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MARCH 10, 2004

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When the residents of Foyil decided it was time to organize a Volunteer Fire Department in 1967, it turned into a classic example of the community pride and civic-minded spirit the people of the town possess.

The department's first truck was a well used and in need of a complete overhaul. They got the truck free of charge with the help of Don Taylor, Community Action Director for Rogers County. It came from Carville Louisiana. Once they got the truck to Foyil, the overhaul work for the most part, was on a volunteer basis.

Once the truck was in operating condition, a new pump and water tank were added. Within days, the Foyil Volunteer Fire Department was on the road fighting fires in the area.

With the help of State Senator Clem McSpadden and State Representative Bill Brisco, the land for the fire station was purchased from the State of Oklahoma.

The building materials were donated, and most of the labor was on a volunteer basis. People from all over Rogers County helped the people of Foyil complete the station.

This is just one example how the people of Foyil are always ready to lend a hand, for the good of the community.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the articles and features about Foyil!

Foyil History

Foyil is named for its founder, Alfred Foyil. He was born in Georgia on September 2, 1842. His parents were Arthur C. and Amanda Foyil. When Alfred was still an infant the family moved to Alabama, then to Union County, Arkansas. Alfred attended subscription schools, and then worked in various trades until the Civil War. He enlisted in the Arkansas Infantry on June 19, 1861.

After the war ended, Alfred farmed until 1874 when he came to the Indian Territory. He located near Fort Smith, in the Sequoyah District, where he farmed, raised stock, and hunted. High prices for skins and furs proved to be a lucrative business and he began a mercantile trade. As his trade grew he built a large general store, a cotton gin, a corn mill, several tenant houses, a blacksmith shop, a church, school, and with Dr. B.F. Buckner added a drugstore. He named his place of business Redland. In May of 1883, a mail route was established with Fort Smith, and Alfred was the first postmaster.

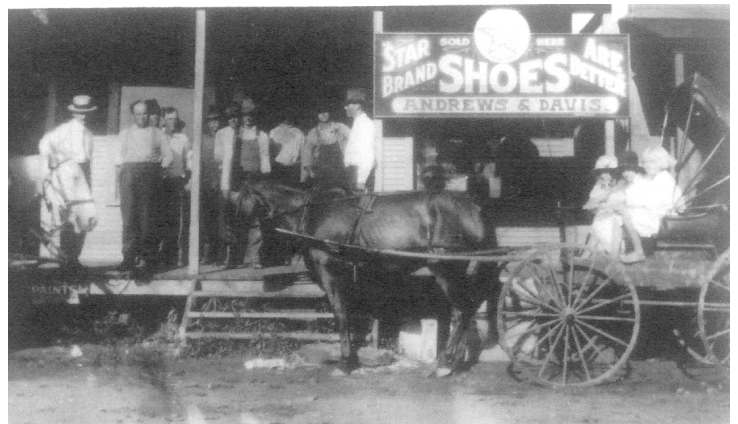
In the late 1880s Alfred moved to the area now known as Foyil to be near the railroad. He built a store in 1889. He also built a fine home, hotel, drugstore, several houses, blacksmith shop, corn mill, and an icehouse. He built a depot on the Frisco and became the first postmaster.

The "Foyil Statesman" newspaper was a weekly publication. \$1.00 would buy a one-year subscription. An issue from December 12, 1903 listed Wm. R. Harper as editor. An ad for Alfred's store was the largest. For dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, groceries, and farm machinery. Country produce was also bought and sold there.

R.A. Dale did general blacksmithing, wagon work, plow work, and horseshoeing – all executed in a workmanlike manner at reasonable rates. The Foyil Drug Store was headquarters for pure drugs, patent medicines, toilet articles, stationery, paints, oils, etc. Hugh Barry was a contractor and builder in both stone and woodwork. The Dowdy Brothers were dealers in furnishing goods, hardware, groceries, and provisions. Foreman and Harnage were dealers in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes. Doctors B.S. Tinsley and Youngblood, physicians and surgeons, would answer calls promptly.



Van Dowling, Alfred Foyil, and Dr. Tinsley



Andrews Brothers Grocery 1913-14



Inside the same store in 1940

Photos courtesy of Elwyn Isaacs

Foyil History continued on next page

The newspaper listed Foyil as a toll station for the Indian Territory Telephone Company. A whole page was dedicated to Anti Horse Theft Association news. The newspaper also carried the Frisco schedule, indicating when the two westbound and two eastbound trains would stop at Agent A.T. Millikan's depot.

The Rogers County Democrat, published at Foyil on June 26, 1909, issued a business proposition to the Rogers County Commissioners and the people of Rogers County.

In consideration of the fact that Rogers County was in need of a courthouse and jail, because the people of the county hesitated to vote for a bond issue for that purpose; the people of Foyil made the following offer: The people of Foyil, Rogers County, Oklahoma will furnish an ideal site, plenty of pure and cool fresh water, build a brick Court House worth \$50,000 and a jail worth \$15, 000, free and unencumbered to the county, on the condition that the county seat of Rogers County be permanently located at Foyil.

"This is a bona-fide business proposition and will be faithfully carried out, if accepted." It was signed by: W.C. Skelton, T.L. Lane, A. Foyil, Milo Foyil, W.R. Harper, W.H. Ward, Geo. W. Vincent, and Thos. W. Hensal.

Did You Know?

Before the days of Highway 66, the main road out of Claremore going through this area was a toll road. There was a tollbooth in Bushyhead!

When Gene Autry worked for Frisco as a telegraph operator, he would stay in Foyil when he was working the Foyil depot. The young people of the town would gather at the depot in the evening and Gene would entertain them. He would play the guitar, and sing songs he made up. As a result of one of his songs, Wilburn Isaacs was nicknamed Ajax, and the name stuck with him for life!

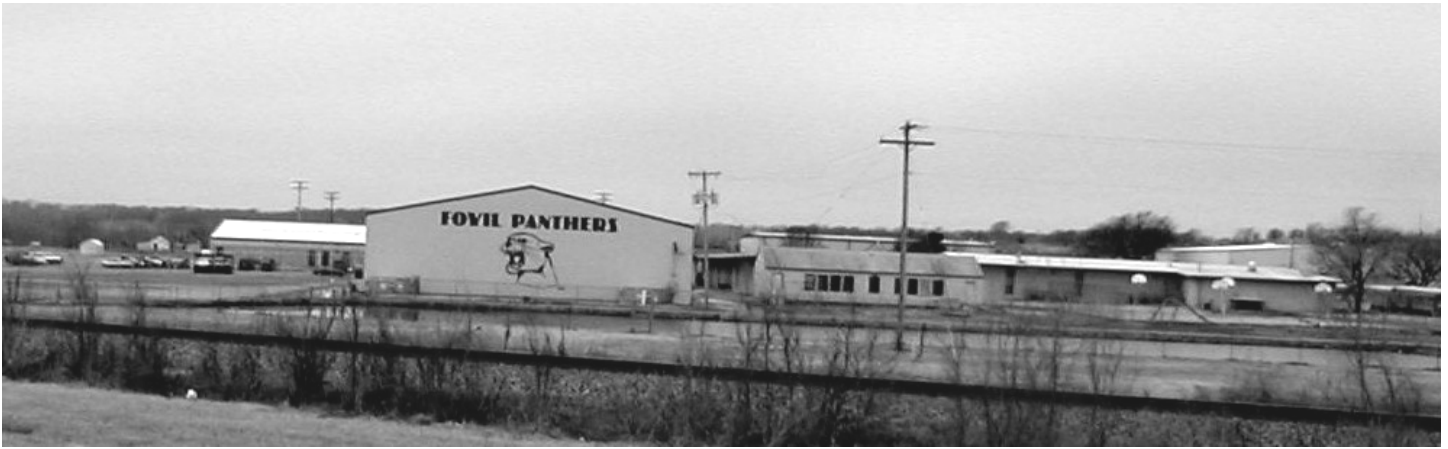


Foyil School under construction



Foyil Business District





Foyil Public Schools

The Foyil Public School system has 660 students enrolled and employs 74 people.

