



*A Symposium of*

# NOBLE, OKLAHOMA

*by*

**Noble Future Homemakers of America**

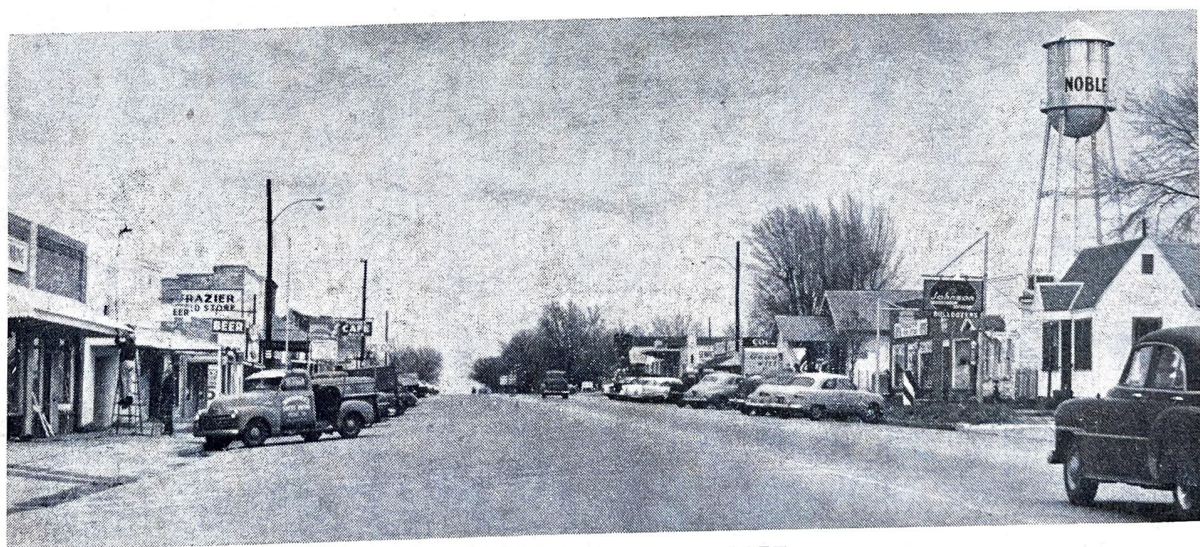
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**Noble Main Street — 1957**

## FOREWORD

This booklet is the project of the Noble Chapter of Future Homemakers of America. We have compiled this material as our contribution to the Semi-Centennial celebration of Oklahoma.

We give recognition to Mrs. Jack Hammond and Mrs. Richard O'Tool of the high school English department and to Mrs. Richard Burt in the commercial department for their invaluable assistance. Work accomplished by Miss Sue Childers, home economics student teacher, and Mrs. John Black, student teacher in English, was also an asset in compiling this material. Our FHA Chapter is gratefully indebted to Mrs. Travis Grayson, school registrar, for typing the duplimats for our booklet.

To the contributors, Mrs. Mae Brosius, Mrs. Merle Turner, and Mrs. Mary Ishmael, we feel a deep sense of gratitude for the time and effort put forth, much of which was truly a physical burden. We feel their work will be a lasting tribute to them and of indescribable value in future years.

Each Chapter appears in order of presentation and as submitted by its author.

Mrs. Bill Fisher  
Vocational Home Economics Teacher  
Sponsor of Future Homemakers of America

Be to its faults a little blind;  
And to its virtues very kind.



## SYNOPSIS OF NOBLE, OKLAHOMA

By Mrs. Mae Klinglesmith Brosius

The city of Noble was named for Secretary of Interior John Noble. One of the earliest Noble residents, Charles P. Klinglesmith, named Cleveland County in honor of Grover Cleveland.

At first Oklahoma had no Governor; laws were given by U. S. Marshals. The first Territorial Governor, George W. Steele, was appointed by the President of the United States in 1890. He was seated at Guthrie, which was then the Capital. Five Noble citizens attended the inauguration. One is still living in Noble--Mae Klinglesmith Brosius. All wore paper badges with Noble printed on them.

Noble was laid out for a city, but such a high price was placed on the lots, that enterprising men went to Norman. For years, however, Noble was a thriving business center with a general merchandise store, two gins, and a grain elevator.

The crossing on the South Canadian River, just a half mile west of town, was the narrowest on the river and the business men kept a man with a team of horses there to pilot people across. There were no Washington, Blanchard, or country stores; so trade came to Noble for miles.

The first schools were subscription schools, lasting only a few months. Miss Mary Anne Klinglesmith taught the first and Miss Carra Wilson the next.

There were no district schools. Some of the more progressive people who wanted their children to get an education donated money to build a large one-room building and, in 1891, hired Professor E. D. McCredy to start the Noble Academy, which was located where the grade school is today. However, the land was

deeded for a city school, and they could not get a good title; so they moved it to the northeast side of town and added two large class rooms. By this time the school was progressing rapidly with one-hundred and fifty boarding pupils from the Indian Territory and Texas. The town could not accommodate so many students; many had to live in half "dug-outs". At the same time the university was expanding, and tuition at the academy was high, it more or less dwindled away and in 1895 was closed. However, many outstanding men--lawyers, congressmen, doctors, and others--gave credit to the Noble Academy for their ambition to make a success. [At this time the district school was started, but funds were scarce and one year there was only enough for a six months' term. It looked as if school would have to close, but provision was made when the town people were solicited to make monthly payments, and it was kept running for the nine months required.]

The first post office was on the northeast corner lot, where the high school is today.

There were no water works or fire departments; consequently, there were many fires which almost destroyed the business section of town. As in all towns, there was some opposition to improvements; however, progress won out.

The Santa Fe Railroad, sometimes having five workers at the depot, did a big business. W. J. Reid at the age of 18 was the first depot agent. The first year he received word that the Comanches were on the war path. He gave the word for all men to have their fire arms in readiness; and when he gave the signal, they were to get the women and children to the depot, which at the time would easily have sheltered us. However, he was later informed that the U. S. soldiers had corralled them and there would not be an outbreak at that time. Some relief!



The town took on new life when a suspension bridge was built across the Canadian River. C. E. Garee, who has lived in Noble ever since, was the engineer. Mr. Garee still manages the Noble Nursery which is one of the leading businesses in Noble.

Another boost came when J. E. Smith and Sons, road contractors, made Noble their headquarters in 1918. They started with fourteen head of horses and little equipment and have grown to be one of the leading contractors in the state. This company is a source of work and income for many families in the community and is now operated by Mr. Smith's son and grandsons.

Although Noble isn't the business center it was before the highway came through, at present it has an outstanding school, up-to-date stores, and a well operated convalescent home. Recently we have had an oil boom. We trust it will not ruin the pleasant, peaceful place it is.

Best of all are the churches to interest people of all faiths. The Methodists organized with eight charter members, April 22, 1890, and have grown to approximately 245. The Baptists organized in August, 1890, and also had eight members. Their membership has now increased to 260. One could not help but admire the faith and courage of those sixteen people. "Verily, verily, it is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and cast into his garden, and it grew and waxed a great tree, and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." Matthew 13.

## NOBLE 1897-1957

By Mrs. Merle Austin Turner

My family and I arrived in Noble, O. T. (Oklahoma Territory), in the early spring of 1897 by way of covered wagons with a number of domestic animals. We moved into a three-room house which was located just south of the present Baptist Church. West of the house was a big barn with a corral where my father herded the animals.

This introduction is merely to indicate the rustic atmosphere of the town. Nevertheless, Noble was a pretty, quaint little town in 1897. What is now named Third Street we called Main Street. All the other streets we called roads.

On Main Street then, were few business places. The Flitner hardware business was in the center building on the west side of the present bank building. Mr. Flitner and his sister Carrie, who helped him in the store, lived in the house attached at the back. He also had a lumber yard northwest of the house and store.

Located on the corner where the Stufflebean Store is now, were two frame buildings. Mr. W. J. Reid had a grocery store in one, and in the other was the Tommy Wells Drug Store. Tommy Wells, a Canadian Irishman, was a well-educated pharmacist, and in his own right, a fairly good doctor; but he was not a practicing physician.

North of the present barber shop was a blacksmith shop owned by a Mr. Fletcher and sons. They later sold out to Mr. Bradshaw and his son Aaron, who moved the shop across the street east of the Flitner Hardware Store.

