

Jan. 5, 1988

In this section of the scrapbook we'll do the town". From your familiarity with Spencer, you'll understand what I mean when I say it has changed so much, yet it has never changed. Buildings are renovated or replaced, families come and go, but sociologically and demographically it remains a typical small town in Mid-America.

One characteristic of the town - as with all Oklahoma towns - that should be kept in mind is that when I was a child, the town and all in it were new, as were the family structures. That had was 15 years old when I was born. When I speak of family structures, I'm speaking generally. Some families - Drummond, Petty, Pettit, had come in with several generations of siblings. But most came as single-family units. Buildings and homes and families were new. The buildings and homes are now aging, and, through marriage and intra-marriage, the families are developing infra-structure. Hardly a family in Horning is not related to another. Even our family, remotely, is related to other Horning families by marriage.

My Mother's brother, Lorne Griffith, married Juanita Pettit Crow. This related him, by marriage, to the Pettits, a large clan with several branches. Juanita's first marriage to Jim Crow related her son, Jim Crow III, to the Pettys, Barlows & Drummonds.

Jim Crowe (Jiminy's dad) mother, Louise, was a Petty. She was Patty's mother's sister; she was also Oscar Petty's sister. Oscar Petty was at one time married to Blanche Drummond, Cecil's sister (it was she who built the big white house Louise D. Fairweather lived in.) Louise Crowe & Grandma Petty lived at the corner of Pettit and ~~and~~ St. - address from Grace Mann. Aunt Maggie Jones - a Drummond relative - lived across the street to the south. Another Drummond relative (actually a Gentnet, I believe) married H.M. Maher. Their son married the William's daughter, Alice Mildred. A Williams son married Betty Jane Hampton, the dentist's daughter. Well - it goes on & on & on. Patty Barlow married Herman Frazier (not related to us) and one of their relatives married a Drummond. So Horning is beginning to evidence the structure we see in sociological studies of European villages - provincial French and Bavarian, especially. All very interesting. But there are also families that have come and gone without leaving a trace. Only post telephone directories or city records reveal their ever having been there. All these people really should be interviewed by some one interested in history before it all vanishes with age.

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THE BUILDINGS:

Main Street: Somehow, we missed getting a camera shot of The Corner Drug Store, the pivotal point of the town for all teens. Many of the 'Cute' boys 'jerked' sodas there at some time during their high school career. We had no drive-ins or 'hang-outs' as did the Cities (i.e. the Pig Stand at 23rd & Western in Ok. City.) So 'the Corner' was it. It, however, was not over-run with business — there just wasn't that much available spending money. Bill Burkhardt, Sr., and George Beaulieu (s.p.?) (he pronounced it Boleo) owned the store in the late 20's and early 30's. These were two very interesting men, both good friends of the family. I should like sometime to write more about them, but this is a narrative about the buildings in town, to go with your snapshots. Any way, Boleo moved to Pawhuska — from whence he had come, and Burkhardt, who was terribly crippled with arthritis, went into the state legislature and took temporary residence in Okla. City. They sold the Corner Drug to Lou Don Pettit and Martin Brown — also close family friends. I know you remember Lou Don and Mildred visiting us at the farm. It was Mildred who brought me the lovely indoor shutters I have throughout the house now; — they are over 100 years old, from the old Mission Seminary near Pawhuska. Martin was

Not married. John Wade Pettit then owned the drug store for several years. I do not know who has it now. John Wade married Dorothy Jean (D.J.) Dunkin from Tulsa. (Brown-Dunkin Store). John Dunkin and his sister, Della Dunkin Brown grew up in Wilburton, so that acquaintance goes back three generations with your Grandfather Frazier's family. Another story. So - the Corner Drug was on the Northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Price Street.

Across Main Street to the South was the Hominy Trading Co., later re-named the Pioneer Store. Founded by the Drummonds, I remember it as being run by a conglomerate of Drummond, Dixon, Matthews, Wilson, etc. - I was too young to understand (or care) the corporate structure. The building was big - it covered one-half the Main Street side of the block - and the stock carried just about any item you could possibly want. You can still buy a Pendleton Indian blanket there, but I can remember seeing the Indians wearing such blankets, beaded moccasins, braided hair, carrying 'Wampum' bags, making purchases in the 'Trading Store'. At that time, I knew all their names - and they knew me. Daddy took care of most of them. They were so much a part of the downtown scene I still find it hard to believe a Main Street without them.

