

Updated 7/6/2024

# "Kremlin Life" by Arrel Toews

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A 2024  
Toews

Much of what follows is my own **personal memories of the Kremlin of my childhood/young adulthood days (1950-60s)**, but I am also beginning with as much of the **early history and background information of Kremlin** as I have managed to accumulate. This work is mostly for me and my immediate family, but I hope extended family and others might enjoy it as well. I make no claims for accuracy but promise I've done my best! Just read and enjoy! Some sources of information, both printed and on-line, are listed on p 107; I also encourage readers to explore **weblinks, underlined in purple**. My thanks to many who have furnished photos, memories, and otherwise assisted me, but most especially my brother **Myron; please consider this a joint effort on our parts!**

Compiled and written by Arrel Toews  
many photos/negatives/maps collected & scanned by Myron Toews

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Comments and additions, including photos, documents, &/or memories, are always welcome!

Please email us at [atoews@hotmail.com](mailto:atoews@hotmail.com) or [myron.toews@gmail.com](mailto:myron.toews@gmail.com)

Separate documents titled **"Kremlin OK and the Rock Island Railroad," "The 1948 "Rocket" Train Wreck and Others In & Around Kremlin OK," "Kremlin Methodist Ladies 1931 Quilt", "Kremlin School Days", "Aerial Farmstead Photos"**, and more are all also available on this **Toews Brothers Kremlin History Website** as well.

For numerous maps of Garfield County, Kremlin Township and Kremlin town, ask Myron or me for our **"Kremlin Township Maps-2024"** - we'll be happy to send it!

## Early Kremlin History

My "hometown" of **Kremlin OK** is located 2 miles E of US-81 on County Road E0320 (currently named **Keowee Road** and commonly known as the **Kremlin blacktop**). The "Midway Corner" is the intersection of US-81 and Keowee Road - E to **Kremlin**, then **Hunter**, W to **Hillsdale**. My brothers **Galen** and **Myron** and I grew up on the **George P Toews/David A Toews home-place (NE/4-20-24N-6W)** located 1 mi W of Kremlin, bordered by Keowee Road to the N and the "Half-Section Road" to the S.

Originally called **Wild Horse** due to its proximity to **Wild Horse Creek** and to the presence of herds of wild horses, the future Kremlin town area was crossed by the **Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad** in 1889. The first Rock Island depot and section house were built in 1894 and were instrumental to the permanence and future growth of the nascent town. Mr. **Olaus Gumerson** was the section foreman and Mr. **George McQuaid** the first depot agent. In earliest days, the train stopped at the Kremlin depot and the mail bag thrown out - it was placed in a tent where the locals sorted through the pile for their mail.

The **Chisholm Trail** (~1867-1887) passed about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mi E of town, and some wagon ruts are still visible in the Kremlin area (ask me how to find them!). An estimated 6 million longhorn cattle were driven from their ranges in the Rio Grande/San Antonio region of TX to railheads in KS, initially Abilene, but later Newton, Wichita, and finally Caldwell. An approximately 800 mile trip that had the cattle grazing, drinking, sleeping, and yes, slowly moving N, it could take over 2 months for the entire drive.



The peak years were 1871-73, and although the trail was in use only 20 years or so, it gave rise to a number of cowboy legends, not to mention a bunch of Western movies, that survive to this day.

92-years young **Bob Klemme**, formerly residing in a Golden Oaks duplex N of Enid OK, was literally the world's expert on this trail - he knew everything about the Chisholm Trail and OK history in general too, and was a very friendly and interesting character. From 1990-1999, he researched the exact path of the trail, then with help from others, placed over 400 concrete obelisk markers to mark trail crossings all across the state of OK from the TX border to the KS border. I had a very nice cordial visit with Bob in April 2018.

**Robert Lee "Bob" Klemme** passed from this world on 25 June 2019 at age 93; he rests in the **Enid Cemetery**.



At L, [Bob Klemme](#) in his Golden Oaks home (2018) and one of his concrete [Chisholm Trail markers](#) - this one just E of the NE corner of the Coke Plant. If you stand at this marker and look at the horizon to the S, you will see a slight dip in the wheat field - this is what remains of the Chisholm Trail wagon ruts.

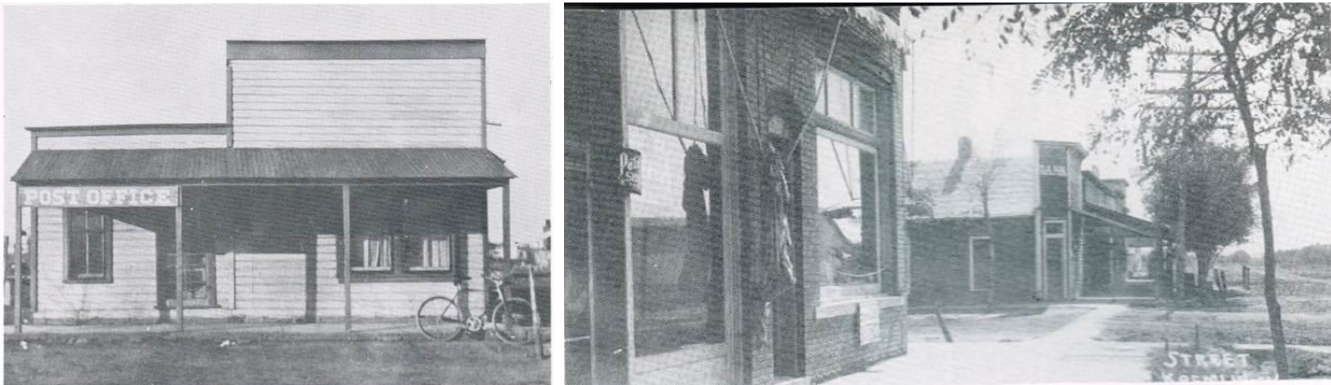
The town of Kremlin was planned for the [Cherokee Outlet Opening](#) (aka [Land Run of 1893](#); commonly but incorrectly referred to as the [Cherokee Strip Land Run](#)) as a part of "[O](#)" [County](#), later re-named [Garfield County](#). The 16 September 1893 Cherokee Outlet Opening was the 4<sup>th</sup> and largest of the OK Territory land runs (perhaps the largest land run ever). Claims for the quarter-section that would become Kremlin were staked by 4 men - Messrs. Welch, Ogden, Townsend, and Burdette, with the claim eventually passing to Mr. Burdette. It was then sold and platted into town lots. Kremlin Township was surveyed and platted soon after the land run opening, and the [US Post Office](#) established [7 November 1893](#). With a population of 221 and wanting to be incorporated, the town received its charter on 20 May 1901. Sidewalks were added in 1908 to improve the appearance of the town.

The town and surrounding homesteads were settled by participants in this last great land run, as well as by S Russian immigrant farmers of German descent (mostly [Mennonites](#), but some Lutherans and Catholics too). Most, if not all, of the Mennonite settlers did not participate in the land run, but rather purchased land soon thereafter from speculative or disillusioned initial homesteaders, migrating from their previous farms in S central NE (Hamilton and York Counties) and KS (Marion and Harvey Counties). Importantly, these Mennonite pioneers brought with them their precious [Turkish hard red winter wheat](#) ("[Turkey Red](#)"), which proved very amenable for the arid climate and soon became the major crop grown in this NW OK region (and pretty much all of the Great Plains as well!).

The later designation of the town as [Kremlin](#) was not, in fact, related to the Russian pioneers nor the Russian citadel in Moscow, but rather to a horse named Kremlin! Local pioneer [Ned Leonard](#) and his sister, Mrs. Ethyl Newton, were eye (and ear) witnesses to the naming event, as recounted in the Daily Oklahoman: "The town was called Wild Horse because it was close to Wild Horse Creek and bands of wild horses roamed the country. But Rock Island officials did not like that name, which stuck until after the opening of the Cherokee Strip in September 1893. In the summer of 1894, a party of railroad officials

came down. One of the party, MA Lowe, a vice-president, had instructions to change the name. Lowe left the selection up to his daughter, who was a horse enthusiast. She wanted to associate her hobby with the former name of the town, so she suggested "[Kremlin,](#)" [the name of her favorite saddle horse.](#)" And the rest, as they say, is history! See [Appendix I](#) for the actual newspaper clippings.

With limited transportation available, within a few years of its founding in 1893, the town of Kremlin was prospering with a number of [local businesses](#). By 1896, there were [four stores doing business in groceries, clothing, dry goods, and hardware](#) - D Frease & Company, (Olaus) Gumerson & Son, Morrison Brothers, and William Palmer's. In addition, there were [two blacksmith shops](#), with JH Baker and William Sides as smiths, plus the [J Hammond Harness Shop](#). Additional businesses included [two lumber yards](#) - Joseph Dobery Hardware & Lumber and Trickle & Rounds Lumber Company, plus a [hotel](#) listed as Messer & Son, managed by a Mr. Gloss. Mr. Dobery supplied the lumber to build the [first Kremlin School house](#); he also started the [first Kremlin bank](#). Jack Ross ran a [livery, feed and sale stable](#), LG Mair was in the [real estate business](#), and the [town physician](#) was Dr. TM Burg. Judge William Lay was the [postmaster](#) and Miss Blanche Lay the [postmistress](#) in 1896. Jim Breman started the [first Kremlin saloon](#). A [butcher shop/slaughterhouse](#) was established by Mr. Harris to supply fresh meat to the hotel and restaurants. The [First Baptist Church](#) with Rev Al Kirk as minister was the first house of worship in Kremlin.



**Above:** The [Kremlin Post Office](#) (L) and [first bank](#), across C Avenue S on E side of Main Street (R). The original Bank of Kremlin opened in 1900, chartered by Joseph Dobery. By my early childhood, all of the buildings on Main Street S of the corner in the R photo were no longer standing. The brick building in the foreground was later [Rathmel Grocery \(& US Post Office\)](#) on the right and the [Bank of Kremlin](#) on the left (see also photo p 6).

Photo at top L on next page shows Bank of Kremlin check to George Phares dated 15 May 1905. Mr. Phares owned the Kremlin Livery Stable.





The [newspaper clipping](#) at R (26 June 1908) contains an [impressive list of Kremlin businesses](#) at the town's zenith.

Note the estimated population of ~500!

Good sidewalks too!

From memories of [Mary Francis Seapy Hoover](#) & husband [Paul Hoover](#) (1994 Kremlin Centennial Bronc yearbook): "Mr. GA (Gus) Gummerson was section foreman for the railroad and supervised the building of the railroad through Kremlin. He set up a grocery store on the W side of the tracks and eventually an icehouse as well.

The bank had a library in a back room. Prior to that, the library was in the home of Mary Francis Seapy Hoover's mother, [Rhoda Roberts Seapy](#) (husband [Frank](#), sister [Leola Roberts Peck](#)). She would go to the old Carnegie Library in Enid and bring back books for Kremlin children.

One of the hotels was run by Mr. Harter, the other by Mrs. Mary Kittrell. The latter was a 2-story building with a screened porch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor where Mrs. Kitrell taught ladies for the Red Cross. Businessmen often came to Kremlin on the evening train to stay at the hotel, then return to Enid on the morning train. [Mary Kittrell](#) is buried in the Kremlin Cemetery.

