

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANGUM, OKLAHOMA

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANGUM, OKLAHOMA

By

THAD M. FOSTER

Bachelor of Science

Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College

Goodwell, Oklahoma.

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APPROVED BY:

T. H. Reynolds
Chairman, Thesis Committee

G. L. Anderson
Member of the Thesis Committee

T. H. Reynolds
Head of Department

O. E. M. Tutosh
Dean Graduate School

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To My Wife
Genevra Foster

PREFACE

Dr. Ault, Head of the Department of Economics of George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, while lecturing at Oklahoma A. and M. College, during the summer of 1937, expressed the opinion that one need look no further than one's own backyard for a thesis topic. Accepting this general statement, the subject, "The Development of Mangum, Oklahoma," was selected.

This study has for its purpose the presentation of an accurate account of the events which transpired throughout the development of Mangum. An attempt has been made to point out details concerning its growth and development from the time of its establishment to the present day city.

The materials for this study have been gathered from manuscripts, early day newspapers, city, county, and state records, and conversations with pioneers of Mangum.

The writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Dr. T. H. Reynolds for his suggestions and helpful criticisms.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANGUM, OKLAHOMA

Introduction	Page 1
CHAPTER I. ESTABLISHMENT AND FIRST DAYS	3
A. Land Granted to A. S. Mangum	3
B. Townsite Surveyed	4
C. First Families Arrive	6
D. Post Office Established	9
E. Death of Mr. Sweet	13
CHAPTER II. EARLY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS	16
A. Butcher Shop	16
B. First Livery Stable	17
C. Newspapers	19
D. Railroad	22
E. Later Business Establishments	28
CHAPTER III. POLITICAL ISSUES	34
A. County Seat Location	34
B. City Government	36
C. City Manager Plan	39
D. Municipal Improvements	40
CHAPTER IV. SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, FRATERNAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS	44
A. First Churches	44
B. Free School Established	47
C. Organizations	49
D. Normal School	54
E. Later School Improvements	56

INTRODUCTION

Although Oklahoma as a state is only thirty-three years old, and although Mangum became an incorporated municipality of the first class only thirty-five years ago, the development of the town began several years prior to that time.

By 1885, the country surrounding this embryo of a town was the site of some of the greatest cattle ranges in the history of the west. The great ranches were broken up when the Texas Supreme Court, in a lawsuit against the Day Cattle Company, invalidated all land titles of this region. It was declared in this decision that the land of Greer County was not public domain, but land set aside for Texas Schools, and payment of state debt.

Despite this decision, settlers came and laid claim to the lands in and around the town of Mangum. None had any real title to the land until enactment by Congress years later of the homestead laws. Here, truly, were the "Sooners." Many of them, claiming title under an Act of Texas legislature granting land to survivors of the Texan war for independence, could not have been driven out at the point of a gun. Such a man was the actual founder of Mangum.

Between the time, when H. C. Sweet set up his town and named it for the man who never saw it, and 1896, when the United States Supreme Court finally settled the boundary

quarrel by declaring the region in which Mangum was located to be a part of Indian Territory, the residents of Mangum and surrounding countryside were "Squatters."

Although the seat of a vast empire, Mangum's growth was slow until the coming of the first railroad.

Mangum is located in the southwest portion of the state. It is surrounded by a broad expanse of fertile soil, lying between the Elm River and the Salt Fork River, two tributaries of the Red River. Spreading out over a full section of land and sending projections of growing streets into all the bordering sections of land, this is the town of Mangum.

Historically unique in a state whose whole history reads like a fairy tale and outstanding in a commonwealth where progressiveness is taken as a matter of course, Mangum is indeed the "Capital of Greer."

In the preparation of this treatise, the present writer has selected for discussion those phases of growth which have contributed to making Mangum the town that it is today.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANGUM, OKLAHOMA

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT AND FIRST DAYS

The city of Mangum received its name from one of the seven hundred eighty-three Texans who participated in the battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836. He was Captain A. S. Mangum. After passage of the Act of 1881, Captain Mangum made application for and received a certificate entitling him to land as a reward for his services in the Texas Revolution.¹

The patent issued by the State of Texas to Captain Mangum was as follows:

State of Texas to A. S. Mangum:

In the name of the State of Texas, to all to Whom these presents shall come, know ye, I, John Ireland, Governor of the state aforesaid by virtue of the power vested in me by law and in accordance with the laws of the said state in such case made and provided do by these presents grant to A. S. Mangum, his heirs or assigns forever three hundred and twenty (320) acres of land situated and described as follows: In Greer County known as Survey No. 156 on the waters of Frazier River, a tributary of Prairie Dog River about 1-2 miles S 45 E from Draw Springs by virtue of Veteran Donation Warrant No. 907 issued by the Commissioner of the General Land Office on January 24, 1882. Beginning at a rock on the S bdy line of 1280 acres for Samuel McCulloch 950 vrs. East of the S. W. cor. of said sur. for the N. W. cor. of sur. thence East 950 yds. to the N. W. cor. of 320 acres for Dinsmore known as Survey No. 152 for N. E. cor. of this sur. thence South 1900 vrs. to the S. E. cor. thence West 950 vrs. the S. W. cor. thence North 1900 vrs. to the beginning.

¹ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

Hereby relinquishes to him A. S. Mangum and his heirs or assigns forever all the right and title in and to said land heretofore held and possessed by the said State and I do hereby issue this letter Patent for the same.

In testimony whereof I have caused the seal of the State to be affixed as well as the Seal of the General Land Office.

Done at the City of Austin on the tenth day of December in the year of your (sic) Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five.

W. C. Walsh, Commissioner of the General Land Office. John Ireland, Governor.²

Captain Mangum, who lived in Travis County, made an agreement with Henry Clay Sweet to locate and survey the lands and to plot a townsite. Mr. Sweet, who had been in the vicinity of the Mangum grant prior to this time, returned to Greer County with his friend, John R. Crouch, Sr. They located and surveyed the Mangum grant at that time.³

Just why they chose the present site of Mangum as the location of Captain Mangum's grant, on which to plat the townsite, nobody will ever know the exact reason. Both Mr. Sweet and Mr. Crouch have been dead for many years. They alone knew the reason that impelled them to select the particular location they did for a townsite.

However, one can reason and arrive at a conclusion in that respect. Mr. Sweet and Mr. Crouch followed the old Mobeetie Trail into Greer County until they arrived at the present site of Mangum. The trail crossed the present court

² Record of Deeds, Greer County, State of Texas, 1882-1886, Book I, p. 15.

³ Surveyor's Field Notes, Greer County, State of Texas, 1880-1888, Book I, p. 12.

house square. In coming up the trail from a site on Red River known as Doan's Crossing, the site of the present city of Mangum was the first place the two men saw that was located near a river, and that was high enough from the river to be out of reach of any possible flood, and offered natural drainage facilities. Also it was near Draw Springs, which would provide fresh water.

For some reason, almost all towns are located near rivers, wherever possible. Drainage is an important factor to be considered in locating a town and the natural drainage features of Mangum doubtless had much to do with the location of the town. At that time numerous other land certificates had been located in this general region and naturally Mr. Sweet had to select a location for the Mangum grant that did not encroach upon any previously located grant.

The Mangum grant was surveyed and duly recorded as Survey No. 156,⁴ on the waters of the Frazier, the name by which Salt Fork was then known. Governor Ireland and the Commissioner of the General Land Office, W. C. Walsh, issued a patent to Mr. Mangum to the lands located by Mr. Sweet. The patent was dated December 10, 1885.

After the location of the Mangum grant, Mr. Sweet and Mr. Crouch returned to their homes in Dallas County. The next spring they started to Greer County with their families

⁴ Index to Record of Deeds, Greer County, State of Texas, 1882-1886, Book I, p. 1.

to establish their homes on the Mangum grant and to lay out and begin a town.

On April 18, 1884, Mr. Sweet and his family crossed Red River. His family consisted of his wife, daughter, Lucy (now Mrs. A. R. Wilson), and a son, Frank. With Mr. Sweet came his friend John R. Crouch, Sr., Mrs. Crouch, and three children, Anna Belle, Lula Vee (now Mrs. L. A. Johnson of Mangum), and John R. Crouch, Jr.⁵ They were the first persons to come to the site of Mangum for the purpose of establishing a home under authority granted them under the laws of Texas.