That blacksmith shop was truly the full realization of Longfellow's poem, "The Village Blacksmith." "And Children coming home from school" really did "look in at the open door and stop to catch the burning sparks that fly like



chaff from the threshing floor." Many were the times we stopped to "watch the flaming forge, to hear the ring of the anvil, and to listen to the bellows roar." I think the only thing missing was the "Spreading Chesnut Tree."

A barber shop was in a building near the present post office site. Mr. Bob Stogner was the barber.

On the east side of the street, where the Richardson Dry Goods is now located, was a saloon, which was voted out in 1899. Later, another saloon was started in one of the new rock buildings farther south on Main Street. I think it failed for lack of business.

At about that period was the origin of what has later been termed, "The Old Still Hill." About a mile west and a half mile north of the north town-site limit, was a distillery where whiskey was distilled and stored. A government agent, who was called a gager, was kept here to take care of that business. His salary was approximately two dollars and fifty cents a day, which was good in those days. Shortly after Oklahoma became a state, the liquor was all moved away and the gager's job was discontinued. This "still" was then in a hollow on the south slope of a hill on the east side of the old dirt road to Norman. Since then, the place has been called the "still hill". Remnants of the still remained for some time, and the site was often used by picnickers.

On the east side of Main Street in the middle of the block was a building occasionally used for a restaurant. Later Mr. and Mrs. Smith lived there and operated a second-hand furniture business and millinery store. Joe Dufran lives there now.

South from that building on the corner was a big two-story, dark red brick building. On the lower floor was a grocery and dry goods store owned by Doctor Murphy. The upper story was used for a lodge hall and for other community meetings. A few years later several rock buildings were built north

of this building, and Doctor Murphy moved his dry goods into one and put a drug business in the other. The others were used for different businesses from time to time.

South of town was a brickyard operated by W. J. Scott which was discontinued after a cotton gin was built in the southwest part of town. Mr. Scott then went to work for the gin company. A grain elevator was also built near the railroad tracks. The gin and the elevator were owned by Flitner and Reid. Later Mr. Charlie Hobaugh, Sr. and Mr. Ellinger were interested in the business.

A Farmer's Union cotton gin was built on the corner just north of the Flitner gin. It was managed by John Lindsay from Norman and owned by the Norman Oil Mill Company for some years.

In 1897 most of the land east of Fourth Street was a meadow where grew beautiful wild flowers. Some one usually cut the grass for the hay. It was not unusual for the coyotes to come from the ravines east of town at night to romp and howl.

Most every place consisted of a house, a barn, a "smoke" house, a garden spot, a water well, a corral, a chicken house, and a pig pen. There were no cars here then. Some people had to keep horses as a means of convenience. There was not a public milk and butter supply; so families had to keep cows or buy milk and butter from some family who did keep cows. Most families kept chickens for their meat and egg supply, and some kept hogs for an additional meat supply.

All families tried to keep their premises clean and as sanitary as possible, but there were more flies and fever diseases then than we have now, since there is a city ordinance against keeping certain types of livestock in the city limits. Most of the yards were fenced and nearly every family grew beautiful trees, shrubs, vines, and many varieties of flowers. The yards were raked and swept



regularly. Later lawns became popular, and gradually most yard fences were discarded.

Most of the streets were once bordered with well-kept shade trees, and at one time second street had a row of trees with a park way in the center of the street. They were removed after cars were brought into town.

A watering tank was built west of the present Smith Hardware Store. It was near the mill and gins for convenience to the farmers and also those who still kept livestock in town. Water was piped to it from the new city well tower. After a time, the tank being subjected to freezes and other abuses fell to pieces. Now there is no more free water in Noble.

This free public water system, it seems to me, explains perfectly the fine co-operative spirit exerted by the early settlers to help their fellow men in any and every need.

A few of the first houses are still here, but they have all been remodeled and some have been moved to other locations. One house in particular, I remember, is the L. P. Kennedy house. It was located on North Third Street on the corner where Mrs. Clyde Smith lives. It had large rooms and high ceilings. The house was vacant in 1897, and there were rumors that it was haunted. We children used to go up there and make loud noises, even yell; then we could hear our echoes. That, of course, added to our curiosity concerning the ghosts we had heard about. Many people in the 1890's passed some of their time exchanging ghost stories. Doctor Murphy moved the house to its present location in 1898. He built a big red barn west of the house and put up a windmill. He kept all kinds of domestic animals, also squirrels and parrots for pets.

In the late 1890's and the early 1900's it was the custom for people to take care of the sick at home. Neighbors and friends always helped any persons who were seriously ill. Hospitals and funeral homes were seldom used by the

people in the small towns. When one died, friends took turns in the home caring for the body until time for the funeral. Doc Haynes drove the hearse. Later, Jim Stufflebean worked with Meyer and Meyer Funeral Home, and the people had the bodies embalmed. Gradually, the funeral homes and the hospitals have become a necessity.

It was also a custom in Noble to toll the church bell to announce the death of a person, usually as many slow even strokes as the person's age. This custom was a holdover from an earlier period, when it was customary to sound the bell to summon public bodies or religious congregations or to announce the death of a person.

Some of the doctors who have lived in Noble and practiced medicine since 1897 are Doctor Luther McBride, and the two Murphy brothers, Doctor Parker, Doctor Henry and Jim Childs, Doctor Davis, Jane Dunnaway, Doctor Ward Thacker, Doctor Mitchell O'Leary, and Doctor Howell. Since Doctor Howell's death in 1936, Noble residents call doctors from Norman, Lexington, and Purcell, or go to the hospitals for treatment.

Noble once had an active town baseball team. The ball diamond was first located on the right-of-way, east of the Santa Fe Railroad near the present oil well. Later, it was moved to the east part of town. The interest in the game declined about 1930. Some of the early players were Bob Cameron, Andy Cameron, Will Morris, Kirk Williams, Jerry Murphy, Walter Barker, Jack Chaney, Omer Barker, Charlie Hobaugh, Russell Richardson, Frank Vance, John Dufran, Lennie Turner, and Bill Measures. They played every Saturday afternoon with country teams and neighboring teams. They sometimes played on Sunday afternoon on the diamond in the east part of town. This was frowned upon by the general public.



During the hey-day of prosperity in Noble, there were about four grocery stores, one hardware store, a tin shop, three general stores, a blacksmith shop, a lumber yard, two cotton gins, a bank, a mill and two elevators, two hotels, a restaurant, a newspaper, three active lodges with their auxiliaries, a furniture store, an ice cream parlor, a livery stable, a nursery business, a crude skating rink, a barber shop, a butcher shop, and frequent medicine shows, which all ages attended.

There was also a very active railroad connection. Passenger trains made eight stops every twenty-four hours. Freight trains and locals also made regular stops to load and unload express and freight. For a time, there was a livestock corral north of the depot where animals were loaded and unloaded for shipping.

Frank Filson was the depot operator and telegraph agent until his death. He was the only operator until the wage-hour law was passed. After that, there were three "tricks" or operators who worked eight hour shifts. Mr. Doll was the agent, then Arch Ladue, Mr. Alsup, Mrs. Alsup, and Warren Smith. Mr. Keel was second "trick." Later, he came back as the agent. Mrs. Walter Ishmael was second "trick"; and after the train business declined, she was the agent. Ezra Lynn was the last depot agent.

Passenger trains quit stopping for passengers about 1944. The depot was moved away and even the brick platform was sold. Now, there is only a storage room for the mail which comes in three times daily.

During the years between 1897 and about 1932, cotton was grown on all the surrounding farms and on big vacant plots of ground in town. It was the main money crop for farmers and furnished employment for youngsters and others in town who needed to work. They chopped cotton during the early summer months and picked cotton during the fall months. Wages for chopping cotton ranged

from seventy-five cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. For picking cotton, the wages ranged from fifty cents a hundred pounds to one dollar and fifty cents a hundred. Wages also depended on the price of cotton.

On February 22, 1905, a fire broke out in one of the rock buildings on the east side of Main Street. All the buildings in more than half a block, including several brick and native rock buildings with groceries, dry goods, drugs, and other wares, burned.

About a year or two later on the opposite side of the street west, more than half a block of buildings burned. One was a big warehouse near the alley west of the Post Office. All these buildings were frame except two which were cement blocks. Both fires were heroically fought by a volunteer bucket brigade with water pumped or drawn from water wells. Our water system then was the back yard well with a pump, or a bucket, and rope. Since these fires, the buildings have been replaced with some better buildings and some not so good.

