baptist Church
- Third Place - Victory Southern Baptist Church

Civic Class:

- First Place - Memorial Hospital
- Second Place - Girl Scout Troop #93
- Third Place - Talking Leaves Job Corp

Open Class:

- First Place - Arvest Bank
- Second Place - Schwan's Bakery
- Third Place - Bank of Commerce



1949 Festival parade: Paul Rutherford with the huge bowl of strawberries.



2006 Festival Parade.



2006 Festival Parade.



2006 Festival Parade.



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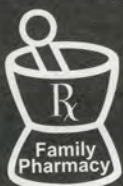
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Reed's Hardware

by Quentin M. and Gene Reed

Below: Ca. 1916: J.R. Reed (on left) and Lowery M. Reed (on right), grandfather and father of Quentin M. and Welch E. (Gene) Reed.



In the early 1900s, J.R. Reed started a business located on the property where the Bank of Commerce is now located, selling, according to the sign on the windows, "Dry Goods, Groceries, and Ladies' and Gents Shoes". Others in the business with him were his son, Lowery M. Reed and his wife, Sarah, and B.F. (Fay) Reed and his wife, Lillus.

Mr. J.R. Reed was a successful and prosperous businessman and pioneer in the early days of Stilwell. He was president of the First National Bank of Stilwell, chartered in 1911.

About 1932 Lowery M. Reed, C.J. Carson and R.L. Reese bought the Rogers Hardware & Furniture Company from W.M. Rogers. It was located across the street from the J.R. Reed business. They renamed the store Reed-Carson Hardware & Furniture Company and sold groceries, furniture, and John Deere farm equipment. The John Deere farm equipment was shipped from St. Louis, and some were shipped in "pool cars" with Lewis Brothers in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

After Lowery's death in 1934 until 1946 Sarah Reed, C.J. Carson, and B.F. Reed were

partners in the business. Slogans for the hardware store were "Buy your hardware from a Hardware Store -- the House of Quality Merchandise for Farm & Home" and "Quality remains long after the price is forgotten". Working in the business with Sarah Reed were B.F. and Lillus Reed, parents of Emma Dean Panter.

After returning from service in 1946 Quentin M. and Welch E. (Gene) Reed bought C.J. Carson's part of the business. The name was changed to Reed's Hardware & Furniture Company with Sarah Reed Bragg and her two sons as partners. After Sarah's death, Quentin Reed, Jr. became a partner.

Today Reed's Hardware is a franchised Servistar Dealer, selling plumbing, electrical supplies, hardware, paint, and floor covering.

None of the success that Reed's Hardware has enjoyed in the past would have been possible without the help and support of B.F. Reed, Ross Reed, and Leonard Poor.

The following have also worked for Reed's Hardware at different times: Carl Reed (B.F.'s brother), Naomi (Sis) Reed, Doris Jo Reed, Austin Johnson, Dollie Sharp, Pauline Ray, and Jack Eubanks.

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Using strawberries

Favorite recipes

Here are a few favorite strawberry recipes submitted by members of the Adair County Extension Homemakers organization:

STRAWBERRY SALAD (Mrs Gillis Deweese)

- 1 box strawberry-banana Jello
- 1 cup boiling water
- Mix and cool.
- Add:
- 1 small can drained crushed pineapple
- 1 small pkg. frozen strawberries (juice and berries)
- 1 mashed banana (ripe)
- Take 1/2 of mixture and put in dish; let jell. Spread on carton of sour cream. Put remaining Jello mixture on top of cream. Let set.

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HISTORY OF THE STILWELL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Early in the year of 1948 the Kiwanis Club of Stilwell, in an effort to stimulate interest in what was considered one of the major economic resources of Adair county, set up an organization for the promotion of an Annual Strawberry Festival.

With the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce, Strawberry Growers association, Stilwell school system, the Stilwell Canning Company, and practically every business organization in Stilwell, the First Annual Strawberry Festival was held on May 10, 1948.

With the assistance of radio stations and newspapers of the area, news of the celebration spread, and the First Annual Strawberry Festival saw the serving of 8,000 free portions of strawberries and ice cream. Neighboring high school and college bands contributed to the program.

The second Annual Strawberry Festival was an expansion of the first, and that year the Oklahoma Legislature designated by resolution passed, approved, signed by the governor and sent to the Congress of the United States, Stilwell and Adair County as the Strawberry Capital of the World.

At the Second Annual Strawberry Festival 12,000 free servings of ice cream and strawberries were given away.

Production acreage in Adair County increased from 300 acres in 1948 to more than 600 acres.

The 1950 Third Annual Strawberry Festival saw greater expansion of the program, acreage increased to more than 1,800 acres of production; the Stilwell Canning Company began planning construction of a \$500,000 cold storage and increased facilities for processing of strawberries, and many more added attractions.

The 1951 Fourth Annual Strawberry Festival was held on May 26, and was the largest celebration to date, and 18,300 servings of ice cream topped with good delicious Adair County Strawberries were given to those present. The acreage was even larger than before. The Stilwell Canning Company's new freezing and cold storage plant was in operation.

In 1952 the Fifth Annual Strawberry Festival was the most successful to date, each year the festival growing to be a larger affair.

The most beautiful and luscious berries in years were produced during 1953, and although there was a short crop, the Sixth Festival parade was better than ever before, and again there were 20,000 free servings of strawberries and ice cream.

Last year, 1954, drouth hit the Stilwell area, but there were plenty of strawberries and 20,000 servings of ice cream topped with strawberries were given out free.

Each year the festival has grown to larger proportions than the year before. Be here on May 21, 1955 for the largest festival yet!

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il of Tears mural by local artist Donald Vann.