Mr. Sweet had implicit faith in the patents issued by the State of Texas and encouraged as many veterans as possible to locate their grant lands in and around the region that he had laid out for a town. He arranged to locate and survey many of these grants and received interest in the grants in payment of his work. In that way he acquired patents to about 1,200 acres of land and locative interest in some 20,000 acres more.⁶

Mr. Sweet also encouraged settlers to come to Mangum to engage in farming or to become residents of the town that he was starting.

Mr. Sweet surveyed, platted, and named the town of Mangum on the Mangum land grant. He planned at first to

⁵ Mrs. L. A. Johnson, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, October 14, 1940.

⁶ Record of Deeds, Greer County, State of Texas, 1882-1886, Book I, pp. 26-142.

name the town Lanham in honor of S. W. R. Lanham, then a member of Congress and later governor of Texas. However, Captain A. S. Mangum died soon after the work of platting the townsite was started and Mr. Sweet decided to name the town for him.⁷

A. S. Mangum received a grant of land from his adopted state for the services he had rendered, but lost it through a decision of the Texas Supreme Court. All he derived from his services in the Texas Revolution was the distinction of having the name of Mangum perpetuated.

The original plat of Mangum, as prepared by Mr. Sweet, appears to have been named for the members of the Sweet family.

The street now known as Jefferson was originally named "Minnie," and the street now called Lincoln was first named "Lucy." Oklahoma Avenue was named "Henry" by the founder of Mangum. Pennsylvania Avenue was named "Willie." Carolina Avenue was first named "Louis." Other street names chosen by Mr. Sweet were "Mary," "Anna," and "Robert."⁸

The heirs of Captain Mangum, his children, Robert Y. Mangum, Wiley P. Mangum, and Mary A. Mangum, met at Sherman, Texas, on July 19, 1886, after the organization of Greer County, and deeded all the odd-numbered blocks in the townsite

⁷ Mrs. A. R. Wilson, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, October 16, 1940.

⁸ Ibid.

of Mangum to Mr. Sweet. This deed was recorded October 22, 1886.⁹

The Sweet and Crouch families made the trip to Mangum in two covered wagons. Arriving at the Mangum land grant in the late fall, they set up tents in which to live for some time before building dugouts to be used as family homes. Their homes were located in the edge of the breaks at the southwest corner of the present city of Mangum. Their furniture had been shipped by train to Wichita Falls, where it remained in storage for about a year while the members of the families were waiting to see if they would be permitted to remain in this territory.

Finally, believing the families would be permitted to remain, Mr. Sweet hauled logs from Sand Station and built the first house on the Mangum townsite.¹⁰ Later he hauled lumber from Wichita Falls, Texas to build a box house.

Mr. Sweet opened a small store from which he sold merchandise to cowboys and Indians who came across North Fork River to buy supplies. The Indians called the store "Sweet," while to the cowboys it was known as the "Tin City," because Mr. Sweet had used rolled-out tin from tin cans to provide strips to cover the cracks in his store building and to keep

⁹ Record of Deeds, Greer County, State of Texas, 1882-1886, Book I, p. 183.

¹⁰ John R. Crouch, Jr., Altus, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, November 2, 1940.

out the cold blast of the winter wind.

Mr. Crouch established a hotel. The first "hotel" was located in the tent home of the Crouch family, but later a building was constructed and known as the Hotel de Crouch. It later became the social center of Mangum.¹¹

J. R. Curry soon followed the Sweet and Crouch families and established Mangum's second store.¹² Soon other families began to arrive and within a few months after the advent of the Sweet and Crouch families, there was a thriving community at Mangum.

In 1886 the citizens of Mangum became desirous of a post office and a petition was forwarded to Washington asking the establishment of a post office at Mangum. The petition stated that there were three hundred people in and around the city of Mangum and that they desired to get their mail at Mangum. The petition stated further that these citizens were from twenty to eighty miles from any other post office, the nearest post office being at Doan's Store, a distance of over forty miles from Mangum. The petition also stated that Mangum was located on the main travelled road from Harrold, the terminus of the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad, to Mobeetie and Fort Elliott.

Signers of the petition must have included about all

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

of the residents of Mangum at that time, together with a few cowboys and settlers who had located on claims near Mangum. Signers of the petition were: H. C. Sweet, L. T. Kitzmiller, L. R. Richerson, R. H. Suggs, J. R. Curry, D. M. Paulk, J. J. Summers, Fred Hoffer, S. E. Tomlinson, W. C. Graves, Dick Walker, George Soyler, A. H. Ausbury, J. R. Crouch, G. S. White, L. L. Jones, J. C. Biglow, R. M. Brown, J. W. Rose, H. G. Daniels, W. T. Lauderdale, W. M. McComas, E. B. Clary, James Crew, G. W. Gates, J. S. Woods, H. D. Anderson, Thos. W. Crouch, W. A. Hughes.¹³

When the petition reached the Post Office Department at Washington, blank location papers were returned. These location papers were signed January 16, 1886, by Henry C. Sweet, proposed postmaster, and returned to Washington. The original petition had asked that J. R. Suggs be appointed postmaster, but according to a notation on the location papers, Mr. Suggs had removed from the county, and Mr. Sweet was chosen to take his place as proposed postmaster.

Establishment of the post office was recommended by Corwin F. Doan, postmaster at Doan, Texas, the nearest post-office, and by S. W. T. Lanham, Congressman from the eleventh district of Texas.

The post office was established on March 1, 1886, a little less than three months after the location papers had been returned. The Post Office Department designated the

¹³ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

Mangum office as being in "Greer County, Texas."

Henry C. Sweet's commission as postmaster is now in the possession of his son, Frank H. Sweet, Los Angeles, California. The commission reads as follows:

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

Whereas, on the 15th day of April, 1886, Henry C. Sweet was appointed Postmaster at Mangum, in the County of Greer, State of Texas, and whereas he did, on the 12th day of May, 1886, execute a Bond, and has taken the oath of office, as required by law; I do commission him a Postmaster, authorized to execute the duties of that Office at Mangum aforesaid, according to the Laws of the United States and the regulations of the Post Office Department; To hold the said Office of Postmaster, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Post Office Department to be affixed, at Washington City, this Tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and tenth.¹⁴

The commission was signed by William F. Vilas, Postmaster General.

Mangum's first post office was located in a building built and owned by Mr. Sweet. The post office was conducted in the front of the building and the rear was used by the Logan and Cranford Drug Store. Mr. Sweet gave the drug firm use of a portion of the building in exchange for the services of J. W. Logan, a member of the firm, as assistant postmaster. Mr. Logan looked after the post office during the absence of

¹⁴ Frank H. Sweet, Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

Mr. Sweet, who sometimes was away for weeks at a time, either on surveying trips or in Austin on business.

Mr. Sweet administered the oath of office to Mr. Logan as assistant postmaster and to his son, Frank H. Sweet, as mail carrier for the Mangum office.¹⁵

The Mangum post office was designated as being in Greer County, Texas, until December 27, 1886, when the first assistant Postmaster General issued an order assigning the office, without change of site, to the Indian Territory.

The Post Office Department notified Postmaster Sweet of Mangum that the post office had been assigned to the Indian Territory and that they should therefore file new bonds.

Mr. Sweet immediately wrote to his friend, Congressman S. W. T. Lanham, telling him of the proposed change by the Post Office Department. The Mangum postmaster argued that no good could come to anyone as a result of the change and that confusion of the mail matters was sure to follow if the proposed change in designation were carried through, since the Mangum post office had already been published in the Post Office Guide as being located in Texas.

In response to the request of Mr. Sweet, Congressman Lanham wrote to the Post Office Department asking that the order for the Mangum post office to be designated as being in Indian Territory instead of Texas be revoked. He stated

¹⁵ J. W. Logan, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, October 24, 1940.

that he did not think that the way the post office was designated would have any bearing on the final decision as to whom the disputed territory, in which Mangum was located, belonged. He concurred with Mr. Sweet in pointing out that the result would be a confusion of the mail matters.

