

Rice County Centennial 1871 - 1971 Land of Quivira Souvenir Book

Section 2, Pages 31 - 50

This souvenir booklet, published by the Rice County Centennial Committee, covers 100 years of history in the community. The book is divided into sections and covers topics from Coronado's expedition, the Santa Fe Trail, the formation of the county, selecting a county seat, agriculture, oil, and salt. There are brief histories of Lyons and Alden. Sections are also devoted to historical images of pioneers, businesses, and churches. At the back of the publication is a list of sponsors and patrons who made contributions. Arthur C. Hodgson was chair of the centennial committee.

Creator: Rice County Centennial Book Committee

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
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Rice County Centennial 1871 - 1971 Land of Quivira Souvenir Book



Francis Marion and Geneva Enoch Smith



Frank E. Hoyt



Florence Leonard Hoyt



Maude Plank Hoyt



The object of his affections -
Leora B. Smith



A-courting he did go -
Bert Hoyt and his faithful horse, Pat.



Bert and Leora Hoyt on their golden wedding anniversary, April 5, 1961.



THE BERT HOYT FAMILY - L. to R. standing: Lois Ann Hoyt, Mrs. Bert Hoyt, Bert Hoyt, Roberta Monroe, Mrs. Margaret Roberta Muth, Mrs. Virginia Lee Monroe, Mrs. Frank S. Hoyt, Frank S. Hoyt, Max Monroe, Paul Muth, Charles Monroe; kneeling: Colin Hoyt, Yvonne Monroe, Alan Muth, Mike Muth, Ed Monroe, Leslie Monroe, Grant Muth, Bill Monroe.

This page is presented as a tribute to Bert and Leora Hoyt, whose parents and grandparents were early settlers in Rice county.

Bert's father, Frank Elijah Hoyt, and his parents, A. W. and Amelia Hoyt, came from Warsaw, N. Y. in 1878 and took a homestead near Lyons. F. E. Hoyt was a printer by trade, was joint owner and manager of the "Lyons Republican," one of the first newspapers in Rice County, and wrote a column signed "A. Story." He married Florence Leonard who had come here from Loudonville, Ohio about 1880 and, following her death, was married to Maude A. Plank who came to Rice County from Indiana in 1884.

Leora's father, Francis Marion Smith, and his parents, Job and Eve Smith, came from Iowa in 1873 and homesteaded 2 miles north, 3 1/2 miles west of Lyons. He married Geneva Bell Enoch, the teacher at nearby Pleasant Grove School, in 1877. Her parents moved here from Ellsworth County in 1886.

Both F. M. Smith and A. W. Hoyt were Civil War Veterans and members of the G. A. R.

The original Smith homestead has remained in the family. It was the home of the Bert Hoyt family and is now farmed by their son Frank and grandson Colin Hoyt.

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CHURCHES:

The Christian faith has in the past and is now giving comfort, strength and joy to county citizens. These structures bear witness to that faith.

BEFORE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

The Raymond Baptist is the oldest structure still in use - built in 1883.



Ebenezer Methodist built in 1885, only other structure still in use at present. Seven miles northwest of Lyons.



First Presbyterian of Lyons. Erected in 1877 and 78.



Holy Trinity Catholic of Little River. Dedicated 1885.



Lyons Methodist built in 1881 across street east of present structure.



Geneseo Methodist Church built in 1887 - used until 1915. This church and the Presbyterian Church merged in May 1970.



Sterling United Presbyterian. Moved into new building 1971.



Little River Congregational 1883, first church organized in L. R. community.



Frederick Baptist. This building first located in Kansas Center 1887 and moved to Frederick in 1892.



Bushton English Methodist 1887.



Bushton German Methodist.

In the village of Wildwood located on a small pond six miles west and one north of Lyons, the first protestant sermon was preached in 1871. Reverend A. J. Griffith who had been ministering to the people by services held in homes, preached this sermon. In 1872 he had established a Methodist circuit which included the entire county.

The Catholic Church began its ministry at Cain City located 3 miles north of the present Holy Name Church near Bushton. This organization served the areas of Chase and Ellinwood also. About 1900, a church in Chase was built. Father Martin was the first priest. He helped establish a mission at Little River and drove there when possible to serve the community.

There were many churches built before 1900 that are no longer here. The Frederick Baptist built in 1882 was destroyed by a tornado in 1914, several by fire. There were as many as sixteen or eighteen Methodist churches dotting Rice County in the early days. Other denominations were Evangelical at Alden, 1880; United Brethern-Liberty Chapel, southwest of Lyons; Church of the Brethern in Mitchell Township; Wesleyan Methodist (Valley) at Saxman 1891.



Salem United Methodist, 3 miles south of Bushton. A German Methodist Church until 1926. Built in 1882 - destroyed by fire 1935. A new one built the same year.

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CHURCH BUILDINGS ERECTED AFTER 1900



Saxman 1904, original building in use today - Presbyterian.



Christian of Lyons, built in 1906, chartered No. 1882, remodelled in 1951.



Assembly of God organized 1939, present building completed 1953.



Grace Lutheran in Lyons, organized 1942, building dedicated Jan. 1967.



St. Paul Catholic, Lyons, established parish in 1927 made possible by four families: Malone, Young, Nodurft, Sauerwien.



Community Presbyterian-Chase merger with three denominations, Christian, Congregational and Methodist in 1921.



Spanish Mission built in 1920 by Methodist conference to bridge language barrier, merged with 1st church Lyons 1963.



Midland United Church of Christ (formerly Evangelical Reformed) organized 1885. First building destroyed by fire. New church completed in 1936. Located in southeast corner of county.



Clator Chapel A.M.E. Lyons. Had its beginning about 1920.



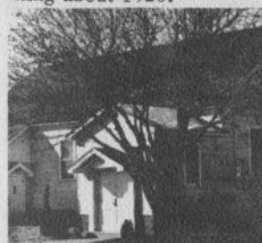
Nazarene Lyons organized in 1914. Building completed 1930.