The method of city transportation in 1897 was a wagon with a dray-man who hauled various articles from place to place. The first dray I remember was a four-wheeled, high-built cart, not as long as a wagon but wider, with a high seat for the driver. It was operated by an elderly man, Mr. Glasgow, for several years. Later the dray wagon was built lower and longer, slanting toward the back. The man who operated that vehicle was Joe Jicha. When he moved away, Wood Benton drove the dray wagon until he decided to study telegraphy. Cleve Price had charge of the business during World War I. On the first Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, Mr. Price and some others came over to the school house, opened the doors, and took all who could crowd on the dray wagon down Main Street in a parade. We had a holiday the rest of the day and a bonfire that night burning Kaiser Wilhelm in effigy. Cars and trucks gradually crowded out the dray wagon.



From 1897 to 1940, Noble had a very prosperous hotel business. There was a big two-story hotel building where Mrs. Bank's house is now located. It had a big dining room where meals were served regularly. In 1897, this hotel was operated by a family named Neff. Other proprietors were Harry Musson, Mrs. Chitwood, Professor G. M. Roberts; and at one time Doctor Ward had his office there. A few years later, it was torn down and replaced with a dwelling. In 1898, the house where Miss Oakie Graham lives was also a small hotel operated by the Bud Shriver Family.

The hotels accommodated the traveling salesmen, who were then called drummers. They traveled to the Country stores--Maguire, Hall, Needmore, Denver, Cole, Etowah, Helsel, and to other small towns. The cotton buyers, railroad men, cattle men, the old bachelors, and other travelers and transients made the hotels their temporary homes.

The last hotel in Noble was the Cottage Hotel just west of the Stufflebean Store. The proprietors at different times were the Wises, the Paytons, the Lesliees, the Kennedys, the G. M. Roberts, the Fites, the Browns, and last, the R. C. Manleys in 1943. About two years later, it was torn down and replaced with the D. O. Price residence. Restaurants had to replace the hotel dining rooms. The present restaurant operators are Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rollins and Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Jones.

Mr. F. A. Garee and son, C. E. Garee, have operated a thriving Nursery business before and since 1897. The last few years Elizabeth Garee Bullard has been helping her father manage the business. At one time, most of the vacant lots in town and some of the nearby farm lands were the starting grounds for many varieties of trees, shrubs, and plants. The business afforded day labor for many workers for a number of years. It is still a leading business in Noble.

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East of the depot, a half block of land was used for a livery stable business. Teams and buggies were kept to hire out to the traveling salesmen to make their visits to drum business at the rural and small town stores. Sometimes a driver was furnished with the rig. Local people often hired rigs to make necessary or pleasure trips. The business also accommodated farmers who needed temporary care for their teams when they were transacting business. Travelers who were passing through town often rested their teams at the stable for a day or two. Harve and Frank Allison, John Eastep, John Carmen, John Leslie, J. F. Johnson and Trave Smith were the operators of the business through the years from 1897. In the early 1900's the business was moved to the site now occupied by the Smith Construction Company. It was then opposite the Cottage Hotel. It was quite a remunerative business until the advent of cars and buses.

The post office has always been located near the present site except twice. One time it was moved into a building on the south corner of Main Street but was soon moved back, and again it was moved into the building where the laundry is now. It was later moved to its original place. In 1949, it was moved into the rock building where it is now.

The post masters appointed since 1897 are the following:

Mr. McConkey, a democrat

Mr. Frank Filson, a republican

Mr. Johnnie DeLong, a republican

Mr. Brasher, a democrat

Mr. Bill Haynes, a democrat

Mr. Warden Rollins, a republican

Mr. Ragsdale, a democrat, resigned.

Mr. Ernest Willis, a democrat, has served under both democratic and republican presidents about 22 years. Postal employees now serve under Civil Service

based on competence and not on political affiliations. The post office clerks have been Eva Wise, Hilda Braden, Mrs. Brasher, Bess Young, Mrs. Warden Rollins, and Mrs. Lorene Willis, the present clerk.

In 1897, there was a relay system of postmen who carried the mail from Noble to the rural post offices, Maguire, Hall, and Etowah. Another postman would pick it up and carry it to the next town. After the Rural Free Delivery was established, the rural post offices and the relay postmen were discontinued. Noble had two routes for some years. The two routes were made into one route when the carriers were able to get cars over the roads. The mail carriers were P. O. Sandel, Will Morris, Clyde Frost, Luther Shaw, Steve Harlan, and the present carrier, Charles Coles.

The early forms of recreation were varied and inexpensive. The L.T.L., an organization for all youngsters, grew out of the W. C. T. U. It was established in the late 1890's and was sponsored by Mammie and Maud Martin, Ida Scott, Elda Garee, and others. Its purpose was to instill in the minds and hearts of the youth the ideal of temperance. L.T.L. meant Loyal Temperance Legion. The motto was "Touch not, taste not, handle not, any alcoholic beverages or tobacco." We had regular meetings with occasional programs for entertainment.

One outstanding entertainment, I remember, was an Easter egg hunt at the Sunny Klinglesmith home where the Motsenbockers now live. The house then was nearer the creek and faced the north. It had a porch on all sides. A long driveway, bordered on both sides by cedar trees, led to the house. Flowers grew everywhere about the place. I saw little colored chickens that day for the first time. All ages from Noble and vicinity were there. Another time, we went in wagons to the Martin farm north and west of Noble, where we played outdoor games. We were served lemonade, ice cream, and cake. Later we burned "Old King Alcohol's" image.



We learned many things in the L.T.L. I, for one, have always been grateful to the sponsors for that opportunity in my childhood to share in those happy educational experiences. Other entertainments included school functions, spelling bees, and box suppers. When a box brought ten dollars, that was a big event.

Ice Cream socials were usually sponsored by the churches or lodges and were well attended. Parties held in the different homes usually on Friday nights, were sponsored for the teen age group. Games played were Skip-to-my-Lou, Pin in the Parlor, and Rally Round the Cane Brake; other mild games were Flying Dutchman, Fruit Basket, Fish-Flesh-or-Fowl, Winkum, Clap in and Clap out, and Crossing the River Styx.

Town picnics, especially on the Fourth of July and during political campaigns, were well attended by people from everywhere.

The Canadian River was an attraction for some years. Town people walked down to view the scenery and to watch the big rises which brought downstream all kinds of debris on the big waves. A winding road led to the river, then south along the river bank to the tall bridge, which was built in 1898. The river changed its channel and left the bridge, which was finally washed away by one of the big rises. Later a longer bridge was also washed away by a big rise about 1904.

For some years, the river was crossed by fording the stream; but after Washington and Blanchard were incorporated as towns, Noble gradually lost most of the Chickasaw trade and the people no longer needed to cross the river. The winding road was finally neglected, and people stopped walking to the river especially after cars became the chief mode of travel.

The first civic improvement was the change from the board sidewalks to the cement walks. The boards had become loose and rattled and toppled when one

walked on them. All children were especially glad to see the board walks go, because they had many times lost money through the big cracks. The little boys spent a bit of time crawling under the walks to recover the lost coins.

The next improvement was the telephone system. The first office was in a back room in the bank. Then it was moved west of the bank to the corner on Second Street. Later it was bought by Doctor Howell and moved to South Main Street where it remained until the dial system was installed by the Bell Telephone Company in 1954.

The city water system was installed in 1912 or 13; next were the electric lights, the paved street through town, and the shortened distance to neighboring towns by paved highways. Then there were the installation of natural gas, the graveling and paving of the streets, the opening of the closed streets and alleys, the installation of the sewage system, and the naming of the streets and numbering of the houses. The last civic improvement has been a new fire truck and an organized volunteer fire department.

The only church house in Noble in 1897 was a brick church on Fourth Street south of the Bradshaw Lumber Company. It had the oval-shaped windows and doors patterned after the 13th Century cathedral windows. The panes in the windows and doors were of stained colored glass. The sun light against the colored glass produced a beautiful and quieting effect quite in harmony with religious worship. In front, on top of the church was a belfry with an iron bell and a rope. The bell had a sound all its own, deep-toned and musical. Most people in Noble and vicinity attended Sunday School every Sunday and church services on alternate Sundays. The pastor preached part time at Shiloh rural church south of Noble.