Mike McGregor has been the superintendent of Foyil schools for 15 years. Rick Antle is high school principal. He has been at Foyil 14 years. Phillip Cimei has been the grade school principal for 3 years.

School sports programs include football, boys and girls basketball, baseball, girls softball, and cheerleading.

They also have outstanding band and chorus programs. They have an excellent computer lab, and the students do a great job on the yearbook.

The school also has an Academic Team, the Family, Careers, and Community Leaders of America, and an organization for the gifted students. To participate in that program, not only must a student maintain a high grade point average, they must display positive citizenship.

The Student Council (grades 7 through 12) sponsors a community food drive and takes an active part in the Toys for Tots program.

The PTA plays an important part in sponsoring school activities and fund raising for school programs.

The school sponsors a yearly fundraiser also, part of which is the basket auction. It has been a big success and has help earn a lot of money for the school.

Foyil, Now

Foyil is home to approximately 249 people according to the 2000 census report.

The Mayor of Foyil is Steve Hipp. Members of the Town Council are Doug Chaney, Ethel Frost, Dolly Heenan, and Louise Ward. They are working on securing funding and grants for a sewer system for the town.

They have a plan in the works to obtain playground equipment of the city park.

Billie Rice Franklin started the Foyil Heritage Association. They sponsor the Foyil Farmers Market, a yearly event that brings many visitors to town, and helps raise money for projects they do. Some of their works can be seen throughout Foyil, in the tributes to Andy Payne.

The Association also sponsors the Totem Pole Barbeque, which helps raise funds for the upkeep and care of the facility.

Good things are happening in Foyil, which will help their community rebound from the slow economy. Not only have several long time businesses managed to stay afloat, but many have also experienced growth, expansions, and additions.

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Foyil Fire Department

The Foyil Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1967. In August of 2000, the people of Foyil voted on and passed a 1.5 million dollar bond issue, creating the Foyil Fire District. The money was used for the new fire station and new equipment. The building also houses the 911-dispatch center.

Randy Atchley is the Fire Chief. January of this year marked Randy's 21st year with the fire department. He has served as Fire Chief for 14 of those years. There are 20 firefighters with the department.

Randy is a 1983 graduate of Chelsea High School, and was raised in the Bushyhead area, where he still lives. Randy's parents, Rex and Dorothy, served the Bushyhead and Chelsea school districts for many years. Rex drove buses for both districts for a total of 37 years.

In addition to serving on the fire department for over 20 years, Randy has devoted several years to law enforcement. He was with the Chelsea Police Department from 1989 to 1990. He then went to the Pryor Police Department for three years. From August of 1993 to May of 1996 he was the Chelsea Public Schools Transportation Director. Randy returned to the Chelsea Police Department in May of 1996, and served as Chelsea's Chief of Police from October 1997 to the last of June of 2001. In July of 2001 he became full time Fire Chief.

Randy and his wife Vicki have been married 7 years. Vicki moved here from Portland Oregon, to be with her mother after Vicki's father passed away. Randy has a daughter, Melissa, 10 years old. Vicki's son, Lucas Calbreath, 24, is with in the Army.

Randy's two brothers, Perry and Gary are also with the fire department. Gary is assistant fire chief. Their sister, Jolene works at the Rogers County Bank in Claremore.



Totem Pole Park

Oklahoma's premier folk artist, Nathan Edward Galloway was born February 18, 1879, in Springfield, Missouri. Nathan Edward Galloway took up wood carving as a youngster. During the Spanish-American War he joined the U.S. Army and saw service in the Philippine campaign in 1899-1901. He left the army in 1904 to return to Springfield, where he married Vila Sue Hooten in 1904, and later adopted a son, Paul.

For a while the Galloways lived in the small town of Hootentown, named after Vila Sue's ancestor, Will Carver Hooten.

Galloway's most notable legacy to northeastern Stone County is his famous Lion in a Cage wood sculpture. It is housed in Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield, Missouri. The plaque beneath it reads: "Carved...for the 1915 World's Fair in San Francisco. Life-sized lion in a cage, carved from a single solid piece of sycamore. In 1970, students of Hillcrest High School restored and painted the piece.

It was taken off exhibit in 1980 and remained off display until 1992 when it was refinished by zoo staff and the Springfield Wood Carver's Association." Galloway's lion stood guard in the Reptile House. The lion's size and dignity is both chilling and inspiring, yet the man who carved him is only vaguely remembered in Stone County, Missouri, as something of an enigma.

Galloway's lion was carved during 1912 and 1913. Less famous but equally unusual works, some of massive dimensions were also carved and exhibited in Hootentown, including "The Woman and the Snake," a life-size sculpture of an enormous snake encircling a wooden woman.

In 1914 or 1915 Galloway moved to Tulsa. He found work in Sand Springs at the Sand Springs Home, an orphanage established earlier by entrepreneur and philanthropist Charles E. Page. Impressed with Galloway's talent, Page constructed a large shop, in which Galloway taught woodworking.



As part of his duties he also made furnishings for the institution. Among his productions while employed there were a complete merry-go-round, installed in a nearby park, and a pair of carved stone lions, flanking the park's entrance (the latter now reside at the entrance to the Sand Springs Home). Galloway worked at the Home until retiring in 1937.

Moving to several acres near Foyil, Galloway built a house and began to carve a myriad of wooden objects, some for sale, and some for his own artistic gratification. A true craftsman, he was meticulous with detail. Among his productions were literally hundreds of fiddles and hundreds of plaques, hall trees, and smoking stands, most of which were replete with figurative detail. He built a highly decorated "Fiddle House" to store and showcase those items.

Galloway transformed his Foyil property into a sculpture garden reflecting his deep respect for the history and traditions of American Indians. He also began constructing a totem pole park, an installation that grew to include a seventy-foot-tall sandstone cone, supported by a steel armature and covered with a concrete skin that he decorated with bas-relief images of brightly colored Indian portraits, symbols, and animal figures. In all, the park contains concrete four totems, plus two ornate concrete picnic tables with animal-form seats, a barbecue, and four sets of animal-form gateposts. He hoped to use his work to educate young people about American Indians.

Self taught, Ed Galloway never received formal artistic training and did not promote himself as an "artist." Because of the style, quality, and quantity of his work, Galloway is nationally acclaimed as a "visionary" or "outsider" artist, that is, one whose work is outside the mainstream of formal art. Within the context of Oklahoma folk art, his artistic productions have no rival. Galloway died November 11, 1962.