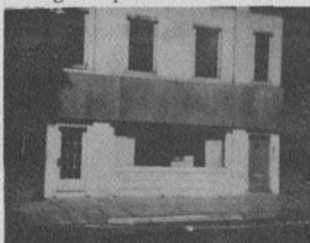
1st Lyons Baptist organized in 1882. This is the present church.



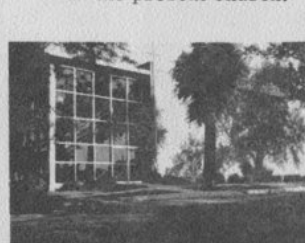
St. Marks Episcopal of Lyons, organized in 1907.



Church of Christ, Lyons, organized in 1940, building was erected 1946 and 47.



Christian Science of Lyons. Society had its beginning in 1955. This building acquired in 1969.



Lyons First U. Methodist Education Building dedicated in 1966.



Independent Baptist of Lyons organized 1965, building acquired 1968.

NOTE: There are at least forty active congregations in the county holding services each Sunday but space does not permit pictures of all nor of both old and new buildings.

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FROM THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE . . .



Keystone school 1913 - Fred Schwartz, Arthur Burfield - Bertha McCabe, Supt. of schools - Mattie Keys, teacher - Steve Avery.



Keystone class room - Mattie Keys, teacher.



Geneseo school picture - about 1916.

SOME TEACHERS WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN RICE COUNTY.

Ida Leith — 52	Laura Hall
Bertha McCabe	Tessie Litchfield
Christine Taylor	Edith Roy
Ina Parr Wolf	Ruth Knox
Sally Blakey	Ralph Williams
Mrs. S. C. Jordan	Ida Nicholson
Faith Blair	Lawrence Timmons
Maude Long	Agnes Sanderson
Jenn Avery	Erma Ellis
Elizabeth Avery	Myrtle Haas
Wanda Bolton	Cleo Downing



Miss Dollie Stahl - 44 years in Rice County.



Santa Fe School - 1912 - Fred Sangster, teacher - Johnson, Lennens, Griffins, Markles, Reeds, and Enders.



Miss Edith Mann - 50 years of teaching in Rice County. Started in 1908 at Garfield school, east part of the county, then Victoria school. Saxman 1910 - 1917. Lyons Park 1918 - 1952. Lyons South 1952 - 1958.



Last Day of School - Mitchell, Kansas - 1916.



Union Four School - 1903 was one of the earliest consolidated rural schools. Union Four offered 2 years of high school 1909 to 1911. Mrs. Walter Weihe attended at that time.



Special Education classes at the Bowling Alley.

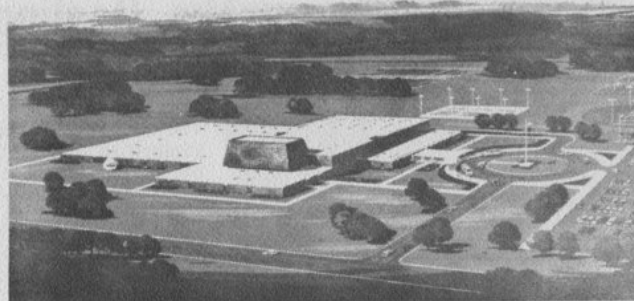


Park School, Lyons, Kansas.

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Lyons High School - 1881



Lyons High School - 1969

BOARD OF EDUCATION

ABE YOUNG, - - - - - PRESIDENT.
D. P. HODGDON, - - - - - CLERK.
A. M. LASLEY, - - - - - TREASURER.

CORPS OF TEACHERS

I. N. McCASH, - - - - - Superintendent.
T. D. LEHR, - - - - - Principal.
A. WILSON, - - - - - IZOLA HOWARD.
LOLA GRAHAM, - - - - - IDA HODGDON.
FLORA DUFF, - - - - - MRS. A. C. JORDAN.
GERTRUDE SPIERS, - - - - - JESSIE APPLEGATE.
EMMA BEAMAN.

Commencement Programme
Cover - 1888

PROGRAMME

Instrumental solo, - - - - - Prof. S. W. VinJerman.
Invitation, - - - - - Rev. A. Constance.
Piano solo, "Last Rose of Summer," (by request),
Mrs. A. B. Martin.

SALUTATORY

Voiceing, - - - - - CLARA HARRAN.
Vocal duet, - - - - - NETTIE LANGE.
Laws of Nature, - - - - - WILL A. RAWLINGS.
Cathedrals, - - - - - PEARL PENDER.
Music, - - - - - Male Quartette.
Nature's Decorations, - - - - - EMMA WALTON.
"I am a part of all I have met," - - - - - GRACE WARD.
Bridges, (Recited), - - - - - ROSE FORDWARD.
"All the rivers flow into the sea," - - - - - EVELYN POWELL.

Commencement Programme -
1888

Basic Building Information

Area Covered by Building, - - - - - 135,400 Square Feet
Number of Teaching Stations, - - - - - 32
Air-Conditioned Building, - - - - -
Student Capacity, - - - - - Over 600
Site, - - - - - 27 Acres
Total Cost of Project, - - - - - \$2,000,000.00
(Includes Grading, Drives, Parking, Football Field and Lights,
Track and Sidewalks.)

