



TALE OF
TWO TOWNS

BY
HELEN WARD RENNIE



TALE OF TWO TOWNS is the story of two Montezumas. The first, the dream of the Montezuma Land Company, mushroomed on the Kansas prairie in the mid-eighties, only to dwindle away to nothing in eight or nine years. And of the second town, re-born on a reclaimed prairie some seventeen years later, when the Santa Fe built a life-line across the scattered wheat fields, the prairie dog towns, and the snake infested pastures.

It is the story of individuals who learned the importance of unity and practiced it. The story of people, incidental events that make up the everyday life of small towns, none of them world-shaking in themselves. Yet, there are humorous, sober, and factual excerpts which may, or may not, be cherished memories.

It is the story about everyone who ever lived in a small town, or wanted to. The story of everyone who ever watched the light of memory in the faded eyes of the aged, or listened to their tales.

While it is historical in style, this story is one that could have happened in your town. You will find much in common with the joys, achievements, and the trials of these people who march across the pages of TALE OF TWO TOWNS.

For Lina Howe
With love + Best Wishes

Helene Ward Rennie

Nov. 9, 1961

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by

HELEN WARD RENNIE

Royal Publishing Company

General Book Publishers
Dallas 17, Texas

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Printed in the United States of America

To Ward

FOREWORD

I present this history, with no little apology for qualities that are obviously lacking. It was never intended to be a complete work, but rather a collection of historical data, anecdotes, and items of interest about our two towns; the first from 1886 until the Legislature declared it vacant in 1895, and the one from the time the railroad came in 1912 until now.

My story rests, both on what I have seen myself, and the reports of others, with what I hope is the greatest possible accuracy in each case. Discrepancies occur from imperfect memories, not from bias. On the one hand, there is a wealth of detail, while on the other, there are astonishing gaps and silences, whole chunks of time, probably containing astounding facts, that are left out or dismissed with too little information.

This has been a labor of love. It has been a great satisfaction and afforded me many hours of pleasure. I have spent more time, more words on the earlier, frontier times, but only because there are those who can see those things fading with the passing of many who made that history.

It is impossible to name all those whose help has been invaluable, but I wish here to especially acknowledge Mr. Jim Brock, always a source of rich, interesting, and accurate information. Mr. Harry Hildebrand, who served this county for many years as its Clerk, before moving to Wheatridge, Colorado. His visit was a memorable one and yielded invaluable help. To Harry Dern, a former school teacher, for his beautiful letters, detailed data, plat of the old town, and always for his willingness to cooperate. To Maude Stevens Marmon, for a wonderful afternoon in her home accumulating facts of importance to the educational picture of the old town, where she taught.

To all those who contributed, in perhaps a smaller, but no less important measure; the members of pioneer families, the Elliotts, the Dodsons, the Bargars, and many others. To Mrs. Agnes Davis McClure, of Illinois, for her beautiful material.

Special thanks goes to my sister, Hazel Arnold for her dedication, for meritorious service at the wheel of the Chrysler, for the hours she spent before a note pad, for her drawing of the old town, and for designing the jacket of this book.

To Nyle F. Miller and his excellent staff at the State Historical Society for their many kindnesses.

To Nina Howe, of Kansas City, for her evaluation of the manuscript of the old town.

To Maxine Mahon, of Dodge City, for the endless hours she spent at the typewriter, for her appraisals, her kindly criticisms and inspirational assistance.

To Earl Fickertt, of Peabody, a former editor of "The Montezuma Press," for his prompt reply to my plea for material. To Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Collett, for their kind permission to use the files of "The Montezuma Press," and the courtesy shown me on every occasion.

To George Geisbrecht and A. J. Unruh, for the material in their anniversary phamplet, for the Menonite story.

To Victor Hull, for his wonderful material.

To Mrs. Wherritt for being on constant call for two years.

To Frank Hungate for the pictures.

And to literally scores of others, who have given their time, advice, information, transportation, and encouragement so freely, gladly, and generously.

And last, but not the least important, for the assistance of my husband, Ward and of my father-in-law, A. N. Rennie, who came to Gray County four years before the second Montezuma came into existence.

INTRODUCTION

History of Montezuma, or any history, is forever. Each age is filled with highly interesting events.

Geological facts, gained by workmen and scientists were studied to reason out the causes of our vast gas formations, and oil pools. They think that our area of Kansas was once probably a part of the Gulf of Mexico. Evaporation began, which accounts for the huge salt beds east of us. This set up a chemical reaction which might have caused oil and gas to form.

Ages later the Arkansas river plunged down from the heights of the Rockies, making for itself a wide bed. The soil was changed to sandiness. The enlarged river currents likely tore through the hills until it reached the Mississippi. Thus many streams were founded and even vigorous rivers. In our own time we see fewer streams that flow all seasons, and there are signs of many extinct rivers. Old timers attest to Crooked Creek flowing all year long, with lots of holes deep enough to swim a horse.

Before Egypt had pyramids, our area had lush, profuse vegetation. Strange animals, some of them fore-runners of our present ones, roamed here. Perhaps some elephantine creature watched the hovering wolves devour a smaller version of our present horse, as he floundered in the quicksand and muck on the banks of our own Wildhorse Lake. Certainly huge bands of bison roamed at will.

In the twelfth century Prince Modoc with Welch and Irish followers allegedly toured Kansas. Later, Cabeza de Vaca of the Narvaez expedition, Esteban sought the seven cities of Cibola, and Coronado explored our state. Father Padilla was another, although the exact route of these adventurers has never been traced with authenticity, it is possible they may have even camped in Gray County.

Then Major Stephen Long, followed by Pike, traveled the later famous Santa Fe Trail in 1804.

Our territory was mostly inhabited by the Quivera Indians, who along with their relatives the Wichitas and Pawnees, were pottery makers. They made a dull, shell tempered product. It is believed that the Pueblo, a tribe farther west, held commerce with the Kansas tribes, by the presence of similar pottery in their camps. Perhaps they even intermarried.

It is believed that our tribes were generally supposed to be sun worshippers. The plants, rain and sun, indeed all nature was held in reverence. There were also the highly painted faces of the Sioux, the Commanche, and Kiowa. Even some evidence of the Apache. There are few publicized artifacts of the Redman's civilization, although just south of the Gray County line there was a circular grave found with twelve skeletons. The heads were toward the center. Many beads, trinkets, and bones were found also.

The story of the vanished red warrior is even less spectacular than the height and fall of the huge herds of buffalo. The majestic animals furnished food, clothing, and leather. Indians killed only those necessary for their needs. And the herds grew, there was no danger of extinction.

But the greedy white man was different. He killed, not only for sport and for his needs, but for his friends back east. The pioneer needed money. The hides sold well and the meat more often than not was wasted. It is told that some killed only for the tongue of the beast, a delicacy of that day.

Sometimes a herd would cover hundreds of square miles. Docile like our domestic cow, stupid and lubberly, the buffalo hadn't the ingenuity to cope with white man's greed. He obliterated a way of life, even though he was convinced that it is all in the line of progress.

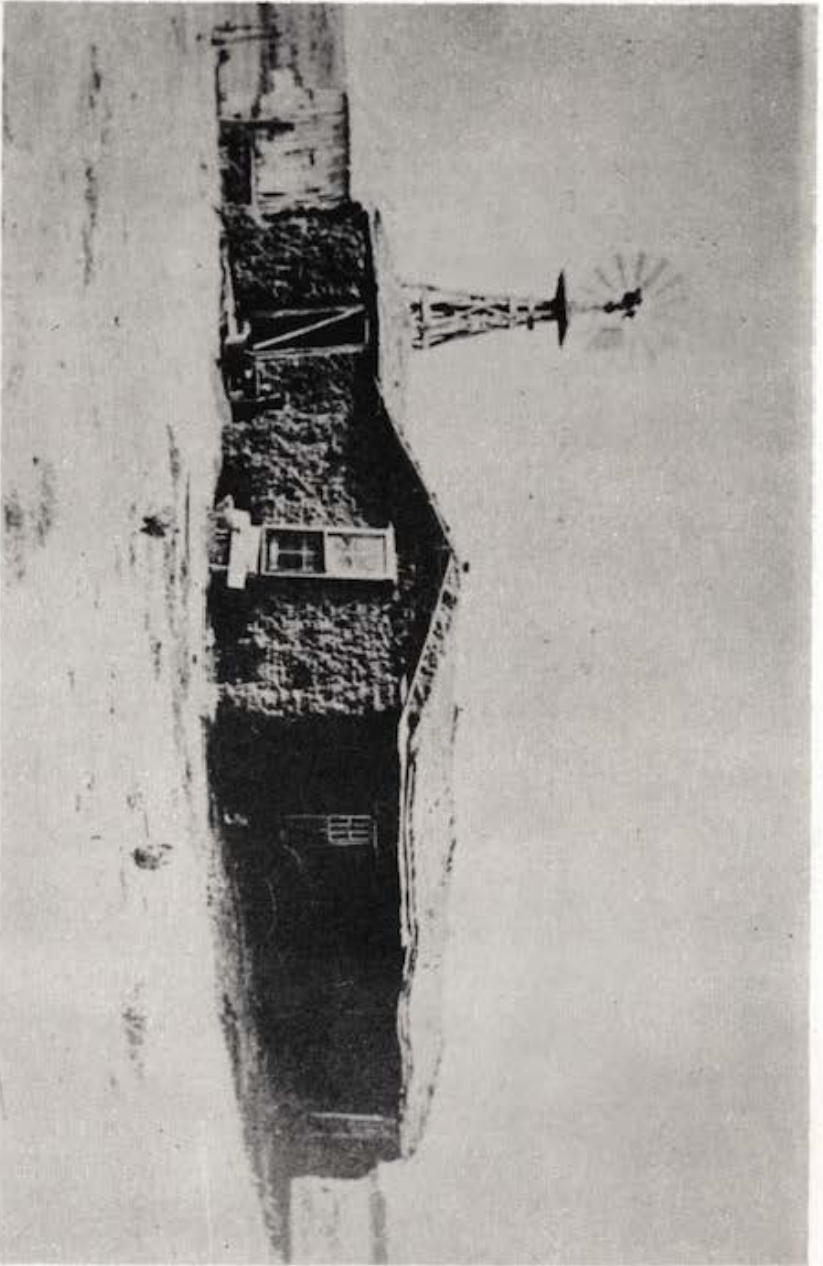
Interesting Pictures



Artist's conception of Old Montezuma taken from a plat and description. The electric well with healing qualities may be seen, and Mr. Bargar on his famous white cow.



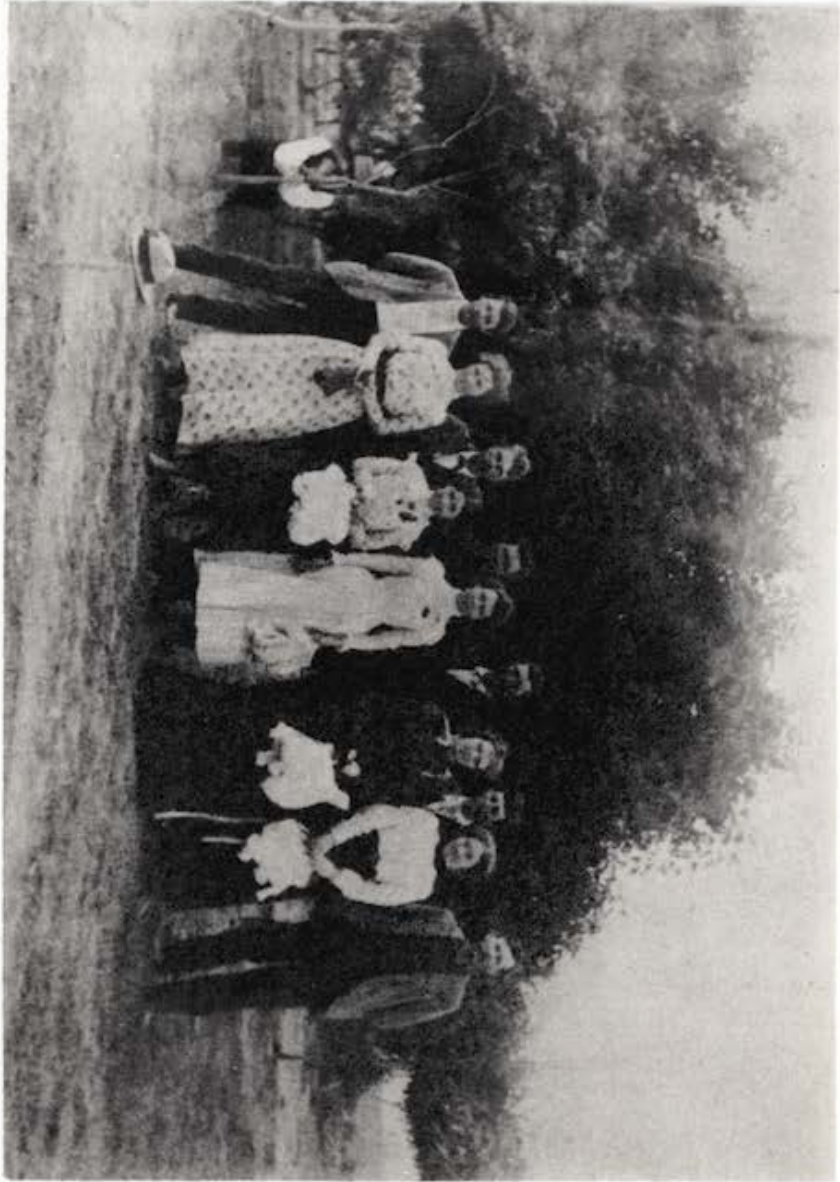
The Dodson family: top row, Henrietta, Clara B. (Yeiter) and Bessie B.
Second row: John W., Henry J. (father), Frank E., Mary Jane (Mother),
Fannie M. seated in father's lap, J. Fred, and Arthur



The Elliott sod house on Crooked Creek.

HOTEL REGISTER.					
		50 CENTS PER DAY	W. E. THOMAS, Proprietor.		
NAME	RESIDENCE	Time	Room	Remarks	
Sunday May 13 th 1888					
Chas. G. Colwell	Camden	3		✓	
Dr. Fisher	"	3		✓	
Wm. Smith	London City	3		✓	
Monday May 14 th 1888					
Chas. G. Colwell	Camden			✓	
Silas Vandenberg	Soldiers Key			-	
Tuesday May 15 th 1888					
Chas. G. Colwell	Camden	2		✓	
Dr. Fisher	"	2		✓	
H. Bigel	Lawrence	3	10 612	-	
Chas. Godfrey	London City	2	9 13	-	
Dr. Godfrey	London City	2	5 13	-	
Samuel Bayne	Anthony Hall	2	7 13	-	
Wednesday May 16 th 1888					
Chas. Colwell	Camden			✓	
Dr. Fisher	"			✓	
Judge Smith	Rich. Hill	2		✓	
James	"	1		✓	
Oliver	Little & Man	2		✓	

A page from the old Cottage Hotel register



A group of young people at Eli Bargar's. (Seen peaking around the shrub)
Left to right, back row: Ross Derrri, Orin Derrri, Harry Hildebrand, Bud
Bahling, Charley Maxfield, and Dee Pribble. Front row: Veda Maxfield,
Nellie Pribble, Mae Hildebrand, Stella Fisher, and Grace Maxfield.



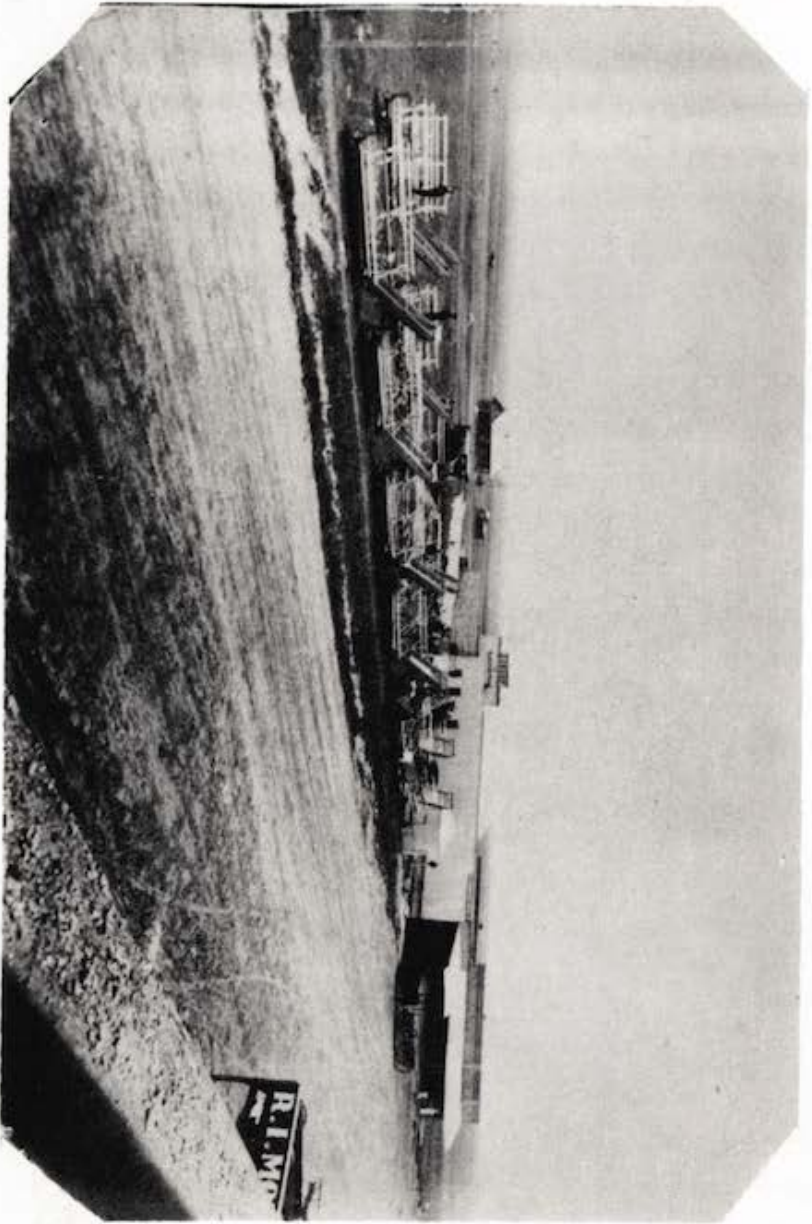
J.W. McReynolds, Optimistic promoter of the new town



Study Club, 1919. Back row: Mrs. J. W. McReynolds, Mrs. Deeds, Mrs. Stella Wallace, Ida McReynolds, Mrs. Rospaw, Mrs. Eddington, Mrs. Kimes, Mrs. Woodard, Mrs. Montgomery, and Mrs. Copenhaver. Second row: Lorraine Harvey, Mrs. Denniston, and Helen Denniston. Sitting: Zoë McReynolds, Mrs. Bursch, Mrs. Harvey, Billy Denniston, Mrs. Anna Hood, Milton Hood, and Billy Copenhaver.



Joe R. Smith as "Young Buffalo."



Early Montezuma with the A.P. Smith stock of headers. Probably 1913.



First school, located where present Gym is. Later, the building served as a Methodist Church.



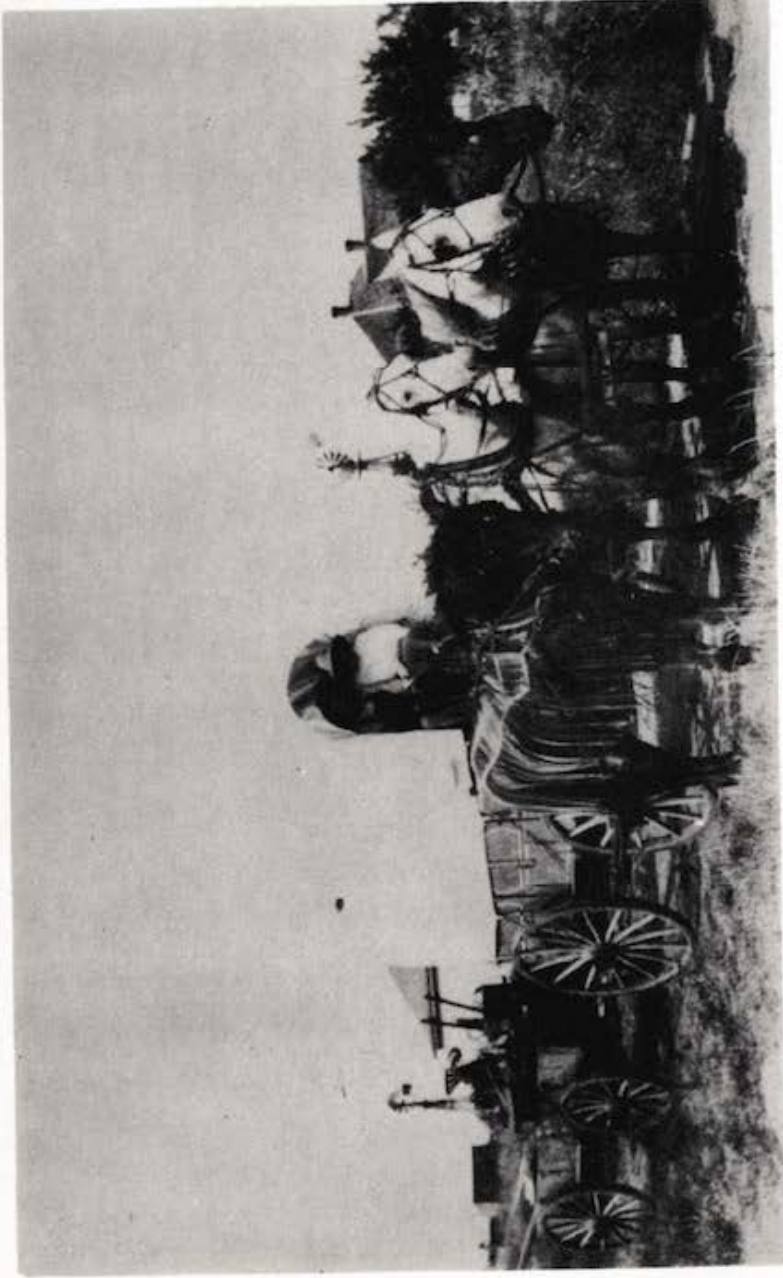
The first Postoffice and Hardware. Homer, Ward, Marjorie, and Hazel Rennie, Mrs. A. N. Rennie, Alice Rennie, Mrs. Blanton, Mr. Blanton, and Dennis Griffin. Homer, Alice, and Marjorie are children of Elmer Rennie.



First High School graduating class: J. H. (Homer) Mitchell, Dollie Mullikin, and Vincent Thomas.



Interior of Parks' Store. From left to right: Henry Yates, unknown, Carl Cordrey, Carroll Parks, Faye Lowe, Mrs. Lee Brown, Roscoe Parks, and Mrs. Lowe.



Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nelson when they came to Gray County in 1912 to plant their first crop of wheat. In April of 1913 they moved to the farm just a mile west of town. They still own the west-of-town farm.



Mary Munford's (Mrs. Ray Sawhill) Sunday School Class. Left to right:
Faye Kimes, Evans Denniston, Vaughn Deeds, Stanley Page, Ernest Chrissmore,
Joe Montgomery.



Ed Beilman's Livery Stable.