Kremlin had a city park with a bandstand and a town band - people came out on Saturday nights to listen to the band and to picnic in the park."

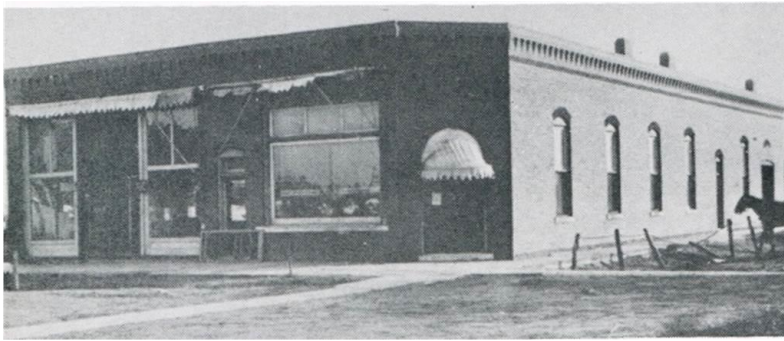
Kremlin, Oklahoma.

Kremlin is a small city on the Rock Island in the north part of Garfield County. It is a city of about 500 inhabitants. It is a good trading point, farmers getting more for their produce than at other towns. The business part of the city is as follows:

- Kremlin Mill and Elevator Co.
- Enid Mill and Elevator Co.
- Pond Creek Mill and Elevator Co.
- Co-Operative Creamery Co.
- Cement works.
- Five good stores.
- Two blacksmith shops.
- Livery and feed yards.
- Long Bell Lumber Co. is represented.
- Two hotels.
- One cafe.
- One drug store.
- Two mail routes.
- One bank.
- One cotton gin.
- One sanitarium.
- Two doctors.
- One meat market.
- Three churches, all of which are holding regular services. They are the Baptist, Christian and Methodist.
- The following lodges are represented: Odd Fellows, Masons, Woodmen, Royal Neighbors and Knight and Ladies.
- Three stock buyers and shippers are doing a good business.
- One barber shop.
- One printing office.
- Telephone exchange.
- We need in Kremlin millinery and dressmaking, a tinner and harness and shoe-repair shops.
- Farmers can get cash for eggs and poultry from some dealers.
- Kremlin has good cement sidewalks.
- Since coming to Kremlin, notwithstanding the fire she has had, has made a steady advancement in improvement and building. The people in and around Kremlin cannot be beat for kindness and socialability. Strangers coming to town are made to feel at home.

MARIE HULL.



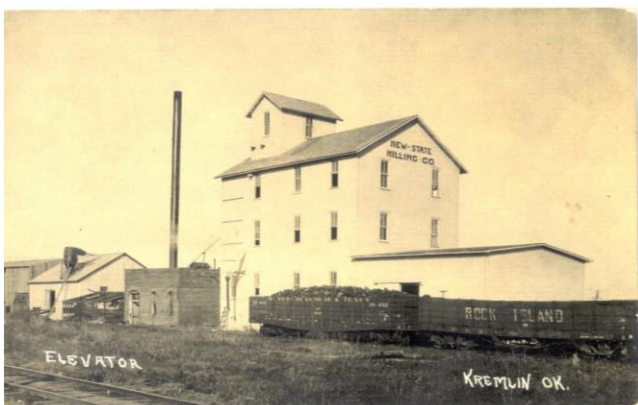


**Above:** (L) 1911 photo of the [Bank of Kremlin](#) (left half of building) and [Rathmel Grocery](#) (right half). Note horse hitched at extreme R. Except for an added galvanized metal awning, it appears in the photo much like it did in my youth. (R) [Daniel H "Hub" Guffey's general store/blacksmith/shoeing/wood repair shop](#), ca 1920.



**Above:** (L) [Main Street](#) looking N; (R) [Rock Island Plow Company Implements](#) business - proprietor Ed Lee is shown in this 1911 photo with Clyde Hatfield and Roy L Lee.

**Below:** see legend on next page





**Previous page, bottom panel: top, (L) Rock Island Depot; (R) Rock Island Railroad looking N** with depot on the W side and New State Milling Company mill and elevators on the E side. Note chickens placidly foraging between the tracks.

**bottom, (L) New State Milling Company** with coal cars on the siding. This site would eventually become the Farmers Grain Company Co-op; (R) **1912** photo of the **original Kremlin School building** - my grandfather **George P Toews** used lumber from this school building to build the big white barn on our home-place.

The **Wild Horse School** NW of Kremlin is shown below at L - **Vernon Janzen's** brothers attended this school before he and they attended Kremlin School. Vernon Janzen was President of Tabor College from 1980-87. The wooden **Farmer's Elevator** under construction E of the Rock Island tracks is shown at R - note the inscription, 5-29-15 date, and stylized initials (JAV) of my grandfather **Jacob A Voth Sr.**



Additional information regarding the **"Kremlin/Wild Horse Post Office"** is **Appendix II**. Postal information was compiled in **1993** as part of the **Cherokee Land Run of 1893 Centennial Celebration**. It includes an informative historical narrative as well as a first-day-of-issue 9 November 1993 postmark from Wild Horse/Kremlin and features a **National Postal Museum 29¢ commemorative stamp** that includes Kremlin artist **H Holden's "Boomer."** H also designed the **first-day cover** envelope. The first postmaster was **Harvey E Thompson**, from its founding in 1893 until **Judge William Lay** and **Miss Blanche Lay** assumed these duties in 1896.



Some nice additional photos from a 9 March 1911 "Greetings from Kremlin Oklahoma" postcard sent to Mrs. Myrtle Lenagas of Greensburg KS are below. Note parsonages for both churches. There is no stamp! Perhaps it was hand-delivered.



Did Lizzie send you the chain? if not I am afraid it is lost. **POST OFFICE** **Blackmail** PLACE A STAMP HERE AZCA

March 9, 1911

Dear Myrtle I want you to have <sup>RESPONSE HERE</sup> ~~one of these views.~~ I think they are very pretty. The mill was burned Thanksgiving morning. That is the parsonage of the school house with the light shut on - I had a narrow escape with my life last night. Will tell you about it in the letter. Will send this in envelope to keep it nice. Myrna

NAME AND ADDRESS HERE  
Mrs Myrtle Lenagas  
Greensburg  
Kansas





The **CM Harden General Store** (sign atop front says **CM Harden General Merchandise Dry Goods Groceries**) is shown below (postcard for sale on eBay August 2022). I believe this is an earlier version of the building in middle photo of the next page. Also shown below is a **1 March 1912 Kremlin Journal** newspaper article regarding the remodeling of the store. **Frank** (Francis) **Seapy** and **Aunt Lill Slurard**(?) are identified on the back of the card. The **6 June 1913 Kremlin Journal** article on the marriage of Francis (Frank) Seapy and Rhoda Roberts is also below. Rhoda Seapy was sometime cook at Kremlin Schools and a sister to **Leola Roberts Peck**, **Earl Peck**'s wife, both mentioned in the above 1913 article. **Frank** and **Rhoda Roberts Seapy** are both buried in the Enid Cemetery.



The general merchandise store of M. S. Harden is being remodeled. The room formerly occupied by Farrell & Seapy is being thrown in with the Harden store and will make more commodious apartments for this store.

Francis Seapy  
1910 United States Federal Census

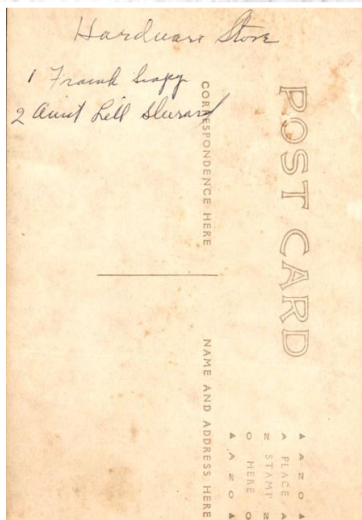
Detail	Related	Source
Name	Francis Seapy	
Age in 1910	26	
Birth Date	1884	
Birthplace	Kansas	
Home in 1910	Kremlin, Garfield, Oklahoma, USA	
Race	White	
Gender	Male	
Relation to Head of House	Son	
Marital Status	Single	
Father's Name	Charles Seapy	
Father's Birthplace	Illinois	
Mother's Name	Margaret Seapy	
Mother's Birthplace	Pennsylvania	
Native Tongue	English	
Occupation	Merchant	
Industry	Hardware	
Employer, Employee or Other	Own Account	
Able to read	Yes	
Able to Write	Yes	
Neighbors	View others on page	
Household Members	7	

Hymeneal

Mr. Francis Seapy and Miss Rhoda Roberts, both of Kremlin, were married yesterday at the Methodist church by Rev. Horney. The bride is a very popular young woman of Kremlin, having lived there with her parents for several years. Mr. Seapy is a young hardware merchant of the same place, and very prominent in the community. They will reside in Kremlin.—Enid News.

The 'newly-weds' returned to Kremlin Wednesday evening accompanied by Miss Leola Roberts, Mr. Earl Peck, and Mr. Russell McCoy, in a car. A delightful supper was prepared at the home of the bride's parents at which place several had gathered to greet them. Mr. and Mrs. Seapy will be at home in the south part of town about the 15th of June.

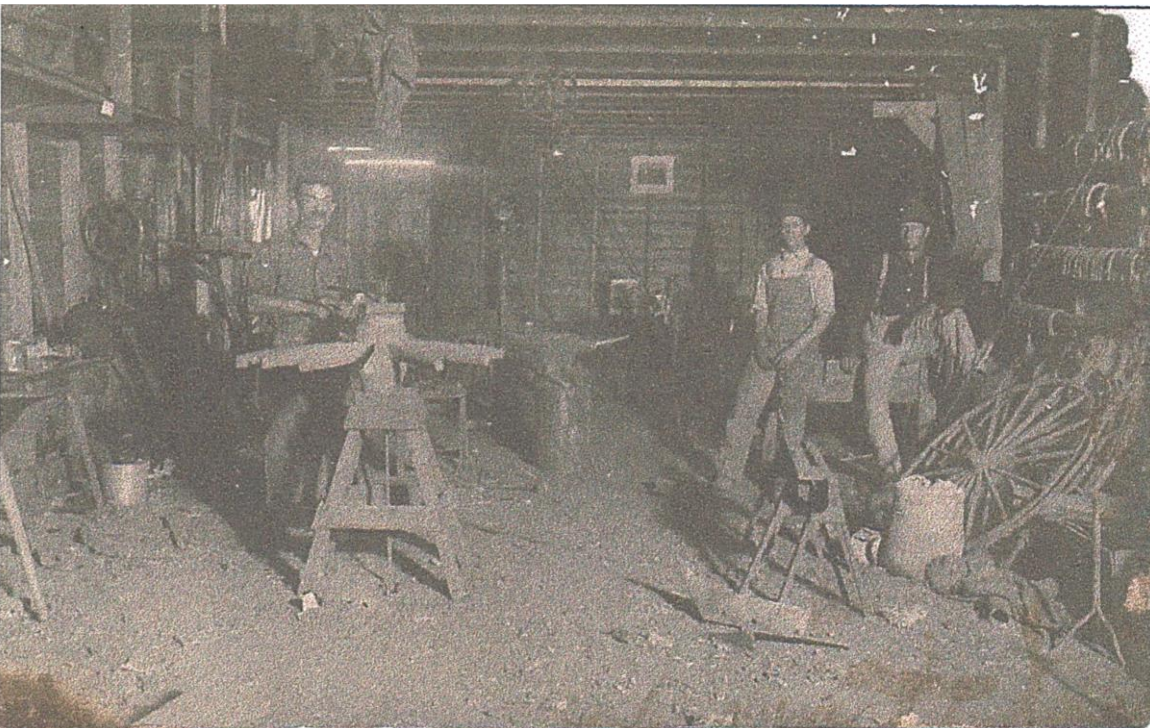
The young people charivariated the bride and groom at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Roberts Wednesday night.