Special Acknowledgment to All Citizens Committees

Dr. Marvin Schell, - - - - - Educational Consultant
Walter, Hunt, Overhager, Adkins and Walter, - - - - - Architects and Engineers
H. F. English Construction Co., Inc., - - - - - General Contractors
Hudon, Inc., - - - - - Mechanical Contractors
Homer Bros., - - - - - Electrical Contractors
Kramer and Kortholt Law Co., - - - - - Plumbing Contractors
Bosch, - - - - - Science Equipment
Hal Daniels, - - - - - Audiovisual Services
Whitcomb Electronics, - - - - - Sound System

Board of Education, U.S.D. 405, Lyons, Kansas

John Baker, Superintendent
Harold Bond, President of the Board
Vincent Allen, Vice President
Willa Fackhaus
Don Snyder
Wendell Elright
William Young
Don Richardson, Clerk
Dorothy Edwards, Treasurer
G. M. (Mac) Bush, Attorney
Leroy Finken, High School Principal

Dedication Program - 1969

RICE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS 1871-1967

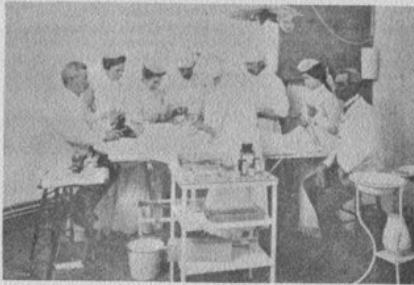
E. C. Jones	1871-1873
R. D. Stehpenson	1879
Nancy E. Harley	1880
A. J. Abbott	1881
J. K. Farrar	1885
J. B. Schlichter	1887
May Terry Luce	1889
J. H. McBride	1891
Mrs. Jennie Smith	1893
Anna Carl	1897
J. J. Caldwell	1899
Gladys M. Hunt	1901
F. W. Lennen	1907
W. S. Higgs	1911
Sylvia Burgess	1915
Bertha McCabe	1921
J. Iora Guethlin	1929
Golda I. Lantow	1933
Lewis Baldwin	1957
Arthur Harvey	1967

The first school meeting in the county was held September 1872 at Peace (Sterling) and school district No. 1 was organized. Schools were established every four mile radius so no one would be more than 2 miles from school. The first rural High School was organized at Chase, Kansas.



Cooper College opened its doors on November 1, 1887. Name of the college was changed to Sterling College in 1920.

The Healing Arts



An operation, 1902 - Sterling Hospital.

The Sterling Hospital was organized in May, 1902, by the physicians of the city as an experiment. The medical and surgical staff were Doctors, P. P. Trueheart, M. Trueheart, W. E. Currie, and H. R. Ross.



Group of nurses, 1902.



The Hoffman Memorial Hospital, Little River was built in 1915 with funds provided by Mr. George Hoffman. He gave \$100,000 - \$40,000 went to build the hospital, and the remaining \$60,000 are in an endowment fund set up to help the hospital with expenses. The hospital is still in operation. There was a nurses' training school there from around 1920 until 1928.



Dr. Wallace's office 1922.



Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Wallace, (50 years of practice in Co.) Dr. L. J. Beyer, Dr. Ralph Bula, Dr. A. W. Schmidt.



Family of Dr. L. E. Vermillion who began practice in Mitchell in 1890 and moved to Lyons in 1892. The little girl in front is Mrs. Grace Vermillion Holmes Rickabaugh of Lyons.



The Lyons hospital operated as a corporation from 1917-1919. In 1919 it was reorganized and was supported by public donations and operated by a board of directors until Hospital Dist. # 1 of Rice County was created by a vote of the people. All original stock holders were repaid. May 13, 1959 was moving day from the Lyons Hospital to Hospital Dist. # 1.

Accommodations in the hospital included board, room, nursing, lights, heat, medication and surgical dressings for \$12.00 per week. This was in a private room and hospital fees were payable in advance. Infectious diseases and insanity cases were not admitted. A training school for nurses was instituted in 1902 with course of study covered in a period of two years. The graduating class of 1904 numbered four persons including Miss Alice Peacock, Lyons, Kans.

It was interesting to note that two doctors, Dr. J. E. Stewart and Dr. Dick Stewart, performed in Alden one of the first appendectomies in the state of Kansas.

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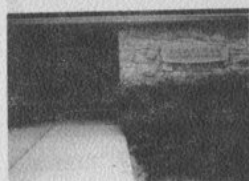


Child taking the 2nd Salk anti-polio vaccine shot. Dr. E. R. Hill, Mrs. Bob Stredder, R.N. and Miss Hazel Olmstead teacher, 3rd grade, South School, Lyons.



70 years of nursing as Hospital Dist. # 1 celebrates its first year, May 10, 1960.

THROUGH THE YEARS AT DIST. #1 RICE COUNTY



The Dist. Hospital



One group of board members



Operating room today, 1970 - Helen Stapleton.



Physiotherapy, Ruth Caldwell.



Laboratory and X-Ray, Lillie Whiteman, Elsie Reents, Cleo Saint, Terry Connery.



Grey Lady - Red Cross Volunteer, Dorothy Lambel.



Modern equipment - Janice Peterson R.N., Judy McGuire R.N.



Report time one shift to another - Vickie Barnholdt R.N., Elizabeth Plummer R.N.



Mrs. Chas. Coleman, Supt. of nurses

MEMORIAL TO DOCTORS IN SOLARIUM FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Edwin Hill - 31 yrs.
Dr. Louis John Beyer - 56 yrs.
Dr. A. W. Schmidt - 35 yrs.
Dr. Roosevelt Leonard - 36 yrs.



John Mays - administrator



Staff meeting.

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100 Years of Agriculture

by VIRGIL BIBY, CO. AGRICULTURE AGENT

Change has been the rule rather than the exception in Kansas Agriculture. The changes brought about during the last 30 to 40 years by technological progress and economic forces have been almost as dramatic as the changes from "Indian Country" to "Cow Country" to a settled agriculture of a half century earlier. More efficient tractors, tillage equipment, and combines made it possible to farm large acreages quickly and at relatively low costs. The average size of farms in Rice county has increased from the homestead 160 acres in 1871 to 525 acres in 1971.

Agriculture in the settlement period suffered from drought, wind, the severe grasshopper infestation of 1874, and from a woeful lack of operating capital. "..... it was by no means rare for hundreds of toiling men, with just enough money to break a few acres, to expect the 'sod crop' to not only furnish a year's provisions, but also build houses and buy cattle."