The Pioneer Store was, to us as children, enormous because of the many departments. It was not the fairy-land, however, of Nieman-Marcus nor Tichte's in Dallas, where we shopped occasionally when visiting Mama's family. The Pioneer was practical - fabrics, thread, sturdy shoes, saddles, hardware, groceries. The clothing and dry-goods were at the top of the 'hill' - the far West end of the building (still are). We could go entirely through the store - actually several buildings) through a series of ramps, a corridor through the center of each building. I remember the concrete floors were painted battle-ship gray. I could start at the top of the hill and roller skate downhill through furniture (with coffins in the rear), hardware, to the grocery store, now closed. Such activity was not encouraged by the clerks, and frowned upon by Dixon and Matthews. But I thought they just frowned all the time, anyway! I vaguely remember seed, feed and farm equipment, spring shipments of baby chicks, huge salt 'licks', ropes, chains, etc. I distinctly remember a warehouse (corrugated metal, I think) on Price Street between the Pettit Theater and the newspaper building. This was a part of the Pioneer Store that housed new horse-drawn buggies and farm wagons, plows, etc. I also recall seeing many such wagons and their horses parked on

Main Street on Saturdays when farmers and their families came to town for weekly supplies. I learned to recognize some family wagons much as we now recognize family automobiles. I remember the joy of the day the Links, after much hardship and sacrifice, bought their new wagon - a green beauty with red trim. Johnny (a 'she') lived with us while she finished high school 'intown'. Her family lived on a farm far to the West of Hominy and seldom came to town. There was no high school in her area. One or two of her sisters came later. It was a large family; Daddy made many calls to their home during one period of prolonged illness. I've wondered what became of the children or the farm.

When Mama had a package to be mailed to her family in Dallas, or to Tahlequah, I would take the boy down the alley (no skates, going by alley!) and through the back door of the Pioneer grocery store, up to the hardware department, and Mr. Wilson or Mr. (Clevenger? - I can't remember!) would wrap it in brown paper and tie it with heavy string. I would then take it to the Post Office (across Main & Price, to the West of the Bank) to mail. Hard to believe there was no Scotch tape, 3-M, etc. But this help and service was typical of the town as I remember it - most people were

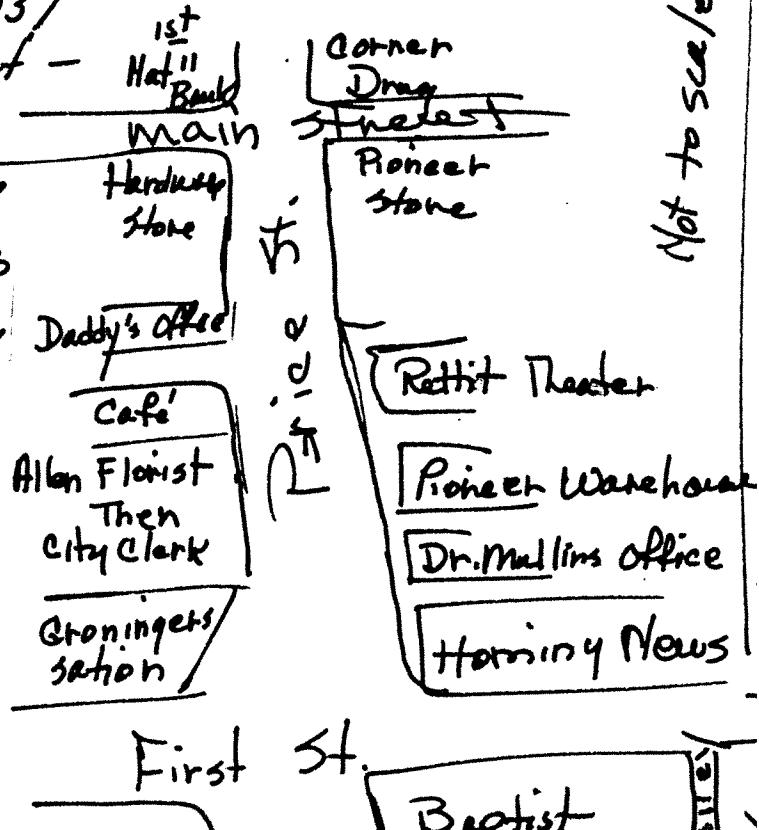
Very congenial. Yes, there were a few old grunges, but they seem to have left no trace of themselves in my memories.