In the decades following Galloway's death, all the sculptures began to deteriorate from weather and neglect. The bulk of the pieces in the Fiddle House were stolen in 1970, and never recovered.

In the 1990s, the Rogers County Historical Society, in concert with the Kansas Grass Roots Art Association and the Foyil Heritage Association, undertook a large restoration effort. The outdoor sculptures were restored and repainted, and the Fiddle House was brought back from the brink of collapse.

Regarding the "World's Largest Totem Pole" claim, there are some current competitors. The World's Largest Totem Pole (carved from a single tree) is claimed by several towns. Ed's probably continues to be the world's largest concrete totem pole.

The park is now owned and operated by the Rogers County Historical Society. The Foyil Heritage Association assists with fund raising and yard maintenance. Several events are hosted at the park annually.



Josh Brown

Josh is a 1998 graduate of Foyil High School. He was born on April 29, 1979. His parents are Quana and Kenneth Brown.

Josh was an eighth round draft pick of the Seattle Seahawks for the 2003 season. There were three teams interested in him. San Diego had informed him he would be their next pick, if Seattle didn't choose him.

Josh was only the third kicker the Seahawks had picked in the draft. Adding to the pressure was the fact that Josh would be the only kicker on the team. Rian Lindell signed an offer sheet with the Buffalo Bills in March and the Seahawks declined to match it. The element of surprise is that the club decided not to sign a veteran kicker to challenge Brown.

Josh played collage football with the Nebraska Cornhuskers. He finished his career at Nebraska with 315 points, third on the Huskers' all-time list behind kicker Kris Brown (388) and quarterback Eric Crouch (368). He hit 14 of 18 field goals his last year. 36 of his 68 kickoffs resulted in touchbacks.

Josh was Communication Studies major, earning 1999 Big Twelve Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll accolades. He participated in the VIP Shadowing Program and National American Education Week and was a three-year member of the Unity Council.

In high school Josh played running back, safety, and served as the team's punter and place-kicker. He hit on 8 of 16 field goal attempts, with a career-long 61-yarder in the state playoffs in 1996. As a running back, he rushed for 1891 yards and 51 touchdowns. He totaled 9136 career all-purpose yards and 122 career touchdowns.

As a senior, he earned first-team All-State honors. He was a four-year letterman in both football and track. He earned three basketball letters. Two-time Class A state champion in the high jump, clearing a career-best of 6-8 at the state meet in both 1997 and 1998. Earned All-Conference honors in basketball as a junior. He placed third at the state meet in the 100-meter dash with an electronic time of 10.74.
breaking a team record



On October 5, 2003 (Seahawks vs. Packers)
Josh made a 58-yard field goal.
Breaking the Seahawks' team record!

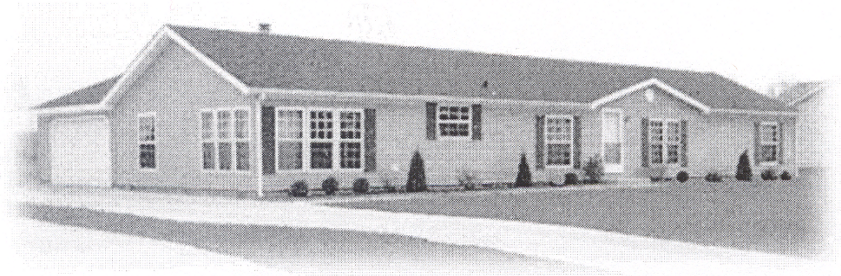


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Pat Clary

Pat Clary was born February 20, 1932. He was raised in Tulsa. Before he was two years old, Pat started riding horses. Over the next few years he developed and fine-tuned skills in roping and trick riding. At the age of three he was breaking his own horses, the Shetland ponies he performed on.

Pat and his partner, Don Stewart were part of a group of Tulsa youth who toured rodeo events nation wide. The two boys were the youngest and most popular of the group.

An article, which appeared in the May 31, 1939 issue of a Fort Smith newspaper, stated that of the 101 entries in the Arkansas-Oklahoma rodeo, ten Tulsans were among the leaders. But it wasn't Don and Virginia Wilcox, known to Tulsans as two big time rodeo performers of the world, who were creating the sensation at the show. It was "a couple of little squirts who have spent five of their seven years in the saddle."

The article went on to say that the boys brought the most applause of any event, with the exception of the steer riding, always the most dangerous and thrilling to the crowd.

The boys' performance included tricks considered difficult, even for adults.

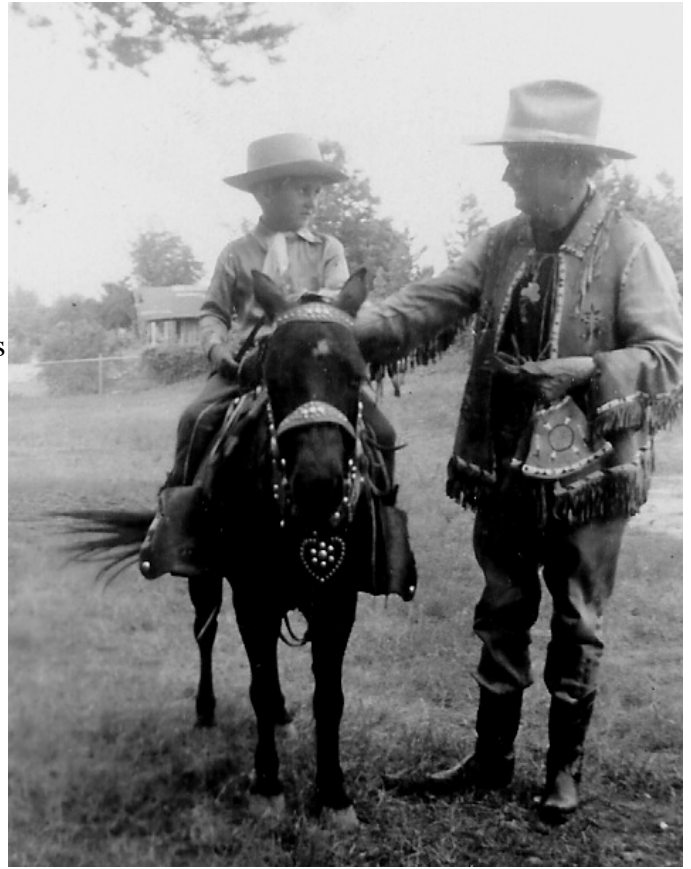
Pat and Don performed together till junior high.

Some film footage of Pat riding and roping appeared in at least a couple of episodes of the Little Rascals in the late 1930s.

By the time Pat graduated from high school, he had tired of the roping part of his act, and started devoting more time to trick riding. In the late 1950s he started appearing at rodeos as a rodeo clown. He also entered bull riding, bareback, and saddle bronco competitions, sometimes competing in his clown makeup!

Pat attended Central High School in Tulsa. While there he met and fell in love with Wanda Jeanne Cross. Wanda had moved with her family to Tulsa during her senior year. Pat was so smitten with her, he talked the teacher into seating the class in alphabetical order, so he could sit close to her. He told one of his friends, "That is the girl I'm going to marry!"