HOW TO PICK 'EM

County's vine-ripened berries are handpicked, then to markets either the day or the very next morn-

berries do not ripen after picked, so consumers be selective and choose only red-ripe berries that are and well-rounded with a shine and fresh-looking caps.

to hold berries at their best, e them from their con- s and arrange them in a layer on a cookie sheet or shallow container and re- late.

Strawberries kept refrigerat- will stay fresh and bright for al days.

Don't wash strawberries or ove caps until just before us- Washing removes the natural ective outer layer and the caps ect the strawberries' texture, or and nutrients.



Stilwell's own Shorty Mann, clown for the annual Festival Rodeo.



First Strawberry Festival Queen contestants.



Pictured (left to right) Patsy Lynn Eads, Reba Jean Jount, Wanda Lee Brown, Betty Ford, Peggy Sue DeLozer, Eva Dean Gaches, and Patsy Reed. The contest was held on the Adair County Courthouse steps.



1949 Strawberry Queen Patsy Prock and her court

CHURCHES

The churches of Stilwell have kept in stride with the growth of Stilwell as a whole. Before 1900 there were only two churches in Stilwell, the Methodist and the Baptist. Since that time seven others have been established, and all remain at this time except the Presbyterian Church.

Currently the First Baptist Church is the largest. Having started in 1897 with but 28 charter members, it now has a membership of 525. In 1939 they completed their new church building. At the present time the average Sunday School attendance is 180. Last year they donated \$10,000 to church work, \$2,000 of which was sent to the foreign fields for missionary work. Henry Wall has served as minister for six years.

The Methodist church is the oldest church in Stilwell, having been established several years before 1900. They have just completed extensive repairs and redecoration to their building. The average church attendance is 85-90. Mr. Gaskin, their minister, reports that interest is high in the work of the church at this time.

The Christian church began in 1905 with twenty charter members and now has a membership of 300 and the average church attendance is 165. Last year \$13,000 was the amount donated and extensive remodeling and repair work was done on the church building. No mention of the Christian Church would be complete without mention of the late E. R. Hall who served as minister of the Church for twenty years and exerted a great influence in Stilwell for Christ and His Church. Jack Steele is the present minister.

The Church of Christ was organized seven years ago with a membership of thirty-five. The church attendance at the present time is one hundred. They have just finished the addition of several classrooms. Bro. H. Turney is their minister.

The Holiness Church was established by Ben Hill and the exact date could not be obtained. Their minister at the present time is Bill Padgett. The average attendance at this time is thirty. Their minister is Mr. Geithly of Muldrow.

The Central Baptist Church was founded some twenty years ago. Bro. Bill Isaacs is their minister and they have an average attendance of 60 to 65. Mr. Isaacs preaches on the first Sunday of each month and three of their deacons preach the remainder of the Lord's days of each month.

In the latter part of 1951, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Morris of Stilwell began work in the establishment of a Pentecostal Holiness Church. They report that the average attendance is 55 to 60.

We might sum it up by making this observation, that in both morning and evening services, well over one-third of the people in Stilwell attend Church and Sunday School.



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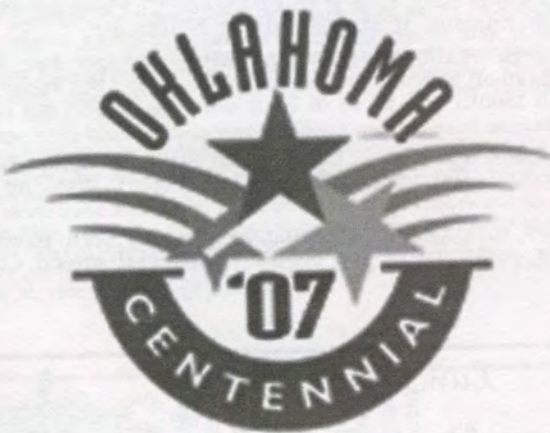
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From 1967 Festival Booklet

Arthur E. Stilwell

Arthur E. Stilwell, for whom the City of Stilwell was named, conceived the Kansas City Southern Lines when he saw the advantages of a short railroad line between Kansas City, Mo., and the Gulf of Mexico. He was born in Rochester, N.Y., in 1859 and died Sept. 26, 1928 at his home in New York City. He was in the insurance business in Kansas City when he became interested in railroading. His grandfather, Hamblin Stilwell, was one of the founders of the New York Central Railroad.



Festival Crowd Sets record-1971

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.

From 1972 Festival Booklet

East side of
McCaleb's Produce
about 1920



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leatherwood)
Carson 1949
Miss Patsy Prock
Reed 1950
Miss Carline Emerson
Pemberton 1951
Miss Patsy Lee
Henley 1952
Miss Norma Lee Latta
Gray 1953
Miss Delores Steddum
h Rains 1954
Miss Barbara Caviness
McGinnis 1955

Queen - Miss Lydia Lewis
29. Charles O. McFarland 1974
Queen - Miss Nina Reagon
30. Jack Smay 1975
Queen - Miss Karen Baublitz
31. E.R. Kirkbride 1976
Queen - Miss Dalana Hudgins
32. Larry Strauss 1977
Queen - Miss Tammy Smothers
33. Jim Young 1978
Queen - Miss Betsy Cox
34. Larry Eubanks 1979
Queen - Miss Donna Terrell
35. John Freeman 1980

Queen - Miss Kristy Marl
54. Chad Catron 1999
Queen - Miss Sarae Jane
55. Nason Morton 2000
Queen - Miss Crystal Doe
56. Gary Johnson 2001
Queen - Miss Susan Hill
57. Michael L. Taffer
Queen - Miss Breanna W
58. Robert St. Pierre
Queen - Miss Laura Ketch
59. Robert St. Pierre
Queen - Miss Leslie Ketch
60. Ralph Keen, Jr. 20

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