POPULATION TRENDS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
POPULATION TRENDS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

By

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APPROVED BY:

JAN 29 1945

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is a pleasure to dedicate this page to those who have contributed to this study. I am deeply indebted to the Fire Chief, Ray Pence, the Mayor, L. E. McConkey, the principals of the elementary schools of Stillwater, and the county superintendent of Payne County, Oklahoma, for their kindness in placing at my disposal data which they had in their offices. I am likewise indebted to Dr. Marlin Ray Chauncey, Head of Secondary Education Department, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College; Dean N. Conger, Dean, School of Education, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College; and Harry D. Simmons, Superintendent of Stillwater Public Schools, for guidance and criticism in formulating and carrying out this study.

L. F. W.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

The city of Stillwater is the county seat of Payne County,¹ named in honor of Captain David L. Payne, famous Oklahoma "boomer", was organized in May, 1890, as "Sixth" county, changed its name to Payne County by popular vote on November 8, 1892. The county area is 678 square miles; altitude, 890 feet; average annual rainfall, 31.47 inches. It has a farm acreage of 341,440 acres of which 168,996 are in cultivation. It has almost an equal amount in pasture, the two offering acreages for the leading industries. There is some oil production and refining.

Historians differ on whether Payne ever settled in what is now Payne County, although it is a fact that after Payne's death the group of Boomers which he was leading was brought in under the leadership of Captain Couch² and settled on Stillwater Creek some four miles south of the present city. They only stayed about two months, and were driven out by United States troops, but they had accomplished at least one thing, they had given a name to the area in which they settled which honored their leader; the name Payne was there

Exhibit I
LOCATION OF STILLWATER
WITH RESPECT TO
COMPETING TRADE CENTERS

Scale of Miles
0  5  10  15  20
to stay.

Stillwater township was established June 11, 1889, some two months after the Run of 1889, by a townsite company formed at Winfield, Kansas. Some of the streets bear names of the earlier settlers who donated some of the land for the present townsite. Stillwater has continued to prosper and grow, and was made a city of first class July 22, 1899 by C. M. Barnes, who was Territorial Governor at that time. This city has continued to grow until at the present time it has approximately twelve thousand inhabitants plus some five thousand additional temporary inhabitants composed principally of students of the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The city is in the north central part of the State, and is located approximately sixty-five miles from each of the following cities: Tulsa to the east, Oklahoma City to the southwest, Enid to the north, and Shawnee to the south.

Nearly one and one-half million persons, or three-fifths of the people of the State, reside within one hundred miles of Stillwater. It is easily accessible from all parts of the State, being on the Santa Fe Railroad and at the intersection of a number of principal highways. It is a healthful and progressive community. Its streets are paved, and, for the most part, lined with trees. Many religious denominations have built beautiful churches, and the citizens are hospitable. The percentage of increase in population during the past ten years has been one of the largest of
Some Stillwater Churches
any comparable city in the State. With this background the city can be expected to grow in the future as in the past.

Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, with its Agricultural Experiment Station, was established by an act of the First Territorial Legislature, effective December 25, 1890. On June 8, 1891, the city of Stillwater voted ten thousand dollars in bonds to "help build the college."

A locating board was appointed June 1, 1891, and on July 11 this board reported to the Governor that the institution had been located on 200 acres of land immediately adjoining the city of Stillwater, in Payne County.

A Board of Regents was appointed by the Governor, and the college was formally opened on December 14, 1891, in the Congregational Church of Stillwater, with an attendance of forty-five students.

The first college building, now known as Old Central, was completed and dedicated on June 14, 1894. The college gradually developed and has continued to grow until at the present it is considered one of the best institutions west of the Mississippi River. Needless to say, the college is an asset to the city; therefore, any plans made by the city should give due consideration to the college and its

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Ralph Archer, Secretary of Chamber of Commerce, September 10, 1943.

College Catalog, 1942-43, p. 3.
possibilities.