They married March 5, 1953. They have a daughter and son. Vicky and Buck are both Foyil alumni, and Vicky's daughter and son are Foyil graduates.



Pat on his pony with Pawnee Bill

The Clary family moved to the Foyil area 40 years ago this month, after Pat's friend, Finis Ward told them about Foyil. Pat and Finis met at a rodeo.

Besides his career in the rodeo world, Pat was a fire fighter for 5 years, giving that up after receiving lung damage from smoke inhalation. The rest of his working career was spent as a class A machinist.

Pat and Wanda and their daughter Vicky and her husband Robert still live in the Foyil area.

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Pictures of Pat Clary



Pat Clary, Jack Holt, and Don Stewart
At the Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo, 1940

Jack Holt was a major film star in the later days of silent films, and he was one of Columbia's most valuable commodities in the early talkie era, but his popularity waned as the quality of his films plummeted. After serving as a major in World War II, Holt returned to films as a supporting actor.

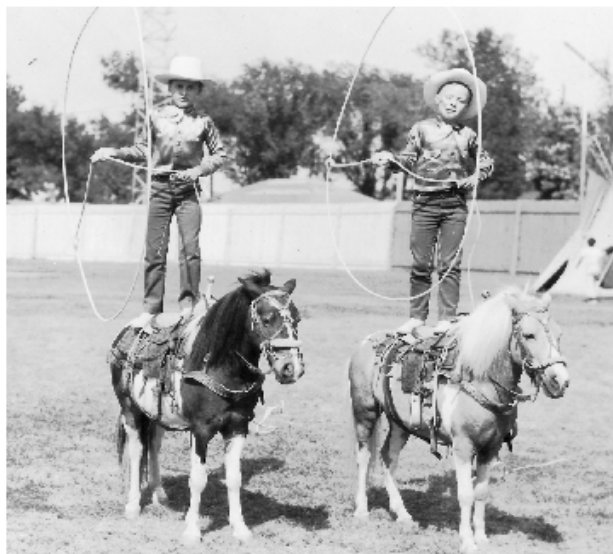
When comic-strip artist Chester Gould created his famed detective Dick Tracy in 1931, he deliberately patterned Tracy's jut-jawed countenance and stoic demeanor after that of his favorite film star, Jack Holt.

Holt was the father of three film performers: western star Tim Holt, leading lady Jennifer Holt, and character actor David Holt.



Pat displays trick riding expertise

Pat and Don



More pictures of Pat Clary



Pat in the early 1950s



Pat in the 1960s



PARADISE VIDEO

Hwy 66 in Foyil

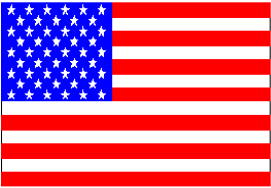
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H o m e t o w n H e r o e s



Many people of the Bushyhead, Foyil, and Oowala area have served our country. It is with great pride we honor some of these Hometown Heroes! Our hearts go out to the families of the ones who didn't make it home. To those of you more fortunate, to have served and returned home, we extend a heartfelt "Thank You!"



The following names are people buried in the Bushyhead, Foyil, and Oowala area cemeteries who served in the Armed Forces. We included all the information we could find. We regret any errors or omissions. None are intentional. Some were killed in action, and some served and returned home to enjoy the freedom they fought for.