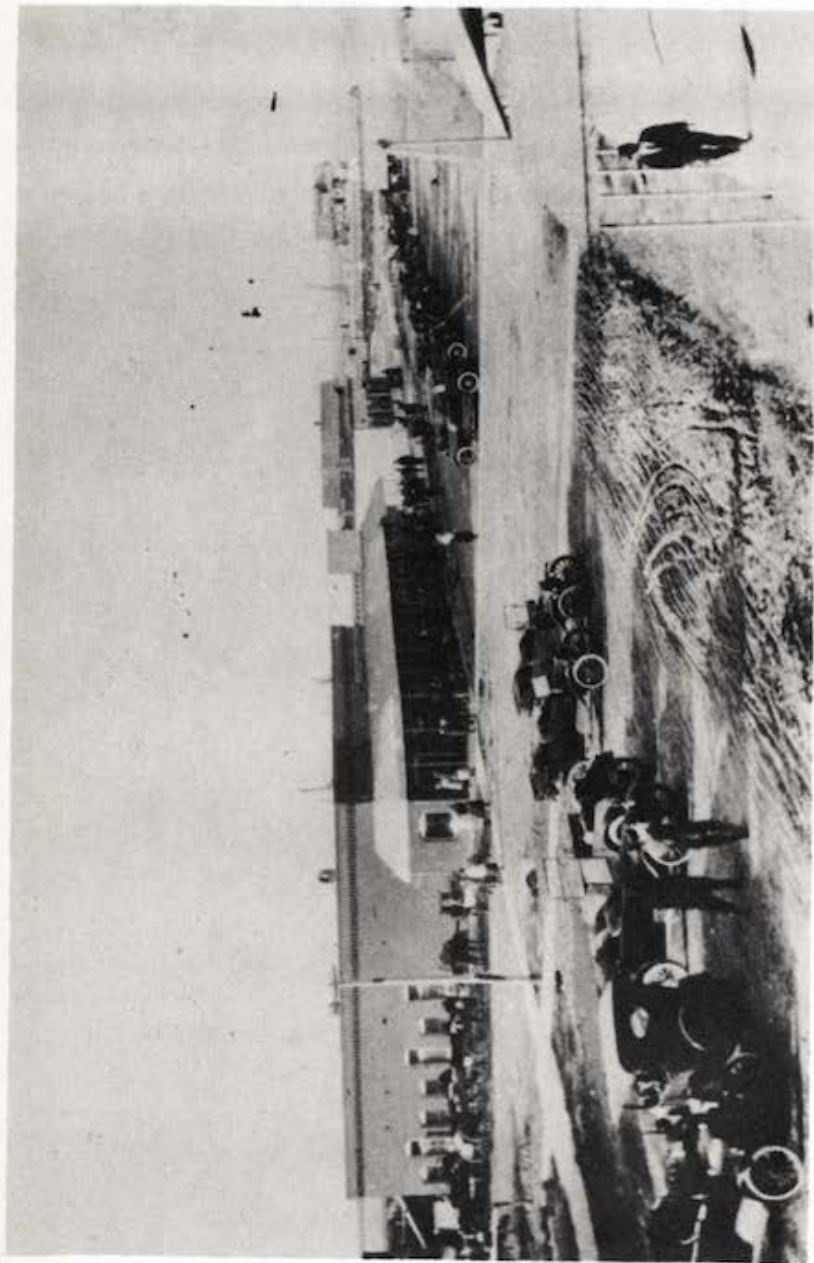
A. N. Rennie Hardware. Shorty Clark, Mrs. Rennie, Mr. Rennie, and W. F. Rinehart standing in front.



Mr. and Mrs. William Gamble and Family, 1894.
Mabel, Herbert and Willie.



The State Championship Basket Ball Team, 1955. From left to right:
Vernon Buller, Tom Elson, Wayne Uhruh, Clifford Koehn, Kenneth Koehn,
Bob Blackwelder, Lynn Voth, Jimmy Hull, Dallas Koehn, Bill Brown and
the Coach, Mr. Frank Griffiths.



Busy Montezuma during the time a tent show was in town.



Dr. and Mrs. Munford.



Milton Hood at three years of age. He was the first baby born in the new town.



Mr. Harry Dern, Mr. J.H. Brock and Mr. Harry Hildebrand

Tale of Two Towns

TALE OF TWO TOWNS

CHAPTER I

A FINE PROJECT, from the Garden City Sentinel, June 24, 1886.

"A new town laid out in an unoccupied field!"

"Amid the hurry and bustle of town projectors to hunt suitable locations along railroads, and in geographical centers of counties, they have overlooked some very fine and desirable locations. But probably none as much as that portion lying north of Cimarron, or about halfway between that town and Meade Center. This is one of the most beautiful valleys in the state and is well settled. Capitalists headed, in the effort of locating the exact place, by Mr. J. R. Graham and Dr. T. J. Wheeler, have been prospecting the country for a couple of weeks and have finally located a town site, platted the town and secured over a section of ground around it, and named it Montezuma."

"It is twenty-two miles from Cimarron, about that far from Meade Center, with no other town of any size or importance near it. They have therefore located, without seeking a fight to run out some other town, but to build up a town much needed. It is organized on strictly business principals, and is back by good men with capital and energy. They are:

L. Hamlin, Chicago, Ill.

C. M. Bradt, Newton, Kans.

A. H. Adkins, Garden City, Kans.

T. J. Wheeler, Garden City, Kans.

R. R. Hudson, Anthony, Kans.

Howard Dunlap, Emporia, Kans.

E. A. Cook, Garden City, Kans.

J. R. Graham, Emporia, Kans.

The character and standing of all these men, all of whom are well known here, is sufficient guarantee of the success of the undertaking. They intend to do their very best to make a good town. They have a good title to the land and have placed the capital stock of the company at \$100,000. Town lots have been fixed at \$100 for business lots, \$200 for business corner lots and residence at \$30 and 50. The projectors have a fine prospect for making a good town and a lot of money."

And so Montezuma was born. The above is a direct quote from the Garden City Sentinel for June 24, 1886. This group of "projectors" as they chose to call themselves, were known officially as "The Western Kansas Town and Land company." Stock was divided into 2,000 shares with a value of fifty dollars each.

Today we are somewhat skeptical of the men who vow that they will have men on the moon. But they have sound, scientific basic facts to back their dreams. The promoters, or Projectors, had no limitations, anything they could imagine, they could aspire to.

I can imagine this enthusiastic group as they rode along under our placid, blue June sky. Perhaps some of the first heat waves of the summer were dancing on the horizon. Each man cherished a dream that would make him prosperous, famous and historical. This town that they had just founded might become a great metropolis, for we must remember that none of these were of faint heart. These were the men who

boasted that they would some day transport thousands of tons of freight by ship to the Gulf of Mexico. And all that is left of that dream is a ridge of dirt that extends from Ingalls to north of Spearville!

But, the recent influx of settlers, the neatly plowed fields with perhaps small, tender green spears holding promise for the land, small herds of domestic cows, and signs of homemaking and land settling everywhere, gave them confidence. They hoped that they had founded a County Seat of the new Gray county which was to be formed from a part of Finney (of which the Montezuma area was a part), Ford and Plumb counties.

Most of the people who made up the trade area of the newly organized Montezuma, were from counties a little farther east. After the Civil War, as is the case after all wars, there had been a great upheaval of population. Some of the attractions that had lured the pioneer to Kansas in the first place, had not panned out, and so they kept moving westward to open new horizons, build new empires. But these fabled men and women were not mere adventurers. They had drive, vision, a great love for individual liberty and a belief in progress. They were willing to sacrifice, labor unceasingly and be ready to meet every challenge. Even to tearing up homes, and with little else than their determination to seek new fields of labor, new advantages when new lands were opened up to the public.

While it is generally supposed that the first settlers here might have been ranchers, judging from the famous stories of Dodge City and her Cattle Kingdom, these people were for the most part the hated sod-busters, who had come to make a living from their surface farming.

Theirs is an epochal story, and as we see it unroll here again before our imagination, we can say of this group, "Thank God for our pioneers." We are not merely attempting to look backward at this conglomeration of facts and fiction, but trying to capture a living picture of these memories. Maybe they will equip us to act so that in our own time, and maybe forever, men may say, "Thank God for Montezuma and her pioneers!"

There were as many as two families per section on that June day, when if ever, come perfect days. They had been lured here by promises of the superiority of, "Our soil, our crops, our society, our growth, our towns, our railroads, our rivers, our cheap land, and our inducement to capital."

These settlers had access to three types of claims. There was the straight homestead, which granted them a clear title to the land after five years residence. The Preemption, which gave title upon the payment of 1.25 per acre and eighteen months residence. And then the famous TREE claim, whereby the homesteader had to plant five acres of trees and cultivate five additional acres the first year in preparation for planting five more acres the second year. Like many government controlled projects, the tree claims invited fraud and so many a plot was planted with a mere few seeds per row, and then it was declared that the adverse weather accounted for the lack of trees. The government finally rescinded the requirement and insisted on only proof that an attempt had been made to seed, and cultivate trees. Each family could take as many as three claims under preemption, one homestead and one tree claim at a time. Relinquished land was purchased for from \$75 to \$300 per quarter, when prairie fires, blizzards drouth and discouragement drove the people to yet

another new land. In the case of Montezuma, it was the promise of the Cherokee strip in 1893. But we are getting ahead of our story.

People lived in dugouts, in sod houses and a few in cabins built of precious lumber that had been hauled for many miles. They had established schools in some cases and in some hadn't gotten around to that important part of their lives as yet. The people to the east went to Fowler to trade and for their mail. The others were served by a stage line that ran from Meade Center to Cimarron. There were few horses, Mr. Brock says that three teams out of every five were oxen.

Those settlers who were lucky enough to own mules or horses were glad to get the money they could earn from renting them out to freighters. The people also made extra money before Soule began paying his fabulous wages to buy the votes that he hoped would make Ingalls the County Seat instead of Montezuma, by plowing sod for tree claims, at the price of twenty five cents per acre. Mr. Brock also remembers that the first money he made was for picking up cow chips from the prairie for a neighboring blacksmith, who was famous for his ability to reset wagon tires. The incessant sun and dry air made this a very necessary service to the wagons which crossed the prairie. He was paid one dollar per load for this chore. He also recalls planting corn, cane, and maize for neighbors with a hand planter at twenty-five cents per acre.

Wells were hand dug, and of the deep variety, some of them walled up with stone that took many hours of hauling and digging to obtain. Many times the water was pulled from the well by oxen.

The diet of these people consisted mostly of beef, which kept remarkably well when carefully wrapped

and lowered into wells. They bought coffee, sugar, and flour. Many a stout hearted woman, with visions of great bowls of green vegetables to put before her men, planted gardens. They painstakingly carried water to the spindly plants, but the merciless winds, the flaring sun soon took their toll and the garden became rows of dead, yellowed plants that defied all the green thumb attempts of the most ardent gardener. When a farmer butchered, he divided the meat among his neighbors, and thus the problem of preservation wasn't nearly so great. Lots of black eyed peas were consumed, along with the usual chicken, eggs and milk diet that farm folk have existed on from time immemorial.

So these were the people who would make up the trade territory of the newly founded city that was to reach such fabulous heights in the minds of its founders. They sorely needed a place to trade, the services of doctors, lawyers, blacksmiths, schools, and churches. They were going places, this was to be their salvation.

CHAPTER 2

Perhaps no town was ever more beautifully platted than Old Montezuma. And one of the most remarkable things about the mushrooming in that prairie, which the projectors chose to call an unoccupied field, was the rapidity with which the plans were dispatched. Appointments were made, contracts let, carpenters hired. Discrepancies were found, which the county refused to correct in the surveying, but in a few days less than eleven months a Congregational church had been built, presumably with money for the most part furnished by the generous land company. Although it was owned by local citizens, in September of 1888 the National Congregational Union purchased the property from the Montezuma First Congregational church company. A weekly paper named the "Montezuma Chief" was functioning with Hebard as editor. The post office had been authorized by the government for the newly organized town, on August 21, 1886, with Elisha E. Baily appointed as the first postmaster. Later Mr. Thompson filled the office.

In 1887 the statute was passed which created Gray County. A portion of the county had once been named Gray, and then later abolished in 1883. Gray was named to honor the Hon. Alfred M. Gray who was the first director of our State Board of Agriculture. He was made famous by the display Kansas presented at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. He died in 1880 and never knew the honor Gray Countians eventually had shown him.

Montezuma had great hopes of becoming the County Seat of this new county. The Town company promised to give buildings necessary for County purposes for a period of five years, then they pledged the outright gift of one block and \$15,000 in cash. The Montezuma Chief declares in its Friday, May 6, 1887 edition, "There is nothing small about our Town Company!"

The Saturday before this issue there had been a county seat meeting to receive proposals from "Our Town Company" and to get the sentiments of the people all over the south part of the county, in regard to the voting of the County Seat at Montezuma. The Chief goes on, "Early in the day people commenced to pour in from all parts of the county, and the indications were that a large crowd of citizens would be present. About noon the town was literally crowded, and a good many more would have been present had the wind not been so strong, which made it rather disagreeable, and unpleasant for the ladies and children, but notwithstanding the wind there were a good many ladies present. The Cowboy band, of Dodge City, the best band in the state, arrived about noon with a delegation from the east end of the county and from Dodge."

The Chief continues: "About two o'clock everybody went to the new church, which is a large building, where speeches were made by a good many citizens from all parts of the county. After the citizens were through, members of the Town Company were called. Mr. J. R. Graham, Secretary, gave a history of the town, how it came to be started, etc., and wound up by saying that the company would erect buildings suitable for county purposes and donate the use of them free for five years, and at the end of that time would

deed a whole block, in the heart of the city, and give \$15,000 cash to the county for the purpose of erecting county buildings, provided Montezuma got the permanent county seat. Citizens present accepted the propositions with applause, and everybody from that time on were for Montezuma for County seat first, last and all the time. Dr. T. J. Wheeler resident manager, made a very forcible speech, wound up by saying that the Town Company had decided to present the Dodge City band a deed to a business lot and also the leader of the band a residence lot as it was the first band to be welcomed to our city. This last move was a surprise to everybody. Mr. H. R. Hudson, who is superintendent of the construction of the Dodge City, Montezuma and Trinidad railway, made some encouraging remarks regarding the construction of the railway." (The railroad at that time was being planned by the Rock Island and contemplated coming across from somewhere near Bloom.)

The article continues, "The meeting wound up about five o'clock when three cheers were given the Dodge City Band, some rather oldish gentleman raised his hat and said, "Let's give three cheers for Montezuma", which was sounded with a hearty good will by all present."

And on the same day the Chief told of tactics to which they claimed Cimarron had resorted to cheat Montezuma out of the County Seat. The Citizens of Cimarron had banded together to meet the proposition of the Town company. But the Chief warns, "Look to your own interests and pay no attention to such proposals. The Montezuma Town Company's proposals are in black and white and are in the hands of the citizens of Gray County."

On June 24, 1887 the Chief enthuses: "Hurrah for Montezuma, the County Seat of Gray County!" The enumerating of votes was very close but it was thought that when the fraudulent votes were cast out that the south part of Gray county would be the county seat. The Chief avows, "When the time comes, Governor Martin will pronounce Montezuma the County Seat of Gray County, as a choice of the people."

But in a month or so the Governor had named Cimarron as the temporary county seat with the stipulation that the County wide election for the permanent County Seat would be held on Monday, October 31, 1887.

A short while after the unlucky election for the county offices, a meeting was called in the church at Montezuma. Asa Titus Soule, an eastern millionaire, who had come west to extend his millions into billions, was about to seize another opportunity to enlarge his empire. After Montezuma had been ruled out of the race, he decided to combine the need for a railroad to serve the south end of the county and his desire to make Ingalls the county seat and disenthroned Cimarron. The small community of Hess, some six miles east, was located in a township larger than the regulation permitted. Soule hoped that by cinching the votes of this end of the county he could be sure of establishing the county records in the town he wished to promote, which was the head of his Eureka Irrigation Co.

A meeting was held in the new Congregational church in Montezuma, which all southern Gray Countians had been urged to attend since it would definitely be to their benefit. The church was crowded, and no doubt the heat of late summer and early fall made the air stifling.

The carefully dressed, bearded man who stepped to

the rostrum was probably groomed in sharp contrast to his audience. His manner was hesitant, as though the thing he was going to tell them was a favor to himself. This man had none of the looks of a Westerner. He was certainly no Buffalo Bill, but rather on the prim side, dressed with a careful neatness and was quiet and logical in his speech. His voice was forceful, he had an aversion to the "screaming" type of oratory popular in that time.

With his strong, forceful voice and magnetic personality, he made a very handsome picture as he stood before the pioneers. While he was not exactly wearing a halo, still he carried a hint of rare genius. He spoke in an oratorical manner of the golden birthright of these people who had been cheated out of their County Seat. But, he had hope for the hopeless. He wanted to give them a new feeling, that they were still important, God loved them, he loved them, and was prepared to offer them salvation for their woes. Then he spoke of the great benefits a railroad would be to them; he told of his intention of changing the original plans of the route that had been slated to miss this area on the way to Trinidad. He promised the citizens of Montezuma a railroad, if they would throw their votes for locating the permanent County Seat in the small town of Ingalls. If the old adage, "an Institution is the shadow of a man," held any truth, then Soule had that day made provisions for his shadow to fall across all of Gray County.

"Cimarron New West" had a great deal to say about bribery and, "We do not believe people can be bought and sold, like sheep in the shambles, at so much a head." But the south end of the county carried for Ingalls.

There was a great deal of controversy about the County Seat question, but all that has been written many times; and so, since it has no other connection with Montezuma, we shall say that the fracas finally ended in a well publicized county seat war, in which one man was killed. Our Mr. Brock was present at the altercation and tells many stories about it. The County Seat functioned at Ingalls for about two years. The facts are well known, and we have no intention of repeating them here. Inglorious and unnecessary though it was, the storming of the offices that day made a long, angry sore in our history. The dignity and significance it lacked was supplanted by a certain robust pleasure. The outward aspect has been told many different ways, but it did set a tremendous series of events in motion.

Asa T. Soule engaged two of his nephews as his business agents. They were John and George Gilbert. Mr. Soule had made his vast fortune from the sale of a patent medicine, known as Hops Bitters and which was supposed to heal almost every ill of the human race. He also hired E. J. Clark as railroad promoter. So intent was Soule on the project that he allowed himself to lose self control once and cried out vehemently, "If any man will tell me how to buy the County Seat, I will freely pay for it."

Some of the homesteaders were very low in funds, and the life on the barren, empty prairie was proving to be a hardship that they hadn't counted on. Family men were happy to be able to work on the railroad, and so construction was begun at once. The slow, painful process of building a grade with the horse power of that day went remarkably fast, and so by the fourth of July in 1888, the small town was preening itself for

a huge celebration in honor of the railroad which was to be their wages for integrity at the polls, and their salvation in this new land. With the help of this great boost they would keep the legend of the westerners, the pioneer spirit, and the American way.

CHAPTER 3

Spring came reluctantly in 1888. Muted green took the place of the somber beiges of the prairies. It came so slowly that it was difficult for the people, accustomed to a blossoming of the season, to ever remember that she was supposed to be a harbinger of tender leaves, small delicate flowers. April was beset with winds that seemed disinclined to yield to winter. May was half gone before Spring gave in enough to sit easy on the prairie, then the farmers planted their surface crops, uneasily keeping one eye on the horizon, lest spring turn whimsical and fly into a rage.

But the weather held her fury and the rows and rows of cane, corn and kafir corn made a green cover for the farm land. The shiny leaves testified to the bountiful moisture, and the pioneers looked forward to one of their best years.

The winter had been a long one, not especially vigorous. The homesteader was terrified of the blizzard threat that left so many people penniless, stock killed or wandered off, not to be returned, and sickness and even death. There had been a little snow, and that had fallen most advantageously. Many of the farmers were away most of the time taking advantage of the promises made by Soule. Women had spent lonely hours waiting for their men, and the days dragged out with the children away at school; many of them hooded and bundled and on their way, dinner pail in hand, before it was light in the mornings. The brunt of the chores had fallen on them, and come spring many drove the

teams that planted the small acreages to spring crops. Some of the men came home richer by as much as \$500, especially if they had horses they could hire out besides their own labor.

Americans cannot sit still. The people who built the west would rather build something, even if it was the wrong thing to do at the time. They would rather develop in the wrong place, at no limit of expense or sacrifice, and then have to destroy their labors, again at great expense and sacrifice, than not to expand at all. Americans have to strive and do. This is their weakness, and their strength. Our progress has been built upon three things, and in this order: work, growth, and money.

The women, who had been so tightly tied at home all winter, were excited at the first hint of a celebration when the long awaited train made its exhibition trip to Montezuma on the fourth of July in 1888. Smoke curled from the chimneys all over the area as the ladies boiled, baked, and roasted in preparation. For the children, it was a vacation, something they seldom had, and most of them had visions of candy, a commodity they seldom enjoyed.

It was a sunny, fresh scented July morning when the wagons on the separate farms began loading the festive baskets, the scrubbed, sunday-best dressed children and the wives. As they drove past the rows of shiny-leaved crops, even with the horse's belly, they talked excitedly of putting a wood floor in to replace the old dirt one. The husbands promised their wives a trip to Meade Center to buy "calico" for the necessary school clothes. In short, their hearts were light, and they had a new promise for things money could buy with the advent of the railroad. With the

nest egg they had from the grueling hours of work on the grade, they hoped that next winter would hold none of the terrors of low provisions in case of a bad storm. Perhaps they could even buy some of the new machinery that there was such a furor about in the east.

In town the sun soon blotted up the dewey drops on the grass stems, the brilliant rays promising the stifling heat waves that would soon dance on the rolling hills. A stranger might have thought he had his days mixed up, all the stores were closed, and the loafer's benches were empty. He couldn't know that the usual occupants were at home going through the necessary sprucing up such a celebration called for.

By midmorning self-appointed brigadiers were shoving people here and there, and the columns of paraders lined up. The children pushed close to the fife and drum corps made up of Mr. Dodson and his four sons, Arthur, John, Fred and Frank, a Mr. Derry who played the fife. They watched the bugged out eyes of the fife player and playfully suggested to one another that they wanted to be the one to catch the flying eyeball if and when it finally popped out.

Down to the roundhouse, still aromatic from the new lumber and fresh paint, the women froze ice cream and spread out their cooking. . . . Young Charley Maxwell and Harry Dern obligingly turned the freezers for the ladies. Ice had been brought from Meade Center. Ice cream was a must in all the get togethers of these people, a delicacy and treat that they never tired of, and which only compared in popularity with the barrels of lemonade which was gulped down with vigor on the hot days when people met.

In the afternoon, contests of skill were held. There were horse races, foot races, and all sorts of displays

of physical prowess. The cowboys came dressed in their flashiest regalia for the biggest celebration Montezuma ever staged. These sons of the soil and fresh air had physical genius so versatile that it seemed that there was no end to their repertory of stunts. They reached their heights of superiority by long hours of practice and the hard work that toughened them physically.

Foot racing, horse racing, horseshoes, jumping — these were the skills they excelled in. And beyond the personal satisfaction they got from victory and the outward display of their strength, it made them popular with the ladies, who were usually fond of such physical displays. Al Clark, reputed to be a champion foot racer in several states, outran a horse in a 100 yard race. He also won a handicap race with a good runner. He lay flat on the ground, and at the crack of a gun, jumped to his feet and outran the other in a 100 yard dash.

Many a fat bank account was flattened to some extent that day, as betting was lively on the favorites entered in the contests.

In the evening a great ball was held, and the dresses of the ladies were dug from trunks where they had lain for many months. Even though Kansas was theoretically dry, the town boasted a bootlegger who had managed to dispose of some of his wares on this day of festivities. Dance hall music fanned out over the scattering people, who felt that they had to return home early. Soon the crack of a six shooter rent the air and Jim Leedy had shot out the light in the Green Hotel where the ball was in progress.

But eventually night and the dark swallowed everything: the marching feet, the endless stream of buggies, horseback riders and spring wagons, probably

some of them freighters. The voices of the merry-makers faded into the night, as they talked excitedly of the hopes set loose that day. Compelled as man is to build an empire, they had a feeling of accomplishment. They had taken the passion of the pioneers before them and set in motion a new phase of modern life that was to build a lifeline from outer civilization to their own community. They had let loose new powers on the surface of the endless prairies. This was their moment of vision, and it proved to be as unsubstantial as the dreams of the man who instigated it.

The men who rode the train out on its initial trip had little idea that the train would be making its last trip not too many years hence. The railroad had cost the benefactor of Montezuma a quarter of a million dollars.