In the middle 1800's, corn was the most important crop with wheat, both spring and soft winter varieties, in second place. Over the state in 1875, about 58% of the tilled land was in corn and 22% in wheat. The average yield of corn per acre then was 48.8 bushels valued at 23.6¢ per bushel. Corn acreage was reduced to a low of 790 acres planted in Rice County in 1961. Three hundred acres were harvested for grain averaging 30 bushels per acre with a value of \$1.00 per bushel. Because of irrigation and increased cattle feeding, the planting of corn is once again on the increase. In 1970 twenty five hundred acres were planted to corn with nineteen hundred acres harvested for grain. The average yield was 71 bushels per acre with a value of \$1.15 per bushel.

As early as 1875, J. A. Anderson, President of Kansas State Agricultural College, and other agricultural leaders were pointing out that wheat yields varied less than corn yields and that winter wheat was better adapted than spring wheat.

Although production of spring wheat exceeded winter wheat in 1871, spring wheat had largely disappeared by the 1880's with the introduction of Turkey, a hard red winter wheat, in the surrounding counties. The 1872 harvest averaged 11.6 bushels per acre state-wide with a return to the farmer of \$1.42 per bushel. Wheat production in Rice County reached a high during World War II. Tenmarq, an improved hard red winter wheat bred by Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, with improved wheat quality, dominated approximately 37 percent of the Kansas wheat acreage by 1944. In 1945, 206,000 acres of wheat were harvested yielding 15.5 bushels per acre having a value of \$1.49 per bushel. Twenty years ago (1951) 196,000 acres of wheat were planted to varieties such as Comanche, Pawnee, and Wichita. The county average was 18.7 bushels per acre and returned \$2.13 per bushel to the farmer. Today's major varieties are Scout, Triumph, and Parker with a present average of 35 bushels per acre.

Sorghum is now the counties second largest acreage crop. County cattle feedlots and swine feeding use a large part of the grain sorghum grown here. Kansas farmers were interested in sorghums as early as 1878 for production of molasses and sirup. With the introduction of sugar beets in Kansas in 1893, the use of sorghums as a source of sugar declined.

Prior to 1930, sorghums for grain production were kafirs and tall milos which were difficult to harvest. By 1940, combine type milos were established by the breeding of dwarf varieties.

With the shortage of labor during World War II, a shift to the machine age was made and by 1950, 95 percent of the grain sorghums were harvested by combine. We presently have 52,000 acres in sorghums with a county average of 51 bushels in 1969.

Alfalfa was introduced in 1868 where it has become a major crop now occupying 24,500 acres of Rice County land.

From early mowing machines and dump rakes pulled with horses, we now see swathing-conditioning machines followed by automatic balers with accumulators which saves time and help save leaves. With the increasing livestock industry, alfalfa production will play an increasing important role in the future.

SWINE - The first Kansas swine was introduced to Kansas in 1540 with Coronado. The herd was driven along with the exploratory party for food. Originally two types, the Chinese, easy to fatten and European, a wild boar type, were the general background of the present hog.

With increased need for lard during World War II, breeding hogs for lard increased. After the forties, with increased vegetable oil production, lard became a drag in pork trade and a shift to the meat type hog was under way.

As milo production increased in Kansas, swine production here increased where we have around 19,000 head in Rice County.

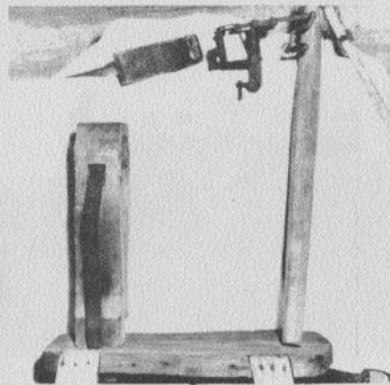
BEEF CATTLE - In 1866, the Chisholm Trail was established and in 1867, the first 3,500 cattle arrived in Abilene. In 1868, there were 78,000 and 150,000 in 1969. As many as 30 to 50 thousand could be seen from a hillside view waiting as buyers and drovers bargained. In 1883, yearlings cost \$10.50 to \$12.50 per head in Texas, two year olds cost \$14.50 to \$16.50, and three year olds that cost \$18 to \$19 in Texas. By 1887, settlers were fencing land thus ending the principal cattle drives. The young cattle industry went through storms, blizzards, grasshopper seiges, Texas fever, droughts, blackleg and bangs disease years and yet had a stabilizing influence on the state economy.

As early as 1934, Rice county had 27,000 head of cattle and this has grown to 49,000 head in '70. With improvement through breeding and performance testing, today's beef animals are young, tender and flavorful. Cattle feeding has increased as this is a well climated location with feed grains enough to finish cattle with minimum transportation costs.

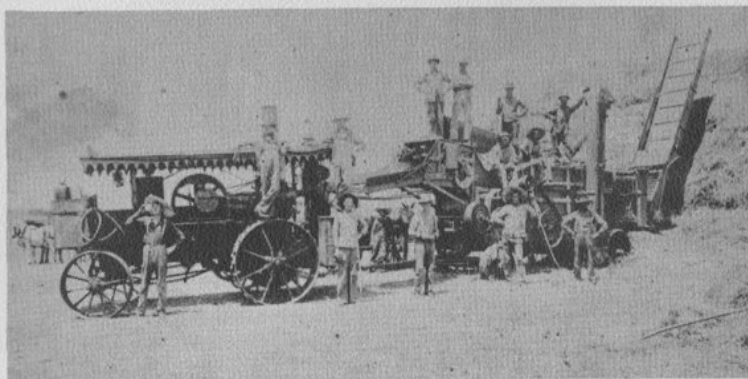
The Era of the Horse



S. P. Chase homestead. 14 mi. N.W. of Lyons. Cleo McAtee Farm.



Machine for repairing harness and horse collars.



A threshing outfit in 1900.