Pages eight and nine show what the college means to Stillwater.
STATISTICS PERTAINING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE AND
THE CITY OF STILLWATER FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1939

By Guy A. Lackey
Associate Professor of Elementary Education
Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of full-time college employees</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of part-time college employees</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount received from college by 757 employees</td>
<td>$1,693,173.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount received from college by 157 employees</td>
<td>$40,103.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average annual salary of 757 full-time employees</td>
<td>$2,258.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average annual salary of 157 part-time employees</td>
<td>$231.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of persons in the families of the 757 full-time employees</td>
<td>2,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of children of the 757 employees attending Stillwater city schools</td>
<td>516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of persons in the families of the 757 employees attending Stillwater churches</td>
<td>1,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of elective and appointive offices held by members of 757 families</td>
<td>1,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of hours given per year by each of the 757 families to community service</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value of homes owned by 757 employees</td>
<td>$1,725,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of real estate, other than occupied homes owned by 757 employees</td>
<td>$621,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of 757 employees who own their homes</td>
<td>313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of rent paid by 444 employees</td>
<td>$174,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of rent received by 117 employees</td>
<td>$53,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real, personal, sales, and income taxes paid by 757 employees</td>
<td>$66,402</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valuation of real property in Stillwater</td>
<td>$3,583,424</td>
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<td>Taxes assessed on real and personal property</td>
<td>$67,180.32</td>
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<td>Amount donated to churches, charity, etc. by 757 employees</td>
<td>$40,307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount paid by 757 employees for telephone services</td>
<td>$21,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount paid by college for telephone services</td>
<td>$14,065</td>
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<td>Total receipts of Stillwater telephone company</td>
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<td>Amount spent by 757 employees for automobiles and up-keep</td>
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<td>Amount spent by 757 employees for electricity</td>
<td>$37,004</td>
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<td>Amount paid for electricity by college</td>
<td>$16,017</td>
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<td>Total amount received by city for electricity from all consumers</td>
<td>$207,864</td>
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<td>Amount paid to city by college for water</td>
<td>$10,973</td>
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<td>Total received by city from all water consumers</td>
<td>$79,135</td>
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<td>Total paid by 757 employees for gas</td>
<td>$37,224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total paid by college for gas</td>
<td>$22,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total paid by college employees for barber and personal services</td>
<td>$21,950</td>
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Total paid by 757 employees for health services $64,754
Total paid by 757 employees for recreation and entertainment $53,708
Total paid by 757 employees for laundry and cleaning $36,890
Total paid by 757 employees for improvements on homes $71,975
Total paid by 757 employees for food $552,262
Total paid by 757 employees for clothing $147,166
Total paid by 757 employees for labor services $35,397
Total expended, as reported by 757 employees $1,314,272
College pays city schools $5,000
School of Education furnishes books, materials, and substitute teachers to city schools
6185 regular session college students spent on an average of $304 each for room, board, laundry, clothes, etc. $1,880,240
2337 summer term students spent an average of $78 each $182,286
38,992 short course and conference visitors came to Stillwater during the year 1939, doubtless spending several dollars each
A fraternity house decorated for homecoming.

Oklahoma A and M College Field House. This giant building will hold 7,000 persons, and may be divided into three sections to accommodate that number of groups meeting at the same time.

Biology building. This is the second building constructed on the Oklahoma A and M College campus and is a famous educational landmark. It was started in 1898, then enlarged in 1901.

Old Central, the first building, was erected in 1891. Since that time the College has grown to include more than forty major buildings, plus many minor ones.

College Auditorium. Recently reconstructed and restored, accommodating 1,000 persons.

Whitehurst Hall. The administration building of the Oklahoma A and M College.

Cordell Hall. The new boy's dormitory housing 325 boys.
Public Schools

The first school in Stillwater was the subscription type\(^3\) with one teacher; this furnished the community's educational opportunities for two years. The first Territorial Legislature made provision for the first school districts. The schools have continued to grow along with the town until at the present time there are sixty teachers\(^4\), six custodians, two bus drivers, one nurse, three secretaries, one clerk of the Board of Education, and one treasurer of the Board of Education in the school for white children. In the school for negro children there are nine teachers, two bus drivers, and one janitor.

Generally speaking, the school buildings are well located, being within one-half mile of a majority of the students. However, at the rate the city is growing, especially in the northern and western directions, it seems that there will have to be new elementary buildings erected to care for pupils in these parts of the city in the near future. (See 1943 map, which shows the direction in which the city is growing, and the trend in elementary population.)

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\(^3\) Professor C. L. Kezer, oral statement.

\(^4\) Harry D. Simmons, Superintendent of Stillwater Public Schools.
CHAPTER II
COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF DATA

Purpose. The purpose of this study is to discover trends in elementary school population as an aid in determining the location of future elementary school sites for Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Method of Gathering Data. Using the Normative Survey method of investigation, information concerning the location of elementary school children was obtained from the school census books for the years 1933 and 1938. (See Maps 1 and 2.) Information concerning the location of elementary school children in 1943 was obtained from the school records in the principal's office of Lincoln, Eugene Field, and Jefferson schools. (See Map 3.)