But as few and far between as the days of celebrating were in the newly settled country, there was one community that didn't take advantage of the barrels of lemonade, the gallons of ice cream, the marching feet, the thrills of the band. The townspeople of Hess, several miles to the east, had also been promised that the railroad would provide them with a lifeline to the world. Their town was nicely platted, they had a thriving hotel, several business houses, and a school with some forty students. But, the railroad missed it by a couple of miles, and so a dream died; one of the last buildings, the hotel, was cut into sections and moved to Pueblo, Colorado.

CHAPTER 4

The individuals who came to make homes in this new town and its surrounding country were responsible men and women who took the initiative, and who were prepared to expend any amount of energy, courage, and thought to make America what it is. Obviously, there were many such people. But, there were villains as well as heroes, square pegs as well as round; for all in their various ways caused us to meet the challenge of pioneering. They, too, add to our character as a people, the character that we depend on for facing our futures.

This chapter is going to attempt to deal with the square pegs who didn't quite fit into the round hole of the new community. There is a certain attraction to the kinds of people who have a yen to make money the easy way, to travel something less than the back breaking sacrificial route that led the pioneers to bare existence and finally to prosperity. They were the drifters, the parasites who made a practice of living by their wits, and of creating dissention and trouble where ever they were.

Theoretically Kansas was a dry state at that time, but men seemed bent on their consumption of the forbidden liquor; so other men chose to make a fortune by providing them with the elements of their destruction. The rough element that made up the construction crews, rushed in to establish businesses in new places, where there were avid customers who did not like to have their tastes limited. These men have a place in

history too, for there must necessarily be burrs in our bouquet. Probably down through the years these burrs have been gilded some; perhaps they may be even more prickly than the original. Be that as it may, we give them to you as best we can.

A Mr. Ceach, who allegedly made his fortune by his agility in climbing in windows and upper stories, set up a business in the north part of town. It is not certain what his store was supposed to sell, but it seems that the principal product that he offered for sale was the hated whiskey. Mrs. Jake Hildebrand, hastily gathered some women friends and in no time at all the man was out of business, by courtesy of their threats.

Nuttle was also another peddler of the fiery liquid. Once when he was being driven from town, he was known to have taken refuge in the Hildebrands empty house, under a trundle bed that had been left. In another story, Mr. Nuttle allegedly ran a drug store, but his stock of drugs would hardly have filled a wash tub. He bought his whiskey from a dealer at Cimarron. At first, he purchased highly ornate quart bottles which he readily sold for one dollar each; but, as his business became established he decided to cut down on the overhead, so he purchased 33 gallon barrels. One day the Cimarron man from whom he got his stock, not wishing to lose such a good customer, tipped him off that the State men were coming to clean up the town.

Mr. Nuttle had a brand new barrel of the high priced merchandise on hand, so he calmly rolled it into the back room of the store, and apparently the store was a bonafide dispenser of the usual drugs; perhaps he even sold "Hops Bitters." In due time the inspector came, issued him a clean bill of health and went his

way. After waiting a safe length of time, Nuttle called some of the fellows in to help him put the barrel up on jacks, generously offering them a free drink for the help. They reached down, prepared to heave the heavy barrel up to where the spigot could be used, but the heft sent them sprawling backwards. The barrel was empty, and on the side next to the floor were three holes neatly drilled from the cellar, and even the tube was still dangling, mute evidence of the atrocity that had been perpetrated on him. But as is always the case, all the customers had to pay for this bit of fun enjoyed by only a few. Whiskey, from that day, went up to a dollar twenty-five cents a quart.

And then there was the cowboy, a stranger, who was shot for no apparent reason as he rode across the ranch of Mr. Hill.

But perhaps most famous of all was Mr. Al Huff. He first came into the limelight when he was shot in the heel by Mr. Thompson in the post office. He had some sort of an argument at the wicket and as he walked out, Thompson fired his six gun at Huff's heels. At that time, the sympathy was more or less with Huff, since no one knew the details or what instigated the shooting.

Shortly after, he was involved in another fracas that resulted in the death of McCarty, a farmer who lived a short way out of town. Huff told that McCarty drew a gun, they tussled, and the gun was discharged. Huff stated that then his mule team began to walk away, so he just left McCarty and started after them. As he turned back, he said that he saw McCarty walk over to the well. Later when Mrs. McCarty became worried, she went over and found her husband sitting dead with his head against the sod wall of the house. His body

had been soaked in coaloil and had been set afire. There was also water on his clothing. Huff testified that he didn't know McCarty was shot when he went after the mules. A Pete Althouse and Harry Brooks went his bond. A few days before the trial he and his family left in a covered wagon, but the bond holders encountered him a few miles west of Bucklin, where they had set up camp for the night, and forced him to return to Montezuma for trial. His testimony caused the verdict to be accidental homicide.

But the incorrigible Mr. Huff was soon to be in trouble again. This time the altercation took place with the roadmaster of the railroad, a crippled man named Hollenbeck. Mr. Dern tells that Huff assaulted Hollenbeck with a stove poker, then ran from the building and jumped on the personal handcar of the roadmaster and made his get away. Probably no western bad man made such a novel escape. He was later killed in a gun battle in Oklahoma, in the Indian territory.

But the unorthodox desperados that used unconventional weapons like stove poker and coaloil, were almost the least ominous things that faced the people of our older generation.

One of the most terrifying possibilities was the blizzard. Its threat caused the people to store food, to expect the worst, especially those earlier settlers who had to live through the storm of January 1886. Mr. Hildebrand told of the snow that blew through the keyhole forming a drift a foot and a half high on the floor, and of walking over the roof to the out buildings on drifts. To the settlers who did have cattle, the loss of stock was so high that many never did recover from the loss they sustained. There was no ready money to replenish their herds. Whenever Gray county history

is mentioned, the Big Blizzard is one of the chief topics. Every one has a story or experience of intense interest concerning some one known to the whole community. Every family who lived on the prairie dreaded the insidious winds, the swirling snow that spelled so much hardship and suffering.

And then there was the prairie fire. The surface soil of many of the homesteads had an ashy quality because of the extensive grass fires that had burned across their land. This, like all the other tragedies of the pioneer people, was a matter shared by all. When lightning caused the menacing red glow to show up on the horizon, all hands dropped whatever they were doing and ran to the rescue of the family, or families, that might be in the path. Backfire furrows were plowed and wet sacks were used to beat the flames. The men wielded them facing the glare and heat until they could scarcely stand. Mr. Brock lost a finger while plowing a furrow at the Bill Gamble home. He said that for many hours he fought on, little realizing the seriousness of his injury, indeed, not even conscious of the pain. Sometimes the huge engine of the railroad was the culprit responsible for the fire that destroyed all in its wake.

Perhaps the danger most often coped with was the rattle snake. He was furious at losing one of his last grounds and retaliated by his fierce and unfair attacks. He lurked in soapweeds, in clumps of grass, and was so quick and hard to see that many of his victims had little warning. After they heard the insidious rattle, they had no time to escape.

At a school held in an abandoned sod house, where the Brock children went, the teacher sent one of the girls for Jim Brock to come kill a snake that had been

rattling ominously in the wall all morning. Not wishing to tear out the whole side of the building, he had all the children evacuated, then he placed a red handkerchief on the end of a stick and thrust it in a hole near where the rattling was heard. The snake struck. As soon as his fang became entangled in the cloth, he was pulled out and then killed. There are also many other famous snake stories told of the early day in Gray county.

CHAPTER 5

Old Montezuma did not ever have a school house. The land company which laid out the beautiful plat very generously had appointed places for some four grade schools, a high school, and a college. But school convened in the church, even though there was at one time as many as one hundred students who attended school in the town. The first teacher was a man by the name of Parmenter, others named Williamson, and Wollen. Later, in 1889 to 1893 the father of Harry Dern, E. N. Dern, Carrie Othwaite, Maude Stevens and Mollie Land guided the studies of the children who attended the schools. Because of transportation, schools were organized in the country. As was the policy in those days, an abandoned house, vacant because the owner was ready to give up, became public property. People rifled it for salvage that they could use in their own homemaking projects. Many were used for schools. The furniture was crude, often merely benches, and the children held their slates on their laps for the written work.

Obviously, the teachers of that day were a dedicated group. The top pay was thirty dollars a month, out of which had to be paid at least ten dollars board. This meager sum, plus the fact that the teacher also had to perform the tasks of janitor to the tune of building fires, collecting the fuel, and the usual cleaning of the building must have made the job a rather grim one. But in every case, the dispensers of the three R's spec-

ialized in adding grace to gifts which nature had bestowed on the prairie children.

In many instances, the teacher was also the head of recreation and managed the spelling bees, the literarys, and other meetings in the school house that was the center for get-togethers. Not to say anything about the happy little spot she must have made in the countryside that was so devoid of elegant young women, where families had only grade school age children. The early day teacher, man or woman, filled a spot that made for happier and better living. Many of that day were wholly dependent on the school and its master for the social life they enjoyed.

And there was the usual relationships in the classes themselves. Mr. Hildebrand tells of his youthful experience in a sod house that had been taken for the school year. He fell for a pretty little girl who had asked permission to sit with him on his bench. She became very dependent on him and one day when he had to stay home because of illness, she cried because the other children chided her about his absence. So she told him of their cruelty. He immediately became incensed and began fighting all who came near, in defense of the honor of his lady, although she was probably no more than three feet high. Her name? If he told me, I don't remember.

Outside of school, the child of that day had many other chores to fulfill his obligations in the scheme of family programs. He had, oftentimes, to be responsible for the fuel that the family burned to cook and heat with, herd the cows, chop wood on the tree claims, where many of the trees failed to make fuel more than a season or two. He also helped with the field work at an

early age. He picked up cow chips, which were used for fuel.

The families did get together for picnics and celebrations, and the children never did get enough homemade ice cream or lemonade. They probably did all the things that boys and girls have done for centuries. Mr. Hildebrand tells of how they played in the roundhouse, especially after the train was discontinued. They would sneak under the door where the wind had hollowed out a place big enough for them to wiggle their supple bodies through, and then run the hand car on the railroad "Y". This went on for some time, until one day they chanced to tip the vehicle over. From that time on their rides were no more, but the locked roundhouse did remain a place of intense interest and intrigue.

Always, on Saturday afternoon, the families came to town for provisions. They traded eggs, chickens, dressed meat, and perhaps grain for the supplies they needed. While the adults bickered and shopped the children went about their usual contests: foot racing, jumping, and playing.

The family was indeed a poor one if it couldn't afford a bit of candy for the children which was carefully put in a safe place and meted out, perhaps as payment or rewards. They also bought sorghum, which supplied their table sweet. For a long time this was manufactured by a man who lived over near Copeland. Black-eyed peas were easily grown, even in the conditions which spelled death to other garden vegetables. The iced delicacy, they always enjoyed on special occasions, necessitated someone making a trip to either Meade Center or Cimarron for the precious cooling product.

Chickens, eggs, and the dairy products filled out the diet of the early day settler.

To obtain choke cherries, wild grapes, and the acid sandhill plums, a pleasure excursion was made of the trip into "No Mans Land", where the fruit was gathered along the banks of creeks and streams. Sometimes several families went camping together; when they returned with the fruit, the women had canning bees. Many fishing trips were planned too, and it seems that Crooked Creek was a larger stream that provided enough water to accomodate fish.

CHAPTER 6

The first line in Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities" reads, "It was the worst of times, it was the best of times." And so, Montezuma and the surrounding territory were a parallel. It was the worst of times if one considers the drouths, uncertainty of crops, the dust, and seething winds that turned to blasts of icy breathlessness on occasion; the relentlessness of the land and elements fighting back. It was the best of times, making memories that grow more precious, the integrity of neighbors as problem ridden as all the others, wholesome get-togethers with friends, real friends, and appreciation of the honest worthwhile things in life.

Whether the times were hard or life came comparatively easy, the necessities were hard to come by. Community life went on, neighbors were on constant call for help for any emergency. No one was ever too busy to answer the call of a needy neighbor.

Mrs. Maude Stevens Marmon, who lives in Garden City, taught school in Old Montezuma. As stated before, the school convened in the Congregational Church. In addition to the classes of all eight grades, she also taught some high school subjects for those students who had no other opportunity to gain a High School education. She also taught in Ingalls and Cimarron; Mrs. M. L. Fry (Fisher) was one of her pupils. She said the school district was prosperous the years she taught there, because of big crops. But then the drouth came and many abandoned the new country and left for the challenge of the Cherokee Strip, in Sep-

tember of 1893. She helped with the literary programs, held in connection with the schools, which consisted of debates, local talents, and community sings.

"Taking dinner" was a custom commonly observed. On one occasion when a family by the name of Foughty, of Cimarron, were scheduled to eat with friends in Old Montezuma, we heard an interesting story. The Foughty daughter was a famous beauty, always tastefully dressed, and this being the Easter Season, her costume was especially splendid. She asked her beau, Harry Brice, to accompany her and her folks to the south Gray County dinner. Her bonnet, allegedly, was rose and plume bedecked, and in the words of one old timer, "Indeed a dandy bonnet." But along the road, near where the old Eagle schoolhouse formerly was, a brisk breeze blew the handsome head-piece off and sent it dancing along the buffalo grass at a terrific speed. Mr. Brice gallantly hopped from the surrey and gave chase, but the bouncing bonnet quickly bounded out of sight. Even he became almost lost in the dust. He gave up, and the hat was considered lost.

But that night, some eight miles south, at the Squire Wright farm, the hired man was filled with consternation when the mountain lion that he pursued on a horse, turned out to be the deplumed, roseless hat!

Mrs. Agnes McClure of Carlinville, Illinois, whose father was Landon Davis, lived down in the Gamble neighborhood. Her father came ahead of his family, by train. Her mother followed in a covered wagon, careful lest her precious Singer sewing machine and saddle, with its red plush seat, be damaged. The family took up a Tree Claim and a Homestead and Mrs. McClure was born there in a little sod house. Mr. Davis was a freighter, and Mrs. Davis, with her three little girls,

was alone most of the time, trying to raise enough black eyed peas to feed the family. She can't remember that they had much else to eat. Occasionally, they made an outing of a fishing trip to Crooked Creek and the children picked up buffalo chips for fuel all along the way. After the mother died in childbirth, she was buried, along with her baby, in the cemetery just outside the town and the family moved away to Missouri.

Montezuma school children were intrigued by a skeleton that Dr. Meredith had hanging in his office. Often they would spend their noon hour disarranging the bones to the annoyance of the Doctor. Mr. Dern recalls that one day the good doctor had come in from a ride across the prairie with a cadaver, the remains of a tall cowboy. After purchasing a copper wash boiler, which even in that day was an expensive vessel, he carefully folded the cowboy inside and boiled the meat off his bones, so that he might become immortalized. The assembled bones were then hung for display in the office of the doctor. The copper boiler was then given to the town boys, who immediately had visions of some quick money. The little fellows trudged from house to house, begged business men to buy the highly desirable utensil. But no one wanted any part of it. After lugging it around day after day, Mr. Dern talked his father into allowing him to ride along to Dodge with the offending boiler. There he was able to sell it to an old Greek junk dealer, by the name of "Myself," for the magnificent sum of twenty-five cents!

Mr. Dern's father was a school teacher and his uncle was the proprietor of one of the town's livery stables.

The Pribbles, who came from Kentucky, bought a relenquished claim and built a sod house. They owned one of the first Aberdeen Angus herds in Gray County.

Later, when circumstances permitted the construction of a frame home, (the one Mrs. Nelson, Kenneth and Bill, recently moved from to their new brick home), they missed the comfort of cool summers and warm winter days that the thick sod walls made possible. Mrs. N. M. Ellis, of Dodge City, and her sister were married in the new frame home of their parents. Mrs. Pribble served as postmistress for many years and kept the office in her home.

The Dodsons came in 1884 and homesteaded the place we know as the J. H. Miller place. Henry J. Dodson had been a drummer in the fife and drum corps of the Infantry, 40th Indiana Regiment. They had a family of eight. With four of his sons, Fred, Frank, Art, and John they made a drum and fife team that furnished entertainment for all the public functions, parades, and picnics. When John was old enough to take his own claim, he took his bride, Lulu Johnson, a neighbor, and moved a few miles south. He served as a country blacksmith, gunsmith, and jeweler. He was one of the first to own and operate his own automobile. Hunting was his favorite pastime. The Dodsons contributed much to the development and progress of a budding community.

Grandpa Evans was their neighbor and lived all alone in a sod house. He carried water a mile or more to the trees and shrubs in the new cemetery, where he had buried his wife and children. Later, he gave that tract of land to the township for a public cemetery, and the graves from the one close to the old town were transferred there. It was believed that the new town would become so large that the cemetery would be overrun.

The Bargars, who came in 1887, were never too busy

to dispense help, even though the task of rearing a large family as well as an ailing relative, was a mammoth one. Mrs. Bargar delivered all three of the Fry children: Ralph, Wanda, and Earl. The doctor had been called, when the oldest was born, but did not arrive until Mrs. Bargar had the red faced infant washed and in his bed, with his mother smiling and relaxed. She brewed potions of sagebrush tea for the ailing who came to her, and administered the faithful quinine by placing a small amount atop a dollar sized pancake, made of flour and water and baked on the hot stove lid. The pancake was rolled with the insidious healing ingredient inside and the patient swallowed it with all the ease of one of today's plastic capsules!

Mr. Hildebrand had a unique experience with quinine. He tells how Dr. Meredith, who had been called to the Hildebrand home to administer to the small sister, intrigued him so much, that he observed that when he grew up he too would like to enter the healing profession. The doctor looked down at the small boy, over his metal rimmed glasses, with the admonition that unless a doctor could take his own medicine, it was impossible to become one, so he gave the lad a huge dose of the bitter drug. Needless to say, the experience squelched any idea Harry might have formerly had for a medical career.

A. B. Williams, like many of our other early citizens, was a veteran of the Civil War. He and his brother came by train. They brought one ready-cut house, one cow, one team, and a few farm implements. Mrs. Williams, who was not well, had hoped to improve her health in this land of sun and dryness. They filed a homestead, a preemption, and one tree claim. Their dug well furnished water for many freighters. The

daughter, Bertha, was married to Art Dodson. Art and one of his brothers printed a local newspaper in old Montezuma for a time.

This land had a strange, wild, and beautiful destiny put upon it, and these were the people who stayed, who visioned the possibilities.

The Gamble family came to Gray County in 1884 by train and covered wagon. The family of eight lived in a rock-lined dugout. Unlike many early settlers, they ranched in connection with their surface farming. "A diet of salt pork in summer, beef in winter, lots of beans, and good ole milk," says Will Gamble, was what they lived on.

The Elliots, who came from Tennessee to Harper County in 1884, came here in 1886. A friend, who later left the hardships of Gray County for the more stable construction work, by the name of Harve Mallory, sent one of his own oxen back to Harper for the Elliots to use. So along with their one oxen, they took up their Crooked Creek claim. Like Mrs. Bargar, Mrs. Elliot was never too busy to serve her neighbors in their hour of need, and was a dedicated midwife. They had a family of eleven, beside the two who died in infancy and were buried in the Evans cemetery. There are forty-three grandchildren, ten of whom served their country in the second World War. Three of the boys served in the first one. Harry's son, Bruce, was awarded the highest honor given an enlisted man for his meritorious service after he managed to escape the Japanese on Corrigedor.

To make ends meet and provide for his family, Mr. Elliot worked out. He helped to build the Court House at Meade and later worked on the Windsor Hotel at Garden City. It is said that many times after riding the

train to Cimarron, he walked the rest of the way home carrying flour, sugar, and other provisions. Often he was known to divide the food with families along his way.

The J. B. Fraziers moved to a claim, north of Copeland, which had been filed by an uncle in the spring of 1886. Later, they took one in the sandhills. The government made it possible, in the dry years, to exchange sandy land for a dry land claim. It was then that they moved to the place we know as the old Frazier home in Salem Valley. There were three Frazier children: Marvin, Elmo, and Winifred.

Squire Wright, the father of Mrs. Will Gamble, took a claim in the area southeast of the old town. Mr. Wright is remembered with affection, and for his ready wit. No situation was so dark but that his humor made it seem less ominous.

The families mentioned above and the Johnsons, Maxfields, Tabbs, Jacques, Endsleys, Lattas, and many others are only a few of the people who flocked here in the mid-eighties to challenge the vast buffalo grass expanses, that held such a strange destiny. When the Cherokee Strip opened in north Oklahoma, many pulled up stakes, having had enough of the trials. Instead of each section of land accomodating from one to more sets of dwellings, the brown furrows slowly reverted back to crisp buffalo grass. The Railroad was discontinued. The county paid to have the dug wells filled. The land, for the most part, went back to the government.

CHAPTER 7

It had begun with flags, cheers, parades, brave new dreams, and a wealth of words; and now it was dead. The gold and purple flowers that dotted the prairie were seared, and buffalo grass no longer sprang back beneath the rims of wagon wheels and the heavy hoofs. The dark, velvety soil of the prairie had failed their dreams, and by 1901 there were hundreds of acres available for claims. Who could know that this land, abandoned by all but a few of the faithful, would one day pasture sleek cattle, grow sheets of golden grain, and corn as tall as a school boy. These were the ones who believed that initiative, bravery, and pure energy could accomplish anything. Perfection and victory were always just around the corner.

But it is not of the ones who failed that we write, but of those stalwart souls that for one reason or another, didn't or couldn't leave.

Since the railroad was gone, selling products again became a long and tedious procedure. It was many miles to a market. It was twice as far to go to trade, buy groceries, clothes, and the necessities. The life of the homesteaders required self-reliance and ingenuity.

Mrs. Bargar, who had served in the time of the town, continued to brew herbaceous potions. She helped deliver the babies, it was the only sure crop of the early families, Mr. Bargar was often called in to lay out the dead. This dedicated team was never too busy, too involved, to administer to the needs of neighbors.

And so, the Montezuma community continued to exist with the postoffice always retained. This was in the homes, for the most part, of the Hildebrands, the Pribbles, and the Simpsons.

Unemployment increased in the country, and the jobless were urged to colonize the Central and South American countries, as well as Africa. Prairie fires plagued surrounding communities. The railroad commission awarded contracts for 40,000 bushels of seed potatoes, barley, oats, and kafir for the people of the western Kansas counties. Black tongue disease raged among the cattle, diphtheria among people. Anna Held became famous for her bath and kissing routine, and came to Topeka. The Spanish American war raged. Girls everywhere began, "Lips that touch liquor shall never touch mine," campaigns.

The Klondike beckoned the adventurers; lightning rod sharks took their toll; sod houses, for the most part, had been relegated to chicken or milk houses. William Allen White uttered his famous prediction at the turn of the century, "A Twentieth century boy has but a paltry hundred years to annihilate space, to eliminate time, to convert the world into a system of parks and boulevards."

A Kansan, Calvin Titus, was the first to scale the wall at Pekin, China, in the Boxer rebellion. The people of Gray county resorted to the use of yucca to make windbreaks, they were laid across posts and the cattle wouldn't eat them. Carrie Nation raged across the state, even into the senate at Topeka, and edited her controversial paper, "The Smasher's Mail." Carnegie built many libraries. Kansas had an epidemic of smallpox in 1901. The famous Daltons terrorized banks. President McKinley was shot. Harold Bell Wright was

pastor of the Pittsburg Christian church and advocated magazine filled lounging rooms in church edifices.

In 1903 the disastrous floods and prairie fires raged. Federal liquor licenses continued to be sold in this dry state. The army changed its blue uniforms for olive drab. Oklahoma was admitted to the union. Dr. Crum-bine launched his famous "swat the fly" campaign, and abolished the use of the common drinking cup. Ulysses moved a couple of miles west to escape payment on a forty-five thousand dollar waterworks bond. Dwight Eisenhower, nineteen, spoke on, "The Student in Politics," at a Democrat banquet, and soon after placed second in his entry test at West Point, out of eight contestants. Walt Mason spread wit and philosophy with his matchless poetry. Polio and grasshoppers invaded the country. The Dodge City Daily Globe issued its first daily on December 11, 1910.