I'm not sure how much of this you want to know! I should think it would be tedious to the people reading it who really didn't know the people. And my recall is not all that 'sharp' -

I left when 19 years old, and made no attempt to document, mentally nor otherwise, anything. It didn't occur to me I'd ever want to recall or wouldn't be able to when I wanted to, so it has dimmed. A sociological research paper of this would be of extreme value to historians - imagine a paper on the evolution of the Pioneer Store and its employees through the past 6 or 7 generations!

So - back to Main Street -

The lovely hewn sandstone First National Bank has been demolished, as has the Morning Hotel, from the corner of the Pioneer Store. You look 'Daddy-Corner' to the vacant lot of the bank & then West to what once were paper (newsstand) owned by the Clarks (Mildred



*Pettit's parents), a bakery (Nickells), a restaurant
(Nick the Greek) - a wonderful story! - the
Post Office - Matles dress shop - Levine's Store
(very early), and at the far end, C.R. Anthony's.
The Chinese had a restaurant in a building at the
head of Anthony's, on Regan. That, too, would be a
research project - where they came from, how,
what they did to exist (they couldn't possibly
have supported themselves on income from the
restaurant) and where are they now? Every
Christmas they would come to our house and
very ceremoniously present our family with a
box of hickory nuts. Mama would 'hide' the box
on top of the tallest bookcase in the front hall
and dispense the nuts one or two at a time
throughout the winter. Even the box was a
treasure! But they were paper, and not very
durable; they didn't last long.*

I'm not sure of the order in which I've
named the stores. The Matles^{*} carried lovely
Ladies' wear - somewhat pricey, as they catered
to the Indian (Osage) money. They moved to
Tulsa sometime in the early 40's. The Gordons
took their mercantile store to Norman. The
Levine's moved to Dallas then, too. With these
families gone, the Jewish population fell to
zero - at least I can think of no other Jewish

^{*}pronounced Matless

families in Hornung.

Isadore and Frances Levine had no children, but many nieces and nephews, in-laws, etc. A brother-in-law had a store in Wyo-nona. Another had one in Marietta, another in Ft. Worth.

"Izzy", as my parents called him, and Frances, we called her Mrs. Levine, lived next door to us when we moved to '207.' They were from New York, he was a first generation immigrant (as a child) to U.S.A. He spoke English brokenly, read only Yiddish (except for the stock market). She was well educated, and a very gentle, genteel person. Theirs was the first Louis XIV, XV, or whatever furniture I ever saw - very elegant (no children) house. Very Kosher home. Sometimes we would drive Mrs. Levine to Tulsa when we went over to shop, and she would take us by the "Kosher" store where she bought their groceries. I guess that's where I developed my taste for different foods - dills, garlic, cheeses, etc. Izzy loved to go to church with Daddy; he couldn't read a word in the hymnal (and no notes, either!) but he really loved the hymns and tried to sing every one of them. But Frances wouldn't hear of it, so Izzy quit going. His market investments paid well, he backed several nephews in prospering stores, so he and Frances retired and moved to Dallas to be near

Some of her family (Levinson). We visited them once, and called them occasionally when in Dallas. I last visited with Frances after Izzy died in the early 40's. I remember them with warmth.

The Gordons were dear to us. They lived on So. Wood St., but moved very early during the depression. You'll remember Lucy's Dress Shop on the corner of the O.U. Campus. That was one of their daughters. Mr & Mrs Gordon were a little older than Mama & Daddy, but Lucy and Addeline were Zene's age. That friendship lasted several generations, too. Kirk worked at Lucy's one year when she was at O.U. (Like you at Harold's — she owed more when she left than she had earned!) I think Gordon's Main Street Store was there even when you were in school. They, too, are gone now; I picture them as clearly as if they were here now. They always twinkled!

We were friendly with, but not close to the Matthes brothers (Harry & Herman). I see by the 1942 directory that Herman was still in Hominy. By that time, the highway to Tulsa was paved, and we — as most Hominy-ites we knew — shopped Brown-Dunkin and Seidenbachs and Vaudiviers in Tulsa for our 'dressy' clothes. I remember always feeling a little intimidated when in Matthes' shop. And they were not especially friendly with our friends the Levines and Gordons, either.