Photos below are of a wheelright/farrier/blacksmith shop somewhere in Kremlin. Both sepia and B/W images are shown due to low quality of original image. I believe this may be the workshop of the "Rock Island Plow Co Implements" business shown middle R of p 6. The worker on the left below looks very much like the person on the R in the photo on p 6. Perhaps the other two workers in both photos are the same persons too?

Note the wagon wheel under construction, other wheels, racks of horseshoes at R, drill press at L, and belt-driven machinery in back. From Ginny Zaloudek 2001 Kremlin Centennial memorabilia collection via Myron Toews





Additional old photographs from the walls of the FW Zaloudek Kremlin Community Building are shown below. Top: [Kremlin Phares Livery Stable](#), later moved to the "Hatcher Place" directly N of the Peter H/Johnny Voth home-place. I remember this barn still standing there in my youth. Middle: [Kremlin bank](#) (front) & [post office](#) (back), later the [Hambright Barbershop](#), "cream station," and [residence](#) - on Main Street, just S of C Street, E side.



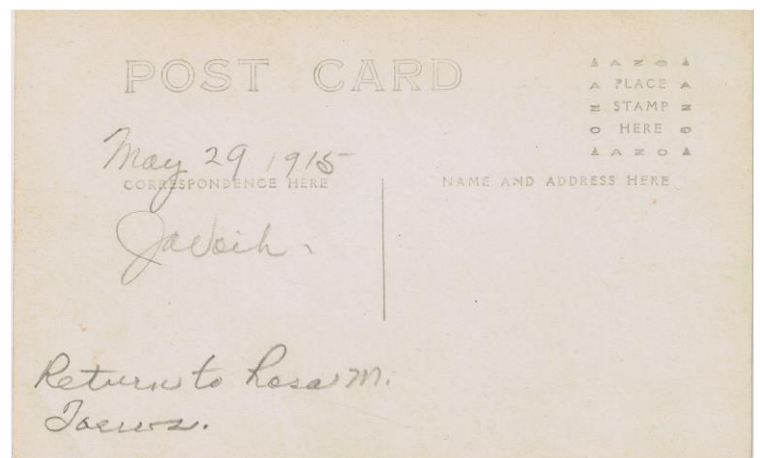
(former CM Harden General Store?) - note addition behind back chimney



Right: [Farmer's Oil Company service station](#) operated by [William A Peck](#), then later by son [Dale Peck](#). This is a fairly recent photo, but the station is present in much older photos as well. It was directly W across Main Street from the Community Hall. .



A higher-resolution of the "Kremlin - Main Street looking N" photo on p 5 is below. Note the script and stylized *JAV* of my grandfather, *Jacob A Voth Sr.* He has written "May 29, 1915" on the back of the card. Note the tall (2-3 story) buildings N of Bank of Kremlin/Rathmel Grocery building, the "Bell Telephone" sign at R, telephone/telegraph wires along Main Street, shoppers on sidewalks, and lots of commerce with horse-drawn buggies and wagons by the tall buildings at L margin.





Kremlin even had its own newspaper - three of them, in fact! The first, The Cherokee Cosmos published and edited by HP and JR Albert, had as its motto "Fear God, Tell the Truth, and Make Money!" A weekly, it was first published in 1894, just a year after the Cherokee Outlet Land Run. Publication ceased when the Alberts moved to Oklahoma City, date unknown. Twenty-four editions are available online at the OK Historical Society website, along with many other Kremlin items, well worth a look. A few sample pages are presented below - they make for fascinating and informative early Kremlin reading!

Note the "Kremlin, Wild Horse, O County, OT" (OK Territory) address in the masthead.

*W. K. Campbell*

# THE CHEROKEE COSMOS.

The only strictly truthful paper on the Strip.      Motto:—FEAR GOD, TELL THE TRUTH AND MAKE MONEY.

VOL. I: NO. 3.      KREMLIN, WILD HORSE, O COUNTY, O. T., FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1894.      \$1.50 PER YEAR.

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**BUSINESS CARDS.**

**LAWYERS.**

**JAMES G. GREER,** Attorneys and Notaries, Citizen's Bank building, North End.

**HUDDLESTON, A. A.,** Attorney-at-Law, Office with Carpenter, Rose & Co., Kremlin, Oklahoma.

**WAMPLER, T. W.,** Attorney and Counselor at Law, Will practice in all courts, East of Land Office, East.

**JENSEN & LAWS,** Lawyers and Real Estate Agents, west side of Square, next Crocker Hotel, East.

**CONKLING, STEEN & CONKLING,** Lawyers, Practice in all Federal and Territorial Courts. Land Office business. Front rooms, second floor, Fuqua Building, East.

**CALDWELL & WHITTINGHILL,** Lawyers. Will practice before all courts of the Territory and before the Land Office, west side of Square, East, Ok.

**TAYLOR, F. R.,** Attorney and Counselor at Law, Practice in all Federal Territorial and State courts. Filing papers and conducting a specialty. North side Ok. ave., between 1st and 2nd st., Old town company office.

**BUILDERS.**

**SIMPSON, W. G.,** Kremlin, Contractor and Builder, Plans furnished and estimates given. All work has prompt attention and is guaranteed.

**RYD, W. S.,** Carpenter, contractor and builder, Kremlin. All orders executed with promptness and satisfaction guaranteed. Plans and specifications furnished.

**REICH, ARTHUR D.,** Carpenter and Builder, Kremlin. Will contract for the erection of buildings anywhere on the Strip. Plans and specifications furnished when desired. All work finished in workmanlike manner and prompt attention given to business.

**PHYSICIANS.**

**TRIPP, R. A., M. D.,** Office over the Cherokee Drug Store, East. Physician and Surgeon.

**BURGE, N. M., M. D.,** Physician and Surgeon, Kremlin, Oklahoma Terr., All calls promptly answered from office day or night.

**FORGE, C. J.,** Physician and Surgeon, East, O. T. Office with Diamond drug store, East, near 2nd. Answers calls at all hours.

**MARGRIEVE, G. W., M. D.,** Back to land surgeon, formerly at London, England, Office in Columbia drug store, North End.

**MCCLANE, Dr. F. E.,** Physician and Surgeon, Dept. of Public Health, O county west of O. G. S. Street, East, Ok.

**BARBERS.**

**CARVER, IRA C.,** Barber and Hair-dresser, E. S. S. S. Shop, directly east of depot. Your patronage solicited.

**SLAUGHTER, J. W.,** Barber and Hair-dresser, four doors south of Fuqua Building, East. Is the place to get shaved whenever you are in the county seat.

**STUCKLE, E. E.,** Barber and Hair-dresser, corner Oklahoma ave. and Second street, North End. Smooth shaves, slick hair cuts and clean towels are his specialties. Do not forget him.

**HOTELS.**

**HUBBARD HOUSE,** Near depot, North End. Geo. E. Hubbard, Prop. First-class \$1.00 a day house.

**CROCKER HOUSE,** middle of west side of Square, East, Charles M. Crocker, proprietor. One dollar per day. First-class accommodations.

**JUSTICES.**

**ALBERT, HARLAN PAGE,** Justice of the Peace, real estate and collection agent. Office with this paper, Kremlin.

**CARSON, J. R.,** Justice of the Peace and collection agent, east side, North End. Careful attention given all business.

**REAL ESTATE.**

**RAKESBAY & KEMP,** Real Estate, Lease and Insurance Agents, East.

**UNDERWOOD & WARD,** Real Estate Exchange. Claims bought and sold. Homesteaded, city property listed, town lots for sale. Business transacted in all parts of the territory. The best references. East Oklahoma.

**PAINTER.**

**HINDAY, WILLIAM,** Secular Artist and Painter. Orders left with Frank & Gray, east side, North End, for "Billy, the Painter" will receive prompt attention. House, sign and scenic painting.

**HOROLOGER.**

**HARRIS, R. A.,** Precision Watchmaker and Jeweler. Repairing of fine and complicated watches a specialty. First door west of post office, East.

**NOTARY PUBLIC.**

**ALBERT, H. P.,** Notary Public, Kremlin, Oklahoma. Office with Cosmos. Prompt attention given O county work.

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**CARPENTER, ROSE & CO.,**

Flour,      Their stock is all select and their prices as low as the lowest.

Provisions,      IF

Groceries,      courteous treatment and square dealing will secure your trade they will have your patronage.

Canned Goods,      square dealing will secure your trade they will have your patronage.

Seeds,      Hardware,      Feeds, Etc.

B. O. Carpenter, T. C. Rose, F. C. Fulton, General Merchandise, KREMLIN.

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**C. A. BRIGHAM,**

KREMLIN, O KLAHOMA.

Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes.

**HAY AND GRAIN**

A SPECIALTY.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

CALL AND SEE HIM BEFORE BUYING ELSEWHERE.

**Wm. PALMER,**

DEALER IN

**DRY GOODS,**

Groceries, General Merchandise,

Hay, Seeds and Feed.

KREMLIN, O KLAHOMA.

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**O. GUMERSON.**

J. A. YEOMANS.

**GUMERSON & YEOMANS,**

—DEALERS IN—

**Coal, Hay, Seed Oats, Corn and Feed.**

**KREMLIN, OKLA.**

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**WILLIAM LAV,**      **J. S. SHOEMAKER,**  
Chairman Board of      Notary Public and  
County Commissioners.      Land Attorney.

**LAY & SHOEMAKER,**

Real Estate Brokers and Land Attorneys.  
Investors and Collectors.  
Insurance.

**KREMLIN, "O" COUNTY, O KLAHOMA.**

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**A. D. REICH.**      **PORTER TIPTON.**

**REICH & TIPTON,**

**CONTRACTORS & BUILDERS.**

Will contract for the erection of buildings on the Strip. Plans and Specifications furnished when desired. All work finished in workmanlike manner and prompt attention given to business.

**KREMLIN, O KLA.**

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**SHAVINGS AND CHIPS!**

NOISE AND NOTATIONS.

Our Scrub Moves Among the Nobby Mechanics and Singles out Several good items.