Early 1912 brought snows with huge drifts as much as fourteen to twenty feet deep, that no more than settled until another, and yet another, fell. There were no trains on the main line for four days. Then spring brought tornados and cloudbursts, a dam was broken on the Smoky river. On May 11, the Santa Fe began laying steel on the Dodge City-Colman cut-off through railroadless counties of southwest Kansas. On May 13, the railroad completed platting Ensign, the first new town on the Colman cut-off, and lots were put up for sale. Gray county certified the lion's share of 39,360 acres of land to the homesteaders, along with Haskell, Hamilton, and Steven counties.

CHAPTER 8

It was indeed a happy time, when the Santa Fe company began construction of their Dodge City-Colman line in 1912. Nineteen years without a railroad had imposed a transportation hardship on the people, which made them excited with the prospect of an easily available means of hauling. Construction made work for many of the farmers. Small boys spent many hours watching the pilings being driven for the bridges, carrying water to the workers, and standing around. The construction crews were often fed at farm houses along the way; one being at J. R. Allen's parents, east of Haggard.

D. C. Davis and Harve Dickinson sold groceries, meats, and supplies, and fed the workmen in what was perhaps the first business in new Montezuma, in the telephone building. The two families took turns attending the business for periods of two weeks. Howell and Rinehart hauled in lumber and built a square house destined to be their real estate business and serve as living quarters, where the Smith service station now stands. Mrs. Kniss and John Griffin later sold groceries there, until their new building could be completed.

Spring came slowly, the prairies were reluctant to turn green, the thick layers of frost yielded slowly to the warm sun. With a deadline of July first for the track to reach the western edge of Gray county, the lethargy of spring deterred the work. In June of 1912, with no fanfare, no planned celebration, Montezuma had a railroad. The people who came that day were

moved with the importance of the occasion. Some people recall Mr. Elliott, as he stood in the summer sun, tears streaming down his face. For this he had waited, his children would be spared the problems that had been his for all but that brief span of years when old Montezuma had been served by the Dodge City, Montezuma, and Trinidad line.

T. A. McNeal wrote in the "Mail and Breeze" . . . "I do not know the name of the man who platted the new town, but he has been the exciting cause of a great deal of fervent profanity. He seems to have conceived the idea of laying out the town after the similtude of a catawampus, neither north or south, nor east and west. As a result, on some streets the houses face one way and on the other streets which ought to be parallel they face another way. However the new town of Montezuma is flourishing in spite of the idiosyncrasies of its founder. It has three grain elevators all doing a rushing business . . . Two years ago land in the vicinity of Monte sold for \$10 an acre or less, now you can't buy it for less than \$25 or \$30. That looks high, but within a year it will sell for \$40.

With the railroad an actuality, business started to mushroom, measuring began for Isley's elevator along side the shiny new rails. Mr. Rhinehart sold townsite lots from land he had recently sold the Santa Fe for \$12.50 an acre. Mr. Howell was his partner. Mr. Montgomery moved down from Cimarron and also engaged in the real estate business.

T. M. Deal built a lumber yard with Mr. Doughty as the manager. Mrs. Doughty is said to be the first woman to have lived in Montezuma. Mrs. Kniss was the first postmaster.

Dr. Munford and his wife, who had only recently re-

turned from China where they served as medical missionaries, were asked to come to live in Montezuma. When conversing in front of young people, they often talked Chinese so the kids couldn't understand them.

The present bank building was built. A. P. Smith began his implement and hardware business just across the street north. School was still held in the building located a mile or so west of town. It was later moved to where the gym is now located. Grace Bahling was the teacher. The Luther Flats were built. It was there the first baby, in the new town, was born—Fredrick Milton Hood, at the home of his aunt, Mrs. R. I. Montgomery, August 18, 1913. Rudy Blanton and his bride opened their hardware store.

Main street, with ankle deep mud in rainy weather, deep, dusty ruts in dry, was bustling with construction. Plans were soon in progress to again publish the "Montezuma Chief."

CHAPTER 9

The first "Montezuma Chief" was published February, 1914 by R. E. Campbell. The following anecdotes and information is taken from the files of Montezuma papers found in the Kansas State Historical Society at Topeka, and the local "Press."

The "Jacksonian" comments on the first issue, "Another 'Chief', in another Montezuma about twenty-five years ago, history repeats."

A. P. Smith, who owned the implement store, was urging farmers to buy harness for their spring work. He stressed the necessity of trading in the new town.

Eli Bargar was appointed assessor for Montezuma township.

John Dodson was in town buying repairs for his car, which he had broken while chasing a coyote.

Montezuma State Bank advocates using bank instead of pocket that might have a hole in it.

Commercial Club had a meeting to take up important matters in behalf of the city, federation of churches, school business, decided to abandon idea of consolidation.

The new telephone rates published: business phones, \$2.00; residence, \$1.50.

Linn Frazier demonstrated the power of his new Ford by pulling a railroad car of coal.

The Equity Union Association held a meeting in the school house. Forty members present. They planned to have an elevator for this year's crop. The directors

were: J. W. McReynolds, M. L. Fry, A. N. Rennie, J. B. Frazier, and A. F. Nelson.

The Ladies Aid will meet for the first anniversary of the society. The first meeting had been held at Mrs. Montgomery's.

Bert Smith's family is the owner of a new piano.

Dr. Munford has received some of his stock for his new drug store—he also planned to add variety items.

While burning thistles, Arthur McReynolds lost control of the fire. Neighbors had to assist in putting out the blaze.

Rally Day is held for the new Equity Union Association. Everyone is to bring well filled baskets.

The "Montezuma Chief" declares that it is not affiliated with any political party, no clique, or machine.

School is to close and everyone is invited to a big dinner.

Mrs. John Griffin and son Clement, and Mrs. Kniss were taking in the sights along Crooked Creek.

Two men from Liberal were in the city to commence building a new elevator. It was to be west of the oil tank and would make an excellent market.

Present indications were that there would be a rural route.

Dr. Munford had an auto and phone to better facilitate the needs of his patients.

All eyes are turned to Montezuma, it is conceded to be the city of the future. Business is good. The amount of freight paid \$1,210.96—outgoing freight exceeded this amount.

A prairie fire started near Lone Star schoolhouse and burned over several sections of land. Farmers gathered to extinguish it. No damage. Much good resulted, as a million grasshoppers and insects were de-

stroyed. The farmers were just getting ready to plant corn.

Material had arrived for the bridge over Crooked Creek, pending negotiations with A. J. Elliott.

On April 16, 1914, a disastrous fire destroyed the Griffin and Blanton store.

Annual school meeting was held. Porter Tabb re-elected member of the board with no opposition. It was proposed to teach one year of High School in addition to the grades, with two teachers in grade school. Alice Clem explained that she had been teaching more than forty scholars and twelve subjects.

Montezuma had been filled with farmers on Saturday who had come to trade and to view the ruins of the Griffin-Blanton fire.

John Dodson killed a coyote. He ran it down with his Regal auto—he says he has also killed several by running them down with his white Buick—“running coyotes with autos is an exciting sport.”

Griffin and Blanton announce plans to rebuild.

The editor urges clean up campaign. “With the rap, rap, rap of hammers, new brick buildings materializing and large tractors everywhere turning under the buffalo grass, we can truly say we are growing and prospering.” Suggestion is made to secure new fire fighting equipment and the Commercial Club is urged to take up the matter.

Dr. Munford is to erect a new drug store of brick on the corner north of the postoffice.

Montezuma Mercantile has received a large shipment of summer dresses.

Arthur Casteel sold the barber shop to Lester Scott of Ensign.

Farmers plan to buy the Isley elevator.

The Commercial Club takes up the rural route problem, also the need for repairs on the City wells. Urge new stores to come in: Isley sells elevator to the farmers.

Dr. Munford gets a new X-ray machine and can now give electrical treatments.

"The Hutchinson News" waxes poetic over a wheat field forty miles long from Montezuma to Bloom. The wheat was fabulous and there was a grave harvest help shortage.

At the Children's Day program Nettie and Elda Thompson, Frances Branine, Beryl Casteel, Grace Dern, and Bessie Lewis were on the program.

Ed Beilman has purchased the old City well and lots from the townsite company. He intends to make some needed repairs on the windmill and may even erect a supply tank. Here is an excellent opportunity for people to make a deal for water to be piped for their consumption. It would require but a small amount each year and we would have some method of fire protection.

W. F. Rhinehart brings in twenty-three men from Dodge City to help in harvest fields.

D. M. Doughty has sent a bill of lumber to Haggard for their new elevator.

Mrs. Alva Frazier is the proud owner of a new gasoline-powered washing machine.

Rexfords set a new record by cutting 750 acres of wheat in nineteen days with one machine and three barges.

Farmer's Elevator has a fire.

A. P. Smith received a carload of wagons and farm machinery. Griffin-Blanton were setting up a new separator for Mr. Alexander.

Wheat averaged 20 bushel to the acre and tested sixty pounds.

Editor urges the people to again become active in their Commercial Club. There was grave danger of Montezuma becoming a one-man town. Urges the people to lay aside factionalism. Ensign and Copeland both had mail routes—didn't it seem that Montezuma was a bit slow?

C. C. Kimes buys the barber shop from Leslie Scott.

School election is held to vote whether to move school-house from country or let it remain. The proposition interests the entire community.

W. H. Gamble is preparing to erect a good sized brick building in Montezuma. He had been stranded in Old Montezuma twenty-five years ago and had stayed to make it his home. Bold headlines announced that there were three new buildings—Dr. Munford on the corner, W. H. Gamble next, and Mr. Kimes a two-room building just north.

It was voted to move the school building.

Arthur Casteel and Warren Wakeman invented an ingenious device for mixing cement and sand. It was first used in mixing cement for Dr. Munford's new well. It works good and proved successful.

R. V. Derry respectfully urged picnickers that use his farm to be more neat, to pick up their papers.

The Johnson house is completed for the Lee Brown family.

West Montezuma school starts with Miss Ella Carter teacher and twenty-two pupils.

Mrs. J. W. McReynolds and Lura moved to Dodge City so that Lura could go to school there.

Earl Walden, Don Doughty, Ward McDowell, and Homer Suggs played ball with Copeland.

Ellis McReynolds has grown tired of country life and thought he would try it in the city awhile. He has taken a position in the Montezuma State Bank and commenced his work there Sunday morning.

Mrs. Kniss, postmaster, is erecting a new post-office building.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Fry chaperoned hay rides and later held choir practice in their home.

Mrs. Bargar had ten gallons of cucumber pickles disappear, but charitably blames none of her neighbors.

Progress—Ed Beilman offers the public a new service, auto livery. He also reports that he has unloaded seventy cars of building material, many individual shipments of lumber, two gas tractors, and two threshing separators.

The Commercial Club has a stormy session and the editor advocates peace between the two warring factions of the new small town.

The old township building is purchased by Blanton and Griffin and remodeled for use.

C. C. Kimes placed cement sidewalks in front of barber shop.

A. N. Rennie buys the hardware store from A. P. Smith. The family plans to occupy rooms at the rear of the store.

War rumblings are heard. Belgium relief drive held and many gave freely.

Griffin and Blanton start racket store. They advertise that Santa would be at their place and every twenty-five cent purchase merited a ticket for a chance on a beautiful doll.

Alvin Polson to establish a general mercantile store

in the Gamble building. Meanwhile the community enjoyed dances in the building.

Dr. Barter, dentist, warns patrons that he must increase the price of crowns to seven dollars. Fillings were fifty cents and up.

The Ladies Aid held a bazaar and served chicken pie dinner which netted thirty-five dollars.

The Montezuma Sunday School rendered an interesting and entertaining Christmas program at the schoolhouse. Treats were presented to all the children and the tree was loaded with gifts. The gift of the tree from Mr. Isley drew many impromptu expressions of appreciation from the Sunday School members.

Christmas dance goers were presented ribbons with "Make Montezuma Move".

Married at the home of the bride's parents south of Montezuma, Mr. Earl Rexford and Miss Della Bargar. Rev. Hunt officiated. A number of beautiful presents received.

CHAPTER 10

1915 . . . "The Montezuma Chief" . . . A boosting little paper in the best little town in the best little county in Kansas.

Dr. Munford has been at work recently securing signatures for a mail route out of Montezuma. Where he proposes to run the route is unknown, but the doctor's action is certainly commendable.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rennie are the proud parents of an eight and one-half pound boy that arrived at their home Tuesday.

Regular meeting of the Literary Society held Friday evening at the schoolhouse. The subject of debate was, "Resolved that wheat raising is more profitable to the farmers of the western half of Kansas than the dairy industry. Affirmative: W. G. Lewis, J. R. Beasley and A. F. Nelson; negative: R. I. Montgomery, Harry Dern and Dr. Munford. Decision was given the affirmative. Judges: Arthur McReynolds, Al Rennie and John Miller. Male quartet composed of Ellis McReynolds, Jake Thompson, T. J. Davis, and A. R. Eddington rendered two selections. Miss Wilkinson rendered a pretty solo. Zoa Parks gave a humorous reading.

The new fence around the grass lot at the depot looks very good. We often wonder why so many girls (loaf, I guess it is) about the depot; if they only knew how railroad men make remarks, surely our girls would not go so often. A hint to the wise is sufficient; keep away from the depot girls unless you have business there.

There is to be a new one thousand dollar parsonage in Montezuma. Church workers are now busy soliciting funds. Four hundred dollars is available. The building will be erected nearly opposite the R. I. Montgomery residence in the south part of town. It is likely too, that this will be the section in which a new church will be located when erected.

A. N. Rennie received a new surrey.

Feb. 4, 1915: Sugar 100 Lbs. \$5.75

Tomatoes per case \$2.25

Sugar corn per case \$1.75

Navy beans 30 lbs. \$2.00

Broken rice 25 Lbs. \$1.25

Potatoes Bu. 75c

Onions 3c Lb.

Salt \$1.25 Bbl.

A horse race was run here between Ed Beilman's horse and one belonging to Noah Unruh. The latter won by a narrow margin.

One of the first general stores to be established in Montezuma was the Montezuma Mercantile, established in 1912 by Howell and Rhinehart. In 1913 there was a change and now the business is under the management of M. H. Parks and Linn Frazier.

The town is now two years old and at present has a population of some seventy-five people. Montezuma has the following business places: two elevators, two lumber yards, two blacksmith shops, two hardware stores, two general merchandise stores, one drug store, three real estate offices, one livery stable, two restaurants, one telephone exchange, one newspaper, one bank, two cream stations, and one garage.

Earl Walden builds a new cream station, ten by twenty feet, and the house will have five rooms and a

closet. It will be on a lot north of Ed Beilman's barn.

The orchestra met at the schoolhouse Sunday evening and practiced on some music received a short time ago. A. G. McReynolds—cornet, Mrs. Alvin Nelson—piano, R. E. Campbell—first violin, Carl McReynolds—second violin, Jake Thompson and Ellis McReynolds—cornet, Vern Scott—clarinet, A. N. Rennie—bass violin, and D. M. Doughty—drums. Mr. McReynolds, leader, has been keeping abreast of the musical procession and has sent for "Tommy Atkin's" famous Tipperary, which is very popular now in the cities.

'Bout a Benzine Buggy

Arthur Casteel bought an automobile,
The body was painted red,
A rod came loose, jammed it all up,
And Arthur nearly fell dead.

For a hundred or two of hard-earned mazoo
He bought the repairs for his car
With a rip and a roar, as he did once before
He travels the roads near and far.

Bonds voted for the new school. Thirty-three votes, only one against. Methodist Church offered one thousand dollars for the old building.

Dr. Munford plans to commence the installation of a waterworks system that will supply practically everyone in block 15 and Mrs. Kniss in block 16.

School bond vote unanimously carried.

Suits—Suits—Suits. If you are looking for anything in men's suits, Kimes, the barber, can suit you at from \$13.50 to \$20.00 a suit. All the late nobby, up to the minute styles.

Contract for new school let to A. P. Smith for \$5262.

Building is to have four classrooms, a stage, and cloak-rooms.

Polson's house is nearly ready for the plaster. Lemaster and Knoll, contractors. A. N. Rennie's new house will be exactly like it in size, number of rooms, and details. The buildings will cost approximately \$1500 each when completed.

Mrs. Anna Hood is appointed Montezuma postmaster.

Sept. 30, 1915 was the last issue of the "Montezuma Chief." The Campbells bid Montezuma farewell and Earl and Clare Fickertt changed the paper's name to "The Montezuma Press."

The postoffice was moved into the room back of the bank with all new fixtures and boxes.

C. C. Kimes announces he is going to run two chairs from now on and will be able to take care of the trade better than in the past. Ed Hillary is the new barber.

There was an attendance of forty-seven at Sunday School.

Zoa Parks and E. E. McReynolds motored to Dodge City Thursday, November 25, and were united in marriage.

The first meeting of the Montezuma Study Club was at the home of Mrs. R. I. Montgomery. Officers elected were: Mrs. Fickertt—president, Mrs. Polson—vice president, Mrs. Montgomery—secretary, Mrs. Robbins—treasurer.

Jouett Shouse sends Rev. T. J. Davis a telegram: "Rural service out of Montezuma allowed by department after long hard fight. Order will be issued soon."

Dr. Munford reports three births: Clarence Davis and wife, a boy; Simon Unruh and wife, a boy; Alvin Nelson and wife, a boy.

CHAPTER 11

1916.

School was opened in the new brick building on Jan. 24. Dedication services were held the following Friday with a big basket dinner and two hundred people were present. Mon., Feb. 1, the schoolhouse caught fire following a routine fire drill. Luckily it was Monday and the women brought their wash water to extinguish the fire.

The rural mail routes to start April 1.

April 20, 1916—four year High School was voted.

A number of the local sports pulled off a badger fight Tuesday afternoon, and from all reports it was the real article and created considerable amusement and excitement. In fact, there were three fights staged before the "badger" was disposed of.

A team of horses hitched to a farm wagon and driven by Hester Neimier became frightened at an auto and the train and ran away. The wagon upset and the girl thrown out. Medical assistance was summoned and she was found not to be injured too badly.

Charles W. Maxfield farm sale to be held March 31.

Montezuma is to have a new hotel. Excavation was started on the lot south of the bank. To be built by John Sweeney.

Miss Beryl Casteel received the highest number of votes in the contest at the tent show last week and was awarded the grand prize, a fancy parlor lamp.

July 27, 1916, the High School is now an accredited school.

Montezuma now has another electric light plant. The Davis garage, A. N. Rennie, and A. N. Polson homes are the latest to put in one of the Delco systems. The dynamo installed in the garage furnishes light for the three places.

Petitions are being circulated this week on the incorporation matter, and in all probability will be brought before the board of County Commissioners at their next regular meeting.

Miss Lura McReynolds and Fred Stanley of Cimarron were married at the home of the bride's parents.

January 4, 1917: Four eclipses of the sun and three of the moon will occur in 1917, the most of any one year.

Mary Munford attended a show in Dodge at the Chalk Beason theatre.

Sunday School had its annual election: Superintendent — Henri Robbins, Secretary-Treasurer — Homer Mitchell, Assist. Secretary-Treasurer—R. I. Montgomery, Chorister—Miss Mitchell, Assist.—Nettie Thompson, Librarian — Mamie Lewis.

The Montezuma State Bank was to receive twenty thousand dollars as its share of the county funds, distributed among the six county banks.

Postmaster, Ann Hood, receives notice of daily mail service on Montezuma routes after March 1. The two routes were to be combined. Petitions has been prepared and sent to the Santa Fe and Public Utilities Commission to put on a regular daily and Sunday train.

Floyd Hentz died of pneumonia.

Helen Thompson and Roscoe Parks were married.

The first city election of the city of Montezuma was held at the schoolhouse. When the petition was first presented, there was a lack of seven population. Mr.

Mullekin moved to town with his family of ten that afternoon and made up the deficit. The petition for a corporation was granted.

Ticket chosen to run for the new city election: Mayor—C. J. Davis and T. L. Vandever; Councilmen—A. R. Eddington, R. I. Montgomery, A. N. Polson, Earl Fickertt, A. N. Rennie, Roy Rabourn, C. R. Blanton, A. E. Unruh, Edgar Johnson, Arthur Casteel, and Dr. Munford; Police Judge—Fred Howard and Earl Walden.

The newly elected city officials are: Mayor—T. L. Vandever; Councilmen—A. N. Polson, C. R. Blanton, R. L. Rabourn, Edgar Johnson; Police Judge—Fred Howard. Eighty-one votes were cast. Mayor Vandever appointed D. M. Doughty city clerk.

(Not reported in "The Press," but told to me by Mrs. Clara Comer, Mayor Vandever's daughter—that, following the election, the new mayor was involved in an altercation in the "Press" office, with the printer's helper. Consequently, the first fine was imposed on the newly elected official.)

The first city ordinance was made concerning the time of meeting. Later one was made authorizing the City Marshall to attach ball and chain to rebellious prisoners.

A fine new fifty by one hundred thirty feet brick garage, belonging to Bargars, on south main street, is rapidly nearing completion.

Emma Ulery and Roy Shrauner were married.

At the county track meet Montezuma High School won third with twenty-six and one-half points. The evening contest results were: vocal solo—Adeline Unruh, first Hazel Rennie, second. Declamation — Elda

Thompson, first, Alice Antone from Hess, second. Piano—Ruth Shanteau, third.

A. B. Williams is to have a public sale ten miles southeast of Montezuma.

Alvin Nelson is dead.

A rural High School petition is being circulated.

Montezuma High School gave a program at the M. E. Church. Myrtle Rall, Frances Branine, Dolly Mullikin, Frances Monninger, Alma Hentz, Fern Monninger, Cecil Thomas, Laura Tabb, Sylvia Johnson, and Gertrude Mallonee had parts in a delightful farce, "The Sweet Family."

Art Casteel and his wife had an auto accident. The bolt in the axle gave way and let one side of the car down while they were driving reasonably fast.

The Council sets the speed limit at twelve miles per hour in the City.

Governor Capper explains the Liberty Loan in a speech in the Bargar garage. During the speech, a crowd of people who were leaning against one of the stored cars, caused it to roll through the plate glass window. Later Governor Capper and his party ate at the Montezuma Hotel. Mrs. Hall served one of her usual fine chicken dinners and decorated the table with fern, white roses, and flags.

Gladys Williams and Cecil Davis are married.

June 21, Eight Montezuma boys enlist in the ammunition train being organized in southwest Kansas. They are: Jake Thompson, Ray Kelli, Herb Regier, Francis Stockman, Raymond Parks, Ed McKeage, Clarence Logston, and Henry Bordewick.

Montezuma oversubscribed her allotment in the county for Liberty Bonds. The Red Cross auxiliary will meet at the church to start work on war projects.

Mrs. L. L. Stamm advertises to fit, take orders, and deliver Spirella corsets, headquarters at Mrs. G. Rennie's.

The Council takes up the matter of moving the hitch racks off main street. Automobile and Ford owners will then be required to park in the center.

August 23, Ammunition Train arrives in France.

The Bybee Stock Company advertises a show, "One Jolly Week" general admission fifteen and thirty-five cents.

R. I. Montgomery, who was visiting Rev. Hunt of Meade, saw many aeroplanes while there. On his way home he saw another west of Montezuma, and now the whole town is out watching stars and things in the air.

The Kansas State Fish car "Angler" went west yesterday on the tail end of the passenger train, with the mission of furnishing fish to farmers along the line with which to stock ponds. Several farmers availed themselves of the opportunity.

The Montezuma Bank installs a machine that actually keeps books.

Ida McReynolds had a Rook party.

CHAPTER 12

The names of some of the rural writers who contributed items to "The Montezuma Press" in 1918 were: Farmer's Daughter, Sandbur Puss, Bluebelle, Alfalfa Blossom, The Scribbler, Smiles, and Are Tee.

Bill Monninger writes from Fort Baker, California that, "Every day in the army is like Sunday on the farm."

First Lieutenant D. C. Munford will arrive from Cany Pike, Arkansas and will deliver a lecture at the church.

D. M. Doughty is appointed Food Administrator.

R. I. Montgomery accompanied by Mrs. Emma Wise and John Maurer have an auto accident.

Alvin Bargar leaves for training camp.