*Vernon Dee Wilson
1933-1980
Army Korea*

*David Franklin Dennis
1932-1997
Major Air Force Vietnam*

*John J. Putman
1925-1993
Marine*

*Noah O. Falling
1916-1949
Pvt. WWII*

*Isaac Hopkins
12-15-39
Army*

*Dewey C. Roberson
1898-1955
Army WWII*

*Joseph O. Erwin
1887-1963
WWI Purple Heart*

*Sequoyah Clem Falling
1919-1956
Army WWII*

*Lee Patrick Carrell
1891-1956
WWI*

*Thomas Gene Green
1928-1995
Army*

*Jack Downing
Age 83 years
Indian Home Guard*

*John B. Main
1918-1983
Army WWII*

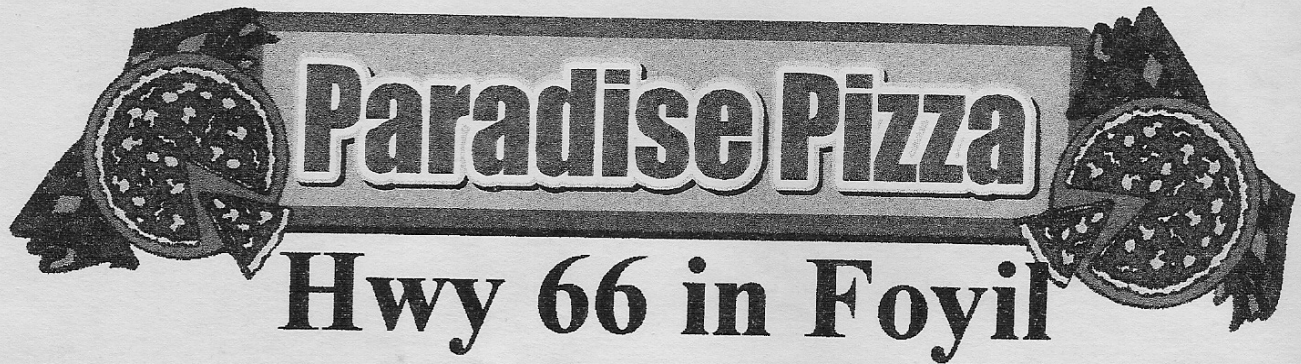
*Allen Cox
1898-1960
PFC WWI*

*Benjamin Downing
1890-1958
Pvt. WWI*

*Nolan J. Foreman
1920-1988
Army*

*Ellis H. Main
1912-1970
PFC WWII*

<i>David C. Harris</i> 1845-1915 <i>Illinois Calvary</i>	<i>Tony H. Kapchinsky</i> 1919-1990 <i>Army WWII</i>	<i>Ronnie H. Turner</i> 1940-2000 <i>Air Force Vietnam</i>	<i>William A. Scribner</i> 1897-1972 <i>WWII</i>
<i>Balford Stone</i> 1933-1992 <i>Army Korea</i>	<i>Eugene R. Spears</i> 1924-1988 <i>Army WWII</i>	<i>Patrick Virgil Pool</i> 1916-1971 <i>WWII</i>	<i>James E. Pye</i> 1888-1980 <i>WWII</i>
<i>Jno. Glass</i> 1848-1895 <i>Indian Home Guard</i>	<i>Donald J. Patten</i> 1935-1984 <i>Navy Vietnam</i>	<i>Lue Edward Ragsdale</i> 1925-1967 <i>WWII</i>	<i>William M. Delp</i> 1909-1996 <i>Army WWII</i>
<i>Harold C. Conn</i> 1927-1990 <i>Navy WWII</i>	<i>Lawrence V. Mathews Jr.</i> 1935-1996 <i>Army</i>	<i>Otho Erwin Colvin</i> 1922-1993 <i>WWII</i>	<i>Clarence E. Leach</i> 1924-1988 <i>Army WWII</i>
<i>Billy Joe Montgomery</i> 1926-1985 <i>Army</i>	<i>Louie E. Falling</i> 1923-1996 <i>Army WWII</i>	<i>Glenn M. Ramsey</i> 1911-1953 <i>WWII</i>	<i>Fredrick A. Leach</i> 1920-1978 <i>Navy WWII</i>
<i>Grover C. Parish</i> 1893-1972 <i>Pvt. WWI</i>	<i>Otis E. Hamilton</i> 1918-1977 <i>Army WWII</i>	<i>Gerald W. Gouard</i> 1943-1997 <i>Army</i>	<i>George Delp</i> 1921-1993 <i>Navy WWII</i>
<i>Jimmy Passmore</i> 1948-1998 <i>Army Vietnam</i>	<i>J.F. Erwin</i> 1884-1922 <i>Illinois Infantry</i>	<i>William H. Little</i> 1923-1963 <i>WWII</i>	<i>Odia Sumter</i> 1915-1987 <i>Army WWII</i>
<i>Calvin L. Sellers</i> 1926-1997 <i>Army WWII</i>	<i>Johnny C. Erwin</i> 1945-1971 <i>Marine Viet nam</i>	<i>Henry J. Hanson</i> 1919-1996 <i>Air Force Korea Vietnam</i>	<i>Herbert Reed</i> 1927-1991 <i>Army WWII</i>
<i>Lester Davis</i> 1917-1988 <i>Army WWII</i>	<i>John Johnson</i> 1837-1912 <i>Indian Infantry</i>	<i>Larry J. Carrick</i> 1946-1993 <i>Army</i>	<i>Claude E. Rhine</i> 1915-1978 <i>Army WWII</i>



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Andy Payne

Andrew Hartley Payne was born on a ranch near Chelsea on November 16, 1907. Andy was the oldest son of Andrew J.L. Payne and Zona Mae Hartley Payne.

Andy's father, known as "Doc" left home at the age of 11 to find work. His first job was on the Clem Rogers ranch. Doc learned to farm and ranch right beside Clem's son Will Rogers.

When Andy was four or five, his parents purchased a farm at Oowala and went into farming for themselves. Andy attended schools in Oowala and Foyil.

Andy participated in high school track, running the mile and half-mile competitions and won a number of tournaments. He was to say later, "I just enjoyed running and had a knack for being able to cover the ground on foot." The distances never really demonstrated his potential.

The family made a modest living, but farming was hard. As the oldest of seven children, Andy was expected to pull his weight and was often put in charge of his younger siblings around the farm. Those who were old enough to work had to help with the chores.

Andy had no interest in becoming a farmer like his father. His primary interest was school and everyday he would run to the schoolhouse after finishing his chores. He often arrived before his siblings, who rode horseback across the fields to school.

In his senior year at Foyil, he met a young schoolteacher, Vivian Shaddox. Vivian, age 17, had been hired to finish out the school year at Foyil when the math teacher quit. Andy was one of four seniors in her math class. They found each other attractive, but dating was out of the question.

Andy graduated and Vivian went home to Tahlequah when the school year was over. Jobs were scarce in Oklahoma and Andy decided he might have better luck in California. He hopped a freight train and rode out to Los Angeles, trying to find work.

Work was as scarce in California as it was in Oklahoma. By chance Andy saw an ad in the sports pages announcing C. C. Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race. He later told an interviewer, "I knew I was strong and could run. And I just concluded that I would stand as good a chance as any."



Andy Payne



Andy, John Cronick, and Peter Gavuzzi

Andy didn't have the \$25 entry fee or the \$100 deposit required from every entrant for a one-way ticket back home at the end of the race. So Andy hitchhiked back to Oklahoma. He pitched his idea to the Chamber of Commerce in Claremore. Chamber members first turned him down but later donated part of the money; Doc borrowed the rest. Doc later recalled, "This enthusiasm and determination to enter, ruined a formerly good Oklahoma farm hand."

Andy hitched back to Los Angeles with the money and entered the race. He hooked up with Tom Young, a high-school coach he had met in L.A. Young agreed to be Andy's trainer in return for a percentage of Andy's winnings. Through the winter of 1928, Andy crisscrossed the Southern California hills, training alongside some of the world's greatest athletes.

On the cool, cloudy afternoon of March 4, 1928, Andy took his place beside some 241 other entrants on the track of the Ascot Speedway. The runners ranged in age from 15 to 63. They wore everything from tracksuits to overalls. Some sported specially designed track shoes, some wore Indian moccasins, and some wore lumberjack boots. And more than a few were barefoot, including the two dogs that lined up next to a runner strumming a ukulele.

Red Grange, C.C. Pyle's best-known client, was on hand to start the race. At precisely 3:46 p.m., Grange set off a bomb, which startled the assembled crowd of more than 100,000 fans. The runners were off, but not very quickly. Andy and the others began their epic cross-country journey slogging through ankle-deep mud.

Mud was only the first of many obstacles. The racecourse followed U.S. 66 from L.A. to St. Louis, then across the Mississippi River to Chicago. After leaving Route 66, the runners were to follow several roads through Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania before running along New York State's Route 17 into the Big Apple.

The race was organized much like the famous bicycle race the Tour de France. Each morning, Pyle or one of his assistants explained the day's route to the bleary-eyed runners. The daily runs varied in length from fifteen to seventy-five miles. The runners ran the day's race, usually finishing up about noon.

Their daily times were duly noted and added to their previous total. Winners of each day's race were celebrated in the press. Sometimes local promoters offered daily cash prizes, but winning the big money depended on having the lowest time over the entire racecourse.



The race begins!



Andy and Peter at Grand Canyon State Park



Andy and Peter somewhere on Highway 66

From the beginning, the conditions were harsh. Andy ran in torrential rains up the steep slope to Cajon Pass. His ears and nose blistered under the hot sun of the Mojave Desert. He staggered through sandstorms so fierce that he ran for hours holding his hands in front of his face. By the end of the first two miserable weeks, shin splints, pulled tendons, twisted ankles, and other ailments forced many of the pre-race favorites to drop out. Hit-and-run drivers knocked a couple of runners out of the race.

Andy contracted a mild case of tonsillitis but walked and shuffled his way through the pain. By the time the runners hit northern Arizona, Andy Payne was in first place. He told the press he planned to "just keep stepping along for the time being."

Pyle was supposed to provide accommodations for the runners, but instead he cut corners to save money whenever he could. Andy and the other runners slept in tents, chicken houses, granaries, and stables. Their blankets were so dirty that one town asked them to burn them. Bad water was a problem at some stops. At others, there was no water at all.

The company that provided meals for the runners quit early on, forcing Andy to eat the slop served up by what the Los Angeles Times called an "old-time can opener from the Army." Pyle eventually fired the Army cook and gave the runners a food allowance of thirty-five cents per meal. As they passed through small towns, some jogged into cafes and bought sandwiches to go. Pyle, who traveled in a customized \$25,000 land yacht, griped that he was "running the cheapest boarding house in the world."