Look for rain next.  
How's this for weather?  
Advertise in the Cosmos?  
Dare the dog grab anyway.  
No scarcity of news in Kremlin.  
Antelope are plentiful east of town three miles.  
Pony's English Kitchen, west side Square, East, is for the country capital Wednesday.  
L. G. Mair made a trip to the county north-east 21-24 with his built upon, on the 22nd day of last month and has made application to pay out for it as a private town-site. His application comes on for hearing March 10th and, although that arch-enemy to our people, whose name is not necessary to mention, is straining every nerve to get someone to contest the claim we do not anticipate he will succeed in tying up the town and keep our people here without knowing whether they are afoot or horseback. The man who would keep back our town by a contest does not reside within our borders. The four original contestants are satisfied with the proving up and our people certainly should be also.

Our neighbor on the west, R. E. Oldburg, says "if that wolf which sprung his steel trap last Saturday night, will bring back the big chain fence post, steel trap and chain he is welcome to his hide this time." Mr. Oldburg says they tracked the wolf some distance by the indentations made by the post to which the chain was attached and every little distance they could see where the wolf had stooped and gnawed the back of the post. This is a pretty big wolf story, nearly as big as Deacon Jack McCoy's but Mr. Oldburg's reputation for truth and veracity in this vicinity is unquestionable and it will have to go.

L. G. Mair is expecting his brother-in-law, J. C. Hubbell, and family from El Reno any day now. Mr. Hubbell's goods are here already and he will make a business man here. He will be remembered by many of our citizens as the mayor of Wichita during those great showing days in that city and made one of the most capable mayors that city ever had.

Dr. Burge's office on the west side looming in fine style and the signs thereon proclaim that we have an M. D. in town. "Doc" has a fine stock of drugs on hand. Our people now rest more contentedly than they have since the opening of the Strip. The doctor is a social "cuss" and his office has already become a rendezvous for genial spirits.

It seems awfully silly in the North End Tribune to pound the Free Silver Treasury simply because those do not advertise with them. He runs a good line of goods, has gotten on a fine trading corner, minds his own business and sells lots of goods. Come off, Ross without pay.

Section foreman, John A. Welsh, on getting back from a visit to see after his Kansas property found the bar pile each side the railroad track filled with water. He is arranging now to run a deep ditch east a half mile and will then drain off future rainfall as soon as they can be removed.

Robert Wash found life in the county capital so quiet that he has returned to our lively city and puts in his time among our sports. He has been for some time acting as porter in the Crocker House, in East.

We would like to purchase a good working team on installation of trade nursery stock for team and plow. Do not care for a "high toned" outfit but one that can "get there" on our claim. If any one has a team to sell, please call.

The Cherokee Pharmacy, South End, is the oldest Drug Store in the Strip. Call on them. They want your trade and will treat you right. Remember to give them a call. On the corner. 1-3.

R. L. Hine has a hotel on 1st street, North End, around the corner from Oklahoma avenue that puts up a neat and furnishes lodging hard to beat. 1-1.

Ten cents invested at Kuhlman's chop house, East, gives you a full meal of steazy broiled a cat load of locusts, good and six horses. Mr. Reiger is an old friend of Porter Tipton's and the two have had great times swapping lies and reviving old recollections.



Cherokee Cosmos (1894), page 2: Note ads for the Monarch Saloon and The City Meat Market, owned by J.L. Houghtaling, former owner of our Houghtaling Farm.

THE CHEROKEE COSMOS.

By ALBERT & ALBERT. HARLAN P. ALBERT. JEAN R. ALBERT.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, \$1.00; Six months, .75; Four months, .50; Two months, .25. Payable strictly in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES: One column, one year, \$100.00; Business cards, five lines, one year, \$50.00; Local, first insertion, per line, .10; Local, subsequent insertions, per line, .05.

UNITED STATES Mails: We will carry mail for train services. Kremlia post office, at the following hours: For No. 1 South, 10:12 A. M., express caught, 8:59 P. M.

CHICAGO, Rock Island & Pacific Rail way.—Trains carrying passengers will leave Kremlia as follows: No. 4 Mail and express, North, 7:56 P. M.; No. 21 Local Freight, 8:59 P. M.; No. 3 Mail and express, South, 7:56 A. M.; No. 21 Local Freight, 8:59 P. M.

O county democrats are perfecting their organization and will be in good trim for the approaching campaign.

Home Art for May contains all the latest ideas in fancy work and findings in general dear to feminine hearts.

May number of Dog Fancy is full of dog lore and general news related to the dog world. It is a valuable publication.

A poultry magazine appears on our exchange table from Texas devoted especially to the interests of the feathered tribe which merits attention from poultry fanciers.

Takers up of estrays must remember that within ten days after posting up notices they must appear before a Justice of the Peace and give bond and leave description and valuation of animals.

Table Talk comes to our exchange table loaded with valuable hints and recipes valuable to every housewife.

The May issue of The Art Amateur warmly commends the efforts of Mr. William Baumgardner in establishing a tannery factory in the United States.

At the opening of the fall terms of school in O county one hundred schools will be started. Careful preparation is being made to make the coming normal a success to the end that those employed to teach may do the best possible work.

We venture the prediction that the people will express themselves as entirely satisfied with the economical democratic administration of the Strip counties by electing the entire democratic ticket in each of the counties. Make a note of this.

Turf, Field and Farm appears on our exchange table in an improved form and, if possible, nearer perfection in its line than ever before.

No matter how hard a man may struggle to do right there is always some sneaking scoundrel, some loathsome reptile, some pimple on the face of nature, some wart on the hand of destiny trying to drag him down.

Turf, Field and Farm has developed a new feature on its front cover which will be hailed with pleasure and profit by its patrons.

Good Housekeeping is a magazine full of every subject pertaining to household knowledge, and if every woman adhered to its teachings she would be a good housekeeper.

The Kremlin Cosmos says it "would like to see dead-beat man get a dose in the neck in Judge Brudley's court in East End tomorrow."

TWO GRAVES.

There are two graves in Pond Creek's burial grounds. Two pine slabs mutely tell the passer by that the dead rest in this grave.

It was six months ago last Friday that brave Jesse Henderson rode away toward the west in the gray of morning, rode in discharge of his duty as an officer of the law, rode to be cut down in the prime of life by the bullets of alleged cattle thieves, who, after committing the terrible deed, leisurely mounted their bronchos and rode away toward the stunted oak country.

And the law—indecent, impatient—that Jesse Henderson was serving faithfully, in whose behalf he yielded up his life—has made no weak effort to capture the men who did the deed, is it any wonder the tenderfoot cauld to mind bloody murders and swagging man-killers at the mention of "Oklahoma?"

Beneath the sod of the other grave lies the man who was guard of the night who was guard of the night, one mile from the city. Perhaps some who are in the far-off east, or among the New England hills, a mother wonders why her wandering boy does not answer her letters, and when she reads in the newspapers accounts of the desperadoes who infest the Indian territory, and the murders of the Cherokee Strip, and the double jockings in Kansas, maybe she sinks down in prayer and appeals to merciful God to be good to her wandering boy in the west to guide his footsteps in the way of righteousness, and after he has made his fortune return him in safety to her at last.

TRAIN WRECKERS.

From the North End Tribune. Last Saturday as the local freight train was pulling through South End and slowed down under the provisions of a new order from the division office, some alleged officials boarded the train, crawled between the cars, drew the coupling pin and cut the train in two.

They say this was done to capture the conductor to serve a summons on him and place him under arrest. To serve a writ from a court that has been declared to have no jurisdiction, they resort to plain train wrecking to follow out their unlawful course. No one was captured, however, but a lone and good looking brakeman who is in no way responsible for the running of the train and he is being made the subject of the fore's wrath.

It was learned at noon, when several of the company's leading detectives arrived in the city, that the alleged officers who cut the train in two, have fled the country to avoid arrest on the charge of train wrecking. The detectives know who they are, and no expense or trouble will be spared to capture them, and nothing but executive interference will keep them out of the penitentiary.

Train wrecking is a serious offense, particularly when the act is as heinous as this one, and the fellows who did it had better keep on going and get out of much territory as possible. They will be well a warning, when caught, that will be a lesson to others who think they can wreck a train to suit their will.

But for the thoughtfulness of the brakeman who was captured by the train wreckers there might have been a serious collision with its attendant loss of life and property. A freight train following, and coming from that steep grade, could not have stopped under any circumstances, and with a part of the local standing on the track at the foot of the hill, detached from its engine, it would have been most disastrous wreck and probably the fireman and engineer killed and mangled in a horrible manner. The company is determined to capture these train wreckers, who claim to be acting on orders issued from a country police judge. Single copies, ten cents each. Address, Turf, Field and Farm Times Building, Park Row, New York.

The trial of the poor brakeman is being held this afternoon in South End before a police judge.

From the North End Tribune. The Kremlin Cosmos says it "would like to see dead-beat man get a dose in the neck in Judge Brudley's court in East End tomorrow."

For SALE.—A well selected stock of general merchandise, worth about \$700, with or without more building \$200 more. A good chance to drop into a nice paying business. Inquire at this office. 1-17

Take a Bite at Meat Time!

Parter's New England Kitchen, west side Square, county seat, sets up a clean, elegant meal at twenty-five cents. 1-17

Save an Odd Dollar! You will save many an odd dollar on lumber and hardware by trading with J. A. Dobry, Kremlin. 1-17

NOTICE OF MEETING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EQUALIZATION. Notice is hereby given that the Township Board of Equalization, in each of the municipal townships of O county will meet in following places, June 1st, 1894, for the purpose of equalizing the assessments in the townships, and all persons feeling themselves aggrieved as to their individual assessments, must present their grievances to the board of their respective townships. The decision of said boards are final as to individual complaints.

Keosauqua township, at the store of T. P. Davis & Co. at Kremlin, O. T.; Buffalo township, at the home of J. L. Danick, township clerk; Cherokee township, at the home of D. R. Trask, township trustee; Severed township, at the home of E. J. Clark, township clerk, north-east quarter section two, township twenty-one, range eight west; Redford township, at the home of N. M. Dilloe, township clerk, north-west quarter section 19, township twenty, range seven west; Lopiola township, at the home of J. L. M. Shaub, township trustee; Waukomis township, at the office of the Waukomis Wizard; North End township, at the office of P. O. Orent, Columbian Drug Store, North End; End City, at the home of the city clerk; End township, at the office of Denton Chambers, Fuqua Building; Patterson township, at the home of J. P. Willis, trustee; Doon township, at the home of J. S. Hogan, township treasurer; Bill Williams township, at the home of R. C. Gilchrist, township trustee; Marshall township, at the home of J. J. Dawson, justice of the peace; Wood township, at the home of R. E. Spitzer, township trustee; Olive township, at the home of H. G. Collins, township trustee; Collins township, at the store of C. V. Porter.

Hassler township, at the home of Absolom Kyle, township trustee. By order of the board of county commissioners. W. W. LAY, Chairman.

Attest: W. D. CORNELIUS, County Clerk.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Territory of Oklahoma, 1st S., County of O. J. A. Crook, Plaintiff, vs. H. H. Smith, Defendant.

The above H. H. Smith, defendant, will take notice that on the 21st day of April, A. D. 1894, J. A. Crook, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the court of the Justice of the Peace in and for the township of North End, county of O, Oklahoma Territory, against said defendant, the object and prayer of which is to collect a balance due plaintiff, the sum being \$19.10.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 26th day of May, A. D. 1894, and show cause why a judgment should not be rendered against you. Dated, April 27th, 1894.