The Commencement for the first graduating class of the Montezuma High school was held at the church on Friday night of last week. The church was beautifully and appropriately decorated for the occasion in blue and gold, with potted plants and ferns and cut flowers adding to the beauty. The whole scheme for the decoration was built around the background of "Old Glory". The graduates were: Dolly Mullikin, Vincent D. Thomas, and J. Homer Mitchell.

The twelve members of the "Who-Do" class, with their teacher Mary Munford, Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Montgomery, and Mr. and Mrs. John Kimes spent two days fishing near Ford. They report a fine time, but few fish. The "Who-Do" boys are: Joe Montgomery, Arlo Casteel, Faye and Wayne Kimes, Orville Tabb, Joe Lewis,

Walter Woods, Carroll Parks, John Dowling, George Monninger, Walter Unruh, and James Tyler. Little Billy Bindley was a guest. A. R. Eddington dies after four days illness of Spanish influenza.

THE WAR IS OVER.

Mrs. H. V. Thompson dies.

Fred Bruington fatally burned.

1919, Montezuma has a new Broom Factory, operated by Schmidt and Casteel. Offered: A-1 (everything the name implies), Parlor Special (especially for parlor use), Misses' Favorite (for misses and small women), and Everybody's Broom (a good, cheap one). But, for "Everyone a real Broom".

Mrs. Munford died of influenza.

A. J. (Shorty) Clark is installing the fixtures in his new barber shop.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bursch have been employed to teach in the newly organized consolidated school at a combined salary of \$3,500. Several of the surrounding school districts, near Montezuma, consolidated similar to the Holcomb district in Finney County, the ultimate in consolidation.

W. E. Bindley and wife have named their farm and have printed stationery. The name they have chosen is "Grayland Farm".

A petition signed by thirty citizens of Montezuma hereby publicly declare, "that according to our understanding that within our city limits there has been gambling in practice and that unless this be exterminated that the guilty parties will be punished to the extent or limit of the law.

Mary Munford and Ray Sawhill were married at the doctor's home.

Miss Jewett Mitchell and Mr. William Karney were married at the home of the bride's parents.

Jake Thompson came home from France. Jake is the only one of five who enlisted from Montezuma to return as yet. The other four will be here later, however. Raymond Parks is in the hospital at Funston.

The Montezuma waterworks system at the rear of the drug store came near being destroyed by fire last week.

Dr. Munford and Mrs. Stella Wallace are married.

Ralph Fry became so excited in Music class that he broke the dictionary stand.

The Pleasant Hour Club, which had been organized in 1916 by a group of young married women, has changed their name to the Montezuma Sorosis Club. The purpose of the club is to better fit young women to make homes and to provide a better community in which to live. The charter members are: Vera Blanton, Kit Polson, May Polson, Rena Williams, Nellie Vanderveer, Grace Griffin, Eula Doughty, Daisy Rennie, and Clara McDowell.

And so the teens were ended. Stormy, turbulent, calm and tranquil. in eight years the town had become established. This due to sheer ambition, that sometimes almost reached the point of frenzy.

The small Sunday School, which had its beginning in the depot, with Mrs. Montgomery at the helm, had chosen the Methodist creed. They now held regular meetings and were a recognized church, with a full time pastor.

Our schools, after four-fifths of a decade, were flourishing despite being crowded and desperately short handed. They had little in common with the school that Henri Robbins had been summoned to take over,

to be built into a two, a three, and finally a four-year High School, fully accredited.

The Mennonites, who had come at the time of the railroad, made up a large part of the rural population. They had built their churches, and become a part of the community.

There had been a World War to assure peace for all time, for all nations. Its impact had been felt, changes of tremendous significance had taken place. Speedier automation promised even more drastic transformations.

But the people looked forward to the Twenties. Even with problems and challenges, they saw unparalleled opportunity. Now that peace was a certainty for all time, no craggy pinnacle, but that could be scaled.

CHAPTER 13

1920. A new bell has been installed at the school-house.

Bertha Clover and Alvin Bargar are married.

The Montezuma Legion Post No. 1 has secured a charter and will hold election for permanent officers, all ex-service men are urged to become members.

Telephone rates increase twenty-five cents a month.

Wind rages and the soil and crop lands are blowing.

An annual school meeting incites lots of interest. Fourteen thousand dollars voted for school purposes. Consolidation of rural schools sweeps the country. A meeting is held in Montezuma and to show interest every business closed for one hour and thirty minutes. Patrons are advised that country children will be provided transportation, if school is consolidated.

At the regular meeting, the Council called for a petition to hold a special bond election for \$8,000.00 for the erection of an electric light system.

T. M. Deal proclaimed to every customer buying a Copper Clad range they would give a deluxe set of aluminum cook ware. The ranges save thousands of shovels of coal.

Frank Rospaw buys the "Press", Fickertts in their farewell piece asked that the people vote for the new bond issue for the electric system.

The Ward elevator has been purchased by G. and A. Rennie, who will hire M. J. Long to manage it for them.

The light bonds carry, and consolidation becomes a reality.

Mrs. John Deeds took nine exhibits to the Gray County Fair and brought home eight prize ribbons.

Gray County has a total of 658 automobiles and 51 trucks.

Wheat went up to \$2.05 per bushel.

J. W. Phelps makes it possible for the Weather Station at Dodge City to telephone every school in Gray County the weather reports for thirty-six hours in advance, so that emergencies with busses can be avoided.

The Council discussed a transmission line from Dodge City for electric power.

Jan., 1921. The city officials met and discussed the plan of building the transmission line from Cimarron to Montezuma.

A Business and Professional Women's Club is formed.

The Montezuma High School girl's basketball team is the Gray County champion. The members are: Floy Kinnamon, Elda Thompson, Lela Kinnamon, Fern Monninger, and Wanda Fry. Subs were Margaret Wilson and Vallery Alcorn.

Montezuma has a full time minister, the Rev. H. O. Pringle.

Lura Belle Graves and Irving Winkler were married. The bride wore a hand embroidered georgette dress over white satin.

The biggest deal in Montezuma for years. Linn Frazier sells Montezuma Mercantile Company to M. H. Parks. Mr. Parks began as manager of the store December 15, 1913.

"The Press" announces the installation of a lino-

type, it is the only one between Elkhart and Dodge.

Ninety-four attend Sunday School.

Montezuma has a traffic cop and motorists are warned not to hike it or park the wrong way on main street. Archie Milligan, the new copper, expects to put up parking signs and also barrels at the corners, to inform drivers the correct way to turn.

Fred Stanley purchased the Iron Clad Garage and will call it the Stanley Garage. He advertises a Ford touring car now on the floor. Delivered to you, complete with starter for \$595.

Dr. Munford has sold the Pharmacy to Sam Nite of Cimarron. The Pharmacy was started in the Luther building in March, 1915.

Mrs. E. E. McReynolds entertained with a children's party for her little son Clifton's third birthday.

Roy Gilger is the new mail carrier.

Clayton Mulliken and brother Ben are the champion cake bakers of Gray County. They won first and second at the fair .

Work started on the Montezuma-Cimarron transmission line, when it is completed the distribution system in the City will be built.

E. E. McReynolds' home is nearing completion. It will have modern plumbing. There is not a vacant residence in the whole city.

At the turkey raffle, Ward Rennie and Mrs. Nina Nite won the lucky numbers.

Montezuma is to have lights by Christmas.

Fred Stanley announces that patrons can now buy Ford cars on payments.

Shorty Clark has added an electric clipper to his tonsorial parlor equipment. He has been busy turning off and on the juice for those desiring to try it out.

CHAPTER 14

1922. H. V. Thompson moves out of town, so Roy Rabourn automatically becomes the new mayor.

The single councilman suggested turning off the street lights after ten to save the taxpayers' money. The married councilmen drily retort that the lights didn't bother them much.

Police Judge, Montgomery, fines a culprit after he "biffed" City Marshall Archie Milligan on the head and bit Bill Monninger on the finger.

Goldie Gamble and Clyde Odle were married.

Frank Morris, of the Cimarron theatre, will feature a new service consisting of radio music for the shows he puts on. He will install a huge amplifier and aerial, and it will be heard all over the theatre, provided it works, and he says that he has no doubt but that it will.

Ed Ginest's barn burned.

Sam Nite has installed an electrically driven mixer for malt drinks. He has lowered prices slightly, but the high price of ice will prohibit him from selling the nickle coke this summer. He also has a large stock of records, Victrolas, and Sonora phonographs.

The school board hires a bus mechanic, Alfred Ward.

Vernon Holt and Temperence Fuller are married.

Post office hours are changed from mountain to central time.

The Methodist Church plans a vacation bible school.

Grades for teachers examinations were announced.

Those receiving first grade certificates: Hester Nei-

mier, and Ethel Avey; second grade certificates: Radna Dodson, Evelyn Smith, Ruby Wright, and Della Bryant.

Theron Rexford bought the Rennie Hardware Store and also the one from Griffin and Blanton.

Miss Mable Frazier and Miss Mildred Young left to teach in Hawaii.

Agent A. G. Smiley has been getting a lot of fine concerts and so he is enlarging his headphones so that his family can listen in too.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Fry are moving to town.

W. E. Woodard is to be head of the school.

Barton Wherritt resigns as manager of the Farmer's Lumber. M. L. Fry will be the new manager.

Mable Courbot and Arthur Steward are married.

The editor believes that Montezuma should have an orchestra.

1923. There had been a beautiful snow on New Years.

Trouble with the new electric transmission had proved to be a bedspring thrown across the wires by some boys. Children were warned of high voltage and the necessity for complete respect where poles and wires are concerned.

Mr. Wherritt leaves for Johnson to manage the Deal Lumber Yard.

Plans are made for a Montezuma library. Patrons are urged to donate as many books as possible.

Warkentin buys a refrigeration plant. It is operated by a three-horse motor and does away with trucking ice from Dodge.

Jay Baugh introduces himself to Montezuma as its new editor. He maintains that since he enjoys the state of single blessedness, he has all the rights of lawful

pursuit of happiness, and to vote as he pleases. He also states that he goes to church, as well as fishing.

Mrs. Wherritt resigns after almost eight years as post master. She had taken care of the fourth class office without a route and had raised the classification to third class and had established two rural routes. Mrs. Casteel is appointed the new postmaster.

Frances Monninger marries P. D. Cordrey.

Russell Monninger sells the dray line to Herman Schmidt.

Cimarron opens their new swimming pool.

Beryl Casteel and R. H. Carney are married at Dodge.

Fred Stanley and Ward Rennie killed an eighteen pound pelican, while out hunting.

Jay Alcorn was fatally injured in a gun accident.

Smiley, the radio enthusiast, leaves Montezuma.

The John Henderson sale is advertised.

1924. Earl Fry breaks his arm at basketball practice. He slipped on some oil and ice on the floor and broke it in two places.

George Fowler is now the editor.

E. E. McReynolds and family arrived safe at Rock River, Wyoming where they will make their home.

Minnie Feldman and Floyd Hargett are married.

Arlo Casteel and Ralph Clark have been busy renovating their old model Ford speedster. They rebuilt the machine from tires to stern and have transplanted some Stutz glands into it. (Famous last words, "Watch me pass him").

The Forrest Davis family will return to Montezuma where Forrest will work at the Montezuma Mercantile.

J. R. Smith, formerly Young Buffalo, in the Young Buffalo Wild West Show, is advertising his farm goods for sale.

Clyde Omo and Margaret Wilson are married.

Prof. Vickers is the new head of the school. He will take the place of Mr. Woodard, who will teach at Hugoton.

Marshall Winkler says that he is receiving lots of complaints about chickens and it has gotten to the stage where arrests will have to be made unless the culprits are penned up. He also warned against throwing tin cans and garbage in the streets.

R. G. Wyant buys the "Press" from Woodruff. The "Press" will be moved to the building vacated by the bakery.

Blondena and Truman Mosely, grandchildren of M. H. Parks, came to help harvest.

Arlo and Wayne Casteel and George Monninger overturned their racer, while driving around. It might have been a very severe accident, but about all it did was incapacitate them for the harvest field.

Hester Neimier and Vincent Thomas and Willa Neimier and R. H. Butcher are married at a double wedding.

The Rexford Hardware is sold to the Farmer's Grain and Lumber Company.

Dr. and Mrs. Munford are feted at a farewell party at the Tom Vandever home. Dr. Ott will take his place.

A. P. Bargar has taken the agency for Overland cars.

Lillian Nelson has been elected county superintendent.

Art Casteel "amputated whiskers" for Shorty Clark,

while he took a much needed vacation.

Jim Conner solicits furs and will pay the same old prices.

CHAPTER 15

1925. Clarence Tuxhorn buys the dray line.

Mrs. Joe Smith specializes in bobbing and shingling, hair curling, scalp treatment, and manicuring at her residence.

Big headlines: "DOES MONTEZUMA NEED A NEW SCHOOLHOUSE."

Josie Snyder and C. H. Richardson are married.

A. E. Unruh moves his Sanitary Grocery to the location next door to the pharmacy.

The new school is assured. Seventy-five thousand dollars bonds are voted. The bonds carried by only one vote.

Mr. Stanley will erect a modern garage building, 75 x 130 feet.

Superintendent Vickers upholstered the extra barber chair in Shorty's shop. This will be much appreciated by the loafers.

The new orchestra performs at the Community Club program. It is made up of: piano—Dolly Mullikin, drums—Ward Rennie, saxophone—Faye Mullikin and Paul Voran, cornet—Evans Denniston, guitar—Ervin Unruh, ukulele—Earl Fry, soloist—Miss Gilbert.

Vada Watson, the wheat queen, will visit Montezuma.

Ruth Smith and Clifford Johnson are married.

Lee Ullom is the proud owner of a new Dodge, he also has a new combine and a new tractor. His wheat looked good, so the editor did not anticipate that he would go broke.

Some men bought a couple of bags of peanuts and walked to Stanley's new garage, where they perched on the edge of a window and planned to enjoy them. Presumably they were too weak to throw the hulls off the sidewalk, and as a result the walk looked like a bunch of hogs had been there. The wonder is that they didn't buy salted peanuts so they wouldn't even have to burst the hulls.

The Thomas and the Butcher families had a family reunion at Crooked Creek to celebrate their anniversaries. As an inducement to live with him another year, Mr. Thomas presented his wife with a new Essex coach. Mrs. Butcher also received one.

There was a fire at the "Press" office while the editor was reading Henry Ford's sayings and melting lead for the linotype.

S. D. McCalmonts move to Montezuma.

Rattlesnake bite is fatal to little Iona Warkentin.

Pete Merriman and Miss Fern Monninger were fishing on Crooked Creek.

Juanita Alcorn and William Pool are married.

B. F. Wohlberg and wife are parents of a fine boy, weighing six and one-half pounds.

Joe Montgomery and Hazel Hargett are married.

Mrs. Casteel announces that she is a grandmother. Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Carney of Redwood City, California have a son.

The Community Club is to be changed to the Parent Teachers Association.

Dedication for the new school building is held Dec. 19.

Homer Mitchell and Ada Dodson are married.

1926. Mr. Zanovich has taken the position as agent of the Santa Fe.

R. G. Wyant sells the "Press" to T. J. Gardner.

Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Hefner moved into the Wilson house.

Dolly Mullikin and William B. Jones are married.

Miss Wanda Fry will teach in the High School next year.

W. E. Clark purchases the "Montezuma Press."

Rev. and Mrs. L. C. Gale spent the night at O. R. Winklers, they expect to move their household goods here from Johnson soon.

Workmen, under the direction of Mayor McReynolds, are regrading and resurfacing main street.

Mrs. Roy Gilger broke her arm while skating at Wildhorse Lake. Cliff Parks fell about five minutes later and tore the ligaments loose in his left shoulder.

1927. Montezuma Grade school is now standard. It is the only graded school in the county.

Guy D. Jossierand writes the "Press" that he never won any hog calling contests, but that one should be a champion at that game before he tackles the Legislature. The House isn't the same, or any similarity only that it requires about the same volume.

T. L. Vandever farewell party held at the M. L. Fry home.

Wayne Casteel, Joe Bryant, Billy Bindley, Vaughn Spriggs, George Monninger, and Harold Lambert are among those who took an aeroplane ride in Dodge City.

The new Montgomery-Wherritt Hardware building is soon to be completed.

George Monninger is claimed to be a boon to the Montezuma ball team. "The Yanks have Lou Gerhig and the Bambino, but we have George."

The old Ford is dead. It has survived with only minor changes since 1908. The new one will have a stream-

lined body, dashing radiator and hood, it will be fitted with balloon tires, and probably have four wheel brakes. It will boast new oil and ignition systems, but will have three gear shifts.

Hilda Long and Walter Unruh are married.

McCalmont buys the grocery store located in the Gamble building.

The post office is to be moved to the new location in the new Diamond theatre building. The present post office will be used for the library.

Wanda Fry and Harry Walker are married.

CHAPTER 16

1928. Two pioneers die, Squire Wright and Mrs. B. P. Tabb.

Montezuma let a contract for curb and gutter for four blocks in the business district.

Alice Good and LeRoy Kinnamon are married.

Charles Feldman buys the dray from C. F. Tuxhorn.

Arch Slocum, Joe Gallivan, and a rum-runner shot it out in the driveway of the Stanley garage. They found sixty gallons of liquor in his new Pontiac. One bullet grazed Crawford Blake. The victim wore three diamond rings estimated to be worth a thousand dollars.

Lloyd Reinert and Bessie Markel are married.

Lee Ullom is crowned the wheat king, and Evalee is elected Miss Montezuma.

John Wood buys the dairy from P. T. Harvey.

Blondena Mosley and Arlo Casteel are married.

1929, the editor makes a New Year's resolution for Montezuma to have a waterworks.

Fred Brown buys the White Way Cafe.

The Lions Club is organized and the charter signed by twenty men.

Council make an official ordinance calling for gas distribution, the laying of mains and pipelines.

The Consolidated Gradeschool votes for a new building.

Sam Nite takes the post of Fire Chief. Lee Comer, Ralph Clark, Bill Lamberth, A. P. Bargar, Art and Wayne Casteel, and Roy Rabourn are the new volunteer firemen.

Hedlunds take over the Montezuma Hotel.

The stockingless, sleeveless fad of women may be more than a fad, since it involves health and the necessity of the sun getting to the skin.

Georgia Carlile and Devon Waters are married.

Dr. Wilson locates here.

Waterworks and sewer bonds carry by twenty-six majority.

Montezuma has two prize babies at the fair. Earl Floyd Kreuger and Donita Hendricks.

Council has to call another election for water and sewer due to an irregularity. The water and sewer bonds carry a second time.

A Bridge Club is organized and the first party was held at the home of Mrs. Dale Hoy. High score went to Mrs. W. E. Wilson.

The "Roaring" Twenties had flowed along so quietly. But the end of the decade had erupted into a nationwide upheaval, economically. There was near panic in our own area in 1929 when prices fell below the production costs.

The town had stretched in all directions, and with the new water system, trees, lawns and shrubbery were an assured thing.

There had been a flurry of industry: a new church, a new grade school, Dodge City was now several miles closer by way of the new highway. Homeowners were thrilled with the comfort-giving qualities of natural gas. Water and sewer facility convenience far outweighed the increase in taxes. Many homes were modernized.

Aviation made its way into our scheme of things

with Lindberg's epochal flight across the Atlantic. Our area had a new airport with two monoplanes that were flown almost daily. A golf course was in the process of construction.

CHAPTER 17

1930. Montezuma is on a building boom. There are three filling stations and a huge elevator going up. The big City water tower is complete and ditches are being dug for the pipes. Population rises from one hundred sixty-three in 1920 to four hundred twenty-three and will soon boast of fifteen hundred.

M. E. Bahling, who has been carrier here for eleven years has exchanged routes with Mr. Beck of Fresno, California.

The May first edition of the "Press" is dedicated to the new Grade School and it is acclaimed to be one of the most modern in this part of the state. Members of the Board are: F. L. Davis, Frank McFadden, and J. E. Thompson. Nine busses are used.

A twister hit the airport south of Montezuma and did extensive damage to the Ralph Clark-Ward Rennie plane, as well as one belonging to Jack Nelson of Copeland.

Ray Smith and Clifford Johnson buy the John Deere agency.

M. H. Parks dies. He had been a business man in the town from the very first, having started in 1913.

Mrs. Guy Jossierand is severely burned by a fire at their home.

Miss Ida Floyd began work at McCalmont's Store.

The corner stone is laid for the new Methodist church. In it was placed a Bible, given by Sam Nite, "The Discipline of the Church," a copy of "The Montezuma Press," a glass jar of high test wheat, and a

copy of the official directory of the church. Mrs. L. C. Gale donated the stone. The Liberal District Superintendent, E. W. Freeman, gave the address.

Lucy Becker, accompanied by Miss Esther Oliver, gave a vocal recital at the church.

Joe (Jarg) Mullikin is fatally injured in a plane accident at Copeland.

Miss Reissen and her second grade surprised Billy Miller in his home, after they had finished with their Christmas party.

1931. Bob Mullikin is opening a General Repair shop in the Caterpillar garage.

Gum was removed from the desks and chairs at the schoolhouse and consequently they are about ready to fall apart from the lack of a sticky agent to hold them together.

Ihlanfeldt meat market is burned. Joe Smith is burned on arms and face fighting the fire. This is the first time there had been occasion to use the new City hose, since water had been put in.

F. D. Pearce bought the Howard Cafe.

Work was begun on the golf course and it won't be long until boys from nine to ninety will be following that small ball around over the pasture. They suffer from "Hoof and Mouth" disease: you hoof it all day and mouth about it all night.

City Council lowers tax from 24 to 21 mills.

Rev. L. C. Gale, who had been here for five years, is to go to Elkhart and Rev. W. H. Johnson is to be our new pastor.

The severe March blizzard cost the lives of several children in a Colorado bus tragedy.

Marilyn Thomas won first in the baby contest with 995 points.

A Bridge luncheon honoring Della Bryant was given at the home of Mrs. Ida Klassen. During the evening, the engagement of Miss Bryant and Ralph Fry was announced.

Mrs. Lane Dutton, of Dodge City, will present her pupil Billy Nite, in a piano-voice recital at the Montezuma Methodist Church.

City installs fire alarm, which will be blown at noon each day.

1932. Petitions are being drawn up to gravel the road to the cemetery.

J. W. McReynolds and R. I. Montgomery voted as delegates to the State Republican meeting. Faye Mulklin files for the office of County Superintendent, and Mollie Parks for Clerk of the Court.

The local bank received a number of bills involved in the Lindberg kidnaping. Bankers had been instructed to watch for the numbers.

Lorraine Harvey is a member of the Southwestern acapella choir.

Salaries of teachers, bus mechanics and drivers will be cut.

Perry Latta died.

The Jim Shrauner-Mary Ruth Ely engagement announced by miniature issues of the "Montezuma Press."

Home Culture Club holds first meeting.

Fire Department cuts damage to a minimum in their fine action when there is a fire at the Shorty Clark and Molly Parks places of business.

Tom Glasgow, Stewart McKinley, and E. E. McReynolds win the golf tournament.

"Press" office is to be moved to the middle room of the bank building.

Nina Nite meets tragic death in auto accident.

Golden wedding is held for the Eli Bargars. They sowed their first crop of wheat in 1891 and broadcast the grain by hand, then plowed the seed under with a cultivator, drawn by two cows. The field was ten acres and yielded 467 bushels, which they sold for fifty cents per bushel. Mrs. Bargar wove the top of the children's shoes from carpet warp and the soles were made of an old saddle girth. Most of the warm days they went barefoot. She also peeled soap weeds and wove them together to make hats for her family.

Irvin Unruh is the new appointed pastor.

Santa Fe lowers freight rates to meet truck competition.

Miss Dora Reissen and Earl Fry are dinner guests at the Ralph Fry home.

Porter Tabb celebrates his seventy-ninth birthday. He came to Gray County in the mid-eighties.

Sally Bryant and Wilda Claire McReynolds chosen from twelve girls as beauty queens at Fort Hays State College.