Somewhere on this block was Andy Chrest's cafe. I do not have a clear remembrance of where or when - perhaps where Nick had his latet. The location isn't as important as his story. He was a lovable Greek who transacted for his bride by mail - from Greece - after he was in his 40's. They lived across the ~~Katy~~ street from us in E.L. Walker's house right after they wed. She spoke little English. And did absolutely gorgeous Greek embroidery-work. I had never seen crewelling before, and have never seen any as lovely as hers since. They had a niece my age who visited from Tulsa occasionally, and I would play paper dolls with her. I really enjoyed Mrs. Chrest. Andy had so much confidence in Daddy; he relied on him for advice and support and friendship. I think they moved to Tulsa during WWII, after I went away to school.

Other businesses came and went in that block. Farther west was the Horning Hotel, West of that a garage, that seemed to have been there always. Then Katy Street and "the tracks".

The Katy depot would require a book of its own. I even knew the conductor by name! The RR was the link to O.C. - and then to O.U. at Norman. It is now the Horning Heritage Center.

Coming back East from the Depot, on the South side of Main Street - I remember Overby's who sold Maytag, the SunKist Delicatessen (that closed in the early 30's). The Fire Station was on Regan - as was the Jail. Upstairs was the Library. After Daddy died, Mama had the tag agency, and her office was in that block on Regan somewhere. Very vague. Then on East. Maurice Allman, Rita's Cousin, had a grocery store during the 50's, I think. Rite Canada's barbet shop - A Pool hall - The Recall Drug - The Rite Theater - Mrs. Gravitt's dress shop - Levine's (later) - a dime store - Businesses came and went. I cannot remember what was in the bank building on the corner between the time the bank failed in 1939-40 and the time the Fraziers put their appliance store in - if anything. I think the Fraziers moved from Ulyhona during the 30's. Above the bank were law offices - P.D. Lindsay, O.L. Barlow, GK Sutherland, and the dentist office - Dr. Hampton - and the Photographer's Studio. And on Price, just behind the bank building was Daddy's office. There were a couple of other businesses between Daddy and the bank, but they came and went rather often. Daddy's office was two rooms - a waiting room with receptionist and bookkeeper (the same person who was also office nurse - Mamie Jones) and behind

that, his examination room. I loved going to his office, and was very flattered and 'grown-up' when, when in Jr. high and high school, I got to "fill in" for Mrs. Jones when she couldn't be there. Of course, I was never allowed to do anything more than answer the phone, but I thought it was pretty important.

Daddy was the most ethical person I've ever known other than your own father. He guarded his patients and their problems and secrets fiercely. Neither Mama nor Mama Jones ever discussed a case - and when Daddy died, all his records were destroyed. Talk about an historical record! But that was as it should have been - and privacy was protected. I think, given the furnishings, I could reconstruct his office totally as it was - aquariums, bookcases, ferns, everything! I can, right now, smell the alcohol and disinfectant!

On East from the corner of Price and Main was, as said, the Pioneer Store, Kinney's Drugstore, Anderson Jewelry, A Barber shop, a hamburger 'joint' (whose?) and the empty building that had housed the "Electra" Theater - where I remember seeing Lon Chaney in a silent movie! It closed when I was a very little girl. Then on East across Wood Street to a filling station on the corner - 5¢ a gallon - a dry cleaners - The Weavers had

a grocery store there early, a florist shop with an apartment upstairs (glamorous!) and then Missaj's grocery store. In the 30's there was Shelly Motor Co. on the corner, but it burned and then Frank Shelly declared insolvency and he and Sarah and their daughter Elizabeth moved to O.C. That's another long story. Sarah and Granny were close friends until Mama died. Elizabeth and I still see each other occasionally and visit via telephone regularly. She lives in Enid and has a dancing school. Elizabeth Williams.

Then East across Pettit was a hotel in the middle of the block. I do not recall what was on the block-or blocks-north side of Main other than automobile agencies of one sort or another. Walker Buick? Fallin Ford? A garage? From Wood Street East on Main is a blank. West, between Wood + Price on the north side of Main we had a garage on the ^{wrong} corner, a restaurant, a 5+ dime (where I bought all my China Clara Bow dolls to dress in silk sets) a shoe shop? a J.C. Penny and then, back to the Corner Drug. Back where we started. My 1942 telephone directory tells me of many omissions. And, of course, many changes and moves within the time frame. But I've done the best I could!