The order was not revoked, however, and the Mangum post office remained in the Indian Territory, so far as the United States Post Office Department was concerned. Thus it is seen that, except for the period between March 1, 1886, and December 27, 1886, a period of three hundred and two days, the Mangum post office was officially in Indian Territory until the creation of the Oklahoma Territory.

Thus the town of Mangum was started.

Henry Clay Sweet, the founder, the surveyor, the proprietor of the first store, and, for sixteen years, the leading citizen of Mangum died in Mangum at midnight December 26, 1900. He died at the home of his son-in-law, J. L. Herd, after an illness of a little more than a week. The community was profoundly grieved by the death of this noble citizen. All business was suspended in the town he founded while his funeral services were conducted, with Masonic honors, the afternoon of December 27, 1900.

Because of the important part Mr. Sweet played in the development of Mangum and because of the light it sheds on the subject, his complete obituary is here reproduced, as follows:

Henry C. Sweet was born in Illinois, March 1, 1838 and lived in that state until he was 15 years old, when he moved with his father's family to Dallas County, Texas. He was married in 1856, when he was only 18 years of age, to Miss Elizabeth Peeler, with whom he lived until her death 19 years later. They raised five children, three sons and two daughters, who are among the best of Greer County's citizenship.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he volunteered and served throughout the conflict as a Confederate soldier. He was for many years surveyor of Dallas County, Texas and later did much surveying for the state of Texas.

Gov. John Ireland of Texas was his warm friend, and it was at the request of Gov. Ireland that he came to Greer County in 1882, and took measures looking to the peopling of this, then, wilderness. He had married again in 1874, to Mrs. Annie Davenport, who came to Greer County with him in 1884, and spent the remainder of her life here, dying only last spring.

A history of this community could not be written without the name of Henry C. Sweet. On the other hand, a history of his life, since settling in this county, would be a history of the county. How he came, and induced others to come; how they came and were ordered out of the county by government troops, and how he and a few others refused to go until they were carried by force, which was a greater length than the troops cared to go. How he was instrumental in getting a county government organized in Greer County. How he organized the town of Mangum, gaining for himself the title of the "Nester of Greer" and "Founder of Mangum". How he kept 'open house', welcoming all strangers. All of these things are within the memory of the oldest settlers.

He was the first postmaster of Mangum, which position he held for many years.

A few years ago an incident occurred which showed as nothing else would the respect and veneration in which he was held by the community. A foul murder had been committed and the outraged citizens of the community proposed to take the law in their own hands and deal out swift justice. Sheriff Tittle locked himself in the jail and told them he would protect the prisoners with his life. They were resolute in their determination but when Mr. Tittle sent for Mr. Sweet, and he made the mob a speech, pleading with them to allow the law to take its course, they dispersed, probably saving Mr. Tittle the necessity of killing some of his friends.

He held great faith in the future of Mangum, but lived to see only a partial realization of his hopes

for her. He was public spirited and charitable, always ready to help those who needed help. He was a consistent member of the Christian Church and alive to his duty as a Christian gentleman. His place will be hard to fill.¹⁶

¹⁶ The Mangum Star, January 3, 1901.

CHAPTER II
EARLY BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

The first butcher shop ever to be established in Mangum was opened for business in the spring of 1885 by William Fullerton, Masoner Smith, and Kellum brothers, Bob and Joe.¹ This butcher shop was located in a dugout with one story built above the ground. The building above the ground was constructed of cottonwood logs. It was located in the edge of the brakes leading up from the Salt Fork of Red River or in southwestern Mangum on the corner lot of west Lincoln Street and South Oklahoma Avenue. At that time there was only one road leading through Mangum, the old Mobeetie Trail, and the town had less than thirty inhabitants. However, there was need for a butcher shop.

The Mangum butcher shop soon became well-established. It was not long until the owners decided to begin making barbecued beef, but since they had but little cash, they made arrangements with the ranchmen to furnish the beeves and they would barbecue it on the halves.²

By this time the Hotel de Crouch and the H. C. Sweet store were well-established and they began to buy barbecue from the butcher shop and sell it on Saturdays and it soon became a regular feast day in "Tin City."³

¹ Frank Wickersham, Phillips Collection, Greer County, Oklahoma University Library.

² Ibid.

³ John R. Crouch Jr., Altus, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, November 2, 1940.

The first livery stable and wagon yard ever to be established in Mangum was in 1887,⁴ located on the corner lot of South Oklahoma Avenue and the corner of Johnson Street, on the west side of Oklahoma and north of Johnson Street.

John W. Rose came from Tennessee in the spring of 1887, and in September of that year began the erection of a livery barn and wagon yard, mostly for the convenience of the cowboys and the ranchmen. Mangum had come to be a regular meeting place for the cowboys and ranchmen. The lumber for the building was hauled from Quanah, Texas, by wagon.

With a limited amount of materials, Mr. Rose completed his crude structure.⁵ He used most of his lumber in the construction of a bunk house, a long shed covered with boards, which was built in connection with his barn. This shed was cut into stalls with two bunks to the stall. The bunks were packed with prairie hay.

Soon after the completion of the building, the John W. Rose barn caught fire and destroyed most all the structure. Mr. Rose never re-established his business.

Mangum was then without a livery stable until Frank H. Davis moved to Mangum and established the second and only other livery stable and wagon yard Mangum ever had.

⁴ Wickersham, op. cit.

⁵ Ibid.

Mr. Davis remained in this business for the next twenty-four years.⁶

Ed Bolding came from West Virginia. He shipped his tools from Nashville, Tennessee to Quanah, Texas by freight, then hauled them by wagon in 1887, to the present site of where Mangum is now located. He was given possession of a tract of land on which to erect the first blacksmith shop ever to be built in Mangum.⁷ This structure was erected on the northwest corner, just across Oklahoma Avenue from the corner of the court house square. He built his building of scrap lumber and in this he arranged his scant equipment which consisted of an old fashioned balloon-shaped bellows, a vise, an anvil, and a few other tools such as hammers and tongs.⁸

Bolding's shop soon became an asset to the pioneer town of Mangum. The work of Bolding was chiefly that of shoeing horses and mules for the men who hauled freight from Quanah, Texas, to Mangum. He made most all of his horseshoes and horseshoe nails by hand on the anvil. His first supply of steel and iron was obtained from junk piles in Quanah, Texas. This material consisted mostly of old wagon parts such as wagon tires and braces.

⁶ B. E. Davis, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, January 10, 1940.

⁷ Wickersham, op. cit.

⁸ Ibid.

Bolding's blacksmith shop was sometimes used as a place of celebration. When Cleveland was nominated on the Democratic ticket to be president of the United States, the settlers met at Mangum and used Bolding's anvil for the big gun with which to celebrate the occasion. They used black gun powder and the old anvil was charged and re-charged all night after word reached the citizens of the election returns.⁹

Becoming dissatisfied with the prospects of Mangum, Mr. Bolding soon sold his blacksmith shop and all of its equipment and left Mangum.

Since the establishment of Mangum, there have been seven newspapers established. They were: The Mangum Star, The Greer County Weekly Sun, Greer County Monitor, Mangum Sun-Monitor, Greer County Democrat, The Mangum Mirror, School and Farms.¹⁰ While some of these were short-lived, others were published for several years.

The first newspaper to be published in Mangum was The Mangum Star. This paper was first published on October 13, 1887, and was printed on an ancient George Washington press.¹¹ The man to establish this newspaper was Major A. M. Dawson, a newspaper man of varied experience and considerable ability. He had previously published a newspaper in Texas, but became impressed with the possibilities of a paper in Mangum.

⁹ John R. Crouch, Altus, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, Nov. 2, 1940.

¹⁰ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

¹¹ Wickersham, op. cit.

This led him to move his plant to Mangum and set it up in a wooden building which occupied the present site of Greer Funeral Home.

The Star was started with the proverbial "shirt tail full of type." The plant's equipment consisted of practically the same type and machinery used when printing was first started. The Star was the only one of several newspapers founded in Mangum to remain in continuous publication down to the present (1941).

George W. Briggs, a pioneer cowboy, was the first subscriber, paying one dollar for one year's subscription. S. H. Tittle was the second subscriber. When the paper celebrated its golden anniversary, both of these men were still subscribers.