The Reverend Florence, an early-day circuit rider in Oklahoma and Indian Territories, was the pastor in 1897. He lived just south of the high school



building. The Reverend Florence was sent to Noble by the Methodist Conference from time to time as long as he was able to serve. His influence in the town of Noble still lives on. He was especially kind to all children. He visited in all homes and talked to all classes of people he happened to meet. He always greeted everyone with a happy smile. Reverend Everett, a lay preacher, lived here and helped with the revivals. He was an excellent preacher and an influence for good for many years.

The Methodists built a new church and a parsonage at its present location about 1902.

The Presbyterian congregation with others continued to hold services at the brick church. The Reverend Kirkpatrick from Norman was their pastor.

About 1905, the Baptists built a church at its present location. Soon after, the Church of Christ was built. For many years each church held services on alternate Sundays because their pastors usually preached at rural churches. Then congregations would attend services at one of the other churches. The churches always had full pews at both morning and evening services.

The Presbyterian membership gradually became too small to maintain the church. Most of them united with the Methodist Church about 1918 or 19. The pretty little brick church gradually deteriorated, and it was later torn down.

The Baptists replaced their frame building with a larger brick building in 1930 or 31. The building burned in 1950, but it was immediately replaced with a similar structure with some improvements. They now have an organ and are constructing an education building. They also have a parsonage. The Methodists replaced their frame building with a brick building about 1931 or 32. They built a new parsonage in 1955. The Church of Christ members have built an addition to their church and a home for their pastor.

The Nazarene Church was established in Noble about 1944 or 45 in a building formerly used as a tavern. The pastor, the Reverend Snively with his congregation, is building a new church, which is near completion. The present church building will be made into a home for the pastor.

The Noble Mission was established in 1947 or 48 in the old show building on Main Street. They built a new church in the south edge of town and moved to it in 1956.

Some ministers who have served in the Noble Methodist Church as pastors since 1897 are Florence, Everett, Piplin, Sullivan, Samples, Farrish, Ward, Giles, Carson, Fowler, Hughes, Wilson, Morris, Gullledge, James, Hopkins, Wiltshire, Paul Mitchell, John Craig, Glen Duncan, Coopridner, and the present pastor, the Reverend Ray Altaffer.

Those serving the Baptists were Harrington, Dilbeck, Young, Newsome, Price, Kennedy, a lay preacher, Allen, Coker, Rowe, Campbell, Presley, Wilkerson, Bland, Heard, Baker, Walker, Boydstun, and the present pastor, the Reverend Rondell Martin.

The Church of Christ ministers were Ethridge, Tom Dixon, Jack Cox, and the present pastor, W. M. Baker. Professor Belcher and other ministers commuted from Norman for several years to preach for the Church of Christ congregations.

These men with their families have been influential and helpful in numerous ways to the people of Noble through these years, especially in times of trouble, sorrows, and bereavement when individuals need the spiritual consolation of religious leadership.

A government to function best must have three distinct departments--legislative, judicial, and executive. Noble had all these departments during the late 1890's and the early 1900's. I can't remember just who the officials were in 1897, as I was too young to be interested in government other than home and



school government, But later, I remember, Mr. Jeffries was justice of peace; then the Reverend Ethridge for a number of years. Later C. E. Garee served in this office. Chris Pearce was a justice for a while. Joe Dufran was the last justice or municipal judge. There was a city council as a legislative department. A city marshall and a night watchman were the executive officials.

The city marshall for several years was Billy Brannon, who was very alert in watching all new comers as possible suspects of misconduct. Ed Thomas, Dave Hall, Ed Kirby, and Pete Butler were later marshalls. The nightwatchman for several years was Jim Bradley, who insisted that all children be off the streets and at home by a reasonable hour--at least by 9 p.m. unless accompanied by a chaperon or parent. We seldom heard of child delinquency or teenage misbehavior. Parents usually took care of such matters. The public didn't have to worry much about that problem.

For some reason the executive and the judicial officials were later discontinued. Since then the county sheriff or one of his deputies performs the executive duties and the county courts perform the judicial functions should it be necessary in case of law violation.

We now have a very able legislative department including a city council of three members, a city clerk, and a city treasurer. The council members are Bill Fisher, Harold Mauldin, and Bryce DeLong. The city treasurer is Thomas Harding, the city clerk is Mrs. Emma Jicha, and Joe Dufran is city judge. The town still depends on the county for executive and judicial duties.

Noble has been drifting in this important affair; however, a city election is to be held on April 2, 1957--the first municipal election in 10 years and its second in 22 years. The election will be held under Cleveland County election laws. Plans are being made to draw up a new charter.

In 1900, Noble built a jail house, a cotton-wood frame building, near the site of Merle DeLong's place. It was never used because after a few weeks it burned to the ground. Later a building of native rock was built by the city one-half block east of the depot near the Farmers' Union gin. It was about 10 feet by 12 feet in size and resembled an old time story-book prison as it had only one tiny window high in the south wall. It also had a dirt floor. It was used about twice and then, only for an hour or so. Fortunately no one was ever compelled to spend the night there. The building was later moved to the east side of Main Street and was used as a storage house for ice. It was finally torn down and the rocks were sold.

In 1897, the school building was in the northeast part of town. The building consisted of five large rooms with high ceilings. The block was fenced and beautiful catalpa and locust trees grew on all sides. There were stiles built to get over the fence. <sup>however</sup> It seems that the Noble District did not own this property in 1897. The building was later sold in parts to people who made them into dwellings.

When the building was sold, school for the first three grades was held in the brick church. <sup>on the S. corner of the Brad-Lund Co.</sup> From the fourth grade up school was held in the vacant brick building on the corner of Main and Ash Streets.

A new two-room building was built on a block of land in the east part of town on what is now Cherry Street. It had a sliding door partition. ~~Mr.~~ Peterson taught the four upper grades and high school subjects selected from the following list: Latin, algebra, rhetoric, ancient history, orthography, elocution (now called speech), higher arithmetic, general history, and elements of physics. <sup>was taught.</sup>

<sup>The school</sup> Miss Anna Riley from Kansas taught the first three grades when ~~we~~ moved into the new building about the middle of the term 1897-98. We used the



McGuffey readers and spellers. The McGuffey series had only five readers, and when one finished the series, he was supposed to be an expert reader; I never became an expert, because the readers were changed before I reached the fifth grade. The McGuffey readers had short stories, each stressing a moral, and the best short poems from the great poets.

Miss Riley married one of Noble's eligible bachelors, Mr. Arthur Flitner, at the close of the term. Mr. Peterson and Miss Clanton were the teachers in 1898-99.

In 1899-1900, the building was made into three equal sized rooms with two sliding door partitions. Mr. and Mrs. Keser and Miss Kate Barbour were the teachers. The building could be made into one big room by sliding the doors back. This was done for regular morning chapel exercises and for school entertainments.

Teachers in the Noble School system throughout the years were the following:

1900-01 Mr. and Mrs. William Allen and Ina Klinglesmith.

1901-02 Mr. Cross, Nora Pantier, Hulda Harrington, and Luch McKittrick.

Lucy McKittrick later married Mr. Barder.

1902-03 A new room was added on the north side of the building with another sliding door. ~~An extra teacher was hired for the primer, first, and second grades.~~

1903-04 Mr. Cross, Oakie Graham, Hattie Koepke, and Celia Tulluns.

1904-05 Mr. Cross, Oakie Graham, Vanette Neff, and Celia Tulluns.

1905-06 Mr. B. R. McDonald, Mrs. Millie McDonald, Oakie Graham, and Irene Austin.

1906-07 Mr. B. R. McDonald, Mrs. Millie McDonald, Oakie Graham, and Irene Austin.

1907-08 Mr. G. E. Meador, Rena Ryan, Martha Wise, and Irene Austin.

1908-09 Mr. G. M. Roberts, Minnie Scott, Mrs. Alice Nips, and Elza Brown.

1909-10 A new building was completed at the present location. It was a two-story brick building with an auditorium, two class rooms upstairs, four class rooms on the first floor, and a basement with a steam heating system.

1909-10 Mr. G. M. Roberts, Ila Rogers, Lela Rogers, Minnie Scott, and Elza Brown.

The high school was gradually organized into classes, and in the year 1912-13, the first senior class graduated. There were three graduates--Vera Ovits, Rudolph Amerin, and Roy Austin.) Mr. M. A. Nash was the Superintendent.