Shoeing a horse - almost a lost art.
Mr. Alton Jobe.



Header box between two stacks.



A later threshing operation.

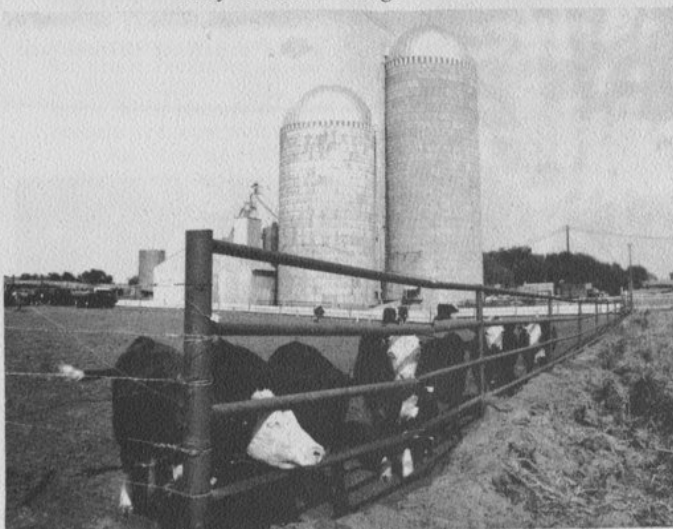
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Early tractor farming.



More comfort today.



Cattle feeding operation, Wellman Ranch. Tall silo fell in 1971.



All in one operation.



Not enough box cars. Wheat piled on ground.



Corn detasseling - Susan Hummel - a brand new feature for our county.

SPONSORED BY:
GAUTIER IMPLEMENT CO.

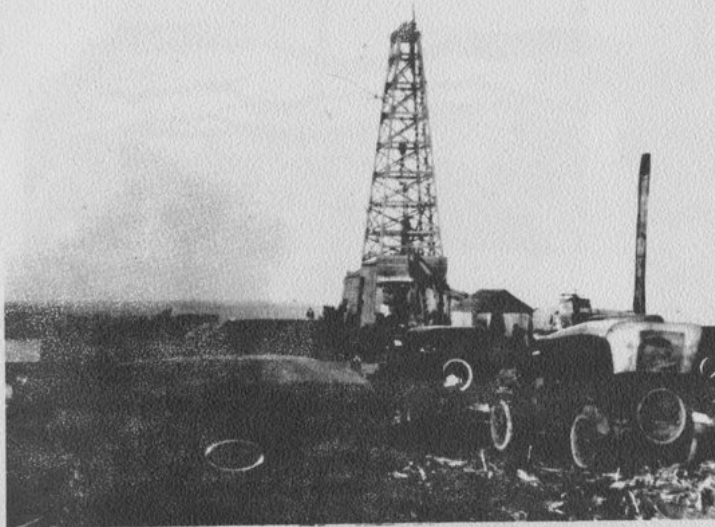


Aerial spraying insects or weeds.

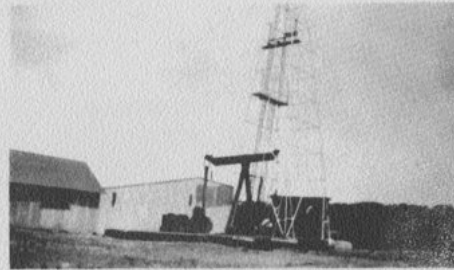
MARION & GENEVA ADAMS
WELDING & MACHINE CO.

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Oil



Welch No. 1, First Discovery Well in Co., NW 1/4 35-20-6 - Jan. 1924.



Rotary Drilled Well, 1930.



Pumping Unit, Patton "E" No. 2, 1955.

Back in 1887, a group of men whose names are unknown, opened a shaft in what would today be the northeast part of Lyons to test for gas. At 1200 feet, gas was found and all during the following winter, this gas was used to light the jets at the old Interstate Hotel located where the Dillon store is today. Trying to increase the flow of gas, they used dynamite in the shaft resulting in a shut off of the supply. That ended the gas well but thirty seven years later a rich strike of oil was made with the discovery in 1924 at the Welch #1 south and east of Lyons.

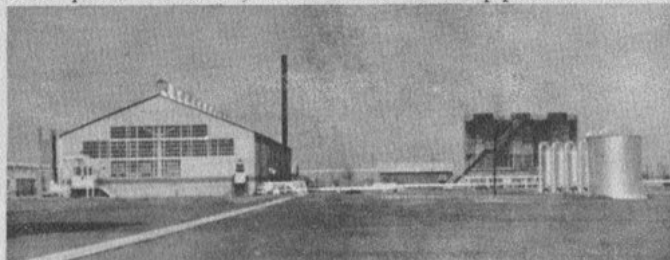
By 1946, Rice County led the entire state in crude oil production which was about 20% of the states total. Not only was oil found in the Welch area but a sizable field was opened near Raymond, where in the early 30's Raymond's Cafe was open around the clock for the convenience of the many oilfield workers.

In a period of 15 to 20 years, there were at least 32 pools developed, some of course extending beyond Rice County borders. The Chase pool was the largest with 379 wells, the discovery well was brought in Sept. 1929. Second high was the Silica pool beginning in 1931. The Genesee pool was discovered in 1934 and by 1946 at least 18 townships listed oil production.

One interesting episode happened in July 1930. A wildcat was being drilled on the Ploog property about 8 miles northeast of Chase. About midnight oil began to gush out of the hole being drilled and there was no control head at hand or closer than Oklahoma, so it took a couple of days to control the flow. So many persons were curious about this well that on the Sunday following huge crowds visited the site. One of the local youths set up a soft drink stand which was much appreciated as the July heat was unrelenting and there was no shade or air conditioning in cars.

During this period, there were 13 major companies with operations as well as many independents. Many of them established camps with office, shops, and homes for the manager and the workers. These camps often swelled the enrollments of the schools in the area to twice the normal numbers. One of the last of these to be abandoned was the Sohio about 5 miles northeast of Chase. The buildings were cleared from this site in 1962.