Shaded area showing location of business district and schools was obtained from the Sanburn Map belonging to the fire department, which is considered by them to be a reliable source of information. (See Maps 1, 2, and 3.) A personal visit over the outlying areas of the city to determine natural barriers to growth in the various directions has been made.

Presentation of Data. The data include only the elementary school pupils, ages six to twelve inclusive, who have a street address in the city of Stillwater. A number of pupils who live within the city limits and get their mail by rural routes have not been included in this study.
A single black dot represents an elementary school pupil enrolled in the Lincoln School. A single small black circle represents an elementary school pupil enrolled in the Jefferson School. A small black X represents an elementary school pupil enrolled in the Eugene Field School. (See Maps 1, 2, and 3.)

Map One. This map shows the location of all children between six and twelve years of age, inclusive, as shown by the census books of school district sixteen for the year 1933 by their street addresses at that time.

Map Two. This map shows the location of all children between the ages of six and twelve years of age, inclusive, of school district sixteen as shown by the census books of the year 1938 according to their street addresses at that time.

Map Three. This map shows the location of children between the ages of six and twelve, inclusive, as shown by the enrollment cards in the principal's office according to the addresses of the present.

Chart One shows a comparison of the total enrollment of Lincoln School for the years 1933, 1938, and 1943. It will be interesting to notice that there has been practically no change in enrollment of the Lincoln School during this ten year period. This school is located in the southeast part of the city, which is the oldest residential section and due to natural barriers, namely the railroad, the creeks, and colored town, has expanded very little during the past ten years.
Chart Two shows a comparison of the total enrollment of the Eugene Field School for the years 1933, 1938, and 1943. In contrast with the Lincoln School, Eugene Field shows an increase of 229% in enrollment during the past ten years, which indicates the growth of the city in a northwesternly direction. (Compare Maps 1, 2, and 3.)

Chart Three shows a comparison of the total enrollment at Jefferson School for the years 1933, 1938, and 1943. The data show that this school has had the greatest increase in enrollment of any school in Stillwater, 34.3%, during the past ten years. (Compare Maps 1, 2, and 3.) This again shows that the growth of the city is in a northwesternly direction.\(^1\)

It is evident that further residential growth south of Fifteenth Street is very unlikely because of the physical features of the land, and the present residents, e. g. colored section. In the past ten years very few residences have been built in this section, and no addition has been made to the city except the sewer disposal plant which is another barrier to residential growth.

The building east of the city has been very slow. The

\(^1\)For additional information on growth and the direction in which it is taking place, see comparison study, a Thesis. "Proposed School Sites for Stillwater, Oklahoma", by Ned Harold Ball. Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1943.
railroad, power plant, and two creeks are physical barriers to growth. However, east of these barriers there is a possibility of city growth, but the writer does not think this area needs attention of school officials at this time.

The section of the city west of the railroad and north of the college, known as the Albert Pike Addition, the Schott, Houck, and Carpenter tracts, is probably one of the best prospective areas for future city growth.

Another section, located west of Washington Avenue and south of the college property, is a prospective area for city growth. This section contains a majority of the better homes in town; a large number of them have been built recently. It is the best developed as to streets and public utilities; the only physical barrier to growth in this direction (west) is that of college property.
CHART I

LINCOLN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Percent of Gain -- None
**Chart II**

**Eugene Field School Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1938</th>
<th>1943</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
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Percent of Gain -- 22.9
JEFFERSON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Percent of Gain -- 34.3
CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSIONS

After giving due consideration to the facts which are presented in the preceding pages, the following conclusions seem to be justified.

First, that Stillwater is a steadily growing city, and in all probability will continue to grow to such an extent that additional facilities for future school needs will be necessary.

Second, that the trend of growth is north and west, with a slight growth to the east.

Third, that it will be necessary in the near future to build two additional elementary school buildings, one in the western, the other in the northern part of Stillwater. The trends of population seem to indicate that the first new elementary school building should be erected in the western part of the city. Elementary school buildings for the northern and eastern sections of the city should be included in a planned program of educational facilities for the near future.
GROWTH OF STILLWATER

Income City of Stillwater
Average yearly increase $25,113; gain in 5 years 12.6 percent

Bank Deposits
Average yearly gain, $335,000; Gain in five years, 66 percent.

Light Meters
Average yearly gain, 119; Gain in five years, 19 percent.

City Telephones
Average yearly gain, 212; Gain in five years, 25 percent.

Gas Meters
Average yearly gain, 164; Gain in five years, 36 percent.

Postal Receipts
Average yearly gain, 84.77.14; Gain in five years, 44 percent.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


College Catalog, 1942-43, p. 3.