Since statehood in 1907, the superintendents who have worked for the development of the Noble Public School System are the following:

1907-08 Mr. G. E. Magdor

1908-10 Mr. G. M. Roberts

1910-12 Mr. N. H. Edwards

1912-14 Mr. M. A. Nash

1914-15 Mr. Charles Howell

1915-16 Mr. Green

1916-17 Mr. E. D. Cornelius, who served in the army during World War I.

1917-18 Mr. Hale

1918-20 Mr. E. D. Cornelius

1920-21 Mr. Pier

1921-23 Mr. A. Von Tunglen

1923-24 Mr. M. V. Smith

1924-26 Mr. Whitney

1926-31 Mr. G. R. Ranson, also first Vocational Agriculture teacher

1931-33 Mr. Balkely

1933-35 Mr. S. G. Heflin

1938-40 Mr. Bieland

1940-45 Mr. Bryan Waid

1945-47 Mr. E. H. McDonald

1947-48 Mr. Ralph Hamilton

1948-57 Mr. J. K. Hubbard



The high school and grade teachers since 1907 are the following:

Florence Miller	Elizabeth Garee	Mary Petty Jackson
Lela Pickard	Faery Hopper	Nadine Scott
Nell Haynes	Virginia Creger	Miss Ezel
Ana Pickard	Mr. Froge	Miss Claire
Gail Sleeth	Mr. Goddard	Mrs. Jeffries
Lenora Crisp	Mr. Humphrey	Mrs. Brunson
Mrs. Williams	Mr. Kingery	Leva Russell
Miss Thoburn	Otis Blankenship	Mrs. Booker
Miss Eskridge	Chelsa Burkett	Clemantine Corbett
Del Monical	W. O. Drummond	Cora Manley
Pauline Fisher	Pearl Burkett	Edith Burns
Julia Smith Shannon	Miss Carey	Thelma Burns
Mrs. Smith	Rena Ryan	Willie Burns
Mrs. Philips	Irene Austin	Faye Young
Mrs. Hackett	Martha Wise	Mae Burnett
Mrs. Westmoreland	Alice Nipps	Lillian Puckett
Mr. Benge	Bess Wantland	Mrs. Ben Huey
Mr. Rudolph Von Tunglen	Minnie Scott Chilcote	Mrs. J. D. Motsenbocker
Mr. Victor Rife	Lucille Payne Howell	Mrs. S. G. Heflin
Ruth Hysmith Rife	Anna Lou Puckett	Molly Hatcher Blankenship
Stella Garee	Kate Wise	Mrs. Ball
Miss Gilliland	Bernice McGuire	Mrs. Brunson
Mrs. Dillard	Maud Northcutt	Maybelle Mosier Ward
Verle Northcutt	Grace Leach	Mrs. Blanche Drummond
Ruby Reeves	Ila Rogers	Mrs. Madelle Waid
Mrs. Ethridge	Lela Rogers	Effie Knight
Mrs. Deitz	Mrs. Patterson Alsap	Jewel Burkett
Mr. Stone	Miss Byrd	Merle Austin Turner
Mary Virgin	Homer Burns	George Hopper
Si Bowlan	Wilma R. Neal	Theodore Townsend
Betty Comstock	Paul Hansen	Martha Baze
Clyde Bowen	Carol Hansen	Betty Gonulluler
Eleanor Graves	Merle Cable	John Hutchinson
Bessie Benge	Neal Vick	James Fike
Helen Kinkannon	Plez Henry	John Copp
Martha Connell	Bernice Henry	Ed Earsom
J. D. Allison	Virginia Anderson	
Doris Lackey	Luther Lewis	

School Board Members through the years are the following:

Jim Shriver	H. E. Bell	Bill Smith
W. J. Scott	R. F. Ellinger	Clyde Smith
C. E. Garee	Mrs. R. F. Ellinger	Lewis Burkett
Isaac Graham	Clyde Sprowls	Houston Turman
Charlie Hobaugh, Sr.	Cleve Price	Merle Delong
Harry Beasley	Charlie Hobaugh, Jr.	Ross Frazier
Doctor Henry Childs	Nolan Stufflebean	Iva Harlan, Treasurer

Present Members are the following:

Roy Harshberger-Member  
Clayton Black-Member  
Elmer Nemecek-President  
Raymond Barker-Vice-President  
Roy Sadberry-Clerk  
Inez Nations-Treasurer

Mrs. Frank Ketner was the first full-time registrar in 1955. At present, Mrs. Carolyn Willis Grayson is the registrar.

Since 1926, the school program has been gradually expanded with new buildings for the high school and for the grades, a new bus garage, and Vocational Agriculture building. The latest addition is the Vocational Home Economics cottage planned and furnished with the latest up to date equipment. The curriculum has been enlarged in the academic, vocational, and athletic fields. Seven buses now transport pupils to and from the outlying annexed districts.

Noble High School Alumni are the following:

1913

Roy Austin  
Vera Ovits  
Rudolph Amrein

1914

Merle Delong  
Lottie Harris  
Ruth Barnes  
Louise Sandel

1915

Buel Haynes  
Connie Walton  
Eunice Oliphant  
Bess Roselius  
Maurine McVey  
Myrtle Bell  
Marie Slajer  
Constance Thacker  
Freida Sandel

1916

Anna Lou Oliphant  
Pearl Brasher  
Nadine Scott  
William Shannon

1917

Stella Garee  
Carl Sandel  
George Bell

1918

Ona Austin  
Eugene Sheets  
Richard Brown  
Winnie Reeves  
Wantland Sandel  
Joey Starbuck  
Jewel Montgomery  
Burton Oliphant  
Charles Filson



1919

Harry J. Dean  
Iva Teel  
Vera Graham  
Edna Blanchard  
Pearl Fitzsimmons

1920

Irene Hallmark  
Christine Black  
Rose Edwards  
Hattie Reeves  
Ruby Reeves  
Lewis L. Burkett

1921

Mahon Backham  
Aubrey Burkett  
Sam Dean  
Kenneth Stufflebean  
Ralph Knight  
Lloyd Craddock  
Wilcy Petty  
Leona Bowen  
Elizabeth Garee  
Oscar Giles  
Leva Russell  
Minnie Taylor  
Roger Smith

1922

Lena Allen  
Mary Backham  
Helen Edwards  
Ralph Ellinger  
Oletta Reeves  
Leland Wolfe  
Edna McCrady  
Rena Curren  
Ruby Kennedy

1923

Charles Morris  
Elisha Wilcox  
Harry Beasley  
Orion Burkett  
Bernice Stufflebean  
Iva Giles  
Etoyle Houston  
John Hoover  
Irma Scott

1924

Wilma Sandel  
R. A. Stanley  
James Roberts  
Pearl Hutson  
Lottie Mills  
J. J. Roberts  
Frances Garee

1925

Mary Bell  
Sarah Bell Bowen  
Lillie Fishburn  
Cora Manley  
Nita Reeves  
Luther Shaw  
Chelsea Burkett  
Ralph Webber  
Jesse Anderson

1926

Charles Ellinger  
Horace Houston  
Mildred Mefford  
Lee Milam  
Cleo Richardson  
Clara Mae Riggs  
John Roberts  
Comer Rollins  
Sylvester Slajer  
Thelma Burns  
Gladys Stufflebean

1927

Wilmeth Nemecek  
Leon May  
Edith Burns  
Carl Webber  
Ernest Willis  
Lassie Fishburn  
Luther Teague  
Nolan Stufflebean  
Johnnie Willis  
Ernest Miller  
Alma Hicks  
Thelma Hicks  
Harold Mauldin  
Nadine Burkett  
Bessie Sieg  
Videlle Southard  
Faery Hopper  
Juil May  
Ruth Hoover  
Mae Schuler  
Erna Rott  
Ruby Casey  
Harley Underwood

1928

Ruby Burns  
Anna Leigh Coffey  
Frances Ellinger  
Albert Golden  
Pauline Hodam  
Lydia Hoover  
Mildred Houston  
Ruth Hobbs  
William Roberts  
Beulah Todd  
Gladys Balsh

1929

Barbara Bradshaw  
Donald Craig  
Irma Farris  
Murle Holcomb  
Frank Lamirand  
Lorene Mauldin  
Selma Rott  
Kenneth Richardson  
Dorothy Roberts  
Burton Scott  
Glenn Stufflebean  
Ruth Willis

## 1930

Jewel Bugher  
 Ethel Burkett  
 Emmett Hill  
 Lloyd Hoover  
 Lela Mae Walton  
 Nova Lee Fritzlan  
 Thomas Harding  
 Clyde Webber  
 Bernice May  
 Anna Nemecek  
 Florence Woodring