By S. R. JAMES, Attorney-at-Law, Plaintiff.

By order of J. B. Carson, Justice of Peace, service is hereby published. First publication in CHEROKEE COSMOS, May 3rd, 1894. 12-4

NOTICE. [COVERED BY 184] United States Land Office, East, O. T., May 30, 1894. Claimant having been entered this office by Phillip Sargent against Wm. H. Marmitt for abandoning his Homestead Entry No. 2100, dated October 20th, 1882, upon the SW 1 section 5, Township 24, Range 4, in O county, O. T., with a view to the cancellation of said entry, the said parties are hereby summoned to appear at U. S. Land office, East, O. T., on the 30th day of June, 1894, at 9 o'clock A. M., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment.

[First publication in the Kremlin Cosmos May 11, 1894.]

ESTRAY NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that Wm. Pope, who resides on the SW 1 sec. 3, tp. 24, r. 7, W. 1. M., took up on the 30th day of April the following described estrays: One dark brown mare ten years old, no markings. One gray mare, fifteen years old, one tooth broken, from side of jaw no markings. One claybank pony mare weighing about 600 pounds, nice smooth suit, fat and in good condition, wild. Proof made before Harlan Page Albert, Justice of the Peace, Kremlin.

W. D. CORNELIUS, County Clerk Dated East, O. T., May 17th, 1894.

ESTRAY NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that W. E. Moore, sec. 7, tp. 24, r. 6, W. 1. M., has taken up one brown or gold gelding, high hip, weighing 1250 pounds, valued at \$80; one dark bay mare with salt ear and weight 1100 to 1200 pounds, valued at about \$40. Proof made before Harlan Page Albert, Justice of the Peace, Kremlin.

W. D. CORNELIUS, County Clerk Dated East, O. T., May 24th, 1894.

FOR SALE.—A well selected stock of general merchandise, worth about \$700, with or without more building \$200 more. A good chance to drop into a nice paying business. Inquire at this office. 1-17

JAMES BRENNAN'S

MONARCH SALOON!

KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA. The popular resort for Fine Wines, Liquors and Malt Beverages.

CHOICE TOBACCO AND CIGARS. Courteous treatment to all.

THE MESSER HOUSE East of Depot, KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA. Board and lodging by day or week. Best of accommodations. Marx Messer, Prop.

ELLIOTT & ROGERS, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Rooms 8 and 9, Fuqua Building, SOUTH END, O. T.

Will practice in all the Courts of the Territory. Contests in Land Office a specialty. Attention given to collections.

The City Meat Market

J. L. HOUGHTALING, ALL KINDS OF MEATS IN THEIR SEASON. HE TRIES TO PLEASE HIS CUSTOMERS.

FRESH BREAD FOR SALE. GIVE HIM A CALL. KREMLIN, O. T.

A. A. HUDDLESON & CO., Law and Real Estate. KREMLIN, O. T. Office with Carpenter, Rose & Co.

FOR SALE. Two adjoining claims, 14 miles from Kremlin, \$400 each. All titiable Land a bargain. Claim 12 miles east of Kremlin, for \$150. Will trade for good team and wagon. Claim 3 miles S. W. of Kremlin, for \$30. One hundred acres of good bottom land. Claim 3 miles from Kremlin, \$225. All first-class land.

P. A. PINKERTON, GENERAL BLACKSMITH, KREMLIN, OKLA. Plow Work and Horse Shoeing. Breaking Plows for Sale Call on him with your work and tell your neighbors of him.

PATENT POST HOLE AUGER. THE BEST MADE. Township and County Rights at a Bargain. THESE AUGERS CAN BE MANUFACTURED VERY CHEAPLY. ALBERT & ALBERT, Kremlin, Okla. OWNERS OF PATENT FOR TERRITORY.

G. J. SILLS, GENERAL BLACKSMITH AND REPAIR SHOP. NORTH END



Cherokee Cosmos (1894), page 3: Note ads for the Gumeron's Pioneer Store, John A Morgan's Livery Stable, and the notice for accommodating boarders and lodgers at the railroad section house. Lots of other interesting reading on all these pages!

O. GUMERSON. G. A. GUMERSON.

# THE PIONEER STORE.

**GUMERSON & SON,**  
Groceries, Seed,  
Provisions, Corn,  
Feed, Hay, Etc.

## Best Grades Coal!

Highest price paid for Butter and Eggs.

**KREMLIN, OKLA.**

### BUY YOUR LUMBER

OF . . .


**TRASKELL & ROUND'S LUMBER CO.**

YARDS: **LUMBER, SHINGLES, SASH,**

HENNESSEY, WAREHOUSES, ENID, KREMLIN, POND CREEK, NEWBORN.

Doors, Blinds, Lins and Cement.  
H. CHASTAIN, MANAGER KREMLIN, IND.

# JOHN A. MORGAN,



Livery, Feed  
AND  
Sale Stable,  
Kremlin, Okla.

HERBERT L. STEELE,  
DRAYING AND TRANSFER WORK,  
All Orders Promptly Executed.  
KREMLIN, OKLA.

Orders for hauling into country solicited. Leave orders at Traskell & Round's Lumber Office or first door east of depot.

JAS. O. FOUCA, President. W. T. WATSON, Cashier.  
J. W. TOMPSON, Vice President. F. P. STEARNS, Ass't Cashier.

INCORPORATED.

**Farmers' and Merchants' Bank,**  
ENID, OKLAHOMA.  
Capital Stock, \$50,000.

DIRECTORS:—James O. Fouca, J. W. Tompson, J. W. Clevinger, R. W. Patter-son, I. G. Conkling, Chas. King, F. P. Stearns.

## Ready for Business.

MORRISON BROTHERS have removed their entire stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, etc., from Hennessey and opened it with many new additions in their New Store near post office, of Kremlin. They solicit an inspection of their goods and a comparison of prices from all buyers. East side of railroad, Kremlin.

**MORRISON BROTHERS,**  
General Merchandise.

**F. W. HAVLIECK,**  
DEALER IN

**FURNITURE, UNDERTAKING,**  
Window Shades, Glass, Picture Frames, Etc.

OKLAHOMA AVE., NORTH ENID.

A Few Boarders and Lodgers  
CAN BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE  
Section House, John Welsh, Foreman,

Parties desiring to improve their cattle will find Two

**Holstine Bulls**

On the premises of A. J. Gilliland, ne 17-24-6, at all times. Terms of service, \$1.00

**The Democratic Voice.**  
A fact conceded by all our leading business men:  
"Advertising means business success."

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE is the official paper of "L" Co., and is conceded to be the best advertising medium in the central Strip.

J. M. MALN & G. A. MALN, Pubs. (Ad rate made known on application.)

POND CREEK, OKLA.

**AN EXCLUSIVE DOG PAPE,**  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY,  
**THE DOG FANCIER,**  
50 Cents per Year.

THE DOG FANCIER, illustrated, devoted exclusively to dogs, their characteristics, etc., contains instructive correspondence and miscellaneous articles especially interesting to all lovers of dogs, and should be in the home of every dog owner in America.

Send for Sample Copy.

EUGENE GLASS, Battle Creek, Mich.

**"CATTLE AND THE DAIRY"**

It is the title of a valuable little book we publish. Price, 25 cents. It is written in the form of Questions and Answers and is the essence of reports of Veterinary Institutes.

Contents—Chap. I, Cattle; Care and Management. Chap. II, Feeding and Food Rations. Chap. III, Milk and Butter. Chap. IV, Cheese Making. Of this book Supt. W. H. Morrison, of Wisconsin, says: "I wish every farmer had a copy of this book."

SPECIAL OFFER! We will mail, free, a copy of this book to every one who cuts out this advertisement and sends it to us with 50 cents for one year's subscription to THE PRACTICAL DAIRYMAN, Chatham, N. Y.

**SEEDS, SEEDS, SEEDS**

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS FOR

Seed Corn, Cane Seed,  
Millet, Alfalfa, Fineless,  
Sweet Potatoes, Artichokes,  
Southern Hope and Storm  
Proof Cotton Seed, Grass  
Seeds and Garden Seeds of  
all kinds.

BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE FREE.

TEXAS SEED AND FLORAL CO.,  
DALLAS, TEXAS.  
Mention this paper when writing.

**You Want A Well!**

Get George Austin one-half mile west of Kremlin to put one down for you. First-class Machinery.

His prices are right!

**Well!!**

Get George Austin one-half mile west of Kremlin to put one down for you. First-class Machinery.

His prices are right!

George has a prospecting apparatus to search for water at a cost of about 25 cents per foot.

**JOYFUL JUNE!**

OBSTRUCTED BY STREAMS.

Multitudinous Manuscript Manufacturers Meet Many Merry Murmurers of Musical Melodre.

If you don't believe as we do You're a plutocrat;  
If you don't uphold the Coxey crew You're a plutocrat;  
If you wear stiff stand up collars, And redeem your debts in dollars, Then my friend, it surely follows, You're a bloated plutocrat.—Ex.

SAY:—Toilet soap in infinite variety sold by Burge & Co., Kremlin. 10¢

WELL:—Buy your galvanized well casing from L. H. Martin, North Enid. 9¢

TO SELLER:—Parties wanting to dispose of claims should see Mair & Hubbell, Kremlin. 10¢

DON'T:—Don't forget that the Cherokee Pharmacy is the leading drug store of Oklahoma. 9-3

RELIGION:—Remember there will be preaching and Sabbath school at the depot next Sunday.

HELP:—Parties desiring a good reliable girl to do housework can hear of such one by inquiry at this office. 10¢

DO NOT:—Do no job of painting until you know the prices charged for paints by the Cherokee Pharmacy, Enid. 4¢

PLANT:—Our town sports a first-class drug store run in an up-to-date manner by Dr. Burge & Roberts. Tell your neighbor. 7¢

RENTER:—Any party desiring to lease 100 acres of raw land for what they can raise on it the first year should inquire at this office. 5¢

VISIT:—Postmaster Tompson was visited by his father, G. W. Tompson, mother and sister from near Enid, Wednesday.

PLANT:—George Austin, one half mile west of town, has some of the finest bull calves on the Strip for sale. It is a lot specially selected for his own use. Call early and purchase. 14¢

ROOF:—N. H. Vineyard's new house is assuming substantial proportions, one mile north. Norman is going to have a warm and snug proof place for next winter and spring.

GOOD:—The May issue of Art Amateur warmly commends the efforts of Mr. William Baumgarten to establish a school of art in the United States, suitable water for the preparation of the eyes for the threads having been found back and one front foot, upon about neck. One light bay horse, weighing 1100 pounds, 14 years old, a little away backed, rope about neck. All came from northern Kansas. Liberal reference for information leading to recovery. P. McKenna, Kremlin, O. T.

GET THERE:—Hugh Donly will probably be the coming democratic candidate for sheriff of O county. If a candidate he'll hang his hat up in the Sheriff's office after January 1st, 1895. When he runs for office his name is Eli.

MOVES:—J. A. Lowry and son Lewis departed the middle of the week for Kansas where Mr. Lowry has some fifty acres of wheat to harvest. Reports from his section of Kansas indicate a poor yield of wheat due to a scarcity of rain.