A great deal of excitement resulted when night marshall Lamberth discovered two men trying to burglarize the filling station.

The Casteels have an auto wreck and Mrs. Casteel is injured.

CHAPTER 18

1933. Ralph House and family of Round Mountain, Alabama, move here to take over the South mail route.

Montezuma and surrounding territory is the victim of the most damaging dust storm in the history of the town. It was unsafe to drive and it is not known where the dust came from, although a few local fields were blowing.

The Honor Scouts are feted at Dodge City, they are: Kenneth Parks, Aubrey Parks, Clifton McReynolds, Glenn Lloyd, and Robert Gilger.

Montezuma State Bank opens after receiving orders last week to close.

Montezuma continues to be plagued by dust storms.

Chester Mitchell placed fifth in the track meet at Emporia.

Ten members of the Dorcas Society and the Ladies Aid present Rev. Irvin Unruh a flower garden quilt for his birthday.

Mrs. Erskine and Mrs. White, of Cimarron, met at the home of Mrs. Wohlberg to organize a new Junior Women's Club. The officers elected were: President, Nadine Harris; Vice President, Beatrice Pearce; Secretary, Wilma Karney.

Art Casteel and Joe Montgomery ran a heavy cement floor for the vault at the bank.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Fry and son Earl, Clifton McReynolds and Kenneth Parks all attend the World's Fair. Clifton and Kenneth accompanied a Boy Scout group, that went by special car from Hutchinson.

The Bankers hold their annual convention here, and the meeting is followed by a free public dance at Fracks Hall.

Several Montezuma babies win prizes at the Southwest Free fair. They were: Ira Lee Ullom, Ely Shrauner, Ronald Miller, Earl Dana Lupton, Hugh Wilson Miller, and Jeryl Joyce Blake.

Fred Stanley, Tom Klassen, and Ward Rennie hunt all day and only bag three prairie chicken; Arlo Casteel bags six the same day.

Kenneth Parks wins first in woodchopping contest, and Charlie House wins second.

Marchel and Doyle Crebs pass tests for entry in the Navy.

W. J. Lea, from Sledge, Mississippi, moves to Montezuma to take over the south route.

Wheat checks, for allotment, looked forward to for Christmas spending.

Billy Nite is given a solo part in the opera, "Faust," to be given at Garden City Junior College.

1934. Cattle driving days are renewed when Clifford and Raymond Parks decide to take their herd from their ranch to Johnson on foot. The drive was a wearisome one, and upon arriving home Raymond called Dr. Hull for a "rub-down."

Summer was record breaking for heat. The thermometer at Stanley's Garage hit 110 several times.

Dolly Mae Fry has been chosen as a member of the Fort Hays State College Hockey Team.

1935. Stanley Garage advertises the most expensive model Ford to sell at \$655.

Rabbits are becoming such a menace that County

organizes rabbit drives. The men cover a large territory and then drive the animals into an enclosure where they are clubbed to death.

The Montezuma State Bank declares that its resources are now \$117,890.43.

T. J. Glasgow and his Boy Scouts begin surveying site for their new Scout cabin.

In March there were six straight days of dust storms.

McCalmonts go on strict cash basis.

City Council improves fire fighting equipment. They purchased a new hose and two chemical carts, and strengthened the fire department to eleven men.

Thirty citizens call on the Council with a petition, with ninety-five signatures representing sixty homes, requesting a thorough clean-up of the city from drunkenness, and so on. The meeting was extremely orderly. The incident that sparked the revolt was the drunken spree of some relief workers.

The Legislature passed a law that women would be required to buy fishing licenses.

From its humble beginning, the Library has grown to 1047 volumes, and in three months has loaned 832 books.

Palm Sunday dawned clear and bright. But in the afternoon turned to total darkness as a rolling, swirling wall of dust swept over the town. Barton Wherritt Jr., who had been caught in it, was forced to crawl home on his hands and knees. Sam Nite's most popular sales were dust masks.

The Montezuma State Bank buys out the Ensign Peoples Bank.

Gray County business was given a shot in the arm by presentation of the AAA of a million dollars. The

Commissioners issued warnings to farmers to keep their land from blowing, or else the County will do the work and it will be charged against him. Wheat payments were for 33 cents per bushel. The wheat berries are small and shriveled, and only yielded three to four bushels per acre.

Mac Stanley is chosen to be a member of the Emporia Men's Glee Club.

Bob Gilger wins first in basket weaving at the Hutchinson State Fair.

Little Clayton Ferguson won first in the Santa Clause letter contest, and Juanita Miller second.

1936. The nation is plunged into grief over the death of King George of Britian.

Hazel Rabourn is chosen most popular girl in contest at Fort Hays State College.

The dust storms continue, but begin earlier in 1936. The first one came in February.

The Montezuma Study Club celebrates its twentieth anniversary. The nine charter members were: Mrs. Earl Fickertt, Mrs. D. C. Munford, Mrs. Henri Robbins, Mrs. A. R. Eddington, Mrs. T. J. Davis, Mrs. Alvin Nelson, Mrs. James Isley, Mrs. John Denniston, and Mrs. R. I. Montgomery. In 1921 they began the Library, and were able to formally open it in 1923. Although it became a township Library in 1932, it is still sponsored by the Study Club. They became a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1920.

Alva Rexford is appointed to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Barton Wherritt is appointed postmaster.

Miss Ruby Herndon, of Amy, is the new second grade teacher.

NYA constructs a shuffle board in the park for the young people's recreation.

There is little wheat, the straw is tender and there is extensive grasshopper damage. The hot winds in June were detrimental.

D. D. Jantz and his son are drowned at Fredonia.

Martin Johnson and his wife, explorers in Africa, enjoy kerosene refrigeration in the jungle. This is the same type that Fry and Sons sell at their hardware Store.

The Little Miss club is organized. Marjorie Wherritt, Genevieve Bargar, Zoa McReynolds, Lois Jantz, Gladys Gilger, Audrey Thompson, Bertha and Ann Rose Miller, Elsie Warkentin, and Coleen and Harriet Stanley are members who meet with Lucille Wherritt as hostess.

The County Commissioners urge the farmers to practice strip farming and summer fallow to discourage wind erosion.

More baby prizes won by Montezumians: Sally Hull and Victor Vincent Thomas.

Chet Mitchell is awarded a letter at Hays College.

Again the wheat allotment checks arrive just in time for Christmas. Gray County is also allowed an additional \$8,000 for the prevention of soil blowing.

CHAPTER 19

1937. Many young men from the community answer the call for CCC workers.

Walt Unruh opens his Filling Station.

Dust storms again begin in February.

Many people will remember the New London, Texas school tragedy, when so many children were fatally burned in an explosion.

The end of an era, Jim Conner's Filling Station is dismantled.

Montezuma is declared the music capitol of the County, with the talents of Mildred Lee Harvey, Harold Hedlund, and the Pearce girls.

Kansas began a sales tax and manufactured tokens.

There were several cases of undulant fever in the community.

Oil companies continue to make deep tests and the depression ridden area have their hopes boosted.

1938. The Gray County finances are finally in the black again, after the years of meager tax payments.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McReynolds celebrate their fiftieth anniversary.

Bank has its twenty-fifth anniversary. It had been granted its charter on March 11, 1913. It was located in the back part of the south room of Parks Store, until the present building was constructed. The President was Linn Frazier; Vice President, W. F. Rhinehart, with A. R. Eddington as cashier. George Hall and Jerry Dowell were directors. This organization operated until 1919 when J. M. McReynolds bought Mr.

Frazier out. Mr. Eddington had died of the flu in 1918. M. L. Fry then became the President and E. E. McReynolds, who had begun working in 1914, became the cashier.

Altha Odle, Edna Geisbrecht, and Georgia Lee Mitchell win spelling honors, and Harold Hedlund wins highly superior rating in voice.

Montezuma Methodist Church finally allays its local debt and is dedicated.

The Pearce twins appear in Wichita with Buddy Fisher's orchestra.

The Thomas elevator burns, it had been built by George Gano in 1928.

Robert Gilger receives Eagle Award in Scouting.

1939. Harry Nance ships eighteen carloads of cattle.

Beards were sprouting here and there in preparation for the Premier in Dodge City.

City officials warn citizens about dogs. Only four licenses had been sold in the City.

Oil companies continue to put down deep tests.

The farmers are urged to stick to the AAA and disregard the war rumblings in Europe.

The Thirties were gone! Often they are referred to as the "Dirty Thirties." While our entire nation was undergoing troublesome times, and were naturally affected, the thing that most distressed Montezuma was the never ending dust storms. Our once fertile fields of black soil became ashy and powdery, and refused to nourish the crops so vital to our way of life and economy. Ours was a community whose livelihood was based on the rural income. Even as in the 90's, many farms were abandoned, the wind held full sway over the empty farm dwellings. Dust heaped along the fence rows and the quiet buildings. Dust pneumonia

stalked among the people, taking its toll of lives. The government instigated programs destined to help the victimized farmer.

In Europe there were war-like situations that sounded ominous. It was as though the world sat atop a powder keg, and the situation was even more dangerous because of our own country's economic chaos.

In this period we had lost many of our pioneers, among them: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Elliott, Eli Bargar, W. H. Gamble, John Dodson, Mrs. A. N. Rennie, J. W. McReynolds, A. J. Clark, A. B. Williams, Frank Markel, and Roscoe Parks. Dr. David Munford had been killed in an auto accident in California.

But in Montezuma it had not all been unpleasant. Perhaps, the very stress of the times had drawn the people into a closer relationship. Golf tournaments, bridge sessions, dinner parties, and hamburger-fries at Fry's Grove were not uncommon. Limited budgets were no deterrant to the gatherings, and were made to cover the recreational needs of a people who refused to be downed by such obstacles.

CHAPTER 20

1940. The quail farm at Meade Lake is started.

The City paid off City water and sewer bonds.

Evalee Yeager took first in music contest with 1305 points.

The Editor kindly lists the names of the eligible bachelors, since this is Leap Year. They are: Cliff McReynolds, Mac Stanley, Ernest Hoopes, John Vietti, Maynard McCalmont, Loren Hood, Kenneth Parks, Lyle Bindley, James Shepherd, Willis McGinnis, Clay Good, Henry Dirks, and Henry Voth. He admits that some of them have been spoken for, but admonishes the ladies to not have a faint heart.

Earl Lupton completes his irrigation well. It has a capacity of 1,000 gallons a minute.

Many Montezuma students are winners of high ratings at the music festival held annually in Dodge. They are: Raymond Potter, Alpha Mitchell, Ethelyn Bargar, Gladys Gilger, Anna Rose Miller, Alvin Freisen, Milton Brucker, Betty Moore, and Betty Johnson.

R. G. Wyant, who was formerly editor of the "Montezuma Press," was the father of triplets.

On Commencement night, Montezuma will have graduated 218 students from the High School.

Population had dropped in the town from 424 to 340.

The wading pool is opened in the City Park, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rader.

Beryl Thompson finishes his work as an intern, and is now a full fledged doctor of medicine.

T. G. Glasgow is to move to St. John, and Cliff Mc-

Reynolds is appointed to take his place as City Clerk.

The State Fish and Game Commission plant pheasants along the river banks.

Zoa McReynolds painfully injures her hand in the wringer of her washing machine.

The former Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist church is reorganized into the WSCS.

Men from 21 to 35 must register, according to the Conscription Bill.

Don Gilger and Marvin Deeds receive their licenses to fly.

The country suddenly became a sheep country. The Rawlins Sheep Company were shipping them in to take advantage of the fine wheat pasture.

Myron Francisco visits here after twenty years. He formerly owned and operated a grocery store, and built the Wherritt and Clifford Parks residences.

O. R. Winkler and wife celebrate their Golden Wedding.

Mrs. Russell Monninger is a patient in Kansas University Hospital.

Dr. Wilson, who formerly lived in Montezuma, was going into the Army as a staff surgeon.

Mac Stanley will teach at Kingman next year.

Ross Miller goes into the army.

1941. The City Council admonishes all people to clean up their pig, cow, and chicken lots immediately.

Harry Nance is surprised by the County Courthouse group on his thirty-ninth birthday. Harry is a County Commissioner.

Warren Menzie enters an airplane school at Wichita.

Dr. Hull plans to move to Texas and the community plan a going away party. The family is presented a gift.

Mrs. Joe E. Montgomery is honored with a pink and blue shower.

Miss Edna Sutton, County Superintendent, Mr. Bus Brock and Mr. Perkins, accompany the Seniors on their trip to Colorado. They stayed at the "ritzy" Antlers Hotel.

Kenneth Parks and the Merrimans hit a cow on their way home from a fishing trip.

Two of the world's biggest battleships are sunk, the British "Hood" and the German "Bismark."

Coleen Stanley declares that drivers licenses are "going like hot cakes."

Claude Maden is the new barber.

Dr. Hull announces his intentions of returning to Montezuma to practice. This thrills the citizens.

Lorraine Harvey and Mildred Le are honored at a party given by Hazel Rabourn. The girls plan to make their home in California soon.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Jacques celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Ira Wilburn comes to take over the south route, which Col. Lea had been serving.

Lee Brown to hold a farm sale, he is moving to town.

Fire devours the Fry and Sons Lumber Yard. The loss is estimated to be between thirty-five and forty thousand dollars.

Sam Nite holds his twenty-fifth anniversary sale in the Drug Store.

Genevieve Bargar is the first girl in the history of the school to take woodworking. James Deeds almost severs some fingers in the power saw in woodworking class.

Fry and Sons purchase the Wherritt-Montgomery building on Main Street and will soon move in. But due

to war-time shortages, it will be sometime before they can secure enough material to open the lumber yard. They had just received their quota in the old location that burned.

"The Press" office has been moved to a building moved in just west of the Agnes Boes residence.

Red Cross solicits women to knit and sew for the relief program.

Postoffice is to be moved to the center room in the "Luther Flats" building.

The world is shaken by the Pearl Harbor incident. Montezuma has two men fighting in that field. Dr. Wilson and Doyle Crebs. Patriotism is everywhere and many plan to enlist. Everyone is behind President Roosevelt.

Bud Stanley, who is taking a CAA flying course, is now a full fledged pilot.

The sale of new tires is banned.

The barber declares that he is forced to raise children's haircuts to thirty-five cents apiece.

There is a drive to save waste paper.

CHAPTER 21

1942. Earl Burgess is named head of a Defense Council. C. K. Parks, R. I. Montgomery, and George Monninger are named to a Tire Rationing board.

Harry Nance is named chairman of the County Board of Commissioners.

Kenneth Nelson is here visiting his mother, while on furlough.

The telephone office is to be closed from five in the evening until eight in the morning, to prevent sabotage in Communications.

Barton Wherritt, Jr. is chosen to crown the basketball queen, who is Alpha Mitchell. Norma Lee Monninger is the crown bearer.

Robert Gilger, Mark Rader, and John Vietti all enlist.

Orville Mitchell writes that he will again be in the army. His brother Oscar is in training for clerk and bookkeeper in the Medical Corps. Don McCalmont and V. L. Easterling, superintendent of High School, enlist in the navy.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Stauth move into the Casteel house and plan to make Montezuma their home.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Williams have Golden wedding anniversary in their home in the country.

People are urged to register for ration books for food.

Hoover Unruh promises his Montezuma friends that he will see them, "Just as soon as the Japs are mopped up."

Mr. Elwell, High School teacher, and his family move to Dodge City where he is to take a position in the Dodge City schools.

K. B. Carlile is the new City Engineer, since Engineer Duward Rabourn has moved to Wichita to work in an airplane factory.

The Stanley boys enlist, Mac in the Air Corps and Bud in the Marines. Gray County has 250 boys in the ranks.

It is necessary to register for gas coupons.

Clarence Mead, who lives southeast of Haggard, is to receive a medal for valor, he was wounded in action at Casa Blanca.

1943. Ben Wohlberg, former resident, is to go back into the navy after twenty-five years.

R. I. Montgomery writes from Topeka, that the curve in the highway east of town will soon be straightened out.

The Legion buys the building that was the Diamond Theatre, remodel it and use it as their meeting place.

The Council repeats its old plea for dog and chicken curtailment on roving. The "Press" invites anyone who objects to the action of the Council to come meet with the group and they will be given the job, which requires the "patience of Job, the fortitude of St. Paul, and the dexterity of President Roosevelt."

Milton Hood purchases the Mitchell place east of town and prepares to move to it. Jake Blackwelder buys the Shultz farm.

Mrs. James Bruington Dansey, of Chicago, writes that she had attended a reception for Madame Chian Kai-Sheck.

Ethelyn Bargar graduates from the St. Anthony School of Nursing.

The Montezuma State Bank states that deposits had run over the million mark for the first time.

Evalee Yeager and Jo Anne Jones entertain the High School group with a formal dance at the Scout cabin.

Orval Laverne Algrim, son of Allie and Vernie Algrim, dies in an airplane crash at the Naval Air Station in Florida.

The sod house built by Bert Smith, who homesteaded the place where J. H. Miller lived south of town, is being torn down. It is said that the sod blocks are in an excellent state of repair.

Agnes Phelan closes her beauty shop so that she might serve as a nurse for the duration.

Cecil Unruh is killed in action in the Asiatic area. General Chenault writes Mrs. Unruh of Cecil's devotion to duty, of his courage and coolness in time of trial.

Georgia Mitchell is the outstanding Home Ec champion and will get to go to Chicago.

Evalena Unruh enlists in the Waves. This makes five members of this one family that are in the service.

Roy Ferguson is the International dealer.

The Frank Antones, and his brother and wife of Satanta, celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversaries.

1944. Local men are experimenting with a man-made skating pond. The football field is flooded with water from a fire hose.

Mrs. Pete Ratslaff dies of burns from a stove explosion.

Lt. O. W. Gardner is killed in Texas on a routine flight as his Fortress crashed.

Elsa McFadden and Marcia Wade declared health champions.

Don Penrod is missing after a bombing raid.

D-Day, and many people are aware that local boys are taking a part in the invasion.

Barton Wherritt, Jr., gets his wings and commission in a ceremony at San Antonio.

Blue Light votes to consolidate with Montezuma Grade School.

Harold Hedlund is commissioned.

Homer Mitchell buys a farm in Wichita County and plans to move his family there soon.

B. W. Wherritt becomes the carrier on route No. 2, and Mrs. W. B. Jones is the Postmistress.

Ada Dawson is to move to Hawaii, where she has taken a position.

Art Dodson is killed in a wreck of his pick-up in Colorado.

Henry Voth, Walter Unruh, and Clarence McDonald see the Cardinals win the sixth and final game of the World Series.

Curtis Koehn pays Dr. Hull for the delivery of his baby with a can full of coins he had been saving since a child, for "something he really wanted."

At the Church, a fiesta is held to raise money for the building of a new parsonage.

Joe Bryant is declared safe, after having been reported as missing in action.

A robbery at the Smith Filling Station resulted in the cash drawer being emptied.

CHAPTER 22

1945. A big snow boosts the wheat prospects.

Clayton Ferguson solos in airplane.

Mrs. John Boes passes away.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Robertson are celebrating their fifteenth wedding anniversary.

A. P. Bargar is adding to his locker space by building a new and larger locker room. This was one of the first systems to be built in this part of the state.

People had been warned there would be no shoe stamp issued for the Easter wardrobe.

Edna Mae and Elda Dorothy, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Johnson, are married in a double ceremony to Clarence Isaac and Henry Rempel.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ullom are guests of honor at a party at their farm home. They are moving to town.

Connie Lou Hendrickson dies of injuries after a fall from a tractor.

The Trego elevator is moved to Montezuma.

There is no cafe in Montezuma and harvest hands can be seen along main street cooking over small camp fires.

Wheat yields had pleasantly surprised everyone. The Forst brothers had a field that averaged forty bushels. The elevators were full, but a few cars were coming in.

Housewives are urged to can peaches. Canning sugar may be obtained.

Charles Ed Bacon has a party for his fifth birthday.

Albert Tucker is advertising his farm goods for sale and is moving to town.

J. M. Blakely, first employed by the bank and later as superintendent of schools, is to leave and will work as a U. S. Civil Service bank examiner.

Fred Wade's horse won the big race at the County Fair. He will leave with it this week for several races in Oklahoma.

The Japs give up, they can't take the atomic bomb.

Mrs. Fern Merriman will take office as acting Postmistress.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Weaver of Mullinville are house guests of Rep. and Mrs. Montgomery.

A new projector is ordered for a visual education program in the grade school. Coach Bacon announces he has had twenty-nine boys out for football.

Merrel Dean Flair wins many prizes on his White Rocks and Buff Orphingtons.

Roy Gilger accidentally shoots a hole in his brand new garage for the first hunting casualty.

Jo Anne Jones is a member of the acappella choir at Kansas State College.

1946. A shower is held for the new kitchen at the Legion building.

Mr. Chaffin, a former music teacher, sent Mrs. Harvey a silver coffee spoon from Switzerland.

Price Rinard dies in Hot Springs, New Mexico.

Montezuma has its first duster in several years.

Fry and Sons install a power saw in their place of business.

The High School sponsored a contest for cheers, yells, and songs. Dona Dean Hacker won first with words to the tune of "Bell Bottom Trousers." Max Hoffman, Dorothy Hendrickson, and Cleo Hoskinson received honorable mention for their entries.

The City hires Walt McMaines as engineer to take the place of K. B. Carlile.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Monninger entertain at dinner for Miss Jennie Krause and Major Hoopes.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Wilburn take over the City Cafe.

The American Legion celebrates their twenty-seventh birthday. Gold star mothers are given corsages and twenty-five year members are introduced.

Tony Zanovich is transferred to Lewis. He has been agent here for over twenty years.

A memorial service is held for Barton Wherritt Jr.

South Lone Star votes to be annexed to the Montezuma district. Also, so did the Mitchell school north of town.

Pauline Bryan comes to Montezuma to open the Beauty Shop.

Due to a shortage of merchandise, Henry X. Smith will close his grocery store.

Mrs. Morton Miller is honored by her former Sunday School pupils. She recently resigned after many years of faithful service.

The Danford Bus Line has a contract to carry mail and will arrive about 7:45 a.m.

Aunt Jennie Blackwelder passes away.

The Methodist Church purchases an Orgatron for the sanctuary.

The Mennonites have shipped more than forty carloads of flour to the people in devastated Europe.

Vada Lois Elliott takes a position as fiscal accounting clerk in Hawaii.

Robert Lee Kreuger is killed by lightning while playing in the yard with his small sister.

Mr. and Mrs. George Leese will move to Hot Springs, New Mexico.

Heavy rains and floods bring destruction, eight inches of rain fell in three days. The Melvin Fraziers have a big flood loss, water standing eighteen feet deep where their house was. The S. S. Gordon and Ernest Fry families are also driven from their homes.

Mrs. Claude Stauth made a very nice gift of twenty-five books to the Library.

Billy Nite loses his life in a plane accident at Canyon, Texas.

Mary Ruth Shrauner of Cimarron died.

Kitty Neil Nite is pledged to the Kappa Phi Methodist Sorority at K. U.

Even though it was December, Dale and Melvin Tuxhorn went fishing. They brought back enough fish for a fry at the Jake Unruh home.

CHAPTER 23

1947. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hentz celebrate their Golden Anniversary.

Susan Bargar celebrates her eighty-fifth birthday, at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. C. R. Snodgrass in Dodge City.

Brethren of the Montezuma Church of God (Mennonite) congregation will dedicate their newly completed church. Over two thousand are expected to attend. It was build at a cost of \$40,000.

H. K. Nance and E. E. McReynolds buy the Parks Store building.

Elmer T. Peterson, who was a former editor of "The Jacksonian," visited with Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Montgomery.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mauer buy the cafe from the Dowses.

A large crowd gathered for a basket dinner at the Church given in honor of Rev. Irvin Unruh and family.

Bob and Harold Gilger start construction on a Dry Cleaning Shop.

The Ernest Fry farm home is ripped in two by a blast caused by reasons unknown.

Lana Gaye Hoover celebrates her third birthday.

The newly organized alumni association plans to buy uniforms for the High School band.

A bridal shower is held for Olive Hoskinson. She is engaged to Jim Kemper.