To generate more cash, Pyle organized, a traveling carnival that included performances by Andy and the other runners. The evening's entertainment began with Red Grange introducing the Bunion Derby contestants. Ed "The Sheik" Gardner, a black runner from Seattle, amazed the crowds with his imitation of a steam whistle. One runner sang songs and played the mandolin. Andy Payne simply smiled at the onlookers and said, "Howdy."

In addition to the athletes, ticket-selling barkers touted Piu the Poison Snake Girl, Wo-Kah, the most intelligent dog in existence, a two-headed chicken, a five-legged pig, a glass-eating man, a tattoo artist whose body was decorated with various collegiate mottoes, and a dried-out human corpse billed as the Oklahoma Outlaw.

The race came down to a duel between Andy Payne and Peter Gavuzzi. Peter was a ship's steward on the "Majestic", of the White Star Line, and a sister ship to the "Titanic". Gavuzzi had a good running record in England; he had won the Newmarket

Marathon and other long-distance events. The two ran side by side in the Texas panhandle, as much to keep each other company as to win the race over the plains. Andy was the first to cross into Texola, Oklahoma, though some claim rambunctious Texans prevented Gavuzzi from entering the Sooner State first.

During the next five days, the "queer centipede circus" made its way across the length of Oklahoma. Never one to miss a promotional opportunity, Pyle produced a special Andy Payne racing program and invited Andy's father to travel along with the caravan. "The boy is worth more than the farm just now," Doc Payne said, "so I am going to stick close to him until the finish."

Oklahoma newspapers paid tribute to the feats of "Our Andy" and compared the tanned, muscular, wavy haired Cherokee to Charles Lindbergh and other American heroes. School children and well-wishers lined the streets of Clinton, Bridgeport, and El Reno to cheer on the Oklahoma farm boy. The crowd was so big that the runners took a back route into Oklahoma City to avoid the congestion. Governor Henry S. Johnston welcomed the runners to the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, and segregated marching bands played as the runners entered Lee High School Stadium in Tulsa.

Rogers County provided the most enthusiastic welcome of all. Thousands of cars drove three abreast behind Andy as he entered the county, forcing the other runners off the road. Children, relatives, and reporters ran alongside Andy, grabbing his hand and giving him friendly words of advice. "I wish they wouldn't try to stop me and talk to me," Andy grumbled.

When the racers arrived in Claremore on April 17, 1928, the biggest crowd in the town's history turned out to welcome Payne. A squad of Oklahoma Military Academy students formed around Andy and ran with him over the white line, which marked the exact halfway point of the race.

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Will Rogers, a good friend of Andy's father, offered Payne a prize of \$250. "I felt kind of jealous," Rogers admitted, "when I read that someone had supplanted me as favorite son."

The next day, as they entered Foyil, Andy took a few minutes to sit down with his "ownest folks" outside the country store and near the schoolhouse where he had learned to run. He shook hands with friends and family before taking off across the limestone hills past Chelsea and Vinita and into Missouri.

Soon after the runners left Chicago and U.S. 66, Gavuzzi suffered a painfully abscessed tooth. He dropped out of the race in Ohio, leaving Andy in firm command of first place. When it became obvious that Andy was in the lead, Pyle brought Doc Payne up to join his son. Father and son ran down the road together for a few miles. Then Andy's dad began to tire. "Son," said Doc to his boy, "have you sure enough been doing this for eighty days, or have I gone clean loco?" Andy replied, "We're all loco, Pappy."

Though there was little doubt about the outcome of the race, the other runners provided memorable moments. Black contestants Ed "the Sheik" Gardner and Phillip Granville won several day's races, after which Granville amazed crowds and reporters by speaking English with an Oxbridge accent. One-armed runner, Roy McMurtry and John Stone Jr., both Hoosiers, were the first to cross the Indiana border.

Mobs of Irishmen nearly knocked down Cleveland bartender Mike Joyce as he ran through his hometown.

Lucein Frost, a 57-year-old Hollywood extra nicknamed "the Prophet" because of his membership with a cult known as the House of David, was kicked out of the race when officials noticed the end of his long beard flapping from the trunk of a passing car. Quipped Will Rogers, "Moses had stolen a ride."

George Jushick was not disqualified, just penalized when he got so drunk that he couldn't find his way to the day's finish line. Wildfire Thompson refused to change out of his red flannel underwear, even though it made him look more like a hobo than an athlete.

Fans in Passaic, New Jersey, were so excited about second-place runner and hometown boy John Salo, that a motorcycle police guard escorted Andy Payne through the city to make sure he wasn't run down by an overly enthusiastic Salo supporter.

Almost every day, the last man to finish was Mike Kelly, a former boxer who ran in his red warm-up robe, handing out his calling card to gas station attendants, and peeking beneath every bridge and culvert he crossed over along the way.

On May 24, 1928, the final day of the race, a handful of people from Manhattan witnessed one of the strangest parades ever to hit the Big Apple. More than twenty dusty, mud-caked vehicles including a portable radio station and an oversized Maxwell House coffee pot drove along 42nd Street, up Eighth Avenue to 49th and into the original Madison Square Garden. Fifty-five runners followed. In the words of one witness, Andy Payne and his competitors looked like "escaped lunatics in frayed and faded underwear, with faded numerals painted on their chests and backs and with wild whiskers masking gaunt faces, some of them breaking out in insane snatches of song."

A small, unenthusiastic crowd watched Andy and the others shuffle, trot, and limp lap after lap around the Madison Square Garden track. As one runner smoked and took pulls from his flask, Andy crossed the finish line, the winner. His total elapsed time was 573 hours, four minutes, and thirty-four seconds, an average of about six miles an hour for 3,423 miles.

Doctors who examined Payne at the finish line declared him to be physically fit, but expected that the strain of the race would take ten years off his life. When Payne's mother Zona Mae heard the news that her son had won the race, she fainted. When she came to, she expressed her hope that the victory wouldn't make her son "bigheaded."

Andy Payne was too worried about getting paid to get bigheaded. After a week of double talk from Pyle, one of the smallest crowds in the history of the Garden watched Tex Rickard present checks to Andy Payne and the other nine prizewinners. The checks were not for the full amount, but close enough to keep everyone quiet. After the presentation, Andy and some of the other winners started out on a twenty-six hour run, Pyle's final effort at sopping up his red ink.

The sports world did its best to belittle Payne's achievement, one writer was probably closest to the truth when he described the Bunion Derby as "one of the most heroic, if not one of the most absurd, athletic contests ever held."

The next year Pyle organized another cross-country foot race, this one running from New York to Los Angeles. Andy Payne participated in the event, but as a roping cowboy in the sideshow, not as a runner. The second Bunion Derby was such a financial disaster that Pyle got out of sports altogether. He resurfaced in 1936 as the manager of the Ripley's "Believe It or Not" exhibit at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago.

Andy gives up racing! After the second race, Andy unsuccessfully tried to break into Hollywood show business as the Dancing Cowboy from Oklahoma. He eventually returned to Oklahoma, did indeed pay off the mortgage on his family farm, and married Vivian, his high-school teacher and sweetheart. He ran in one or two more professional races before untying his running shoes for the last time.

In 1934 with no job and the country caught in the throes of the Depression, Andy did a different kind of running. He ran for clerk of the Oklahoma State Supreme Court and won. He continued to be re-elected, leaving only for a two-year hitch in the army during World War II. After Andy turned 40 he went to law school at night and earned a law degree.