Major Dawson published The Star until 1890. He sold the paper to twenty-two citizens of Mangum, who organized the stock company.

The new stock company hired Chas. M. Thacker as editor in 1890. The new editor and a friend, Mr. Eubank, soon bought the paper and operated it during the remainder of the year. In 1891 they sold it to G. B. Townsend.

Mr. Townsend moved the paper to the building which occupied the site of the present Mangum Dray Company. In 1898 the plant was moved to the site of the present Wm. Cameron Lumber Company. This paper soon became the first daily newspaper in southwestern Oklahoma. In 1900 Townsend

moved his plant to the Masonic building on North Carolina Avenue. The paper was then moved to a building on the north side of the square recently vacated by the First National Bank. It occupied the lots now occupied by Walter Cheek's Garage, on the north side of the public square. The Star remained at this location until several years later, when the building and all the equipment was destroyed by fire. It was re-established on the south side of the square in the building it now occupies.

This paper followed the growth of Mangum from a village of thirty persons to a thriving city of five thousand. It became one of the outstanding publications of southwestern Oklahoma.

The first competitor of The Mangum Star was the Greer County Monitor, which was established in 1896 by O. P. Elliot, and published by him for several years. After the United States Land Office was located in Mangum, the Monitor, being Republican in politics, thrived on publication of final proof notices, contest notices, and other legal publications connected with the homesteading of claims.¹²

The third newspaper to be established in Mangum was the Greer Weekly Sun which was founded in 1896 by E. E. McColister. Mr. McColister brought his plant from Wellington, Texas, where he had been previously using it to publish the

¹² The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

Collingsworth County Echo. The Sun was a Populist newspaper and engaged in bitter controversies with its Democratic contemporary, The Mangum Star.

On April 6, 1901 the Greer County Monitor and The Greer Weekly Sun were merged as one paper and became the Sun-Monitor under the direction of H. L. Crittenden. Mr. Crittenden was an experienced newspaper man and published a creditable newspaper. Being Republican in politics, the Sun-Monitor obtained the land office notices for several years.¹³

After the death of Mr. Crittenden, the Sun-Monitor was sold to the Star Publishing Company and the name changed to Greer County Democrat. As such it was published until the plant was destroyed by fire.¹⁴

As the city of Mangum grew, citizens of the town began to realize that railroads were necessary for proper development. The nearest market was at Quanah, Texas, forty miles away. The following of mere trails and fording of streams with covered wagons was a hazardous journey.

Due to this desire for a rail road, a mass meeting of the citizens of Mangum and vicinity and all others interested were requested to assemble at the court house in Mangum to devise such ways and means which would have as their object the building of a railroad to Mangum.¹⁵

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Wickersham, op. cit.

¹⁵ The Mangum Star, February 17, 1900.

The railroad question was at that time an all absorbing question and the citizens felt that the time had come to devote to it such public attention as its importance to the public demanded.

Naturally with the city being rapidly settled, and prospects for an immediate settlement of the entire region surrounding Mangum, it was important that transportation facilities be provided other than the prairie schooner, the covered wagon, the ox-drawn freight wagon, and other antiquated means of traveling and bringing supplies for the settlers of Mangum.

The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad Company had started construction of a railroad westward from Chickasha but its terminus was unknown to the people of Mangum.¹⁶ However, Robert Jones, an exemplary young man, visited in Mangum during February, 1900 and he reported to the citizens of Mangum some favorable railroad news which he had gathered while visiting at the headquarters of the railroad construction "gang" a few days before his arrival in Mangum.¹⁷

He had gone to the place where the grading was being done to see for himself the progress. Mr. Jones found while there that a large force was at work on the grade and that it, too, was getting closer to the Greer county line every day. In addition he also discovered while there that a large corps of surveyors and the company of graders were at work

¹⁶ G. W. Boyd, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, Nov. 12, 1940.

¹⁷ The Mangum Star, February 24, 1900.

on practically the same survey which passed just north of Mangum. Some of the head workmen informed him that the old survey was the route to be kept.¹⁸

Every indication pointed to the fact that Mangum might soon have a railroad. It was reported that the preliminaries of a railroad had been laid to North Fork of Red River at a point near Quartz.¹⁹

The citizens of Mangum sent a committee to Topeka, Kansas early in 1900 to see what could be done about getting the Rock Island to build its line to Mangum, and the committee reported that much interest was manifested in the visit of Mangum's committee to the headquarters of the Rock Island railroad system at Topeka, Kansas.²⁰

It was also reported that everything was accomplished by the committee that could have been expected to occur, namely; the committee was cordially received, minutely heard, and an investigation was promised.²¹

Vice-president Parker of the railroad company visited in Mangum shortly after the visit of the Mangum committee to look over the situation and canvass the facts and the inducements that had been offered by the committee.

In the meantime, Mangum's citizens were very much alive to the situation. They realized that all that was necessary

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Report of Leo Bennett, Union Agent, for 1890, House Executive Documents, No. 2841, 51 Cong., 2 sess., XII, p. 96.

²⁰ G. W. Boyd, op. cit.

²¹ The Mangum Star, February 28, 1900.

to have the Rock Island extended from the mountains to Mangum (a distance of 12 miles) was that a proper showing be made to the company of the advantages in doing so. They realized that much emphasis had to be placed on the excellent and almost limitless terminal facilities for handling cattle. The cattle trade was primarily what the railroad companies desired and Mangum had an immense territory for holding and feeding purposes to place at their disposal. As a whole the prospects for a railroad to Mangum were most promising.²²

Nevertheless, the citizens of Mangum were not satisfied just to wait and see if the road would be built to Mangum. On February 18, 1900, Mr. A. R. Garrett and Jas. Scarborough left Mangum and traveled westward to collect data that would be of service in laying before the Rock Island people to influence them in pushing the road on to Mangum. They visited Hardmen, Childress, Ford, Collinsworth and other localities in Texas before returning in hopes of getting many promises of patronage from cattle shippers of that section.²³ Mangum's citizens pointed out that unparalleled advantages could be offered to cattle shippers in the way of excellent routes for driving and holding grounds for the cattle after they arrived. As the cattle industry's

²² The Mangum Star, February 11, 1900.

²³ The Mangum Star, February 18, 1900.

business was the thing which the Rock Island was trying to obtain by building into this section, no place could be nearly so well adapted to facilitating the cattle shipping business as Mangum.²⁴

On March 21, 1900, Mr. A. R. Wilson returned to Mangum from Saint Louis by way of Topeka, Kansas, where he had met with officials of the Rock Island and learned from them facts highly favorable to Mangum's chances for the road. In fact, everything pointed to the certainty of Mangum getting the railroad.

The Mangum Star carried an article upon the return of Mr. Wilson which stated:

It may reasonably be considered that within a short time we will hear the whistle of the Iron Horse in our midst. Mangum is cool and deliberate and stands ready to act when the moment arrives.²⁵

On March 28, 1900, Mr. H. A. Parker, vice-president of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Company, after inspecting the line of his company's survey to a point in the vicinity of Mangum, stopped at Mangum and spent the night. He talked to the citizens of Mangum in regard to the extension of the line to Mangum, but left the impression that the chances between Mangum and some point northwest of Mangum were being considered as a terminus for the railroad.²⁶

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ The Mangum Star, March 21, 1900.

²⁶ Ibid.

The question of building a railroad to Mangum was still uncertain, but it was believed that the railroad would deviate a little from its located survey, and come to Mangum, if depot grounds, and right-of-way were furnished as a compensation for the difference in distance.

On April 4, 1900, Mr. G. W. Boyd and J. E. Carrol, the committee selected to present to the officials of the Rock Island Railroad at Chicago, reasons for building the line to Mangum, returned and reported that they had failed to obtain any definite promises that the railroad would be built to Mangum, yet, they felt hopeful that in the end the line would be extended to their town.²⁷

On April 18, 1900, the chief engineer for the Rock Island Railroad System and the general superintendent visited the prospective line into greer county as far as Elm River, but no comment or announcement was made in regard to the building of the line to Mangum.²⁸

Then on July 4, 1900, The Mangum Star published the following article:

Bang! Boom! Bang! Anvils announce the coming of the Rock Island Railroad to Mangum. Excitement however, gradually abates and cool business judgment resumes its proper sway.