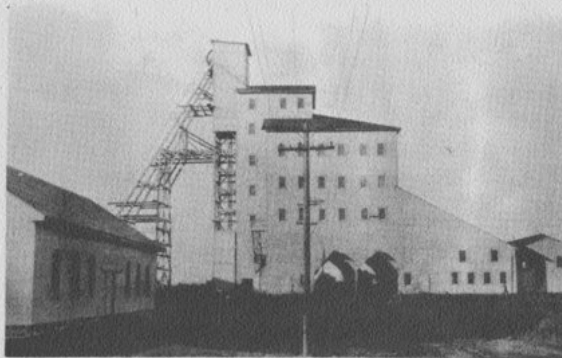
Since the peak days of the 30's and 40's, oil discovery and production has continued constantly but at a decidedly reduced pace. The County is criss crossed with pipe lines and several booster stations are in operation.



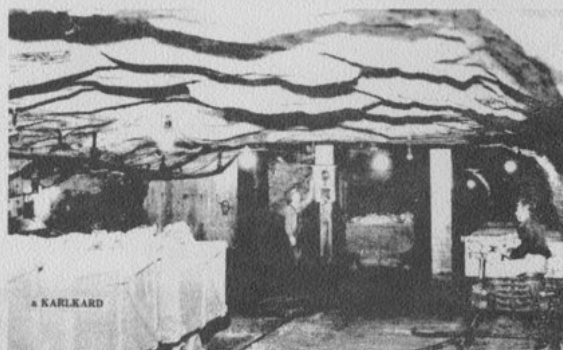
An Associate development, Northern Natural Gas Co., 1951.

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Salt



American Salt Plant in its early days.



Hauling and Hoisting Cars of Salt in the Carey Mine 1947.

The history of salt production in Rice County dates back nearly 100 years. At one time Lyons, with two plants in operation, was second largest in salt mining and production in the world.

The first salt production activity began in 1890, when Eastern interests, from Ohio and St. Louis, joined to form the Midland company and sank a shaft in the northwest section of Lyons near the Frisco railroad tracks. When the salt formation was reached there was a dispute between the two factions, as to where the headquarters was to be located, and operation ceased.

The Ohio group started mining operations at Kanapolis, with the Royal Salt Company mines. The St. Louis group started the Bevis Salt Company in Lyons. The first rock salt was hoisted to the surface in 1891. The mine was sold to Western Rock Salt Company and operations were expanded to include an evaporative plant in 1923.

The mine changed hands several times in ensuing years. The Western company sold it to the Diamond Crystal Salt company of Sinclair, Michigan. They sold it to the General Foods Corporation of New York. Carey Salt company of Hutchinson purchased the plant in 1939 and operated it until it was closed down in 1948.

Clarence Bradford, of Lyons was superintendent of the Carey Salt mine when it closed and later served as custodian. He says the mine was known as a "dry mine," with virtually no water encountered to pose a problem in the shaft and tunnels. The shaft was well beyond the reaches of the Arkansas River underflow that plagued workmen who dug the shaft for the American Salt mine south of Lyons in 1916.

Little River was a part in the salt production in Rice County. The Century company dug a shaft in 1903. Production was in full swing by 1908 and continued full scale until in the 1920s. Mules were used to pull the cars of rock salt to the power hoist which lifted it to the surface. The ore was then loaded into railroad cars and shipped to processing plants elsewhere.

Sterling at one time had a salt mine located east of where the Sterling Lake is today.

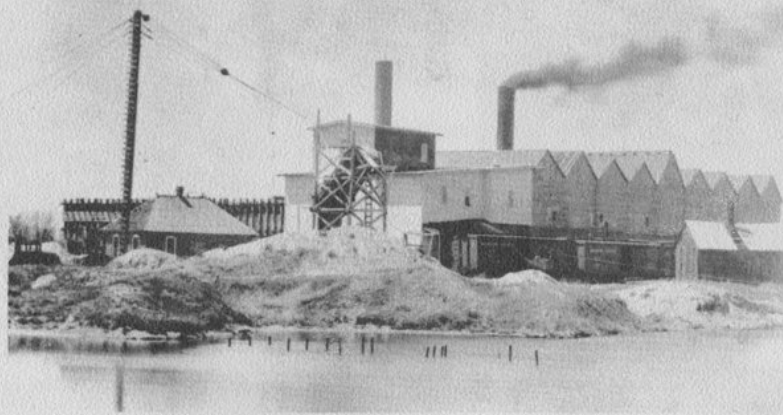
The shaft of the American Salt plant southeast of Lyons was dug by hand, according to John McGiffin, a member of the crew which started the work in 1916. He is still a resident of Lyons.

George Kelly, a former salesman for the Royal mine at Kanapolis, had been operating an evaporative plant at the site for several years before the shaft was dug, obtaining brine for the operation from the wells south of the site. He formed a stock company under the name of the American Rock Salt and Coal company to finance the shaft. The S. J. Harry Construction of Pennsylvania was awarded the contract. It took two years to complete the shaft, with three shifts of six to eight men each, working around the clock.

At peak production in the thirties, as many as 50 men worked in the tunnels, shoveling the rock salt into cars which were pulled to the elevator by mules and hoisted to the top of the shaft. Since automation, the present crew below ground is 111 men. However, the overall operation employs 125 men.

Mr. McGiffin recalls that at about 50 to 75 feet, workers encountered a shale formation and it was necessary to drill holes and dynamite the shaft. The debris from this operation was loaded into a bucket holding about a yard of material and hauled to the surface with power furnished by a small steam engine at the top of the shaft. A heavy flow of water and sand was encountered in the shale formation, and air pressure was used to clear the shaft while workmen cemented the sides at this point. Not all of the shaft was cemented, but timbers were placed in the entire shaft to insure the safety of workers and to keep open the hole, which eventually was sunk to about 1000 feet. The shaft was completed in 1918. Kelly established an office in Kansas City to handle sales for the salt plant. The original construction of the plants above ground for both mines was done by George Mowrey and his son Wade. When a fire de-

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Sterling Salt Mine.

stroyed the north plant buildings in 1912, the Mowreys rebuilt them. They also rebuilt the dry rooms at the American Salt Company in the late 20s, following a fire which destroyed the evaporative plant.