ACQUA:—Rev. T. J. Cook, sw 7-24-5, has had a colored gentleman from Enid digging for water on his claim the past two days. As we go to press they are contemplating a rich vein of soft water fifteen feet below the surface and close to the house.

ANNOUNCE:—Next issue we hope to carry an announcement of the opening of the new store of Cyrus Fresse & Son. The building is an ornament inside and out and reflects credit both upon the mercantile firm and the carpenter. It will be a satisfaction to trade in so fine a store and the stock carried will undoubtedly be extensive.

AID:—W. A. Morrison, sw 17-24-5, does not believe in water witching; neither does his brother, who lives on the n-w 30 same township. But A. W. took a twig and tried for water on his claim and announced that he would find it at 25 feet deep, and found it. Then he tried his brother's and announced 14 feet at which depth they struck a bountiful supply of soft running water. So much for the twig.

BUILDING:—Carpenters Reich & Tipton are erecting two houses one mile west of town, one on the claim of Miss Anna Seik and one on the claim of her brother-in-law, George Austin. Miss Seik is building on the north east corner of her claim and Mr. Austin on the north-west corner of his thus bringing their houses near together. The Seik building is 20x20 and the Austin building is 20x30 with an ell.

WHICH:—One day this week W. E. Moore got a postal card from J. H. Welch, who is driving a team mortgaged to Moore, that he was already on his way back from the Indian Territory. Another day, and later, he got a card stating that he "Welch" would start very shortly for Kremlin. He's not here yet and we hope he will never return. In this prayer all good citizens join, even those who have attachments against his goods.

Not Dead:—Jack T. McCoy's step-brother, Lemuel Lytle, who filed a soldier's declaratory on the sw 5-24-5, reached Kremlin yesterday morning and took an afternoon walk out to see his claim. It is the first time he has been on the Strip, he filed by agent, and his curiosity is being gratified by viewing as pretty a claim for general purposes as can be found anywhere. On the east side of his claim he has eighty acres as level as a floor and as rich as eyes ever looked upon. The west half is a broad valley beautifully covered with grass and with soft water welling up to within an inch or two of the surface, D. W. Thomas was induced to file upon this claim by a South Enid land shark on the representation that the soldier whose declaratory was filed thereon was dead. If Lytle is dead he is a mighty lively corpse.

How's This:—We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

J. C. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O.

We the undersigned have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by his firm. West & Traut, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

WALDING, KINMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 50c per bottle. Testimonials free.

Sold by Burge & Co. 17¢

HONORER HONORS:—We take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to this achievement of Mr. D. Hill nurseryman, of Dundee, Illinois, in this paper. His stock of evergreens and shrubs from his all nursery grows and of the hardiest varieties and for wind-breaks, hedges and ornamental planting are unsurpassed. Mr. Hill has a wide reputation as an evergreen grower. His exhibit at the World's Fair was awarded the medal, the highest prize, over all competitors who ought to be a sufficient guarantee of his reputation. His illustrated catalogue will be sent free upon application and a World's Fair souvenir free to every customer.

STAYED ON SUNDAY:—From the south-west quarter section 20, township 24, range 5, west 1, N., four miles east, one south of Kremlin, Monday night, May 27th, the following horses:

One gray mare, weighing 1300 pounds, 6 years old, heavy mane and tail.

One dark brown horse, weighing 1450 pounds, 8 years old, wide marks on back and one front foot, upon about neck.

One light bay horse, weighing 1100 pounds, 14 years old, a little away backed, rope about neck. All came from northern Kansas. Liberal reference for information leading to recovery. P. McKenna, Kremlin, O. T.

PHYSIC:—Messrs. Burge & Company are now located in their new store on east side of track. This drug store is the pride of Kremlin and the prescription must be the most difficult that they cannot compound. While their stock is not as bulky as a Kansas City drug store their assortment is very extensive and no one need go beyond Kremlin to get such compounds as they need in the drug line.

TURNS UP:—Deacon Ben F. Ball and his son turned up on his claim, sw 11-24-6, on Tuesday night with a fine span of horses, a "prairie schooner" and a breaking plow. Now they are making the dirt fly although the soil is so dry as to render the breaking of the soil very difficult. Ben may go back to Coffeyville, Kansas, a few days the latter part of the month but his boy remains with us.

NOR DRY:—J. K. Wilson, the Ann heater-Busch beer man was with his family on his claim joining town on the north all day Sunday and yesterday. He has had a prospecting auger put down some twenty feet in several different portions of his claim and finds water at a depth of from seven to ten feet each time. He has Jack T. McCoy at work digging a well for him.

SHOD:—Our country people should remember that Ulrich Rothenberger is located in Kremlin with a full shoemaker's outfit and prepared to do repairs and making of shoes and boots. Come to Kremlin to do your tramping.

FASTATIC:—The largest dance ever given in Kremlin came off in the Fresse building on Wednesday night. Three sets were danced and the mazy kept up till early hours of the morning.

FOR SALE:—A well selected stock of general merchandise, worth about \$700, with or without store building, \$300 more. A good chance to drop into a nice paying business. Inquire at this office. 14¢

JOB:—Bring in your job work. A neat letter head and envelope or business card will increase your business. We are prepared to turn out all classes of job work on short notice.

JEWELRY:—Watches, Clocks and Jewelry repaired at Dr. M. Burge's Kremlin, will have prompt attention and moderate prices will be charged. 14¢

CLAIM:—If you know of anyone wanting a claim or if you have a relinquishment or claim to sell call and list it with the Cosmos real estate agency. 14¢

WARRANT:—When you think you need anything in Lumber, Hardware or farming implements go to J. A. Dobry, Kremlin, Oklahoma. 14¢

**JOYFUL JUNE!**

OBSTRUCTED BY STREAMS.

Multitudinous Manuscript Manufacturers Meet Many Merry Murmurers of Musical Melodre.

If you don't believe as we do You're a plutocrat;  
If you don't uphold the Coxey crew You're a plutocrat;  
If you wear stiff stand up collars, And redeem your debts in dollars, Then my friend, it surely follows, You're a bloated plutocrat.—Ex.

SAY:—Toilet soap in infinite variety sold by Burge & Co., Kremlin. 10¢

WELL:—Buy your galvanized well casing from L. H. Martin, North Enid. 9¢

TO SELLER:—Parties wanting to dispose of claims should see Mair & Hubbell, Kremlin. 10¢

DON'T:—Don't forget that the Cherokee Pharmacy is the leading drug store of Oklahoma. 9-3

RELIGION:—Remember there will be preaching and Sabbath school at the depot next Sunday.

HELP:—Parties desiring a good reliable girl to do housework can hear of such one by inquiry at this office. 10¢

DO NOT:—Do no job of painting until you know the prices charged for paints by the Cherokee Pharmacy, Enid. 4¢

PLANT:—Our town sports a first-class drug store run in an up-to-date manner by Dr. Burge & Roberts. Tell your neighbor. 7¢

RENTER:—Any party desiring to lease 100 acres of raw land for what they can raise on it the first year should inquire at this office. 5¢

VISIT:—Postmaster Tompson was visited by his father, G. W. Tompson, mother and sister from near Enid, Wednesday.

PLANT:—George Austin, one half mile west of town, has some of the finest bull calves on the Strip for sale. It is a lot specially selected for his own use. Call early and purchase. 14¢

ROOF:—N. H. Vineyard's new house is assuming substantial proportions, one mile north. Norman is going to have a warm and snug proof place for next winter and spring.

GOOD:—The May issue of Art Amateur warmly commends the efforts of Mr. William Baumgarten to establish a school of art in the United States, suitable water for the preparation of the eyes for the threads having been found back and one front foot, upon about neck. One light bay horse, weighing 1100 pounds, 14 years old, a little away backed, rope about neck. All came from northern Kansas. Liberal reference for information leading to recovery. P. McKenna, Kremlin, O. T.

GET THERE:—Hugh Donly will probably be the coming democratic candidate for sheriff of O county. If a candidate he'll hang his hat up in the Sheriff's office after January 1st, 1895. When he runs for office his name is Eli.

MOVES:—J. A. Lowry and son Lewis departed the middle of the week for Kansas where Mr. Lowry has some fifty acres of wheat to harvest. Reports from his section of Kansas indicate a poor yield of wheat due to a scarcity of rain.

ACQUA:—Rev. T. J. Cook, sw 7-24-5, has had a colored gentleman from Enid digging for water on his claim the past two days. As we go to press they are contemplating a rich vein of soft water fifteen feet below the surface and close to the house.

ANNOUNCE:—Next issue we hope to carry an announcement of the opening of the new store of Cyrus Fresse & Son. The building is an ornament inside and out and reflects credit both upon the mercantile firm and the carpenter. It will be a satisfaction to trade in so fine a store and the stock carried will undoubtedly be extensive.

AID:—W. A. Morrison, sw 17-24-5, does not believe in water witching; neither does his brother, who lives on the n-w 30 same township. But A. W. took a twig and tried for water on his claim and announced that he would find it at 25 feet deep, and found it. Then he tried his brother's and announced 14 feet at which depth they struck a bountiful supply of soft running water. So much for the twig.

BUILDING:—Carpenters Reich & Tipton are erecting two houses one mile west of town, one on the claim of Miss Anna Seik and one on the claim of her brother-in-law, George Austin. Miss Seik is building on the north east corner of her claim and Mr. Austin on the north-west corner of his thus bringing their houses near together. The Seik building is 20x20 and the Austin building is 20x30 with an ell.

WHICH:—One day this week W. E. Moore got a postal card from J. H. Welch, who is driving a team mortgaged to Moore, that he was already on his way back from the Indian Territory. Another day, and later, he got a card stating that he "Welch" would start very shortly for Kremlin. He's not here yet and we hope he will never return. In this prayer all good citizens join, even those who have attachments against his goods.



The thriving commerce in Kremlin in the early 1900s is evident from the ads shown below from the [Kremlin New Era newspaper](#) from 1904-05 (see following page).

**THE MIDDLE  
ELEVATOR.**

It ready for BUSINESS, and we ask a share of your patronage. A TRIAL will convince you that we mean to do a clean conservative business.

Yours

**Enid Mill & Elevator Company**  
GUY HARP, Agt. KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA.

**Do you  
Need  
COAL  
?**



We are in a position to supply you fire with the best COAL on the market. We get our coal direct from the mine, unbroken, which insures you that the coal you get here is in strictly first class.

**YOU THEREBETTER:** Remember that our prices are conservative, and the cleanliness of our coal makes us handily superior to any other.

**Kremlin Lumber Co.,**

**..WAGONS..**

The Genuine T. G. MANDT wagons

**PLOWS**

Good Enough Sulkey,  
Good Enough Gang  
Peru Plows  
Cassady Disc Plows.

**SAME OLD PLACE  
MYERS & COWDEN**  
KREMLIN OKLAHOM

**Kremlin Livery Stable  
FOSTER & MOUNT, PROPRIETOR.**  
Good Rigs at Reasonable Prices  
**COMMERCIAL TRADE SOLICITED**

**PRESCRIPTIONS**



**STANDARD REMEDIES**



**TOILET ARTICLES**



**DRUGS,  
Wall Paper,  
Toilet Articles,  
Stationery,  
Cigars.**

**T. E. Mannen,** Kremlin, O. T.

**Myers & Cowden,**

Hardware,  
Paints, Oils,  
Buggies and  
Implements.