A portion of the construction crew came to Mangum July 10, 1900 and began to move dirt for the construction of the

²⁷ The Mangum Star, April 4, 1900.

²⁸ The Mangum Star, April 18, 1900.

railroad. The citizens of Mangum made good their promises to the railroad company which included donation of right-of-way, depot and yardages sites. The first train arrived in Mangum, September 2, 1900.

Mr. Tom Lawrence, well-known pioneer citizen, humorist, and something of a genial philosopher, went to Granite to ride the first train into Mangum and when he stepped off the train at Mangum depot, exclaimed:

With Chicago at one end of the line and Mangum at the other, the Rock Island ought to make a good railroad. ²⁹

Thus Mangum was given its first railroad. Ten years later the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railroad company built the second line to Mangum.

The first and only ice plant ever to be established in Mangum was built by Mark Pace and Clinton Pace in the spring of 1900,³⁰ due north of the northeast corner of the public square in downtown Mangum. It was located on the south side of Buchanan Street and west side of North Pennsylvania Avenue.

When the plant was first built in 1900, it was difficult to keep ice in sufficient quantity to supply the demand due to the obsolescence of the plant. The old plant was

²⁹ The Mangum Star, September 3, 1900.

³⁰ Mark Pace, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, May 24, 1941.

soon vacated and a new modern plant established on East Jefferson and Carolina Avenue. Raburn Morgan bought one-half interest in the plant and took over the managership.

✓ The Perry Hotel was the second hotel building to be established in Mangum. It was built by George Perry in 1901, and was located on the southeast corner of the public square. This was a two-story structure with eight bedrooms above and four large rooms below.³¹

The Perry Hotel was well established and was a social center during the early days. It continued to do business until the building was condemned by the city and torn down.

The first brick plant ever to be established in Mangum was founded by Mr. J. D. Doyle. It was located in the northwest portion of the city and began operation in the fall of 1901.³²

Mr. Doyle was a Texan by birth and came to Mangum during the early development of the town and soon established the Mangum Brick Plant on the same location where the present new plant is being operated by Mr. Doyle. All of the first brick buildings to be erected in Mangum were built with brick manufactured at the Doyle brick plant. Some of the buildings ✓ built from the plant have remained standing in Mangum down through the years.

³¹ Wickersham, op. cit.

³² J. D. Doyle, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, December 23, 1940.

The first old plant was a rather antique structure. It was constructed near the east edge of a deep canyon and near the head of the canyon was an excellent spring, which afforded the plant with water to mix the sand and clay to be molded into brick. About one hundred yards south of the spring was the old mixing ground. Just above the mixing ground was built a small dam where water was turned into the sand and clay for mixing. The mixed mud was delivered to the brick yard where the mud was placed in the old wooden molds with shovel and hands. After a time the mud brick were dried sufficiently by wind and sun, they were then carried to the brick kiln and heated to make brick.³³

The sporadic growth of cotton in the vicinity of Mangum, turned the thoughts of its farmers to the desirability of having a gin in Mangum. Accordingly a meeting was held and resulted in a decision to build the Farmer's Gin of Mangum. Sentiment having thus crystalized, another meeting was held in the John R. Crouch Hotel to plan definite action.³⁴

At this second meeting J. W. Logan offered to build the gin if the farmers would assure him of their trade. They acceded unanimously. Without delay, the construction of the building was commenced upon the property of Logan.³⁵

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Wickersham, op, cit.

³⁵ J. W. Logan, Mangum, Oklahoma Reminiscence, March 14, 1940.

This gin was a two-story frame structure, crudely constructed and furnished. Its machinery was a small twenty horsepower engine, a small boiler and one gin stand. It was hand-fed, the cotton being carried in baskets and fed into the gin stand by hand. Under ideal conditions and with the gin performing as well as possible, its maximum output was one bale per hour.

After five years of consecutive operation, it was suspended. Logan organized a new company and built a more modern gin during that same year, which was located in the southwest suburbs of Mangum. This new gin was known as the Tucker, Tinsley, and Logan gin and continued to operate for several years. This gin was more commonly known to the early settlers as the old Red Gin due to its color.

Doctor Fowler Border came to Mangum, May 20, 1901, and established the first hospital and goiter clinic to be established in southwestern Oklahoma and offered to the settlers of this region surgical service which they could not otherwise obtain without going to either Oklahoma City or Amarillo, Texas.³⁶

The hospital was established under adverse conditions, but soon became known as a medical center. The first hospital was housed in a 12 by 14 foot frame building. In 1905 Dr. Border bought a 17 acre tract of land, one mile due east of Mangum, through which now runs Highway No. 283. On this

³⁶ Dr. Fowler Border, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, June 4, 1941.

location, he began the construction of his second hospital. In the latter part of 1907, Dr. Border vacated his first hospital building and moved his equipment into the new hospital. He gave it the name of Border Heights Hospital, because of the high elevation of the hospital site.³⁷

In 1915 Dr. Border decided to build a larger and more modern hospital near the business section of Mangum. He purchased a one-half acre lot due west of the north side of the Courthouse Square, on the corner of Jefferson Street and Byers Avenue. On this site Dr. Border decided to build a larger stone building and moved, in 1916, from Border Heights to this new building. During the year of 1927 Dr. Border decided that he needed more room and began preparation for the construction of a more modern hospital. This hospital continued to be one of the most modern and efficient of its type in Oklahoma until its financial failure.³⁸

The Cattlemen's Exchange Bank, the forerunner of the First National Bank of Mangum, was organized with a capital of \$5,000. The first officers of the Cattlemen's Exchange Bank were: G. W. Boyd, President; N. B. Claunch, Vice-President; and J. C. Gilliland, Cashier.³⁹

The original bank was located in the rear of J. C.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

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Gillilands' store on the south side of the public square. The bank later moved to a building on the site of the post office on the south side of the square. However, this building soon became inadequate and a stone building was constructed on the north side of the square to which the bank was moved.⁴⁰

The bank was nationalized with a capital of \$25,000. The following officers were selected: R. C. Neal, President; J. A. Henry, Vice-President; and H. Mathewson, Cashier. This bank was thereafter known as the First National Bank of Mangum.

L. S. Nobles joined the First National Bank organization, during the early establishment, as cashier. At this time Mr. Mathewson was elected president. After the death of Mr. Mathewson, Mr. Nobles was elected president, in which capacity he has continued to serve.

By 1930, the capital had been increased to approximately \$100,000.⁴¹

³⁹ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

⁴⁰ Wickersham, op. cit.

⁴¹ L. S. Nobles, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, June 4, 1941.

CHAPTER III

POLITICAL ISSUES DURING THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of United States v. Texas, 1896, changed the status of Mangum by locating it in what was later to become the state of Oklahoma rather than Texas.¹

The chief worry of the citizens was that they might lose their homes. However, a bill was rushed through Congress providing for a six months' preference to settlers who occupied their land and the privilege of purchasing an additional section at one dollar an acre.

Four days after the United States Supreme Court decision of March 16, 1896, John F. Lacy of Iowa introduced a bill² to provide for the government being extended over Greer County.

The citizens of Greer County were called upon to have an election to locate the county seat. A meeting was held in the upper story of the old Greer County's first jail house, located just east of where the present jail building now stands, on Lincoln Street and South Carolina Avenue. It was the purpose of this group to organize and do everthing possible to get Mangum designated as the location of the county seat.

A bitter struggle concerning the location of the county

¹ Supreme Court Reporter, XVI, pp. 735-754.

² House Report No. 1905, 54 Cong., 1 sess., XXVIII, p. 3532.

seat developed between the citizens of the western section of the county and those of the eastern section. Altus led in the opposition to Mangum in the county election, but Mangum was victorious in the final outcome of the election by a large majority.

The building of the county court house at Mangum caused much dissension throughout the county.³ The eastern half of the county declared that the citizens of the county should wait until the two railroads projecting into the county were built rather than mortgage their property for ten or twenty years to a bond syndicate in order to build a fine court house. Mangum, as leader of the western half, desired immediate construction.⁴ As early as 1897 there had been some thought of county division since the county was so large. This fact made it less desirable to postpone building so far as Mangum was concerned.