Mrs. Vesta Mitchell has her eightieth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brock will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Ralph and Earl Fry announce that the Fry Hardware will be under the management of George Moninger.

1948. Mrs. Pearl Brusco dies.

Rev. Unruh and family, at long last, land in Bombay, India.

Clayton Ferguson arrives home from overseas duty in Japan.

There is considerable controversy over whether to spray or not to spray. 2, 4-D is being universally used in other areas, and some farmers are experimenting with aerial application.

James Bursch, former teacher, visits with his Montezuma friends.

Montezuma is getting curb and gutter on most of the streets in town.

Since John Creb's death, Mrs. Helen Crebs, "Hello Girl" for twenty-four years, decided to move to Haviland. Mrs. Mabel Roberts of Mount Hope is the new telephone operator.

A new brick parsonage is being erected.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nance move into their new home.

Mrs. Joe Smith and Joan are interviewed on the "Welcome Travelers" radio show, while on a trip to Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Elliott are the parents of a daughter that made her appearance already equipped with a tooth.

The new Jerusalem Church is to be dedicated soon.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Clark buy the Baker's Dry Goods Store.

1949. Wayne Casteel is injured in a car wreck.
Construction begins on a new Co-operative elevator.
Over three thousand people attend the dedication of
the Bethel Home.

Ira Lee and Marjorie Sue Ullom are driving a new
Jeepster, a graduation gift from their folks.

Faye Mullikin is checked in as the new postmaster.

The first baby born in the maternity ward at Bethel
Home is a son to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Schmidt.

A. L. Huffman and his grandson drown in a boating
accident.

The community bought a new station wagon for the
Bethel Home.

A. H. Hedlund resigns as custodian of the Grade
School after sixteen years of faithful service. Dick
Freisen takes his place.

The peace that had been such a sure thing in the
post World War I days had to be won again. The tragic
story of the second World War is mostly the story of
men, our men. The sad part, most of them are the
younger ones. They are called upon to suffer, to sac-
rifice, to endure hardships, and finally to die. All this
for an ideal, that sometimes seems illusive when the
final costs are computed.

This was a particularly difficult period to choose ex-
cerpts. There were so many who served, so many who
sacrificed. Nearly every home had been touched by the
heavy hand of the war god. It is impossible to give
enough credit, so suffice it to say that Montezuma gave
freely, suffered as others, and emerged.

Building boomed in the years following the material-
short ones. Crops were good, money was plentiful,
prices high. Many struggling farmers, who had been

reduced to poverty in the thirties, became financially independent.

Outwardly, main street hadn't changed much. Numerous houses had been built in the south part of town, and the beautiful Bethel Home for the aged had been erected by the Mennonites.

With the tragedy of war, and the increased population this decade had brought many deaths:

Ernest Stohr	Mrs. Jack Steward
Mrs. L. C. Gale	J. B. Jones
O. R. Winkler	Henry Steward
Mrs. Frances Fisher	J. I. Blackwelder
Lee Brown	Arthur Casteel
P. T. Harvey	Dan Dirks
Barton Wherritt, Jr.	Cecil Unruh
Mrs. Pete Ratslaff	Lloyd Good
Donald Bahling	Lt. Gardner
Arlie Fisher	Don Penrod
Mrs. John Boes	Arthur Dodson
Connie Louise Hendrickson	Adolph Reinert
Mrs. A. H. Hedlund	Herman Reinert
M. L. Fry	Lee Ullom
Mrs. J. I. Blackwelder	Price Rinard
Billy Nite	Robert Lee Kruger
Susan Bargar	Oliver Hood
Walter Bloomingdale	Mrs. Arthur Casteel
Mrs. Pearl Bruso	Mrs. A. E. Unruh
John Crebs	Elmer Rader
Lewis Martin	W. H. Neimier
Mrs. Peter P. Unruh	Peter P. Unruh
Grandma Stevenson	Mrs. J. E. Mullikin
Mrs. R. I. Montgomery	Tom Vandever
Goldie Monninger	Ray L. Smith
	Earl McCune

CHAPTER 24.

1950. Post office sales up to \$1,931 in 1949 as compared with \$614.03 in the same quarter of 1939.

Walter Unruh has announced that he is the new Chevrolet dealer.

Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Rabourn celebrated their forty-first wedding anniversary.

Ida Belle Miller is fatally injured in a car accident.

John and Vernon Unruh buy the John Deere business.

C. B. Whinery, who has been custodian at the High School for fifteen years, has resigned.

Pete Merriman is injured in a car wreck at Fredonia.

Population of Montezuma is 507. In 1940 it was 340.

Word has been received that the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bahling along with her husband was killed by lightning.

Walt Unruh is to build a new building for his Chevrolet agency.

Kenneth Parks gets his call for military service and sold his grocery store to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elson.

Irvin and Geneveive Marrs become the owners of the Gilger Star Cleaners.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Isaac buy the Clark Clothing Store.

Ebenfield Church move in a building to replace the one destroyed by fire when lightning struck it.

Stanley Unruh thrills his Montezuma audience with his piano concert.

Bert Phillips is the manager of the baseball team.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kinnamon have their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

1951. Dr. Wilson tells the story of how he and Harold Eddington were captured by the Japs and held prisoner for several years. Harold Eddington was one of the first babies born in the room where Dr. Hull's office is. His father built the house which is now owned by B. B. Weins.

Howard Covey and Bill Hahn leave to join the marines.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Gordon celebrate their Golden anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Stauth return from a Mediterranean Cruise.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald McFadden took their old 1906 Cadillac to Guymon, Oklahoma to drive it in the parade. They were to wear pioneer dress.

Mac Stanley is promoted from Captain to Major in Japan where he is stationed.

Holly Renfro, the editor, notes that the first week he printed "The Press" he announced the marriage of Floy Kinnamon to Earl Burgess, and now he is printing the engagement of their daughter Shirley.

Mrs. Elmer McConkey moves to town to be the new operator at the telephone office.

Jim Conner celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday in Walsh, Colorado.

Bob Blackwelder wins an all expense paid trip to the American Royal.

The Wade test well is declared a dry hole.

Donald Zanovich is killed in action in Korea.

City officials have decreed that there is to be no more parking in the middle of the streets.

1952. Annelle Lupton rates in the first ten in the cherry pie baking contest.

Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Alexander celebrate their Golden wedding anniversary.

Lloyd Peat is the new Co-op manager.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Graves celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary in Garden City.

Mac Stanley is to enter the Episcopal ministry.

Fish of the local waters are fighting a losing battle with local anglers snagging away most every day.

Maxine Bell is given a farewell party. She has taught in Montezuma for several years.

Blanche Smith and her family are to move to Hutchinson.

Ralph Fry, Ralph Clark, Sam Nite, and Clayton Robertson returned from a big game hunt in Canada with two bull elk, two bull moose, four Rocky Mountain goat, and one Big Horn ram.

Huge fire destroys cattle feed and a barn on the Opal McDonald farm.

1953. The Lions Club is organized and they hold their charter banquet on February 11.

Harry Nance leaves for Topeka to be the new representative.

Montezuma is to soon have dial telephones.

Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Fry leave for a trip to Hawaii.

The Bethel nurses home is completed.

J. G. Foote wins a pickup in a nationwide draw and Stanley Motor delivers it.

Montezuma installs new type street lights on main street.

Walt Unruh celebrates twenty years in business in Montezuma.

1954. There are rumblings of a TV station close to Montezuma.

Stanley sells the Ford agency to the Unruh brothers. He started business in 1922.

Ralph Fry wins the Boone & Crockett award for the biggest elk, he is honored at a banquet in New York.

Frank Hungate comes to Montezuma to carry the mail.

The McCalmont store has a new glass front.

Irvin Koppisch and Clayton Ferguson begin advertising television sets for sale.

Neighbors plow 265 acres for Bill Flair, who has been in the hospital.

CHAPTER 25

1955. Duane Thompson is ordained minister in the Christian Church.

City officials buy a new fire truck. It cost \$8,000.

At the Lions Club Harold Hedlund, Kenneth Nelson, and Stephen Ambler put on a skit that is a scream. Kenneth dressed as a king-sized matron and Harold and Mr. Ambler were hillbillies.

Montezuma wins the State Basketball championship. The team consisted of Wayne Unruh, Kenneth Koehn, Jimmy Hull, Dallas Koehn, Bob Blackwelder, Lynn Voth, Vernon Buller, Clifford Koehn, Bill Brown, and Tom Elson. The coach was Frank Griffitts.

The new City building housing the city offices and the Library is completed. The telephone building is also complete and work on dial lines and installation is progressing slowly.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Potter celebrate their Golden wedding anniversary.

The local boat owners help rescue people along the banks of Crooked Creek whose properties were surrounded and covered with water.

Barbara Antone and Elberta Nite are on the honor roll of Dodge City College.

Several young men have become intrigued with Jalopy Racing and some of the business men are sponsoring the "Pink Panther."

Merrel Flair has been hired as Psychologist in the Dodge City schools.

The new fire truck got its first run when the small

building behind the house where Mrs. Lorraine Shrauner lives with her two sons, caught fire.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gamble celebrate their fortieth anniversary, and the E. L. Lattas their fiftieth.

A New Year will bring a new editor. Gene Vincent will finish his teaching term and then take over "The Press" managership. Subscription rates go up to \$1.50.

1956. Merchants are sparking enthusiasm for home town shopping by a "Script Night" drawing.

The Bank announces that they will close on Saturday afternoons.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Eggleston, who have taught here for four years, have submitted their resignations.

The Montezuma Band receives a highly superior rating at the Festival in Dodge City.

J. B. Jones is admitted to the K State Veterinary School.

The Bethel Home maternity ward is closed. During the seven years they were open they cared for 253 boy babies and 212 girls.

Rest Rooms are built at the City Park.

M. W. Miller resigns as bus mechanic after fifteen years.

Patsy Renfro is on the A honor roll at Fort Hays State College.

T. S. Bruington, at 102 years of age, undergoes a major operation and is recovering nicely.

Kenneth Ginst again opens Wildhorse Lake to the public for fishing, adults fifty cents, kids free, and they are the ones that catch them!!

1957. Open house is planned for the Ebenfield parsonage in the south part of town.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Foote have their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

A March blizzard gripped the area. At the height of the storm there was an explosion at the Vernon Dirks home. Unable to get to the doctor, victims are taken on a tractor. Two little girls died and all the family are seriously burned. The stork made some deliveries, and one was directed by Dr. Hull over the telephone. The father performed the necessary acts successfully. Clayton Ferguson was invaluable by being able to short-wave Dodge and other stations for needed help, when telephones failed to function.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Aeschliman have their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Madge Monninger graduates from Southwestern and will teach in Augusta the coming year.

The big antenna is mounted at K T V C and a test pattern will soon be on the air.

Beulah Mitchell wins many prizes on a national TV show, "The Big Payoff."

Hugh Wilson Miller is awarded Senior Jump Wings as he has completed thirty-four jumps, three of them at night.

Montezuma Co-op votes to build 542,000 bushel addition. This will boost the present storage facility to a little over a million bushels. They also approved the purchase of a grain dryer.

Cliff McReynolds begins his famous column, "Bank Notes."

Mr. and Mrs. John VanValkenburg buy the Star Cleaners.

CHAPTER 26

1958. Elson's Red and White Market is to go out of business.

Mertilla Grange is to celebrate its silver anniversary.

People are watching Sputnik as it hurls across the sky (number 2, that is). Proclaimed a Russian streamlined satellite with a K-9 driver.

Joan Smith is chosen queen of the Wyatt Earp Day celebration in Dodge City.

KTVC is to begin operation at 12 noon. Before, it had come on late in the afternoon. Kenneth Ginest observes that the programs are like furniture, either Old English or Early American.

The wind made air conditioned awnings of the ancient tin structures that most of the main street buildings have.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Unruh win a trip to the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, for outstanding sales record.

Mr. and Mrs. John Oldfield celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Lloyd Peat resigns as manager of the Co-op.

Montezuma's oldest citizen, Thomas Seldon Bruington, dies at the age of 104. He had lived in western Kansas since 1887. He had voted in every Presidential election since 1876 and recalled how as a child of four he had heard the famous Lincoln-Douglas debate in Galesburg, Illinois.

Wendell Hargett wins the Lion Club scholarship.

Mary Jo Fry and her cousin Harriet Walker plan

to tour Europe this summer. Miss Walker's parents reside in Rome (Wanda Fry).

Merrimans Gift and Variety Store is opened on the corner next to Joe Smith's filling station.

Kenneth Ginset announces lots of interest by boat and ski enthusiasts at Wildhorse Lake.

KGLD in Garden City opens another channel to TV viewers.

1959. Formal dedication of the new High School Gym is held.

"The Press" has new editors. Wanda and Bernard Collett of Mullinville buy it and the Vincents move to Idaho.

Elberta Nite receives her Bachelor of Science degree from KU.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. McCalmont have their Golden wedding anniversary.

Lana Hoover, who along with her sister Pam, have danced for audiences for many years, will have the leading roll in the dance recital, "The Nutcracker," in Dodge City.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Miller, who have lived here for fifty-one years, have sold their farm and will move to Bloom.

Robberies again plagued the community. They seem to have a special liking for the Chevrolet company.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Mitchell have open house for their fiftieth wedding anniversary in Legion Hall.

The town was in an uproar preparing for the TV show, "This is Our Town," featuring several local citizens and familiar scenes.

There are rumors of a new post office.

Holly Renfro, former editor of "The Press" was injured seriously in a motorcycle accident.

The W. A. Koehns kill a fifty-two inch rattlesnake, proving that the deadly serpent is not yet exterminated from our area. It had fifteen rattlers.

The Nances, Stanleys, and Ralph Frys have an enjoyable trip to Hawaii.

Roy Gilger receives honorary recognition for more than forty years service as mail carrier.

1960. W. R. Hargett celebrates his eighty-sixth birthday with dinner at the Legion Hall.

Jeanie Gibbons has the honor of being chosen one of twelve students for a part in the Sioux Falls, South Dakota College play.

Judy Bruington wins blue ribbon in the State for her cherry pie.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Stauth leave on a sixty-three day tour of Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fry, Mrs. H. K. Nance, and Zoa McReynolds tour Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hitz have a Golden wedding anniversary.

Bob Carney, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Carney, of Redwood City, California, is killed in a plane crash. Mrs. Carney is the former Beryl Casteel.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kinnamon celebrate their sixtieth anniversary at the church with an open house.

Raymond Hargett is appointed to the route that Roy Gilger carried for so many years.

Janet Ferguson almost severed her left thumb when she turned on her father's power saw just to see what would happen.

The Mennonites canned 6050 pounds of beef for foreign relief.

Mrs. W. H. Falir is honored at a banquet for her fifteen years as 4H leader.

The new highway ties up traffic for most of the summer. Microwave station has been built north of the tracks, and the new City Service compressor station has been completed just south of town.

During the fifties and up until the time this book was written, the following people passed away:

Sam Dirks	Glenn McDonald
Anna R. Jacques	Mrs. J. W. Brock
Jake Blackwelder	Ben Bryant
Bayard Jones	T. J. Glasgow
Mrs. M. M. Frazier	Mrs. Albert Tucker
Del Rundall	Mrs. John Deeds
C. B. Whinery	Roy Rouborn
Wilbur Bean	Mrs. Ira B. Ullom
Orville Mitchell	Mrs. Laura Alcorn
Mrs. Joe Hacker	Theron Rexford
F. A. Williams	Mrs. Ora Markel
Fred Wade	Loren Hood
Alvin Bargar	R. I. Montgomery
T. S. Bruington	Mrs. T. L. Vandever
Mrs. J. T. Karney	Jake Thompson
Doad Smith	Lela McGinnis
Barton Wherritt	W. E. Bindley
Norval Utt	Walter Mitchell
Mrs. Sam Good	Sam Good
F. L. Davis	F. L. Kimler
Rev. Walter	Mrs. C. B. Whinery
Mrs. Lloyd Reinert	A. H. Hedlund
William Pool	M. O. Holderness
Mrs. Oliver Hood	A. E. (Bert) Smith
Mrs. C. C. Mitchell	Mary Shumaker
J. E. Mullikin	Mrs. Frank Antone
Joe Bryant	Mrs. A. P. Bargar
Ben Elliott	Nelse Hood

Mrs. Lee Brown
Mrs. William Gamble
Effie Koehn
Edith Parks Johnson
Clarence Stutzman

Donald Zanovich
Mrs. Neimier
Jim Conner
E. E. McReynolds

* * * *

And so we come to 1961. The State is commemorating its Centennial—one hundred years of Statehood. Another war has been fought and innumerable conflagrations have plagued a peace-seeking world. We have a tense awareness of the instability of our age. In these times of wars and near wars, tongue-in-cheek peace talks, missiles and sputniks, atomic weapons and scientific wonders, our peace is indeed an uneasy one.

Montezuma has not only held its own, but it is still growing. Many small towns are victims of super-highways, speedier transportation, and the yen of the people to succumb to spectacular advertising via TV, radio, and nationally circulated magazines. But, even now, there is a movement to bring eighty acres into the city limits for building sites. The new "Montezuma Compressor" station brought five families into the community.

The City is faced with the necessity of building a new disposal system. The old one, built in 1930 for a population of three hundred, is inadequate because of the growth of the town.

At this time, Montezuma boasts the following businesses:

Montezuma State Bank
Montezuma Press
Montezuma Hardware
Walt Unruh Chevrolet Co.
Unruh—Foster John Deere Co.

Nite Drug Store
McCalmont I.G.A. Grocery
Covey Barber Shop
Lorraine's Beauty Shop
Merriman's Greenhouse
Merriman's Gift & Variety
Smiths Service Station
Kansas Milling Company
Dr. Hull's Office
Wales Brown Repair
Ben Jantz Blacksmith
Jessie Jantz Appliance Repair
A.T. & S.F. Depot, Gene Nelson, agent.
Bargar's Cold Storage
Buller Garage
Buller Produce
Miller's Greenhouse
Kinnamon-Reno Repair Shop
Montezuma Hotel & Cafe
Ferguson Farm Supply
Gibbons Home & Auto Supply
Grain Elevator & Mill Service
Jantz Machine Shop
Ken's Oil Service
Montezuma Co-op Exchange
Montezuma Co-op Oil Station
Montezuma Lumber Company
Kenneth Nelson Seeds
Security Feed Store
Highway Cafe
Socony-Mobile Oil Co.
Star Cleaners

A new A.G. Grocery is located in the Bargar Cold

Storage building. Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Marrs and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hendrickson are the managers.

And lastly, the patrons are soon to enjoy a new brick post office, located right south of the Hotel. Miss Faye Mullikin is the postmistress.

CHAPTER 27.

No history of Montezuma can be written without the story of the Mennonite people, who now make up the greater part of our population; not only on the farms, but in town as well. I have taken the following facts and data from the pamphlet that was issued by the Church on their twenty-fifth anniversary, in 1940.

The first families to come west arrived in Cimarron on March 28, 1912. They were Rev. Peter A. Freisen from Lehigh, Kansas, A. B. Unruh, Fred Jantz and Herman Unruh families from Durham, and Peter I. Freisen, from Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada.

There were no highways or grade roads. They followed a winding path through the sand hills in a southwesterly direction, some twenty miles, to their prospective homesites.

As pioneer life is full of hazards, so was the case with these settlers. The rapidly melting snow, inadequate housing for them and their belongings created hardships. However, these sturdy pioneers lost no time nursing their hardships and inconveniences, but went to work with zeal and courage establishing homes on what was then the western frontier, where less than a half century before buffalo had roamed and Indians lived. They settled right in the path of where only a quarter century before, each spring had witnessed tens of thousands of white faced longhorns coming from the Rio Grande Valley and from the Panhandle, going north for suitable grazing regions. Sometimes they were on their way to Dodge City, which was a shipping point for eastern markets.

When the first brethren settled here, the whole landscape was practically a vast sheet of prairie, with a few sod shanties scattered about that marked the sites of former homesteaders. Prairie dog towns were numerous and the virgin soil was infested with rattlesnakes. But in the coming of the tractor, the sod which seemed to be the preferred home of the serpent, was practically all broken and so the snake has been eradicated to an extent that one seldom makes an appearance. No more is the mother afraid to let her child play alone in the yard for fear of the reptile.

The summer following the spring the brethren settled here, the Dodge City and Cimarron Valley Railroad laid its path right through the new settlement. The prosperous little business town of Montezuma sprang up immediately in the very heart of it. The extension of the railroad, the new townsite and the well adapted location for the settlement was a strong inducement for home-seekers to join the new colony. In the next year, and those immediately following, there was a steady flow of these settlers coming from McPherson, Marion, and Harvey counties; and from Oklahoma, Texas, North Dakota, and a few Canadian Provinces. In three years time, the small group had grown to a congregation of approximately forty-two families.

When the settlers came, naturally their first concern was where to worship God. Although small in number, yet God's never failing promise, "Where two or three will gather together in my name, I will be with them," held true with them. So the little pious group came together on Sundays in the various homes. Yes, even in one instance where a family had built a henhouse

in which to live temporarily, they came together there in turn and worshipped God.

After worship they would usually all stay for dinner, spend the afternoon together and go home in the evening, resting assured that they had had a blessed time. As more moved in, they engaged a schoolhouse to worship in. It was located on the road across from the Soice quarter.

In the summer of 1915, the congregation, which then consisted of some forty families, came to the ultimate conclusion that schoolhouses were not adequate for church services and decided upon building a new church-house. So that year, after harvest, they started with zeal and courage to build this house. Sand was hauled, with teams and wagons, from the sand pits fifteen miles south of here. Lumber was hauled, the foundation was laid, and under the direction of the building committee, the work progressed. Most of the labor was donated, except for the employment of three regular carpenters, Ben and Henry T. Unruh, and Cornelius E. Geisbrecht.

The doors of this church were opened for services in the fall of 1915. Rev. Peter A. Fresien was the only presiding minister here at that time, and Reuben H. Koehn served as its janitor. He also led the singing. The building erected for a cost of \$1,950.00, and the funds were all raised by free will gifts. Several business men from the new town of Montezuma made substantial donations, as well as members of other congregations in other communities.

The Mennonite practice baptism because they believe it to be in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and that for two major reasons. First: the applicant exemplifies thereby that his sins are for-

given; like also John the Baptist demanded fruits for repentance before he suffered to baptize anyone: Secondly: the applicants denounce sin and Satan forever. The first applicants for baptism were Simon Unruh and wife who were baptized in May, 1914. Now there are former applicants from here living in nearly every state where there are Mennonite congregations, and in Canada.

Paul writes in Corinthians and says: "Concerning spiritual gifts, there are a diversity of gifts, difference of administrations and diversities of operations," but he goes on to say that they are directed by the same spirit and that it is the same God that worketh all. Furthermore, he says that God has placed all these gifts in the church, that the church may be edified. The Montezuma church has in accordance with this testimony, as well as all other Bible doctrines, tried to follow the leading of the spirit from time to time and has searched for these gifts among its members. After Godly evidence and the decision of the church has set such brethren apart and ordained them into office. The congregation feels that they have been especially blessed along these lines, with gifts for ministers, as well as gifted brethren for the offices of Deacons. It has not been necessary to turn to outside congregations for help except for assistance for a short series of meetings.

Although dismal tides have swept over the church at times and the ship has rocked to and fro, beaten by the waves of time, yet there were always some who kindled the slumbering fires and stirred in the hearts of the people the hope to revive and return. And it has been the unusual blessing for the church that they have been able to revive to the extent, every

year, so that the Lord's Supper could be observed and all were in unity.

As the prophets said, "All flesh is like grass," so has death, tragedy, and tribulation befallen many of the members of the settlement. Drownings, tractor accidents, car wrecks, and death by burning spell some of the tragic ways members met death.