Galvanized barb wire,  
**\$3.50 per 100 rods.**

Kremlin, Oklahoma.

**FALL GOODS NOW HERE.,**

FALL NEWS FOR FALL BUYERS: We are still in the push with the largest assortment of Fall Goods ever put on our shelves, and the prices are as cheap as the cheapest for the cheapest. Don't our list in the "PIONEER" convince of our SUCCESS. No man but our customers can account for it. We refer you to our CUSTOMERS.

<p><b>PATRIOT MENS \$3.50</b></p>  <p>STAR BRAND SHOES ARE BETTER</p>	<p>Shoes <b>Fall Styles</b></p> <p>Have you seen our latest assortment of shoes? We are manufacturing enough to show that to you if you are on the market for the best shoes going. Our brand - We have a lot well made in our shoes and have before you of \$5.00 that will save you at</p> <p><b>\$2.00.</b></p>	<p><b>Notions Hosierey.</b></p>  <p>If you are looking for anything in the nature of gloves, we are ready to show with a full line of everything in the nature of gloves. That is the kind of gloves and socks which are necessary to make a complete outfit. We guarantee satisfaction here.</p>  <p>A full line of men's fancy and work shoes, ranging in price from \$2.00 to \$5.00. They are all selected with the work of approval, and if you want to look like, and appreciate, men. Also men's and boys' accessories. Don't forget to come in and get our babies they are gone.</p>
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**GUMERSON & SONS**  
PROPRIETORS OF THE "PIONEER."

**Kittrell House...**

Mrs. Kittrell, Proprietress.



**Commercial Trade Solicited.**

Accommodations Guaranteed for East. Board by Day or Week.  
\$1 and \$2 a Day House. Kremlin, Oklahoma.

**...QUICK LUNCH...**

A. W. Sanders, Prop.

**SHORT ORDER**  
and  
General Lunch Counter.  
CIGARS and TOBACCOES.  
Etc.,

**Kremlin Short Order**

Meals at all hours. Open day and night.  
N. B. Willey, Prop.,  
Kremlin, Oklahoma.

**I. J. Harris,**  
Proprietor of  
**THE PARLOR MEAT MARKET**  
All kinds of Fresh and Salt Meats. Oysters and Fish in Season.  
Highest Market Price Paid for Hides.



The second newspaper, [The Kremlin New Era](#), with [William Gumerson](#), FE Swift, [JO Tingle](#), and [TE Mannen](#) as editors/proprietors, was published in the very early 1900s (at least 1904-1906), generally considered the pinnacle years of Kremlin as a thriving town. Its motto: "United We Stand, Divided We Fall. Let Every Man, Woman and Child Work for Kremlin." [83 editions](#) are available at the [OHS Gateway to OK History](#) website.

[The Kremlin Journal](#), with [John A Maxey](#) the editor and owner, was published in the 1910s (\$1 a year) - the entire [19 October 1916 issue](#) is on this [Toews Brothers Kremlin website](#), well worth a look. Eight pages in length, it has some interesting articles plus ads for Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company, Postum, Carter's Little Liver Pills ("Don't persecute your bowels!"), Don's Kidney Pills, Skinners Macaroni, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, [Bank of Kremlin](#), and [Kremlin Machine Shop](#). [George Austin](#) was then the bank president and [HA Reed](#) vice-president.

**KREMLIN JOURNAL**  
 VOL. 10 No. 42. KREMLIN, GARFIELD COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, Oct. 19, 1916. ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

VOTE FOR EDWARD M. SHIELDS FOR SHERIFF  
 POL. ADV

—CALL THE—  
**Kremlin Machine Shop**  
 AND GARAGE  
 —Phone 16—  
 For Auto or Gas Engine Trouble of any kind.  
**SERVICES DAY AND NIGHT**  
 BLACKSMITHING, HORSE SHOING, DISC ROLLING. We do anything in this line. Accessories of all kinds. Call on us at any time.  
**ALL WORK GUARANTEED.**  
 We solicit your business. Satisfaction guaranteed.  
**C. F. HUGHES,**  
 Corona Wool Fat for Sale, KREMLIN, OKLA.

**THE KREMLIN JOURNAL, KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA**

ated in Enid, on par and same rating of graduates of any state school.  
 Gave the farmer of Garfield county and State of Oklahoma the right to organize a mutual insurance company.  
 These measures is what I had enacted into law during my term of four years in office.—Adv.

**Wild Horse Items.**  
 George Peterson is visiting his sister, Mrs Will Teska.  
 Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Moffitt spent Sunday with Bert Gray's, Fritz Goll went to Pond Creek, Thursday.  
 Mrs. Less Goddard left Sunday to visit her brothers and sisters, near Mountain View and Lawton. Mrs Goddard expects to be gone about two weeks.  
 Miss Bertha Ward is visiting her aunt, Mrs. B. Moffitt.

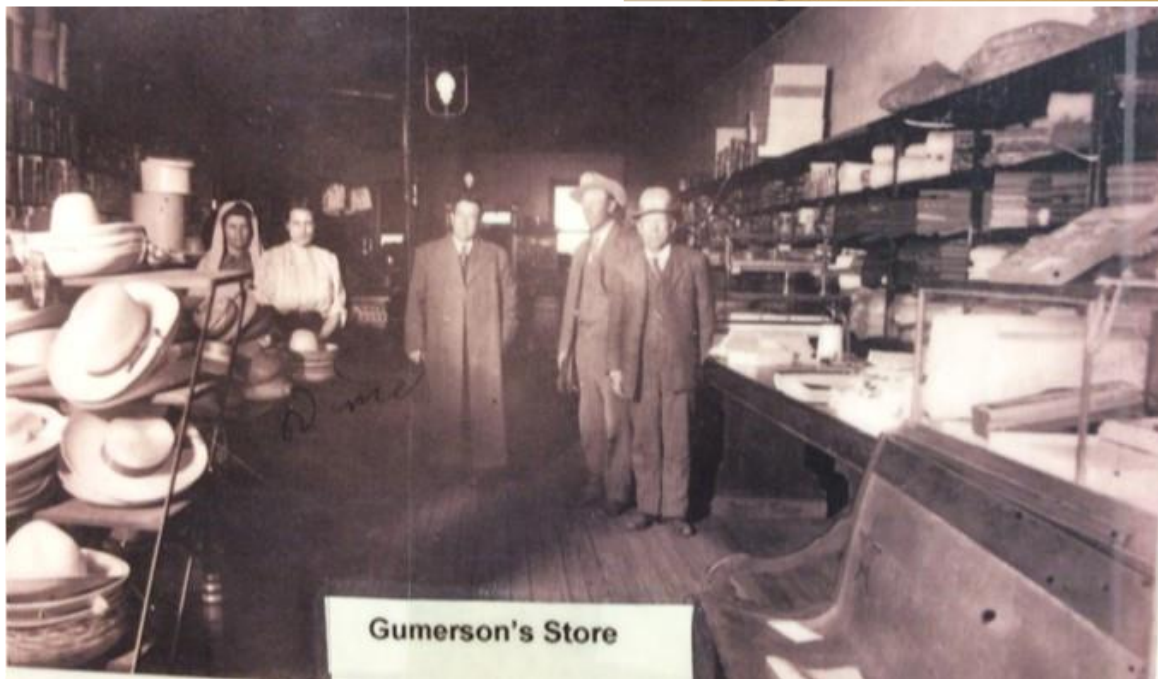
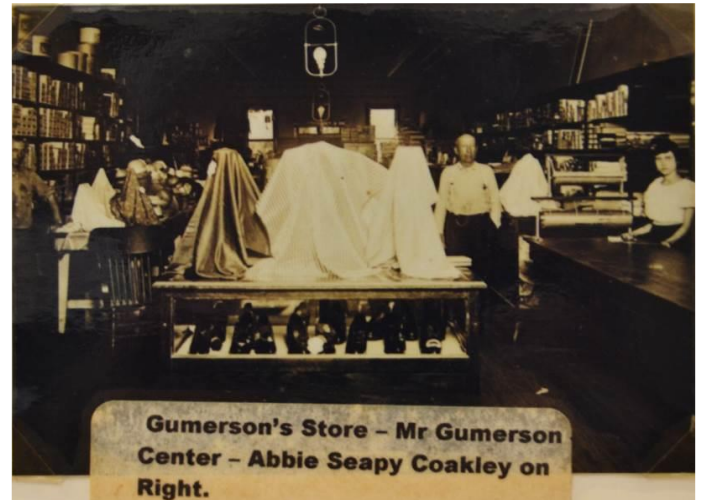
GEORGE AUSTIN, President. S. A. REED, Cashier.  
 H. A. REED, Vice-President. N. R. AUSTIN, Ass't Cashier.  
**ON YOUR WAY TO THE**  
**BANK OF KREMLIN**

The First Step to Independence is carefulness in spending. The man with a salary will find that his money goes further when he deposits it in the bank and pays his bill by check. And he knows where every penny goes, too. The Kremlin Bank invites accounts from salaried men and housekeepers. As little as one dollar will start one. Many a one begun with that sum has become a goodly balance, because of the check it puts on thoughtless spending.

**BANK OF KREMLIN,**  
 Kremlin, Oklahoma

**Hard Times:** Unlike today, most of the town was initially W of the Rock Island railroad tracks. There were [two great fires](#) that started the decline of Kremlin as a thriving town, the first involving the [Gumerson General Store](#) and other buildings on the E side of town, and a later fire that took out a great deal of the town W of the tracks, including a saloon, general merchandise and hardware stores, and other structures. Most were never rebuilt.

[Olaus Gumerson's](#) General Store was an exception - it burned down three times, and without insurance, each time he rebuilt to serve his patrons - he fell over dead in his store at age 82 on 3 August 1922. Other structures destroyed by subsequent fires included a grain mill owned by several men and a grain elevator owned by Enid Milling Company. Another grain elevator was demolished. A creamery run by a [Mr. Harp](#) was operating in Kremlin, but ceased operation when farmers began hauling their milk and cream to Enid (like we did!).