In 1897, plans to build a court house costing between twenty thousand and thirty thousand dollars, on the public square at Mangum by the rental plan, were submitted to the county commissioners. It was to be rented at an annual rental value equal to five per cent of the cost of the building.

Altus, voicing the sentiment of the eastern division, protested against the plan. She insisted that it was a

³ The Altus News, September 30, 1897.

⁴ Ibid.

scheme devised for the purpose of deceiving the people of Greer County. For a time the building program was postponed, but it came before the people again on January 17, 1898.

On March 8, 1898 the county commissioners accepted plans for building a court house on the rental in Mangum.⁵ Again there were protestations from the eastern part of the county, but they were ignored. However, the territorial legislature did not come to the assistance of the county in their building program, so it was abandoned.

In the latter part of 1898, an effort was made by Mangum to secure a court house by bond issue. Again Altus opposed the issue. The people feared that they would have to pay a part of the indebtedness of Greer County even though the county was divided. In order to refute this idea, the citizens of Mangum got sixteen Mangum lawyers to hand down an opinion on the matter. Their opinion was that should there be county division, the new counties could not be forced to pay any part of the indebtedness for the court house at Mangum.⁶ It was hoped that this opinion might increase the number of votes for the building of the court house.

Three thousand nine hundred forty qualified electors signed the petition calling for a special election to vote the bonds for the court house. The election was called for

⁵ Minutes of County Commissioners, Greer County, 1898-1900

⁶ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

May 16, 1899. The people of Mangum at once began a strong campaign to secure the approval of the court house.

There was a total vote cast of five thousand three hundred sixty-nine. A majority of one thousand two hundred fifty-three were opposed to the building of the court house.⁷

The court house question was again before the populace in 1900 when a rental plan for acquiring a court house was devised by Judge Irwin. July 20, 1900, was the date set upon which to receive bids. Citizens of Altus, Duke, Hess, and Granite went to Mangum to see the commissioners and enter a protest against their accepting the plan for the new court house.

In spite of this, the measure carried⁸ and Mangum was to have the court house erected on the public square at Mangum.

The city of Mangum was incorporated as a town October 10, 1900, with a population of about 500.⁹ On December 8, 1901, the city hall, a small wooden structure that had been rented for this purpose, caught fire and was burned down destroying all of the city's records, stationery, books, and furniture.

⁷ Record of Elections, Greer County, Oklahoma, 1899.

⁸ Ibid., 1900.

⁹ H. T. Lawrence, Report of Public Utilities and Municipal Activities, 1939, Mangum, Oklahoma, p. 20.

On December 17, 1901, the Board of Trustees met at the office of M. L. Bahumn and reorganized the city government. Jas. A. McKibbins was elected president of the Board of Trustees.¹⁰

On January 4, 1902, the Board of Trustees met and granted to the Mangum Ice and Light Company the right to manufacture and sell electrical current to the city of Mangum.¹¹ This action later caused much controversy and a bitter fight ensued between the citizens of Mangum and the electrical company.

A proclamation issued October 2, 1906, by Frank Frantz, territorial governor of Oklahoma, made Mangum a city of the first class.

Eight business men were selected by popular vote to constitute a city council, but this form of government was far from satisfactory because the men comprising the Board of Trustees were either professional or business men. These men were too busy with their own affairs during the working hours to manage the city's affairs. As a result they had to meet at night and spend from two to seven hours in an effort to outline sound fiscal policies for the city government. As they had no leader to intelligently present matters to them, the financial status of the city was usually in an

¹⁰ City Council Minute Record, City of Mangum, 1900-1902, Book I, p. 30.

¹¹ Ibid.

unsound condition.¹²

In 1913, under this aldermanic form of city government, the retiring mayor turned over the city's affairs to his successor with the words: "I hereby turn over to you a busted government."¹³ The sinking fund showed a deficit of about \$45,000 and the law regarding the fund had not been complied with by the city officials.

Because the city officials and the citizens of the city had become dissatisfied with the way in which the government functioned, application for a new charter was made. The charter was adopted and became effective November 10, 1914.¹⁴

The new charter provided for a city manager to supervise the affairs of the city. Thus Mangum came to be the first town in Oklahoma to adopt the city manager type of government;¹⁵ since the adoption of the city manager plan of government, the light rates have been lowered and the water system has been placed on a paying basis. The water system had been a big liability under the old form of government. Taxes have been reduced from twenty-seven mills to seven mills, and there has usually been a surplus of nearly a quarter million dollars in cash on deposit in local banks.¹⁶

¹² Dr. Fowler Border, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, June 4, 1941.

¹³ City Council Minute Record, City of Mangum, 1912-1914, Book VII, p. 46.

¹⁴ Charter, City of Mangum, Article VII, 1914.

¹⁵ Oklahoma Municipal Review, June, 1939, Vol. XIII, No. 6, p. 83.

¹⁶ Ibid.

Since 1914 the record of the government of Mangum has been largely the record of one man. At that time Dr. Fowler Border was elected mayor of Mangum and has served continuously since that time, except for two terms when he withdrew in favor of his life-long friend, Ralph E. Helper, now deceased.

As evidence of the important part Dr. Border has played in the city government since 1914, it is difficult to check into the development of any Mangum civic improvement without running squarely into the activities of Dr. Border. Over the years, the names "Mangum" and "Border" have become almost synonymous.¹⁷

The first large municipal achievement of Mangum was the acquisition of a publicly owned and operated light and power system. In 1915, led by Dr. Border, a fight waged over the issuance of bonds to build a plant to compete with the existing private utility company, ended victoriously for the city, and the plant was established. As a result of the controversy between Dr. Border and the utility company, Border was sued by the company for libel, a charge which he defeated.

A \$75,000 bond issue was voted with which to build the municipal light plant and it was paid out in 1925.¹⁸

¹⁷

Ibid., p. 84.

¹⁸

Council Journal, 1924-1926, City of Mangum, Book VII, p. 18.

It has been the policy of the city government, since the establishment of the city manager form, to meet all bond maturities with cash in hand.

In 1925, Mangum voted bonds to acquire the local gas distribution system. As a result the citizens have, since this purchase, paid, at one window in the city hall, their water, light, and gas bills. Gas, since the purchase of the distribution system, has been bought from the Consolidated Gas Company.

Not only are its bonded debts in good conditions, but the city's entire financial structure appears sound. There has not been an ad valorem tax levy for governmental operation since 1928. Assessed valuation of the city (less homesteads) was, in 1940, \$1,392,656. The sinking fund levy for that year was 24.43 mills.¹⁹

Municipal utilities, since their establishment, have produced the vast bulk of funds used to operate the general government of the city and to finance the continuous installment of improvements. Gross income since establishment of the light department has averaged around \$50,000. Profits above operating expenses from wholesale gas purchases and payments on gas bonds have been from \$8,000 to \$14,000.²⁰

¹⁹ Financial Report, City of Mangum, 1940.

²⁰ Oklahoma Municipal Review, Vol. XIII, June, 1940, No. 6, p. 83.

Water sales have had an average gross income of \$18,500 per year. Practically all water revenues above operating expenses are turned to extension and improvement of the water system.

In 1928, a \$35,000 water softening plant was built and Mangum became one of the few municipalities in the entire United States which softened its entire water supply. Lately, however, location of new water wells supplying ample quantities of soft water has made use of the softening plant unnecessary.

Over a period of years, there has been a sharp scaling down of municipal electric charges in Mangum. In 1933, the city's revenue from the electric plant was .036 per kilowatt hour. In 1938 it was .027, a reduction of 25 per cent.²¹

The Mangum Fire Department was organized with six volunteers and one paid man. F. S. Gentry was chief and J. W. Cruse, the one paid man, received \$50 per month.²² Their equipment was a hose reel drawn by hand. In later years, Cruse became Fire Chief, and served in that capacity until 1928. He is now retired on pension.

At the retirement of Chief Cruse, Gene Sands, who joined the department as a volunteer during the early establishment, took over the duties of Fire Chief, a position which he holds to date (1941). Assistant chief F. D. Dodson, who joined the

²¹ Ibid., p. 99.

²² City Council Minute Record, City of Mangum, 1904-1906, Book III, p. 182.

department as a volunteer, is still with the force.