## 1933

Alice Mae Davis  
 Mabel Holcomb  
 Alice Perkins  
 Raymond Mauldin  
 Raymond Price  
 Marvin Richardson  
 Darrell Grissom  
 John Sullivan

## 1936

Anita Motsenbocker  
 Marguerite Burns  
 Mary Frances Stufflebean  
 Rosalie Long  
 Lois Shaw  
 Inez Murnan  
 Jessie Faye Childers  
 Joy Woodrow  
 Jane Richardson  
 Elizabeth Gibson  
 Reford Smith  
 Otis Cassity  
 Farris Fry  
 Lionel Moreu  
 Dugan Woodring  
 Warren Davis  
 Robert Black  
 Roy Sadberry  
 Lloyd Burns  
 Paul Bradshaw  
 Earl Frost  
 Aaron Ratliff

## 1931

Willie Burns  
 Gladys Blalock  
 Avis Cossey  
 Johnnie Craig  
 Lucille Curren  
 Mary Hough  
 Carlisle Hodam  
 Uvalda Lamirand  
 Sibyl Moreu  
 Darwin Richardson  
 Nadine Schuler  
 Charles Townley  
 Golda Townley  
 Kenneth Wallahan

## 1934

Ralph Sprowls  
 Paul Burns  
 Noble Turman  
 Jesse Burkett  
 Warren Black  
 Eunice Furr  
 Irma Perkins  
 Everett Hill  
 Leroy Golden  
 Aline Nemecek  
 Bonnie Lee Ketch  
 S. T. Langley  
 Vinita Bugher  
 Lois Evans  
 Johnnie Nemecek  
 Forrest Barker  
 Oren Turman  
 Floyd Nemecek  
 Mae Kienlen  
 Gilbert Frost  
 Ernie Bradshaw  
 Catherine Bahner

## 1932

Avon Lee Blakely  
 Ana Cossey  
 Lucy Garee  
 Scottie Houston  
 Lula Mae Ketch  
 Ada Mantooth  
 Hal Mauldin  
 Louise Nees  
 Johnnie Nemecek  
 Francis Pierce  
 Ernest Ratliff  
 Gladys Riggs  
 Eula Lee Stufflebean  
 Velma Turman  
 Marvin Rollins  
 Carrie Craig

## 1935

Marvin Hoover  
 Grace Guy  
 Bucke Houston  
 Nell Shaw  
 Sam Dawson  
 Louis Marick  
 Mildred Dragoo  
 Vernon Grissom  
 Daisy Coffey  
 Geraldine Bennett  
 Emuel Childers  
 Grace Muldrow

## 1937

Roy Kienlen  
 Hugh Shobert  
 Bill Wolfe  
 James Murnan  
 Paul Park  
 C. R. Frazier  
 Ethel Armstrong  
 Evelyn Cox  
 Marion Hobbs  
 Avanna Sapp  
 Leona Curren  
 Gladys Belt  
 Willie Mae Teague  
 Ruth Long  
 Jewel Frances Cecil



# 1938

J. D. Allison  
 Bill Bergstresser  
 Henry Bugher  
 Bryce DeLong  
 Vester Gill  
 Billie Grissom  
 Billie Hobough  
 George Kay Howell  
 Lloyd Lamirand  
 Vernon Lamirand  
 Eugene Murnan  
 Dick Ratliff  
 Virgil Rollins  
 Raymond West  
 Alice Auwen  
 Doris Burns  
 Thelma Burns  
 Pansy Coffey  
 Loraine Hamilton  
 Joy Masters  
 Josephine Nemecek  
 Ruby Newby  
 Aline Northcutt  
 Alta Mae Shobert  
 Evelyn Shobert  
 Ivan Teague  
 Jennie V. Thomas  
 Billie Wallace  
 Alyce Wolfe

# 1941

Jane Miller  
 Johnnie Doyle Pope  
 Nona Price  
 Effie Mae Sadberry  
 Alva Shobert  
 Billy Smith  
 Betty Jean Stufflebean  
 Mildred Woodrow

# 1939

Vernon Amrein  
 Delmar Dilbeck  
 Jack Guy  
 Murphy Kennedy  
 Audrey Doussett  
 Eugene Price  
 Bud Ripley  
 Jerrell Southern  
 Robert West  
 DeLois Ragsdale  
 J. D. Motsenbocker, Jr.  
 Evelyn Black  
 Berniece Burns  
 Lorene Dilback  
 I. B. (Bob) Logan  
 Anita Ruth Furr  
 Edith Golden  
 Irene Mariott  
 Freida Miller  
 Mary Nevis Barrett  
 Georgia Woodrow  
 Billie Jo Stufflebean

# 1942

Graham Bennett  
 Mack Bergstresser  
 Mary Black  
 Laura May Bowman  
 Doyle Doussett  
 Lewis K. Doussett  
 Gloria Haney  
 Alda Dean Higbee  
 Bobby Bishop Jackson  
 Billy Paul Jicha  
 Marie Kennedy  
 Kathryn Jo Mitchell  
 Marjorie Murnan  
 Ernestine Robertson  
 Helen Robertson  
 Romona Rollins  
 Charline Ross  
 Inez Smith  
 Florene Teague  
 Odessa Whitaker  
 Jack Woodrow

# 1940

Juanita Akin  
 Helen Beck  
 Edith Belt  
 Dempsey Black  
 Lucile Burkett  
 Ruth Carrell  
 Mary Ellen Cartwright  
 Earl Chambers  
 Lela Coles  
 John A. Gibson  
 Nettie Lee Heard  
 Bill Jackson  
 Cleeta Loveless  
 Turman Matlock  
 Faye McKiddy  
 Wayne Meador  
 Jack Middleton  
 Robert Miller  
 Lois Murnan  
 Rosie Owens  
 Duane Ragsdale  
 Charles Richardson  
 Marion Sanders  
 Floreine Turman  
 B. D. White

# 1943

Billy Belt  
 Tommy Black  
 Emma Ruth Blalock  
 Jewel Brown  
 Geraldine Curren  
 Yvonne Davault  
 Velma Hartless  
 Helen Holcomb  
 Johnnie Holcomb  
 Lois Kisselberg  
 Virginia Lee Meritt  
 Essie Mae McHughes  
 Harold Murnan  
 Mary Jane Nemecek  
 Melvin Ragsdale  
 James Rollins  
 Dorothy Gale Sadberry  
 Raymond Tompkins  
 Hazel Jean Turman  
 Berneice Warrick  
 Eugene West  
 Mildred Wilkerson

1944

Elsie Miller  
Christine Finley  
Joe Baker  
Fairy Mae Johnson  
Robert Smith  
Velma Wilcox  
Jean King  
Betty Kissleburgh  
Dorothy Allison  
Lola Myrl Ritchie  
Eunice Curren  
Lloyd Ayers  
Jim Garrett  
Bonnie Jean Nemecek  
Leontine Keeney  
Nadine McCalip  
Imogene Kile

1947

Roy Calvert  
Pauline Ritchie  
Marjorie Guyer  
Florence Kear  
Norma Shobert  
Helen Gorman  
Ellen Mercer  
Hank Snow  
Maxine Meltabarger  
Jolene Amrein  
Carroll Allison  
Mary Gourley  
Robert Murnan  
Ellis Northcutt  
Alice Sterling  
Delores Hobough  
Gus Leslie  
Marvin Lamirand  
Billy January  
Bob Wolf  
Junior Coots  
Bill Ratliff

1945

Betty Jean Belt  
Gene Bergstresser  
Geraldine Biggs  
Charles Black  
Peggy Lee Blalock  
Lorene Canfield  
Bobby Evans  
Jo Ann Fessenbeck  
Billy Graves  
Ray Motsenbocker  
Carl Smith  
Burcy Southern  
Corinne Wilkerson

1948

Doris Black  
Doyle Burton  
Floyd Calvert  
Mary Katherine Brockhaus  
Nadine Holman  
Patsy Higbee  
Laurence Higbee  
Donnie Nell Grissom  
Vernon Davault  
Edwin Canfield  
Joan January  
William Nance  
Donnie Northcutt  
Garl Owens  
Betty Jean Webber  
Clara Usry  
Billy Southard  
George William Shaw  
Elizabeth Shaw  
Patsy Reedy  
Opal Whitaker  
Rita Willis  
Iva Lee Wilson  
Bob Young  
Joy Young