His real interest lay in land acquisition with an eye towards oil production. He had held onto the land he bought with his winnings and bought more. He studied geology to help make his land purchases. Eventually it paid off in the discovery of coal, gas and oil. Although a wealthy man, Payne continued his job as clerk of the Oklahoma Supreme Court until he retired in 1973. By this time he owned over 1,000 acres of land in 17 counties in Oklahoma. It's said that he never sold any. Andy Payne died suddenly in 1977, leaving his family a small fortune and a large legend.

Andy's nephew Gerry Payne serves as county commissioner of Rogers County. "When I announced for office, the papers ran the headline, 'Another Payne Runs,' " recalls Gerry. Elected in 1990, Gerry helped preserve a stretch of the original U.S. 66 that runs through Foyil and renamed it Andy Payne Boulevard as a tribute to the town's best-known citizen. A marker in Foyil along the highway also commemorates Andy's run. On May 16, 1992, the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah dedicated a full-sized statue of Andy Payne alongside monuments to Joseph James "Jocko" Clark, John Ross, and other notable members of the tribe.

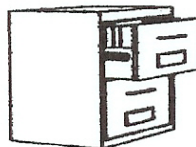
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SECTION 8 HOUSING VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



Business in Foyil

Daris Stimson started his real estate business in Foyil in 1975; a year later his wife, Sue joined him in the business. Both are life long residents of the area.

Barbee's Heating & Air Conditioning is owned by Jr. Barbee and his son, Randy. They started the business in 1979. They started out in the old feed store, one of the oldest existing buildings in Foyil. When the store next door closed, they saw a chance to expand. They work all over northeast Oklahoma, new construction as well as remodel jobs. For tens years they have had a sheet metal shop, where they fabricate their own metal ductwork. The business has gone high tech with the addition of their video duct cleaning service "Rotobrush." Randy and his wife, Kathy live in Foyil. Their four kids have all attended Foyil Schools.

Ronnie and Shane Washom opened Foyil Furniture & Appliances in 1981. They specialize in good used appliances. They have also operated R&R Moving Service for 15 years. They do local and long distance jobs. Ronnie has been a Foyil resident all his live. Ronnie's wife of 35 years, Babs, was raised in Claremore. She works at the Cherokee Casino.

The Ewton family has lived in the area for 15 years. Jeff, Glenda, and Adam have operated 4-E Tire & Auto for four years. They deal in new and used tires, auto parts, tools, and accessories. They also offer full service mechanical work, with the lowest hourly shop rates around.

The family also has a new business in the works. "Foyil Mart" will be located in the old fire station building. They will carry tools and hardware, and will also have a gift shop. They hope to open by the end of April.

Dan and Angie Riddle own Paradise Video. They have stores in Adair, Foyil, and Oologah. They have been in the video rental and sales business four years. The Riddles are also partners with Jason Owens in Paradise Pizza. Dan is a Foyil graduate. His parents moved to Foyil in 1960.

Doug and Jennifer Chaney have owned the Top Hat Dairy Bar since October of 2003. Doug and Jennifer moved back to Oklahoma from Georgia, where they held management positions with Sonic Drive In. Jennifer was raised in Foyil, Doug in Claremore.

Bruce Burris owns Foyil Area Tire. He carries new and used tires, sells batteries, and does auto and truck tire repair.

Okie Mart is the place to be if you're looking for a bargain. With Spring just around the corner, the parking lot flea market will once again be in full swing!

We extend our apologies for running out of time, before we got to visit with all the businesses in and around Foyil!!!

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Bushyhead

Bushyhead is located in the heart of Will Rogers Country and is historically famous as an early day cattle-shipping center, with rich, lush grasslands.

At one time Bushyhead was one of the busiest places in Rogers County. Hundreds of bushels of wheat, oats, and corn, hundreds of tons of fine prairie hay were shipped out over the Frisco railroad.

There isn't a lot left of what was once a thriving little town. A sign on the highway, the old store which is now home to McGill Roofing, a few houses close to the highway, and LOTS of memories!

The area comes to life again every Labor Day weekend with Clem McSpadden's Bushyhead Labor Day Roping. It's a sight to see!

Brady Garten is a new resident of the Bushyhead area. He is originally from Pawhuska, but for the past year has been living at the Tub Handle Ranch.

The twenty one year old is a full time student at Rogers State Collage, and well on his way to becoming PRCA Rookie of the Year for steer roping.

Besides being a full time student, Brady takes care of the stock on the ranch, and in his "spare time" trains horses to earn extra money.

It is refreshing to know there are still young people who are so hard working, conscientious, and polite. Brady is indeed an asset to the community!

The Tub Handle Ranch is owned by Clem and Donna McSpadden. The ranch is home to the specially built Bushyhead Arena.

The information used here, and the pictures of early day Bushyhead are courtesy of Donna McSpadden.

Pictures of early day Bushyhead



History of Bushyhead

Bushyhead got its start in the late 1880s, as the Frisco railroad moved east from Vinita. The town was named for Cherokee Chief Bushyhead.

One of the first businesses in the town was a store owned by W.L. Bailey. James William Stewart bought the business in 1904. At that time, the town was located on the east side of the tracks. Bailey had built another store, which he sold to Dode Leffer and Marvin Paris

James Stewart, Alec Dennison, and J.Q. Adams purchased the allotment of Jim Smith, on the west side of the tracks. They made a plat of a new township, which consisted of 20 acres. They had planned to call the new site Dennison, but decided to retain the Bushyhead name.

Stewart moved his store to the new township on the west side, thus beginning the movement to the new township. Leffer and Paris moved their store to the west side. They later sold the business to C.E. Wood.

Stewart persuaded his cousin, Fred Goodman, to come to Bushyhead, where he built a lumberyard. Later he and Stewart built a grain elevator.

By approximately 1910, Bushyhead had two mercantile stores, Culley Drug Store, two blacksmith shops, a lumberyard, a barbershop, an icehouse, two doctors, the school, and even a bar operated by Jess Hodges. It only lasted a few weeks, before the sheriff closed it down.

The first post office was located in Bailey's store, and he was the first postmaster. When he sold the store to Stewart, the new owner also took over as postmaster.

It was about that same time a rural route was established to serve the area north and west of Verdigris. For years Wes Beck carried the mail via horseback and buggy.

The Culley Drug Store housed the post office around the time WWI. Ben Culley was the postmaster.

The last building to house the post office was the Wood General Merchandise Store, owned by C.E. Wood, who served as postmaster until his death. His daughter, Naomi Foreman filled the position until the Bushyhead office was closed and the postal patrons were annexed with Chelsea.