In the history of Mangum, there have been only two major fires. A cotton oil mill burned with a loss of about \$150,000. In 1929, three downtown business buildings burned with a loss of about \$90,000.²³ Until 1929, Mangum was classified by the insurance companies as being of the eighth class. In that year it was reduced to seventh class.

23

Oklahoma Municipal Review, June, 1939, Vol. XIII, No. 6, p. 100.

CHAPTER IV

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, FRATERNAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

The people who came to Mangum came from settled communities where churches and schools were a part of the culture of the people. The Mangum residents were too few and too poor to establish regular churches with a full time pastor, but they were anxious to have religious worship.

There are no available written records of the first church services of Mangum, but there are the oral traditions of the services held in the dugouts and floorless shacks where the people sat on such chairs, benches, and boards as were obtainable, with the remainder standing or seated on the floor to listen to the preaching of the "pure gospel" from the lips of an itinerant minister who had come into the community.¹

Sunday schools were organized and met in the afternoon with the young people of all denominations participating. To miss Sunday school was to miss one of the most important social functions of the community.

Revivals usually were held when the crops were laid by and before the time to do the fall work. Regardless of heat, the people came by the wagon loads, bringing the entire family from grandmother to the infant in arms.

Mangum's first revival meeting was conducted in the fall of 1886 by "old Brother" Smedley. In the fall of that year

¹ J. P. Lassiter Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, June 4, 1941

he came from North Carolina, traveling the greater part of the distance on foot. He was a Primitive Baptist preacher.²

"Brother" Smedley arrived in Mangum in October, 1886. He visited among the settlers in order to obtain their permission to hold a revival meeting. He encountered no opposition. Instead, the pioneers were glad to assist in every way possible. They cleared a small area on which to stretch an old tent in the northwest part of Mangum on South Oklahoma Avenue and Tyler Street in the center of the lot.

Upon the second night after "Brother" Smedley's arrival, the meeting began. The congregation consisted of about twenty or twenty-five people the first night. Most of the congregation consisted of town residents.³

Seats were provided by blocks sawed from cottonwood logs and boards placed across from one block to the other. Light was supplied by two Old-fashioned brass grease lamps and homemade candles made from beef tallow.

After three or four nights, the congregation had grown considerably with a few cowboys attending. They behaved decently though several of them wore their six-guns. "Old Brother" Smedley never failed to wear his old cap and ball pistol. The meeting lasted ten nights. Only one conversion was obtained at the meeting.⁴

² Frank Wickersham, Phillips Collection, Greer County, Oklahoma University Library.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

The First Baptist Church of Mangum was founded following the close of "Brother" Smedley's revival with a membership of eight. Organization had been previously sought, but their membership being less than was required by the convention, they had to wait. Reverend Medlin of Dot, (later named Blair, in Jackson County), was the leading pioneer in this organization. The first services were held in the school building. Charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Pierson, Mrs. Hattie Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Talley, Mrs. Crouch, Mrs. C. S. Talley, and J. R. Anderson.⁵

By 1887 there was a sufficient number of people in Mangum belonging to the Methodist Church to justify the employment of a minister. The services of a circuit preacher were engaged. Reverend J. L. Hosmer, whose headquarters were Vernon, Texas, was the first minister. This type of service was continued until the membership was large enough to justify the employment of a regular preacher and the building of a church house.⁶

The cooperation between the different churches during the early days of Mangum was most interesting. For instance, an old wooden building was used jointly by four different denominations. The Methodists used the building on the first Sunday of the month, the Baptists held services the second Sunday, the Christians the third Sunday, and the

⁵ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

⁶ Ibid.

Presbyterians held their services on the fourth Sunday. This method of holding church was carried on until each of the different churches erected its own church building and began to hold services each Sunday.⁷

During the year of 1887, there came to Mangum a venerable and scholarly man, Professor John R. Nigh, then eighty-four years of age. It was the purpose of this man to establish in Mangum a subscription school.

By the fall of 1887, Professor Nigh secured enough students to merit the opening of a school. The school was located on the southwest corner of Mangum and was housed in a small dugout. The school was opened with thirteen pupils enrolled and was conducted for three months during the year.⁸

After several years, Mrs. Lula Crouch Johnson was successful in getting seven of the first students of Mangum's first school to return to Mangum to celebrate the golden anniversary of the class of 1887. Those attending the celebration were: Mrs. Lula Crouch Johnson of Mangum, John R. Crouch of Altus, Lo Fletcher of Weatherford, Smith Pierson of Borger, Texas, Mrs. Coanthe Pierson Cullins of Mangum, Mrs. Nona Byers Baumgardner of Mangum, and Louis Crabtree of Mangum. The other members of the class were either dead or indisposed.⁹

⁷ Wickersham, op. cit.

⁸ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

⁹ Ibid.

The first free and public school of Mangum was established September 1, 1888, with R. C. Warner, S. C. Vanles, and Syles Wills acting as the Board of Trustees.¹⁰ A small wooden building was constructed in the northwest corner of Mangum to house the first school. The school was begun with the sum of two hundred sixty-three dollars and twelve cents to pay the expense of operating the school for its first year. The following order was issued creating the school:

Be it known that on this first day of June, 1888, we, R. C. Warner, S. C. Vanles, and Syles Wills, Trustees of school district No. 1 have established school No. 1 in said district located at Mangum and have set aside for the use of the same for the scholastic year beginning July 1, 1888, out of the Public Free School Fund, the sum of \$263.12. 11

One pioneer of Mangum remarked that the greater part of one's time in Mangum was spent in social activities and that business, especially in the early days, was a side line.¹² Even though the people of Mangum traveled either on horseback, in buggies, or in wagons and seemed to have few organized forms of amusements, the pioneer social life was decidedly an interesting type. This was especially true for the men.

¹⁰ County Superintendent's Report, Greer County, Texas, 1888.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² W. S. Bradshaw, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, February 14, 1940.

Hunting, roundups, huge picnics and barbecues, singing schools, play parties, literary societies, fish fries, box suppers and dances were factors in the social life of the Mangum citizens.

In the early days of Mangum, cowboys would ride down the main street staging an informal week end party of their own. Whooping, yelling, and shooting out lights were favorite diversions.

Group singing was a popular diversion for the less rowdy citizens, especially for Sunday afternoons and week ends. Mangum frequently had singing schools where classes were organized and singing conventions held at regular intervals. Visiting classes were often entertained free of charge.

During the past fifty-three years, fraternal organizations have played an important part in the social and civic life of Mangum. The first fraternal organization to be established in Mangum, the Masonic lodge, was organized in 1889. Since that date, practically all the major fraternal organizations have formed branches in the city of Mangum. Most of the organizations are still active.

In the horse and buggy days, "lodge night" was a red letter date in the calendar of the average citizen. Lodge members often traveled forty miles in order to be able to attend lodge meetings.¹³

¹³ Elmer V. Jessee, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, October 6, 1940.

The advent of the automobile and the competition of other attractions in more recent years has decreased lodge activities by reducing their membership.

Nevertheless, the lodges of Mangum have thrived under the most adverse conditions, supplying a genuine need for fellowship, service, and achievement within the order.

The Mangum Masonic lodge was organized July 9, 1889, just four years after the founding of Mangum. This first lodge was organized under the jurisdiction of the grand lodge of Texas, and had a membership of eighteen charter members. During the time that the lodge was under the jurisdiction of the State of Texas it was known as lodge No. 685.¹⁴

The first candidates to be initiated into membership of the lodge were: S. H. Tittle, M. L. VanLeer, and A. J. Laughlin, all of whom were initiated the same night.¹⁵

With the historic Supreme Court decision and the changing of the status of the region in which Mangum was located, an application for a new charter was made. After this request was granted, the lodge became known as the Mangum Lodge No. 29.¹⁶

Lodge headquarters were located in a two-story frame

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ E. T. Curtiss, Phillips Collection, Greer County, Oklahoma University Library.

building in the two hundred block of North Pennsylvania Avenue. The lodge room occupied the second floor of the building, while various business firms rented the first story. This was the first building in which regular Masonic lodge meetings were held.¹⁷

Another one of the oldest fraternal organizations in Mangum is the Odd Fellow lodge which was organized October 20, 1898, by J. M. Hicks, representative of the grand lodge. When the lodge was granted a charter it was designated as the Mangum lodge No. 96.¹⁸

The Mangum Odd Fellow lodge first held its meetings in a two-story building located in the two hundred block of South Pennsylvania Avenue. The second story of the building was used for lodge meetings while the first story was occupied at various times by feed stores and secondhand stores.¹⁹

Still holding a predominate part in the hearts of Mangum's pioneer men and women is the fond memory of the early day social life created by the Owl Club. It was the first of the social organizations in the then small, but thriving town of Mangum. This social group will forever be remembered by those who so proudly claimed membership.