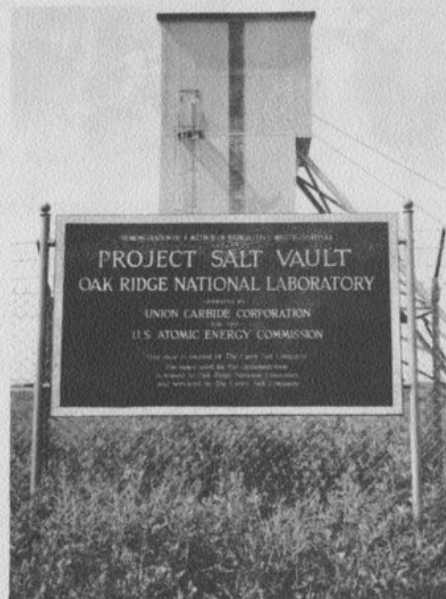
Occasionally mules from the mine were brought to the surface and used by farmers in the area. Bradford recalls the mules were "high steppers," from long years of stepping over chunks of ore in the mine. When electricity was installed in the mine, the use of mules was no longer necessary. Light in the mine was originally furnished by lard lamps, which resembled teakettles with wicks. Later kerosene lamps and still later carbide lights.

The American Salt plant is still one of the largest salt mining and processing plants in the world.

by MAE SPEAR



Fleming Empson at the hoist control. Employed by Union Carbide which company did research for the A.E.C. for 5 years.



Project Salt Vault "Whatever will be . . .?"

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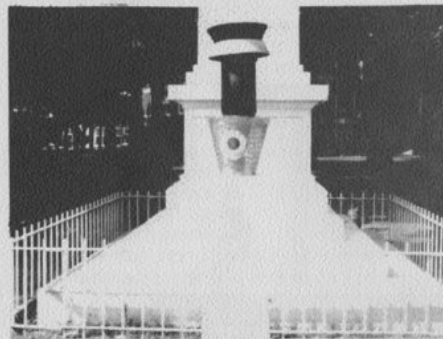
Potpourri . . .



Popular Dance Band in late 1920's - Frank Bundy, Ariel Patterson, Vivian Saint, Mrs. Frank (Jo) Bundy, Max Swisher, Holmes Shenkel, Floyd Saint.



Mrs. Glen (Hazel Smith) Bright, Miss Fay Day, Wayland Smith, Doris Cavence, W. D. Smith - July 4, 1912. Doris and W. D. met August 12, 1911 at the dedication of the Rice County Court House.



Eternal Flame erected on the Court House lawn by the American Legion in 1969.



Airport west of the Lyons city limits.



New high-rise apartments being built in Lyons - 1971.



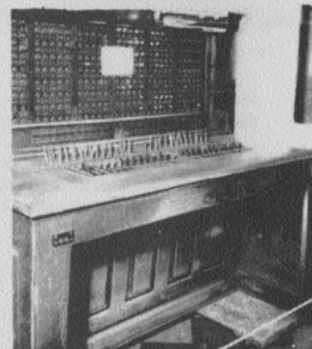
Dr. Waldo Wedel has been in charge of all the work at the Smithsonian Dig in Rice Co.



At the Smithsonian Dig.



Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Smith's 50th wedding anniversary August 29, 1962. These two will celebrate their 59th anniversary this year - 1971.



Old telephone switchboard in the court house lobby museum.



Missile site near Mitchell, Kansas.



Carnegie Library - 1911.



New Library in remodelled City Hall building - 1971.



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Sponsor's List

Miller and Price Agency, Raymond	Otasco Store
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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Froning	Anderson Sheet Metal
Ralph's Lunch	Culligan Water Conditioning
Mr. and Mrs. Alford Colberg	Buell Motor Company, Inc.
Chandler National Bank	Burke Grain Company, Inc., Little River
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City News Stand	Firman G. Gladow, Attorney
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Peltier's - First in Fabrics	Vernon Janssen
Earl L. Battershell	Lyons Realty Co.
Gibson Drug Store	Rice County Abstract & Title Co. Inc.
Walker Brothers Clothing	Swisher Insurance & Investment Co.
Sara Remmert	Howard's, First for Fashion
Virginia's Hair Pin	A. L. Duckwall Stores Co.
Pittman Agency - Ward's	Gadget Clinic, Richard Smith



Neighbors planting corn for Charley O'Neil when he was sick.



Early Day Fun Time - Chas Vasconcells, Leora Smith, Bert Hoyt, Margaret Smith, Stanley Embree, Effie Vasconcells.



Woman's Club Play - Mrs. Jack Purdy, Mrs. Ross Abbot, Mrs. Cord Ogden, Mrs. George Lantz, Eva Lennen, Mrs. Mark DeWitt, Anna Dinsmore, Bess Six, Gert Long, Mrs. Tichnor, Winna DeWitt, Mrs. Mel Taylor.



February 25, 1912 snow scene east of Little River. Digging out a train and clearing tracks.



Frederick Band Concert - 1908.

Sod Busters Potpourri . .



Joseph A. Smith's home. It was built in Illinois and shipped in parts to Peace (Sterling) Kansas - 1887.

CONCERT

At Butler's Opera House.

LYONS, - KANSAS.

On Saturday Evening, June 25th, 1887.

Commencing at 8 o'clock

MISS LILLIAN HANBLIN, Soprano.
MR. WILL WARREN, Corset.
MISS FRANK PERDUE, Accompanist.
MR. R. W. VAN DEKAM, Director and Manager.