1946

Frank Bates  
Buddy Smith  
Mary Boothe  
Loal Wilson  
Evelyn Grissom  
Novalee Myers  
Wanona Keeney  
Billie Vaught  
Ramona Coker  
Aleta Valouch  
Mary Sides  
Juanita Addington  
Jo Allen  
Dorothy Delong Nations

1949

Teddy Thompson  
Mildred Fay Shephard  
Robert Lee Bullard  
John Black  
Billie M. Hurt  
Mary Lou Black  
Bennie Blalock  
Olan Todd  
Velma Ruth Simmons  
Margaret Thomas  
Rosalie Helen Way  
Travis Grayson  
Clifford Rollins  
Sue Emma Allred  
Olen Hicks  
Dorothy Irene Bunch  
Elizabeth Gourley  
Cecile C. Gorman  
Norma Jean Bowman  
Flora Maritt



# 1950

Dennis Jeter  
 Viola Rollins  
 Mary Ellen Walker  
 Frank Ketner  
 Margie Maritt  
 Julian Northcutt  
 Betty Baston  
 George Bullock  
 Mary Myers  
 Carl Nance  
 Patsy Blalock  
 Kenneth Rogers  
 Maxine Stufflebean  
 Harold Ray Harshberger  
 Ima Jean Davault  
 Max Leslie  
 Gretta January  
 Billy Chapman  
 Janice Motsenbocker  
 Edward Shobert  
 Patsy Ruth Curren

# 1953

Charles Miller  
 Ophelia Lairson  
 Flora Mae Vaught  
 Paul Courington  
 Freda Miser  
 Eugene Brockhaus  
 Mary Holcomb  
 Junior McKiddy  
 Marie Harris  
 Shirley Dodson  
 William Kennedy  
 Mary Lou Harding  
 Ray Calvert  
 Ruth Thomas  
 Nolan Grissom  
 Jimmie Hobaugh  
 Tommie Wilcox  
 Mildred Clark

# 1951

Sue Harding  
 Jimmie Williams  
 Rubye Myers  
 Leonard McCalip  
 Ellen Hartman  
 John Allred  
 Mary Bob Beckham  
 Patsy Farley  
 Everett Garver  
 Helen Faye Smith  
 James Mason  
 Clarence D. Gourley, Jr.  
 Wyvonnia Smith  
 Jerralene Lewis  
 Rex Motsenbocker  
 Mary Anne Smith  
 Helen Miller

# 1954

Gerald Kennedy  
 Charles Garver  
 Shirley Hopper  
 Delbert Gaston  
 Leon Grover  
 Millard Shepherd  
 Glenn Bunch  
 Donna June Calvert  
 Jim McAtee  
 Martha Lee Jennings  
 Anna Lou Mauldin  
 Gene Lewis Reed  
 Ivy Mason Clark  
 Wayne Buck  
 Kenneth Harshberger  
 Beverly Smith  
 Harvey Duane Smith  
 Elsie Jean Dousett  
 Billy Haun  
 Sue Watkins  
 Maxene Coles  
 Earleen Hicks  
 Darrell Jennings  
 Inez Ketner  
 Bill King  
 Carol Winkler  
 Peggy Sallee  
 Mrs. Shirley Auwen  
 Vondale Edmoundson  
 Ronnie Frazier  
 Hazel Plumlee  
 Clara Byrd  
 Shirley Moon

# 1952

Amelda Black  
 Ellon Slate  
 Mary Evelyn Frazier  
 Carolyn Willis  
 Anita Mae Robinett  
 Jeanie Blalock  
 Barbara Ann Weber  
 Luther Minor  
 Glenn Moody  
 Alma Ruth Musgrave  
 Frances Ann Marsee  
 Anna Bennett  
 Paula Ann Brockhaus  
 Lavera Davault  
 Duane Sharp  
 Robert Blair  
 Betty Bennett  
 Lon Edward Harmon  
 Wayne Peters  
 Bertha Mae Eastep  
 Jimmie Benton  
 Billye McAlister  
 Laura Evelyn Watkins  
 Junior Harris  
 Vonda Brown  
 Ronnie Higbee  
 Ramona Kimbrell  
 Anita Loveless Mason

## 1955

Bobby Joe Smith  
 Melvin J. Jordan  
 Kenneth Ray Blair  
 Nelda Jane Harmon  
 Iva Lairson  
 Virgil Clark  
 Lewis Bugher  
 Byron Biggs  
 Josie Berry  
 Ruth Morrison Brockhaus  
 John Teel  
 Myrtle Ruth Mize  
 Delores Higbee  
 Judy Bugher  
 Curtis L. Swim  
 Linda Golson  
 James Page  
 Alice McMahan  
 Robert Tucker  
 Joyce Evelyn Miller  
 Carl Bruemmer, Jr.  
 Vondell Marsee  
 Don Rollins  
 Gerald Murphy  
 Virginia Ann Blalock

## 1956

Jimmy Black  
 Franklin Grover  
 Acey Holmes  
 Dortha Williamson  
 Ray Richardson  
 Bill Malone  
 Linda Mauldin  
 Christine Plumlee  
 Delaney Bugher  
 Norma Stufflebean  
 Betty Lairson  
 Charles Childress  
 Faye Slate  
 Edward Coles  
 Wyema Sharp  
 James Colliver  
 Melvina Johnson  
 Archie Dicksion  
 Milly Hopper  
 Delaine McKiddy  
 Bonnie Biggs  
 Bill Dodson  
 Jack Russell  
 Lester Gaston  
 Don Shaw  
 Dee Harmon  
 Frances Bradford

## 1957

Ronald Barker  
 Wayne Cockerham  
 Carole Teel Jordan  
 Carolyn Harshberger  
 A. J. Perschbacher  
 Leveda Mize  
 Ronnie Sallee  
 Bessie Mason  
 Delayne Woodrow  
 Beulah Owens  
 Billy Greeson  
 Bobbie Jo Marti  
 Barbra Vaught  
 Roy Bugher  
 Peggy Hopper  
 Gordon Grissom  
 Helen Hackney  
 Zoleta Rogers  
 Shirley Fox  
 Dennis Brindley  
 Lynn Daniel  
 Maxine Cochran  
 Wanda Sterling  
 Maudie Cannon  
 G. C. Lairson

The first parent and son to graduate from Noble were Vera Ovits and Warren Black. Lewis Burkett, Pearl Burkett, and Lucille Burkett were the first entire family to graduate from Noble.

The present Noble School Faculty members are:

Mrs. Lorene Burt	Commerce	One year
Mr. James O. Butler	Grade School Principal and Fifth Grade	One year
Mr. B. I. Davis	Seventh and Eight Grades Math and History	Three years
Mrs. Nadine Davis	First Grade	Eleven years
Mr. Bill Doran	Physical Education	One year
Mr. James Farris	Industrial Arts	One year
Mr. Bill E. Fisher	High School Principal Math and Algebra	Nine years
Mrs. Mary Alice Fisher	Vocational Home Economics	Eleven years
Mr. Rheuben Green	Music and Spanish	One year
Mrs. Blanche Grover	Second Grade	Four years
Mrs. Patricia Hammond	Senior High English	One year
Mrs. Hazel Harmon	First Grade	Four years
Mrs. Esther Hubbard	Fourth Grade	Seven years



Mr. John K. Hubbard	Superintendent	Nine years
Miss Beth King	Third Grade	Three years
Mr. Bill King	History	Six years
Mr. Charles McAtee	Junior High Principal	
Mrs. Marie McAtee	Vocational Agriculture	Five years
Mrs. Louise McClure	Sixth Grade	Five years
Mrs. Mary Lou O'Toole	Second Grade	Ten years
	Junior High English and Library	One year
Mr. Chris Parrish	General Science and Chemistry	One year
Mrs. Ruby Roberts	Third Grade	Two years
Mrs. Mona Walker	Grade School Music	One year

The present local business men of Noble include the following:

Service Station Operators - Mr. C. E. Ritchie, Mr. Jake Thomas and Mr. George Evans, Mr. DeLoyd Barton, and Mr. Medford.

Smith's Hardware and Plumbing - Operated by Mr. J. E. Jordan and Mr. Howell Mauldin, and owned by Smith Construction Company

Noble Convelescent Home - Operated by Mrs. Hazel Poesch

Jones Plumbing Company and Tommie's Cafe - Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Jones

Mauldin's Drug Store - Owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mauldin

Grocery Stores are owned by - Ernest Stufflebean and Nolan Stufflebean, Steve and Iva Harlan, Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Couch.