¹⁷ A. L. Freeman, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminiscence, June 3, 1940.

¹⁸ The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

¹⁹ Curtiss, op. cit.

Those young dashing men and their wives who formed the Owl Club were the life of the town during the first years of the twentieth century. They entertained at card parties, dances, and dinner parties. The club was founded in the early part of 1900 with a membership of twenty-four.²⁰ Meetings were held each Saturday night in the various homes of the members. When a club hostess entertained at dinner she used unsparing effort to excel all others with the affair. Each hostess served elaborately and gave beautiful and expensive gifts to the winners of the various games. Sterling silver pieces of a "violet" pattern were later selected to be presented as high score awards.²¹ Bi-annual parties were always looked forward to with much eagerness. For these occasions the club secured Eaton's Hall, a building located on the southeast corner of the square. They went to extreme limits in securing proper decorations, refreshments, and entertainments. A dance program was usually a high light of the evening. Favorite dances were: Little Brown Jug, the waltz, the polka, and the schottische.

An April-Fool party was another occasion of great entertainment for the members of the Owl Club. At this time some of Mangum's most prominent business men would cast

²⁰ Mrs. Mark Pace, Mangum, Oklahoma Reminiscence, May 24, 1941.

²¹ Ibid.

aside all semblance of dignity by giving some impromptu act such as singing a solo, reading poetry, or doing a dance.²²

Not all of the social organizations of Mangum have had as their sole aim entertainment. The Culture Club, organized in 1901, had as its purpose intellectual development. This was the city's first study club and it played an important part in the literary field of the city. Shakespeare's plays provided a favorite study for the members, but the Bay View Magazine course was later selected for study.²³

Since the fall of 1901, when organization of the club was perfected, Mangum has ranked the Aftermath Club as an outstanding organization. Charter members of the club numbered eighteen. With Mrs. Ney Neel as president they formulated and enjoyed a full program of activity during the early days of Mangum.²⁴

The organization meeting was held in the home of Mrs. R. H. Sultan. There were eight young women who met and discussed plans for the club. It was decided to allow each one present the privilege of selecting a friend to invite as a regular member. This was done, but it was soon decided that the club would not be complete without two other friends of the ladies. In accordance with this plan, the membership

²² Mrs. H. E. Oakes, Mangum, Oklahoma Reminiscence, June 3, 1941.

²³ The Mangum Star, December 10, 1901.

²⁴ The Mangum Star, October 13, 1937.

was increased to eighteen.²⁵

Originally the club was organized as a fancy work club, but later the members became more interested in games than fancy work and so it was changed to an organization for entertainment.

Organization and federation of Arts and Crafts Club was perfected in the fall of 1901 with a membership of twenty young women. The original purpose of organization was the study of domestic sciences. Membership of the club remained stationary, being limited to twenty members.

The club's program featured current event discussions, with which members responded to roll call. Emphasis was placed on the study of social and economic questions, since members took active interest in city, state, and national governmental problems.

The Arts and Crafts Club accepted the responsibility of making for Mangum its quota of bedside bags for Red Cross distribution at Christmas time to ex-service men who were confined to hospitals.²⁶

The improvements brought about in the Mangum educational facilities were remarkable. In 1901, the Mangum Public School had seven teachers, a new stone building, and a library.²⁷

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Mrs. C. P. Hamilton, Mangum, Oklahoma, Reminscence, May 10, 1941.

²⁷ County Superintendent's Report, Greer County, Texas, 1901.

Mangum was also trying to secure the location of the Southwestern State Normal School. By 1901 fifty per cent of the boys and girls in the town were enrolled in school for a short term.

A summer normal school was held in Mangum in 1901, and eleven teachers took examination for certificates. Horace Simpson, who taught mathematics in the first summer normal term, prepared an examination so difficult that the examining board, consisting of A. Putman and M. McKenzie, suggested that he eliminate three of his problems. At the end of the summer normal school, a program with the presentation of medals and prizes was held.²⁸

During the year of 1901, the territorial government of Oklahoma began an investigation for the purpose of finding a suitable place for the location of a normal school for the southwestern portion of Oklahoma Territory. The citizens of Mangum at once began to aspire for the designation of the site of the school to be Mangum.

J. Frank Mathews of Mangum was elected a member of the House of the Territorial Legislature in 1901. Early in the session he introduced a bill for the establishment of a normal school for the people of southwestern Oklahoma Territory. He specified in the bill that it should be located in Mangum or Granite.²⁹

28

The Mangum Daily Star, October 13, 1937.

29

House Journal, Oklahoma Territory, 1901, p. 62.

Later in the year a committee appointed by the territorial Governor, Jenkins, selected Granite as the site for the normal school instead of Mangum. There was much bitterness among a major portion of the Mangum residents as a result of the failure in having Mangum designated as the site of the normal school.

The action of the Jenkins committee was described in the Mangum Star as follows:

The normal school question has at last been decided. We met the enemy and we are his'n. The fated question was settled Tuesday. The committee decided in favor of Granite. We don't know by what sort of course of reasoning they arrived at such a conclusion, but presume it was sufficient and satisfactory to them. There is a suspicion that Dennis Flynn meddled with affairs and used his influence with the committee against Mangum.³⁰

The normal school for the southwestern part of the Oklahoma Territory was in the end located at Weatherford.

Nevertheless, the citizens of Mangum refused to be satisfied without a college located in their town, so they soon took steps for the founding of a college.

Since more of the population of Mangum in the early days belonged to the Baptist Church than to any other single church, they decided to establish a Baptist college for the education of their young people. The college was founded in 1910 and classes were conducted in the church building.

30

The Mangum Star, September 19, 1901.

Due to the small enrollment the college was discontinued in 1912.³¹

Finally in 1937, a junior college was established in connection with the public high school of Mangum. By 1939, this college showed an enrollment of 207 students.³² When the junior college was founded, ten teachers were selected for the faculty. Miss Mary Hall was appointed Dean of the Mangum Junior College.

Since the establishment of the first schools in Mangum, the school system has grown to an astonishing degree. The school district continued to grow and consolidate with other school districts so that by 1939 it comprised forty-four square miles of territory and had four school busses connecting adjacent territories and bringing rural students to the city school system.

The physical properties of the school, by 1939, consisted of six buildings valued at \$400,000. During the same year a new junior high school building valued at \$60,000 was completed.

Forty teachers comprised the faculty of the Mangum Public Schools.³³

³¹ Curtiss, op. cit.

³² School Superintendent's Report, District No. 1, Mangum, Oklahoma, 1939.

³³ Ibid.

CONCLUSION

Like most Oklahoma municipalities, the Mangum of today is a far cry from the dusty townsite laid out upon the prairie fifty-eight years ago. It is a modern city in every sense of the word. A leader in good government, it is a model which has been the pattern of dozens of its sister cities.

Peopled by men and women of old American stock, soundly conservative and thrifty, Mangum today faithfully reflects their philosophy. Building booms, land booms, oil booms, good times and hard times, have left their marks in other parts of the country, but not in Mangum. No skeleton buildings are monuments to a period of over-enthusiasm; no vacant street extensions mock the mistaken confidence of city fathers of other days. No bond issues for improvements that will never be needed hang heavy over the taxpayer. Mangum is built to house five thousand people, its business is geared to the natural trade of the surrounding territory--no more, no less.

For the early development of Mangum much credit must be given to H. C. Sweet for his continuous effort in attempting to bring settlers to the townsite that he founded. In addition to his work Dr. Border has made valuable contributions to the town.

In addition to the work done by Mangum's civic leaders, churches, schools, and social organizations have played an important part in the development of the town.

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Dorris Moore