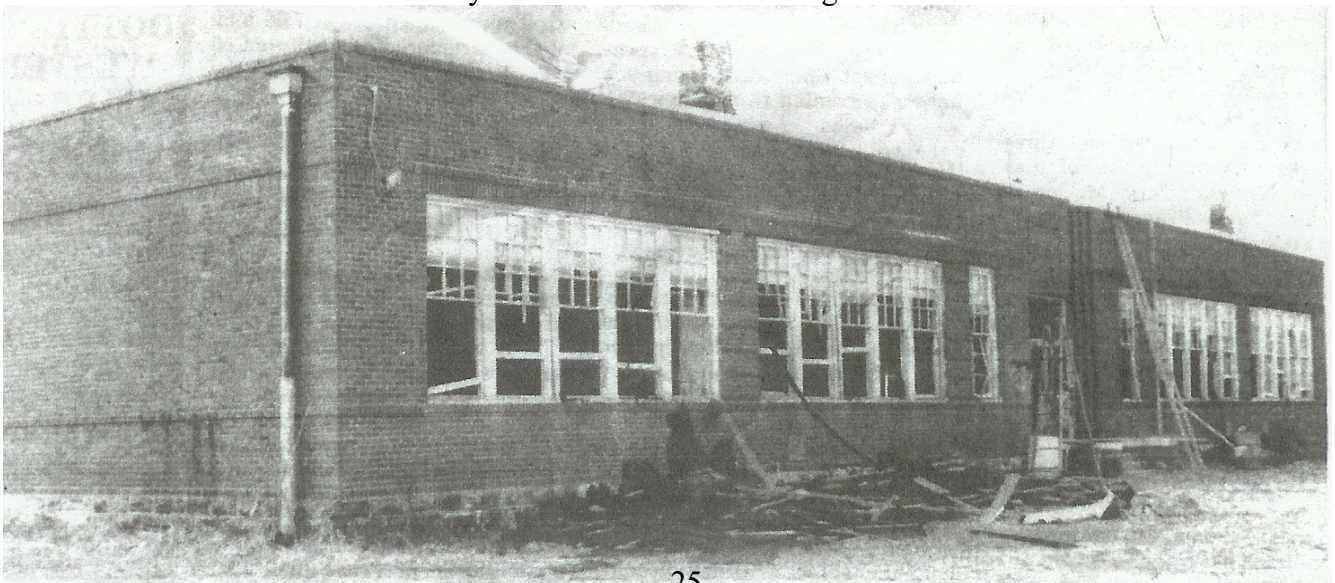
During the time of WWI, disaster hit the thriving little community. Fires claimed the businesses, one after another, and instead of rebuilding in Bushyhead, the owners moved to bigger towns.

The last school in Bushyhead was built in 1939. It replaced the two-story building that housed grades 1-12, which had been destroyed by fire. When the new school opened, only grades 1-8 remained in Bushyhead. The senior high students went to Chelsea or Foyil.

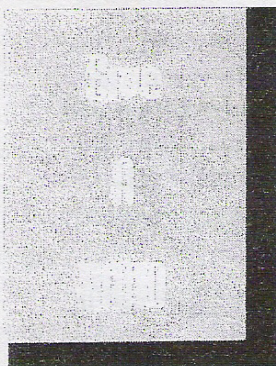
At the end of the 1967-1968 school year, the school closed. Students went to Chelsea and Foyil. The school was torn down in 1988. The block building that housed the school cafeteria is still standing.

Around 1955, during construction of two new classrooms, Principal Vernon Morgan helped students make a time capsule. It was placed inside the second cement block, on the north side, next to the gym. The capsule, a sealed jar with pieces of paper with students' names and messages on them, to our knowledge, was never found. Several former students aided in the search, as the school was being demolished.

The Bushyhead School as it was being demolished



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Oowala

DeWitt Clinton Lipe, better known as Major D.W. Lipe, came to what is now known as Rogers County in 1872. The title of Major was given him while serving in the Quarter Master Corp. during the War Between the States.

Lipe built a home near Sweetwater Creek in "Verdigris Country." It was there he started ranching, and he built a general store and also served as postmaster. The community became known as Oowala. Oowala was the Cherokee name given to Lipe.

Dr. Andrew J. Lane was born in Tennessee and raised in Texas. He graduated from Tulane University and came to Fort Gibson in 1874. In 1876 Lane came to Oowala and set up his medical practice. As a pioneer doctor in the Oowala community he traveled many miles. Among the children he brought into the world was Will Rogers!

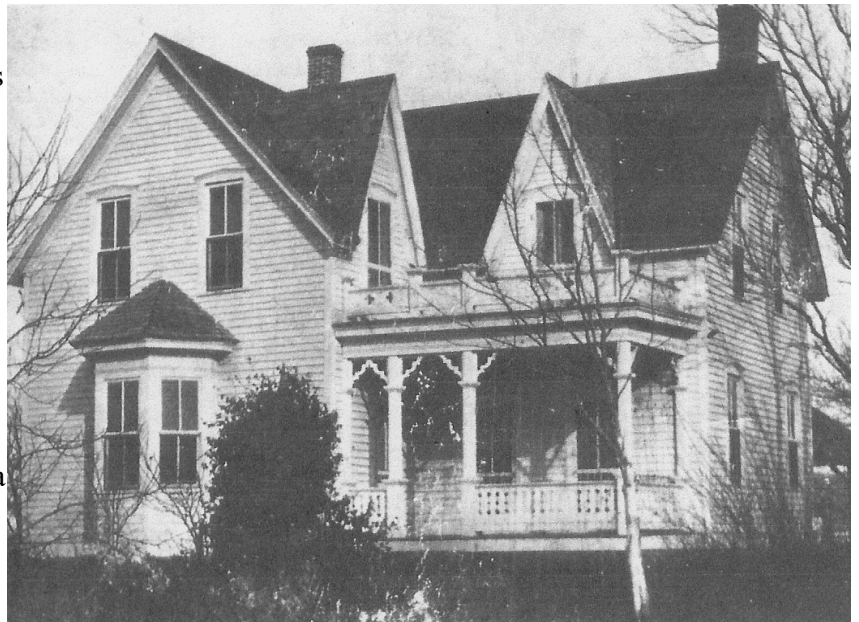
In 1881, Major Lipe furnished a one-room log building for a school in the Oowala district. The building had once been a grainery. Miss Amanda Smith from Farmington, Arkansas, was the first teacher. Each child furnished their own books, until it was made a Cherokee National School.

In 1884, a new school was built by subscription. Some contributed money; others hauled or furnished lumber, sand, and stone. It was a very modern school with windows on three sides, and double desks for the students. The people of the community purchased an organ. Mr. Lipe purchased a bell in St. Louis for the belfry.

Major Lipe moved from Oowala to Claremore in 1908. He was prominent in public affairs, and served the Cherokee nation in several high-ranking positions. He was elected a Commissioner to the Constitutional Convention and served as the first Rogers County Clerk. Major Lipe died on December 6, 1916.



Oowala Cemetery



Charlie McClellan home built in Oowala in 1875, burned 1968

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Thank you!

We want to thank each and every one of you who met with, and assisted us, while we were working on the articles and features in this first edition of Hometown Oklahoma. Without your help, this issue would not have been possible.

We also want to thank our readers. We hope you enjoy future issues of this series.

Special "Thanks"

We want to say a special "Thank You" to the following people for all their help with the history and information in this issue. It was an honor and pleasure meeting with you!

Randy Atchley, Gary Atchley, Rick Antle, Elwyn Isaacs, Jackie Luckinbill, Vicky Ormsby, Daris and Sue Stimson, and Donna McSpadden.

Last, but not least, the business owners who purchased advertising. YOU make this all possible!

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