Poverty and hardship seem to have lodged in the settlement from almost the beginning. As early as 1917 scantiness was lurking at the back door of many homes. Food and clothing was short as winter set in. T. A. Unruh, who was visiting the congregation that fall, solved the problem by making temporary adjustments. There were no deacons here at that time. Mr. Unruh appointed Peter H. Koehn and Jacob N. Yost to look after the needs of the destitute and then to call for help from the eastern congregations. The officials of the Lone Tree Church, who in turn responded to the request for needed help by free will donations, also gave the understanding that should favorable times return, and the recipients not want to accept these favors as gifts, the proceeds should go to the General District Treasurer. However the wheat crop was light and so no refunds could be made, but when fall came a bountiful small grain crop was harvested. The greater majority repaid their loans by clubbing together and shipping a load of feed to the donors.

When requests came from other poverty stricken areas they were generous. This good deed had also been administered unto them, in their need. So the church as a whole has not been dormant in providing funds for the District Treasurer, but ranks well toward the front, in spite of going through many lean years.

In addition to the crop failures in the thirties, the

bad years were accompanied by unpleasant and disagreeable dust storms. After several seasons of the disastrous storms, it was a sad sight to see the thousands upon thousands of tons of dirt piled up along fence rows. What had been green blankets of wheat fields were sad looking brownish landscapes. Suddenly, the growing crops, which before the storms looked wonderful and promising, would be demolished and ruined.

But then times changed, the average farmer having harvested a crop and some abundance of feed, and by practicing the utmost economy and the help of governmental programs, the settlement began to know better times.

We have heard how the first settlers trudged through the hills with teams and wagons to establish their new homes. How the virgin soil was plowed up with gang or walking plows drawn by horses or mules. It took a crew of five to eight men with ten head of horses to cut an average crop of 150 to 200 acres of wheat. There were no improved roads, now it is no longer necessary to hitch up the team to drive to church or to market in town. Two or three men can take care of a larger harvest than ever before.

The church has always had a surplus of funds, has been generous about missions and other charities. Credit goes to the Montezuma church for having sponsored the first missionary of our church at large: Min. John A. Koehn, who likewise is the first minister ordained in this place. He has been active and very busy in missions, and in organizing missions.

* * * *

Spacious, well groomed and modern homes of these ambitious people dot the area. Their crops are now

assured by numerous irrigation projects that warrant crops in all years. Like other farmers, they have learned to control soil erosion by wind and water with a sensible diversified program. Fallow makes impossible the former crop failures caused by continuous cropping, burning of the stubble, and other farming practices that have proved wrong.

The congregation built a fine, brick structure with a beautiful sanctuary in 1946. It was dedicated, by over three thousand people, on Easter day. The church, with the cemetery just east of it, is beautifully kept and is a source of pleasure to the members. At the end of 1960, they had a membership of 370, this from the humble beginning of 82 members who built the wooden church-house in 1915.

The Mennonites rendered a great service to their community when they erected the Bethel Home for the aged, in the south part of town, in 1949. They have served many afflicted, elderly souls who came to them for help. Their kindness to the aged, their devotion to ideals, and their dedication is always on a personal basis.

A serious, sober, industrious people, the Mennonites are very well known for the many acts of charity they render to the disaster areas, and to the needy. No one will soon forget the carloads of them that went into flood-ridden South Dodge, armed with mops, brooms, shovels, and other tools. They cleaned up a mess that was a menace. Nor how they rendered a priceless service to the tornado torn city of Woodard, where the job of clearing away debris was nothing short of monumental. Their women's groups constantly furnish bedding, clothing, and material to the needy. Many Navajo

Indians of the Southwest have them to thank for education, clothing, and health care.

Here are a few statistics as taken from the pamphlet:

Fred Jantz . . . first death in the settlement.

Mrs. Ben (Mable) Unruh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Unruh, was the first child born.

Irvin Jantz was the first boy, a son of Fred Jantz.

First wedding was performed by Rev. P. A. Freisen. The couple was Mr. and Mrs. John J. Jantz. Mrs. Jantz was the daughter of A. B. Unruh.

Peter H. Koehn was the first deacon ordained.

First funeral was for a child of Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Unruh, which was also the first meeting to be held in the new wooden church in 1915.

John A. Koehn was the first minister to be ordained.

Rev. Albert A. Unruh has lived here continually since the beginning of the settlement.

CHAPTER 28

A GROUP OF HETROGENEOUS STORIES

In the teens, Montezuma's social life was pretty much centered around the school and its activities. Consolidation was an extremely controversial matter. Mr. Fickertt, former editor of the "Press," recalls how during the time when he was the head of the committee to investigate the situation, their little black and white dog came home one day with a sign hanging around its neck, which read, "YOU CONSOLIDATED DOG."

* * * *

This same dog, came home another day, decorated with a wide red strip down the middle of its back. This had come as a courtesy of a boy who was painting his grandfather's barn. It had seemed like such a good idea at the time.

* * * *

Small boys used to wonder why it took so much ice for the horse feed, which the men carried into the livery barn in the barrels that they hauled from the depot. This was during the time when even though Prohibition was a reality, barrels of a certain product could be shipped to ficticious names at a given destination.

* * * *

Another dog story, that has been one of my favorites, concerned the intelligent bull dog of the Rennie's, by the name of Woodrow. He was run over, and it be-

came necessary to have one of his eyes removed. Dr. Munford, who performed all sorts of services to the people with whom he had taken up his abode, was more than willing to oblige. The injured dog was duly carried into the rear of the hardware store, and chloroformed for the necessary operation. In those few minutes, even though he had been done a favor, Woodrow became so prejudiced against the good doctor that he growled and snarled each time he saw him.

When Lt. Munford returned from his stay in the service, even though it has been two years, Woodrow sensed his arrival and so posted himself at the depot to register his contempt. He gave utterance to his hate and hostility with deep guttural sounds, when everyone around had come to show their respect.

Dr. Munford was a very remarkable person. He, his wife Addie, and daughter lived in the rear of the drug store, where he was always available at all hours. He attended patients in all the outlying towns, as well as Montezuma. In cold weather he wore a long, black fur coat, fur cap, gloves, and felt boots. He was a strong man and many times, instead of cranking his Ford with its shiny brass radiator, he would give it a shove and then when the motor pulsed into action, he quickly jumped aboard and was on his way.

Truly, he was a country doctor, a general practitioner. He treated all the ills that beset man: burns, fractures, dislocations and everything, except actual surgery. One courtesy he practiced, which certainly isn't today, was his willingness to give free advise and reassurance over the telephone.

During his time in the army, Montezuma was besieged with Spanish Influenza. While a doctor came out twice a week on the train from Dodge to treat Dr.

Munford's patients, he was agonizing in France over young Americans whom he said, "Were dying like flies?"

He enlisted in the Medical Corps in 1917, and came home an ill man in March 1919. His wife, while going to meet him at Fort Riley, died on the way, with influenza. And then less than a year later, he lost his only child, nine year old Martha. While in France, he adopted a French orphan, Charles, who came to the United States to make his home with him.

The ring of the telephone, a call in the night, the long drive, then a door showing a rectangle of yellow light in the darkness. And then someone, who had been anxiously watching and waiting, turned to call, "It's all right, Mom, Doc's a comin'."

Dr. Munford's first patient was Duward Rabourn. The Rabourns, new residents themselves, remember carrying the sick child to him the day that he and Mrs. Munford arrived.

* * * *

The hardware store has added another department, that of caskets and undertaking goods. Montezuma has long needed this line of merchandise, and the store is to be commended. They have a number of caskets and burial robes.

* * * *

Everyone remembers when the Monningers came to town. The widowed mother, with her six children, were hardly settled when her brood promptly took down with the measles. So their first contribution to the Community life, in their new home, was the doubtful one of the itchy, red malady that wrecked such havoc with the school attendance.

* * * *

The following article appeared in the January 11, 1889 issue of the "Montezuma Chief."

"There will be a quiet wedding at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Shull, four miles southwest of town, this (Thursday) evening at 6:30 o'clock. The contracting parties are Miss Lula Shull and James M. Thompson. It is with great pleasure that we announce this marriage. Mr. Thompson and the Editors of this paper have been closely identified in business transactions for the past year or more, Mr. Thompson being deputy postmaster and our hardware merchant until recently. He is every inch a gentleman; while Miss Shull is a charming young lady. Mr. Thompson certainly gets the prize.

* * * *

Mrs. Thomas told me of the night when Montezuma women (she herself just a bride) had been left to the mercies of whatever sinister things a night might have for women, because all the menfolk were asked to rally to the call of the Night Marshall. He was sure that someone was robbing the Smith Filling Station. After the erstwhile Lawmen had located their various blunderbusses and fumbled around, about all that happened was that V. D. Thomas stuck his gun in Night Marshall Lamberth's middle and demanded that he, "stick 'em up." All this time the robbers were calmly cutting gasoline hoses and filling their car with free gas!

* * * *

The Junior-Senior banquet was given at the home of Goldie Gamble on May 14. The room was elaborately decorated with the Senior colors, and bouquets of sweet peas, tulips, and plants. The first part of the evening was pleasantly spent with Victrola music,

after which the guests were invited into the dining room, where they were served with a three course dinner. The first course: Oyster soup and crackers; the second, chicken pie, mashed potatoes, pickles, fruit salad, and bread and butter; the third, was ice cream, two kinds of cake and coffee.

The Sophomores, Daisy Neimier and Grace Burrell, assisted in the serving. Those present were Misses Frances Monninger, Faye Mullikin, Cecil Thomas, Goldie Gamble, Alma Hentz, and Nettie Thompson. Messrs. Merle Bahling, Walter Mitchell, Carl Thomas, Guy Davis, William Karney, Roy Monninger, Vincent Thomas, Clyde Odle, Dwight Alexander, and Sam Sugg.

* * * *

As soon as the local church (Mehodist) was free of local debt it was formally dedicated in April, 1938. The Sunday School had been organized in the fall of 1912 and services were held in the Montezuma School house which stood a half of a mile south, and a mile and a half west of town. In the spring of 1913, Rev. Davis organized the present church. Mrs. R. I. Montgomery, who had been holding Sunday School in the depot, and in homes, was a charter member, although there doesn't seem to be any record of a complete charter list. W. L. Vernon was the first pastor, he also served the Cave Church, fourteen miles southeast. He rode back and forth on a bicycle.

Church services were held in different places in town. Among other places it was held in the small house just north of the present J. R. Smith home, in the Santa Fe Depot, and in different homes. When the first school house was moved to town, services were held there, and later the building was purchased for

the church when the first brick school building was completed.

After the construction of the present brick church building, F. L. Davis purchased the old frame one and made it into two apartments. It is still located just a block southeast of the first site.

Rev. T. J. Davis was the second pastor, and while he served, the parsonage was built. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1913.

* * * *

I like the tender love story of a rider of dancing horses in the circus, from Rhode Island, and of the Montezuma boy who had come to Gray County from Pleasanton, Kansas in 1901. Joe R. Smith was resplendent in his costume as Young Buffalo, when he rode a horse with a highly ornate saddle in the "Young Buffalo Wild West Show," in the seasons of 1909, 10, 11, 12, and 13. He met and married Grace Phelan in October 1912. Soon after that he brought his bride west to settle down on a farm.

One day Grace told him how the horse that she had so carefully harnessed for the weekly shopping trip, acted so strangely. But upon examination, Joe found the trouble to be a very understandable one. With all the knowledge that she had of horses, she had simply slipped old Dobbin's harness on backwards!!

* * * *

Joe Montgomery got bumped off the rear of a motorcycle, the other afternoon, while riding on behind, south of the drug store!

* * * *

A Hotel Register that had been used in the Cottage Hotel in Old Montezuma, was brought to me by Mrs. Earl Rexford, who was Della Bargar. It was owned

by Dr. Wheeler, a member of the original land company. On every page, the penmanship is an example of an almost lost art. There are few entries that are scribbled, or un-neat. Even the "drummers" wrote with "Spencerian" precision.

One page bears the name of George Earp, who passed away in Texas just this winter. He was a cousin of the famous Wyatt of Dodge City fame. Also, from Independence, Missouri, "Jessy James", slept there June 19, 1890. However, the outlaw of that name had been dead since 1882.

The rooms were priced at the top of the page, \$1.50, but along in the center, the rates were increased to \$2.00. Many of the entries give addresses as Santa Fe, Mertilla, Colusa, Springfield, Hess, Wilburn, Lockport, Carmen, and Wabash. These towns have all gone out of existence. Meade is called Meade Center, and Plains is West Plains. Oklahoma was not yet a state, so those towns are followed by the initials O. T. or I. T., for Indian Territory.

Some register with a "driver." One honest man, from Ingalls, follows his name with, "and Lady!"

Familiar names that appear are, Chas. W. Woodman, uncle of Nina Monninger; Mr. Carr, a member of the land company that platted Lockport; Mr. Garten and Mr. Barton of Cimmaron; several members of the Tabb family; Wm. Endsley, of Lockport; and the famous C. J. "Buffalo" Jones, of Garden City.

* * * *

The need of the pioneers for companionship, for expressing themselves in song, was apparent in the story that Harold Hedlund told of his mother, Elizabeth English.

When she was a little girl, she accompanied her par-

ents on a wagon train. They were camped near Cimarron, at the famous Cimarron Crossing. They had been on the road for many weary miles and had had no fresh bread. So the news that some women close by had some for sale, was met with enthusiasm. Elizabeth and her brother volunteered to ride for some.

Elizabeth shaded her eyes, as she neared the house, and noticed an organ inside. She spoke of it, and the woman asked if she could play. She said that she could, some. The family was pleased, as none of them were able to. So the small girl played while the family stood around and sang.

Later, back at the camp, as they made preparations for the night, the train could hear the rumbling of wagon wheels. The family had loaded up the seldom used instrument and come to the wagon train. The men carefully set the organ up on the buffalo grass. Elizabeth seated herself and for many hours she pumped, and played the hymns, folk songs, and rounds for the crowd that gathered. Their lusty voices fanned out over the valley, as they poured out their hearts in song. It was a memorable evening.

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Hazel Rennie fell off the wagon, at the Sunday School party, and suffered a fractured wrist!

* * * *

J. W. McReynolds moved, with his family, to Gray County from Missouri, in 1910. In 1916, he moved into the new town of Montezuma and purchased a tract just outside the platted townsite. But when the town was incorporated into a third-class city, he asked that his house and land be brought into the city limits. He was instrumental in organizing the Farmers Co-Operative Grain Co. and served as its president for many

years. He was Chairman of the board to consolidate the public schools. He served the city as its mayor for three terms, and the Legislature, as Representative, in 1918 and 1919.

At one time he owned one of the largest herds of Aberdeen Angus cattle in Western Kansas, and was a pioneer in "Power" farming. He also served as president of the Montezuma State Bank, and was chairman of the First National Loan Association in the County.

"J. W." as he was known around town, passed away in 1939. His family consisted of his wife, Hariett, who celebrated her 90th birthday in January; one son, Ellis, deceased; and four daughters, Ada Dawson, Ida Adams, Lura Stanley, and Wilda Claire Gibbs.

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Henri Robbins, who was one of the first High School teachers, coached all the athletics while here. The teams had a very successful year and won every game. They were to play Hugoton and it was impossible for the coach to accompany them. The kids went early and had themselves a fine time. They were defeated. Later they told him "Had you gone along, we would have behaved ourselves and wouldn't have lost the game."

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One day while browsing among the antiques in the Ward Furniture Store in Garden City, Mr. Ward gave me a picture of Belle Livingstone, whose real name was Isabel Graham Hutchins. She was a famous actress, one of the last of the New York Speakeasy Queens of Prohibition, those days of hip flasks, bath-tub gin, flappers and soaring stock markets. She had been the toast of two Continents. Belle had been a Kansas City foundling, adopted by James R. Graham, who was a

member of the land company that founded Old Montezuma. J. R. Graham, who for a time was editor of the Montezuma Chief, started the Emporia Gazette in 1890, and sold it to W. Y. Morgan in '92. Mr. Morgan sold the paper to William Allen White, the famous Kansas journalist and author, in 1895.

In 1910, long before present methods were used, Mr. Brock conceived the combine principle for harvesting wheat. With no little preparation, he and one of his neighbors were able to cut, thresh, and market in one day, eighty acres of wheat.

For this they used, in addition to the two fourteen foot headers and threshing machine, seventeen men, thirty head of horses, four header barges, and the wagons for hauling threshed grain to town.

* * * *

In the dry years, when farmers cut and stacked Russian Thistles for cattle feed, someone asked Mart Fry if his cattle would eat them. "O yes," he said, "They eat them all right, but then they have been so hungry that would have eaten the hay tools, had I left them out."

The Frys were primarily cattle ranchers for many years. After buying farm power machinery, as early as 1915, they gradually diminished their herds until in the mid twenties they almost abandoned cattle raising. Martin L., and his father, came to the Crooked Creek ranch, which they had purchased from J. W. Shull, in 1899. Albertus came four years later. At first, their grazing land covered five square miles.

Mart married Miss Stella Fisher, of Cimarron, while she was teaching at Lone Star in 1900. They continued to live on the ranch until they purchased the Hardware and Lumber business in Montezuma in 1920.

They had three children, Wanda, who is now Mrs. Harry Walker, of Rome Italy; Ralph, who lives in Montezuma; and Earl, of Dodge City. Ralph married Della Bryant, and Earl, Dora Reissen. Albertus, who still resides on the original ranch, was married to Mary Alcorn, in 1909. They have one daughter, Dolly, who is Mrs. Emmett Yeager, of Mission, Kansas.

* * * *

The Clements family came to Kansas, from Kentucky, in 1876. They settled at Osage. Ten years later, they took a homestead on the Gray-Meade County line. They had a family of five children, who attended school at South Lone Star. The schoolhouse also served as a community center and a Sunday School in those seasons when the congregation did not join the ones at the Shaw School, which was in the Elliot district. Lulu (Mrs. Staatz) and W. C. (Kid) Clements now live in Montezuma.

* * * *

This is an excerpt (in part) from the "Garden City Sentinel" for July 30, 1886:

"The new town of Montezuma, in the south part of Finney County, is deeply interested in an extraordinary phenomenon, an electric well, the waters of which appear to possess unusual curative properties. Reliable statements are to the effect that an electrical flame gathers which casts considerable light, appears each night at the top of the pump rod.

It is a dug well, 101½ feet deep. The important thing is that persons drinking from the well experience wonderful benefits to their health. Dr. Wheeler of the Cottage Hotel attests that his wife ascribes freedom from her rheumatism and arthritic condition. Mr. Mack,

one of the carpenters, feels twenty years younger after partaking of the water and his health and appetite are entirely restored. Montezuma will, at this rate, soon become the greatest Sanitorium location and the most noted health resort in the west."

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Soon after it became apparent that due to poor health, Nite's Drug Store would have to hire a part-time pharmacist, Elberta, wife of James Nite set about procuring her degree in Pharmacy. In spite of the fact that she was a busy housewife with a family, one a mere baby, she completed her high school course. After concerted effort on not only her part but that of her entire family, she became a full-fledged Pharmacist in 1959, with a degree from Kansas University.

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Nate Reese, present mayor of Dodge City, served Montezuma and other Western Kansas towns for many years as a wholesale grocery salesman. In 1912, as new towns sprang up along the Dodge City-Cimarron Valley railroad, he says that in every case the managers merely bought the stock for their new stores. They left the choice of product and the amounts entirely to him. The Griffin-Kniss Grocery shelves were filled this way.

* * * *

Mrs. Charles (Anna) Erskine who lives in Cimarron, was County Superintendent from 1908 until 1914. It was the custom for these County Officers to receive one dollar for each school visited in the county annually. And to be fined five dollars for each one they didn't!

In 1912, the day for the school to close had come and Mrs. Erskine hadn't made her visit. There had been a

March blizzard and she was ill. She didn't feel that she could afford the five dollar dock in her salary, so she sent Mr. Erskine to perform the necessary task. He rode to Montezuma on horseback, stayed the required hour and returned home. That evening his face was burned and he became snow-blinded. After supper, because he wasn't able to read, he decided to play pitch with his guest, also a victim of the glaring white-covered ground. Then it was discovered that neither knew how to play the simple game!!!

* * * *

The Busby Land family homesteaded south of Old Montezuma along Crooked Creek. They had two daughters, Mollie and Minnie. Mollie was one of the very first teachers in the old Congregational Church that served as a school for the children of Old Montezuma. She was elected County Superintendent in 1894 and again in 1896. In December after her re-election she married Clayton Barton, who was serving as sheriff of Gary County. It is said to be the only instance where a man and wife of opposite political parties, served County offices at the same time. Minnie Land became Mrs. Webb Egbert, and her children are Ruth Egbert Perry of Garden City and Francis Egbert of Cimarron.

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Until a few weeks ago, Fred Potter lived on the claim that he took in 1902, in the sand hills. He married Alice Scott of the pioneer George Scott family, in 1905. After marriage they went through the usual pioneer routine of burning cow-chips, living in a dugout, square dancing for recreation, hand-shelling corn for market, driving a horse and buggy or wagon for thirty miles to shop, hand piecing quilts for hand work, plowing

sand-hills with mules and attending the country church, which in this case was Gray Center.

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Safety was an important factor even in those days before the speedy, powerful automobile. The following is a letter written to S. T. Alexander, who was Nina Monningers father. His sister Annie was the first post-mistress of old Lockport. Mr. Alexander was fourteen.

Kinsley, Kansas

November 20, 1890

Dear Brother Truman: (Spelling unchanged)

I received your welcome letter. Were indeed glad to hear from you, but very sorry to hear of you having a cold. Mr. Glaziers are having bad luck with there horses. You must be careful riding over the prairies or driving as there is so many old wells uncovered. I oftimes think of you or some of the cattle will fall in them . . . You be careful and then you must be careful and not ride so fast. Last Sunday at Offerle there was a boy about the size of you riding fast and his horse fell on the boys foot and mashed it. The folks had to set up all night and keep hot poultices on his foot. For a change I would like to tell you what we had for dinner. We had mashed potatoes, chicken like Ma cooks it in the oven, warm biscuits and tea. For supper we had fried mush, potatoes warmed over and some custard. Josie made some pies for dinner tomorrow but we eat them this evening. I suppose we will haft to do without lemon pies tomorrow. Write and tell me how you and Nora are getting along and how often Maggie whips you. Write soon, Your Sister, Annie.

* * * *

Strange things leave lasting impressions. Ralph Fry recalls this incident when the track was being laid for the Dodge City-Cimarron Valley railroad. A group of interested neighbors had gathered to watch the procedure one hot day in June. Orin Derry drove up in his buggy to join the group. Suddenly the small, square door that covered the back end of the buggy flew open, and out came an old Dominecker hen, cackling loudly of a recent accomplishment.

One of the railway workers grabbed up the freshly laid egg, and after cracking out the end of the shell, gulped down the warmish contents along with his lunch. It is the only memory of the important railroad construction that has stayed with Ralph.

* * * *

It has been impossible to give credit to all the community builders, the dedicated ones, the business men who contributed in so many ways to the building of these towns. I only wish that I could. We have been fortunate that the goodly share who have come are the conscientious kind, the ones who are willing to put service to others above personal gain. To these, all of these, we attribute progress.

Fifty years after the beginning of the new town, and seventy-five after the old, Montezuma's greatest asset has always been her people.

The present Montezuma will celebrate her Golden Anniversary in 1962.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Mr. Harry Dern, Mr. J. W. Brock and Mr. Harry Hildebrand.
2. Artist's conception of Main Street in the old town, drawn from a plat.
3. The Dodson Family.
4. The Elliott Sod House.
5. A page from the old Cottage Hotel Register.
6. A Group of Young People, about 1900.
7. The William Gamble Family.

THE NEW TOWN

1. J. W. McReynolds.
2. The Study Club, 1919.
3. J. R. Smith as Young Buffalo.
4. Early Montezuma, 1913.
5. The First Schoolhouse in the New Town.
6. The First Post Office and Hardware Store.
7. The First Graduating Class.
8. Interior of Parks Store, about 1925.
9. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nelson.
10. Mary Mumford's Sunday School Class.
11. Ed Beilman's Livery Stable.
12. A. N. Rennie Hardware Store.
13. Wallace Bruce Players Stage a Tent Show.
14. State Championship Basket Ball Team, 1955.



Helen Ward Rennie