ADMISSION, 50 cents.
CHILDREN, 25 cents.

Seventeen change for several seats. Tickets on sale at J. B. Lee's Drug Store.

"Concert at Butler Opera House"

PROGRAMME.

PART FIRST:

1. Overture, "Band Union"—Mikado Band.
2. Quartette, "The Old Canon"—Lyons Male Quartette Club.
3. Piano, "Waltz," *Dorand*—Miss Grace Ward.
4. Corset, "The Power of Love," *Raffa*—Mr. Will Warren. Mrs. J. S. Chase, pianist.
5. "Una voce poco fa," *Rossini*—Miss Lillian Hamblin.
6. "Serenade and Trio" op. 15-17, *Mozart*—Miss Inez Jay.
7. "Good Bye," *Tosti*—Miss Hamblin.

PROGRAMME.

PART SECOND:

8. Piano, 4 hands, "Cymbellins," *Boley*—Misses Grace Ward and Carrie Ball.
9. Soprano and Tenor, "O, Morning Land," *Polka*—Miss Hamblin and Mr. Fred Cooper.
10. Polish Dance, *Scherzando*—Miss Pearl Perdue.
11. "Rondo Capriccioso," op. 14, *Mendelssohn*—Mr. S. W. Van Daman.
12. "Across the Far Blue Hills, Marie," *Blanc*—Miss Hamblin.
13. "Forgetful's Waltz," (by request)—Lyons Quartette Club.

Enter here, please seat on this occasion.

Concert Programme.

Opera House Thoughts - The old Butler Opera House was the hub of local entertainment. The Lyons Band had some kind of a deal where it ran the box office and refurbished the house, new scenery, and took care of the dressing rooms. George Lantz and Joe Pulliam seemed to be the business managers.

The Cantata, Queen Esther was given; Fred Taylor was Haman, Stanley Torrey was Mordecai the Jew, and Ella Lansing Martin was Queen Esther. Glenn Taylor was a cup bearer to the king - they had lots of choruses and super-numeraries, for the more you could get on the stage the more friends and relatives would buy tickets.

The class of 1914 was the last to have graduation exercises in the Opera House. During World War I the Red Cross used the room for a work room.



"Beautiful Bachelor Girls" club in Little River during the 1900's. Some of the members pictured at the "Kid Party" above are: Kate Perry Green, Nellie Green, Mamie Ryan, Hattie Smith, Ethel Todd Ramage, Iowa Baxter, Tillie Cordell, Neva Brouhard Jacks, Ada Green, Vastie Frankenberg Hodgson, Olive Baxter Foster, Willie Rowland Moore, Julia Gleeson, Fern Robinson, Ellen Sherrill German.



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ALDEN

Alden Farm Supply, Inc.

BUSHTON

Melvin Pehnke
Sports Parlor
Gene Huebner

CHASE

David W. Keller
Richard Proffitt

ELLINWOOD

Manning Drilling Co.
Milner Tank Service

GREAT BEND

Dresser Atlas
Halliburton Services
National Supply
Sun Cementing Co.

LITTLE RIVER

Burke Grain
Citizens Recreation
Community Co-op
Haydon's Sundries
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur C. Hodgson
Dr. David Hodgson
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hodgson
Mr. & Mrs. F. E. Hodgson
The Home State Bank of Little River
The Home Agency of Little River
Little River Lions Club
Majories Beauty Salon
Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Moll
Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Olander
Phillips Barber Shop of Little
River

LYONS

Hal Alderman
American Family Insurance
Archer Conoco Pulk Service
Byron Belong
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Briscoe
Buell Motor Co.
Jim Busch
Calhoun's
The Cellar Club
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Connell
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Conner
Cook's Geranium Nursery
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Coonfer
Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Cooper
Cozy Corner Lounge
Cycle Sports
R. W. Darrah
Dwayne Edwards
A. L. Fankhauser
Ruth Foote
Forsythe Retail Liquor
Gambles
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Gardner
Gautier Implement Co.
Jean L. Gray
Mr. & Mrs. George Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Hobart Hoyt
Jack's Drive-In Restaurant
Mrs. J. S. Jilka
Mrs. Horace Jones
Mr. & Mrs. John Juarez
James T. Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. James G. Kahler
Lee's Beauty Salon
Lee Studio
Mr. & Mrs. Max Louthan
Lyons, Shoe Shop
Michael D. Martin
Maxine Pool's Beauty Shop
L. D. Moddrell
Otasco
Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Peppiatt
Mr. & Mrs. Van Pittman

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LYONS (CON'T)

Page 2

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Poland
Pulliam & Roeder
Charles Reynolds
Bill Richards
C. B. Roberts
C. B. Roberts, Jr.
Dr. J. E. Rowan
John Sayler
Mrs. J. E. Schubert
Sherman Barber Shop
Mr. & Mrs. C. O. Sherwood
L. R. Simpson
Ray Smith
Richard D. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Steele
Stowits IGA
Suttle Studio
Jim Sutton
Swisher Insurance & Inv. Co.
Glenn C. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Ansel W. Tobias
Raymond Tobias
Winter's Oil Co.
Young Motor, Inc.

MARQUETTE

Mr. & Mrs. Grady Bolton

STERLING

Brock's Pharmacy
Brownie's Grocery
Farmer's Co-op Union
Glenn & Don's Skelly Service
Huston's Clothing & Dry Goods
Kansas Telephone Co.
Ray's Recreation
Schmitt's Barber Shop
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Stahl
Sterling Bulletin
Sterling Cafe
Sterling Feed & Seed
Superbe Oil Company
Terry's 66 Service
Louis H. Wilkey

WINDOM

Windom Grain Co.

TO MOON DUST



Fred Koons
Experimental Engineer
Sky Lab.

Makes Pick-Up of First U. S. Man in Space



Wayne Koons, at present Manager of Payloads and Operations in the Space Shuttle Program. Wayne and Fred are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Koons.

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