First State Bank - Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Reese Ray

Rancho Cafe - Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rollins

Barber Shops - Operated by Mike Juelch and Henry Smith, and J. W. Bettes and A. J. Meigs

Used Furniture Store - Owned by Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Drennan

Beauty Shops - Operated by Mrs. Pearl Madole and Mrs. Roy Blair, and Mrs. Audrey Newcomb

Laundries and Laundro-Mats - Operated by Mr. and Mrs. Arch Jordan, and Mr. Leon Madole

Butane Service Truck - Operated by Mr. Murle Delong

Bradshaw Lumber Yard - Operated by Mr. Paul Bradshaw , who served on the City Council a number of years

Dry Goods Store - Owned by Mr. Kenneth Richardson and operated by his wife,  
Thelma, Bess Mauldin, and Gladys Jordan.

Frazier Feed and Seed Store - Owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Frazier.

Cleaning Service and Variety Shop - Owned by Miss Jessie Thomas

The Noble Nursery - Owned by C. E. Garce



## MEMOIRS

By Mary Leslie Ishmael

President Benjamin Harrison was grantor of Noble Townsite to Grantees: Samuel L. Leavy, Robert Joyce, and Daniel Hay, who composed the trustees Board Number 4, February 25, 1891. The preceding information was taken from an old deed.

I started to school at the Noble Academy in the northeast part of town when I was six years old. Professor McCredy was the Superintendent. My first teacher was Miss Mary Ann Klinglesmith. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Leslie, lived in the Chickasaw country just west of Noble. Eight children under the supervision of Mrs. D. S. Haynes and Mrs. F. W. Filson, my two older sisters, cared for the younger children. We did light housekeeping in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hodom. My parents stayed on the farm and came for us on weekends in a farm wagon across the treacherous South Canadian river. At times my father had to tie the wagon box on to keep it from floating away.

When I was nine years old, my family bought the farm just south of the old Joe Scott place south of the city limits. There were few buildings in Noble at that time, a two story brick building housed a store operated by a fine old man known as Uncle Jimmie Thomson. The second story was a meeting place for lodges and a practice place for a band after a while. The Post Office was across the street south. Later a good many of the older folks of today attended school there. Our teacher was J. C. Peterson. Later W. J. Reid had a store in this one story brick building. Bob McConkey had a Confectionery in a lean-to on the south side of the brick building.

Mr. W. J. Reid was the first agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. He served for two months and was replaced by Frank Filson from Guthrie, a brother of

Charles Filson, who was Lieutenant governor when Frank Frantz was governor of Oklahoma. Frank Filson later became Post Master, followed by his uncle, John DeLong.

In the early years, there was a saloon on the corner where the Richardson Dry Goods Store now stands. Many of the cowboys from the Chickasaw Country would do a lot of celebrating from there, then cross the river when it was bank full.

In the early days, there were two rock buildings erected where the Frazier Feed Store is now located. D. S. Haynes and George Graham opened a saloon in one, and a cotton buyer, Albert H. Trueblood, whose wife was a Chickasaw Indian, lived and maintained an office in the other. Tommy Wells had the first Drug Store in Noble. Later Dr. H. C. Chids had a Drug Store in the same building. Noble at one time had a distillery about a mile north and west of town. It was built by Doc Haynes and A. B. Hasnen, who came from Haynes' home town in Kentucky. Charles Howard was the government gager. He lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. Russell Richardson. Isaac Graham ran a Hardware Store where the Smith Hardware is now located.

The Santa Fe was a big asset to the town of Noble since they maintained a large pay roll for track maintenance. The first section foreman was a fine old man, Mr. Jimmerson. He was succeeded by Hardin, Frank Filson, A. M. LaDue, J. H. Keele, and Otis Cassity. Operators were Frank Alsup, Claud Culbreth, Iva Knight, Ruth Appleman, Mary Ishmael, and many others.

The F. A. Garee family came to Noble in 1896, and established the Noble Nursery, which the son C. E. Garee still operates, assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Garee Bullard. The Garee family has contributed much in the building of the town.



The C. P. Klinglesmith family was one of the first families in Noble. Mr. Klinglesmith and family did much for the community. He and his wife and two daughters, Mrs. Lewis J. Brosius and Mrs. Harry E. Musson (deceased) had much to do with the founding of the Methodist Church in Noble.

An early day family and active members of the Noble Baptist Church were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Luttrell, who lived where the T. M. Fishburn home now stands. Their son, John E. Luttrell of Norman, is a prominent attorney, a former member of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and of the State Senate. Mr. Luttrell's sister, Mrs. Ethel Goodrich, also makes her home in Norman.

One of the early day ministers of the Baptist Church in and around Noble was Reverend L. P. Kennedy. He and his wife were much loved by all who knew them. Their son, Ivan Kennedy, resides on what was the Keiser farm south of Noble. He served twelve years as sheriff of Cleveland County. He also served as Chief Investigator for Governor Robert S. Kerr, and is now Federal Court Baliff for Judge W. R. Wallace. They have one daughter, Mrs. Mary Alice Fisher, who teaches Home Economics in the Noble High School.

The George Morris family homesteaded the farm adjoining the townsite on the north of Noble. His half-brother, Charlie Brown, homesteaded the farm known as the DeWitt farm, east of Noble. His wife was a native of McLouth, Kansas. Mrs. Arthur Flitner, a school mate from the same town, came to Noble to visit her and began teaching in the Noble schools. Mr. Flitner was an early day business man in Noble and later moved to a large ranch near Graybull, Wyoming.

James H. Bradley was another early day resident of Noble. For many years, he piloted farmers across the Canadian river. He, with his brother-in-law, Gus Leslie and Frank Gault, homesteaded a part of the site of Oklahoma City, all drove cattle up the old Chisholm Trail, and were very close friends.

Jim Bradley was night watchman and water superintendent in Noble for many years. Gus Leslie was Deputy Sheriff under every sheriff elected until his death.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Wantland came to the Noble Community in an early day and lived on the farm a mile northeast of Noble known at this time as the Taylor Farm. Later they built the most pretentious home in Noble. Ralph Ellinger and Miss Alice Jenkins were married about this time and had an apartment on the second floor of the Wantland home and lived there until they built the Ellinger home in the northeast part of Noble and established the Noble State Bank, now owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Reese Ray.

Another early day family in Noble was Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Allan and daughters, Kate, Nadine, and Lucille. They came here from Gainsville, Texas. Mr. Allen opened Noble's first lumber yard.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Perkins and two sons, Claud and Edward, lived in the house where the Harry Bennett home now stands. They operated one of the first General Stores opened here.

Mrs. Harrison, a widow, with her son Gene, a brilliant young man, will be remembered by many old timers. They lived where Mr. and Mrs. Haun now reside. Mrs. Harrison later married Mr. Wilkman, a carpenter, who with his two sons, Sam and Walter Wilkman, lived in the house known as the Mamie Martin property.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Bowen, other early day citizens, lived where the Henry Smith family now lives. Mr. Bowen served as county assessor for many years. Their youngest daughter, Miss Sarah Belle Bowen, has been a teacher in the Norman School System for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Billy McCraw lived across the street east of them in the Clark home. South of them was a Mr. Glasgow, who drove the first dray wagon. He was a Civil War Veteran. One leg was stiff from a wound suffered in the war between the States. Mr. Glasgow was the father of Mrs. Alex Mills and the grandfather of Mrs. Lottie Smith, who now lives here.



Noble school in the early days was attended by the following:

Jason Carrier	Ina Klinglesmith	John Luttrell
F. B. Swank	Joe Klinglesmith	Ben Stinson
Harry Musson	May Klinglesmith	Herman Doctor
Birdie Garver	Cora Thornhill	Carter Luttrell
Bud Mays	Ida Scott	Eva Wise
Mary Leslie	Grace Wilson	Oakland Graham
Eva Vance	Maud Scott	Jess Stenson
Pearl Reynolds	Will Morris	Mabel Jeffries
John Dunnaway	Dee Wantland	Julia McBride
Minnie Scott	Lucy Campbell	Jim Reynolds
Venette Neff	Lula Leslie	
Irene Austin	George Downs	Teacher: Mr. Kieser

Writing this has brought many pleasant memories of my early childhood in

Noble, the nicest place in the world to live.