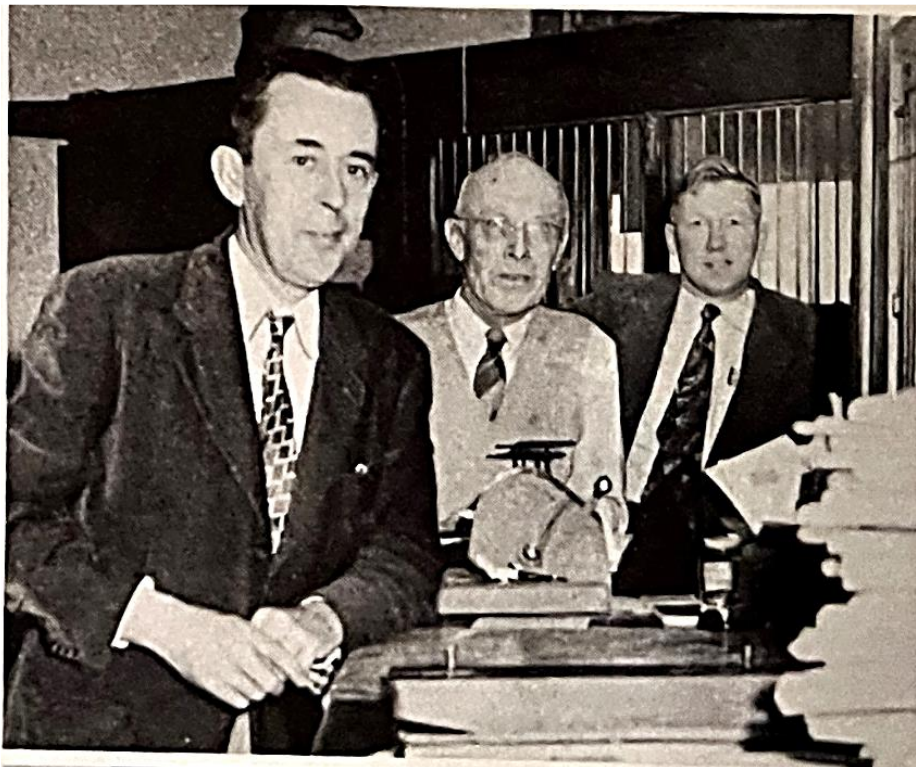
Two photos of [Gumerson's General Store](#), both from FWZ building wall, are shown above. [Abigail "Abbie" Seapy Coakley](#), (wife of [Daniel Patrick "Dan" Coakley](#)), is the clerk in the top photo with Mr Gumerson at center. Mr Gumerson is at far R in lower photo. The [disastrous fires in 1905, 1906, 1910, 1911 and later in 1930 \(15 tank car derailment and fire; see photos below\)](#) drove away some town inhabitants and businesses, while at the same time, the growing popularity of automobiles led to increased mobility and the possibility of working and shopping elsewhere. The construction of [US Highway 81](#) in the [1930s](#) led to even greater mobility and residents began to do much of their shopping in nearby and much larger [Enid](#), about 10 mi S, but the town persevered as best it could and still exists to this day.



Two photos of Kremlin characters are shown below - from the [April 1953 Case Factory Eagle](#) magazine featuring [FW Zaloudek](#). (courtesy of [Dick Chelf](#) family archives)



[Postmaster JC](#) (center) and brother [Bill Rathmel](#) (L) and a friend warm themselves by the stove which heats [RATHMEL GROCERY STORE](#) with its post office quarters seen in the background.

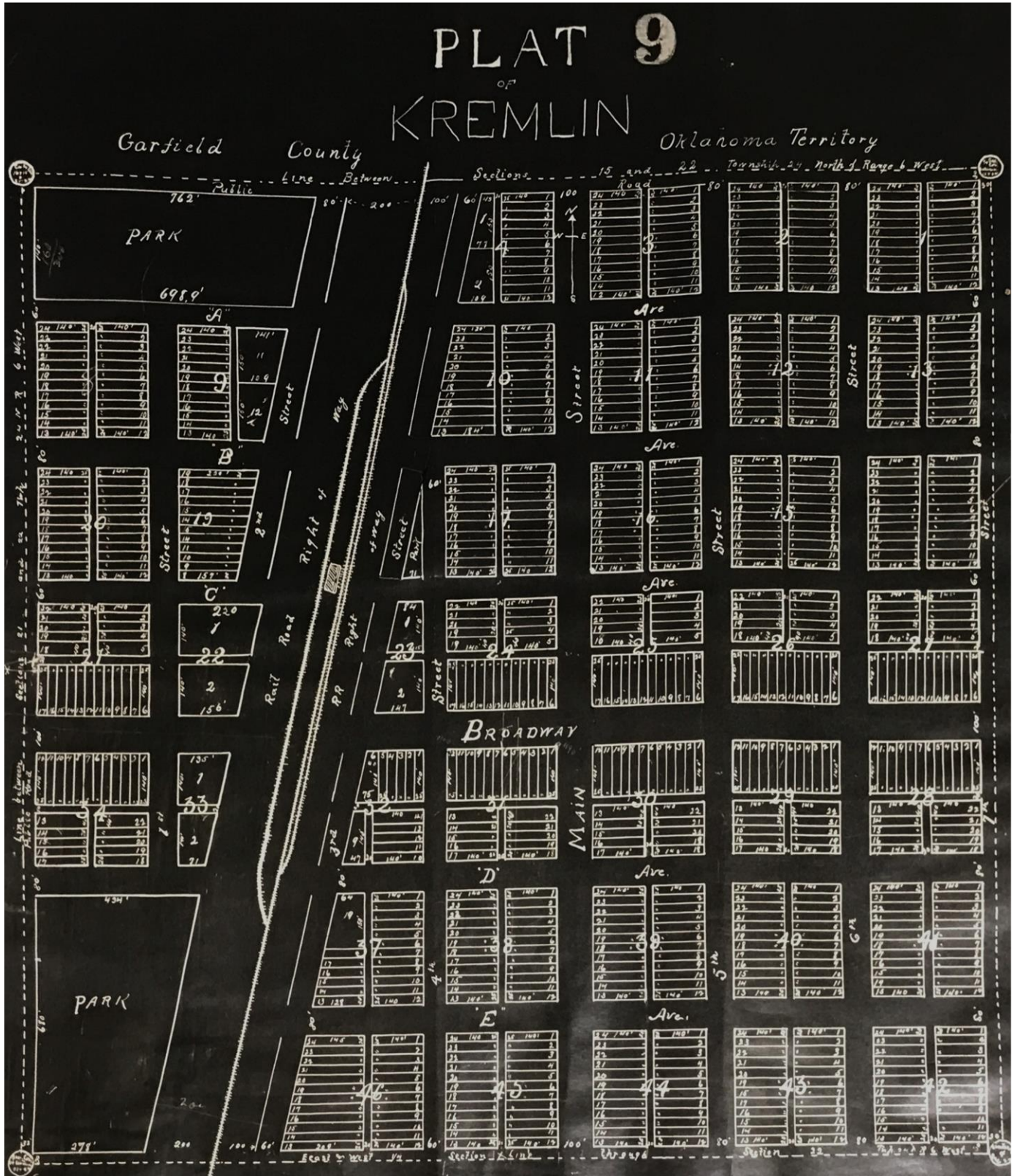


Another business in the town is the [BANK OF KREMLIN](#). Its officers (L/R) are [HENRY G TOEWS](#), Cashier, [JE EGER](#), Vice-President, and [HERBERT V THESMAN](#), Assistant Cashier



### Maps of Kremlin Town & Kremlin Township, Garfield County OK

A **March 1899 plat map** (earliest known) of the **Town of Kremlin**, recorded in Garfield County Plat Book 2 on 20 November 1901, is shown below. Note the railroad right-of-way and railroad running diagonally NNE through town and 2 parks on the W edge of town. Upper park is the current site of the **FWZ Kremlin Community Building** and "**Robert Voth Field**" baseball diamond.





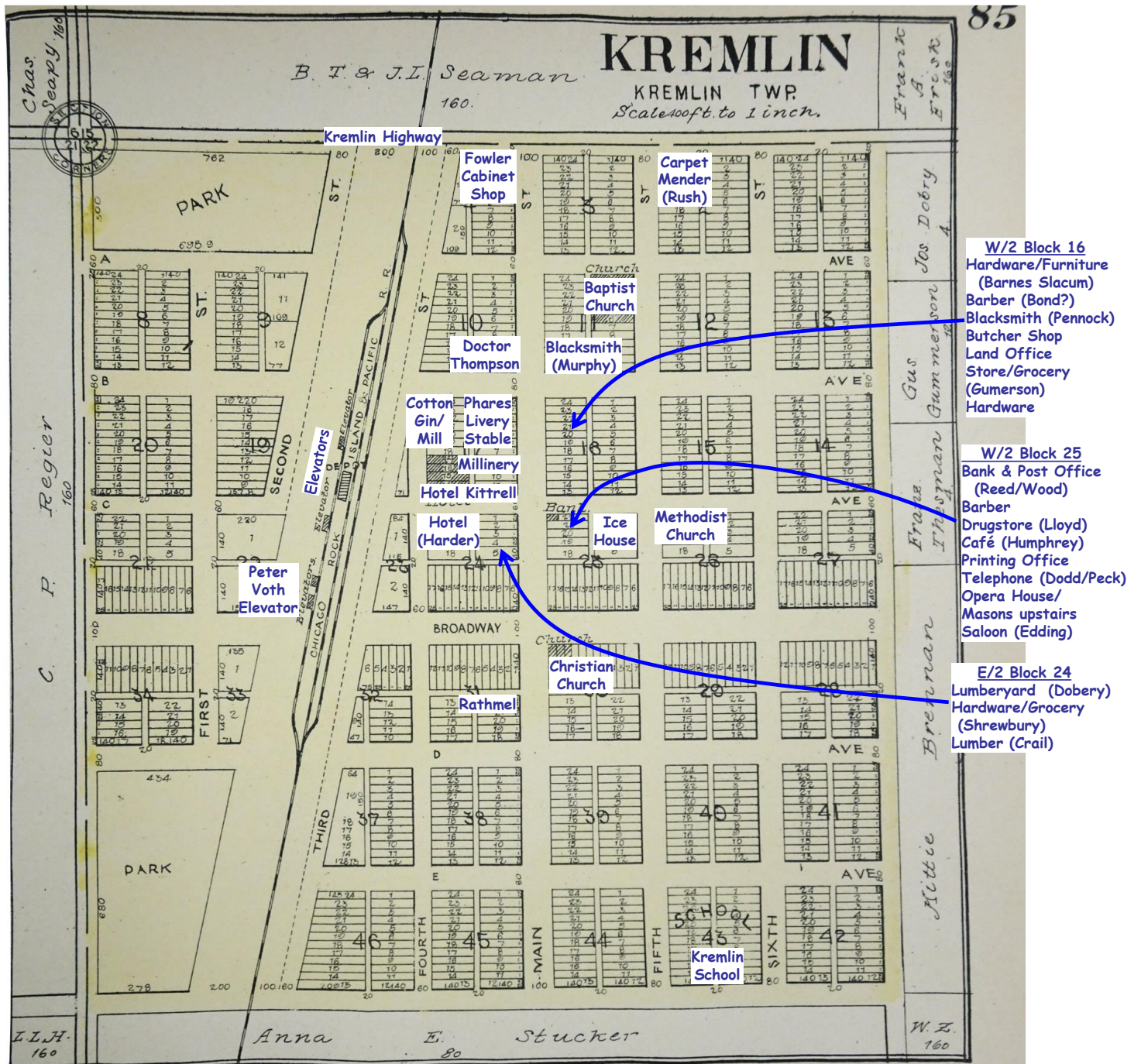
1906 Kremlin Town plat map from the Standard Atlas of Garfield County OK (Geo A Ogle, Chicago, 1906) Photo by Myron Toews

Note locations of hotel (block 17), two churches (11 & 30), a bank (25), school land (43) and grain elevators and depot along CRIP Railway, as well as 2 parks on W edge of town. .



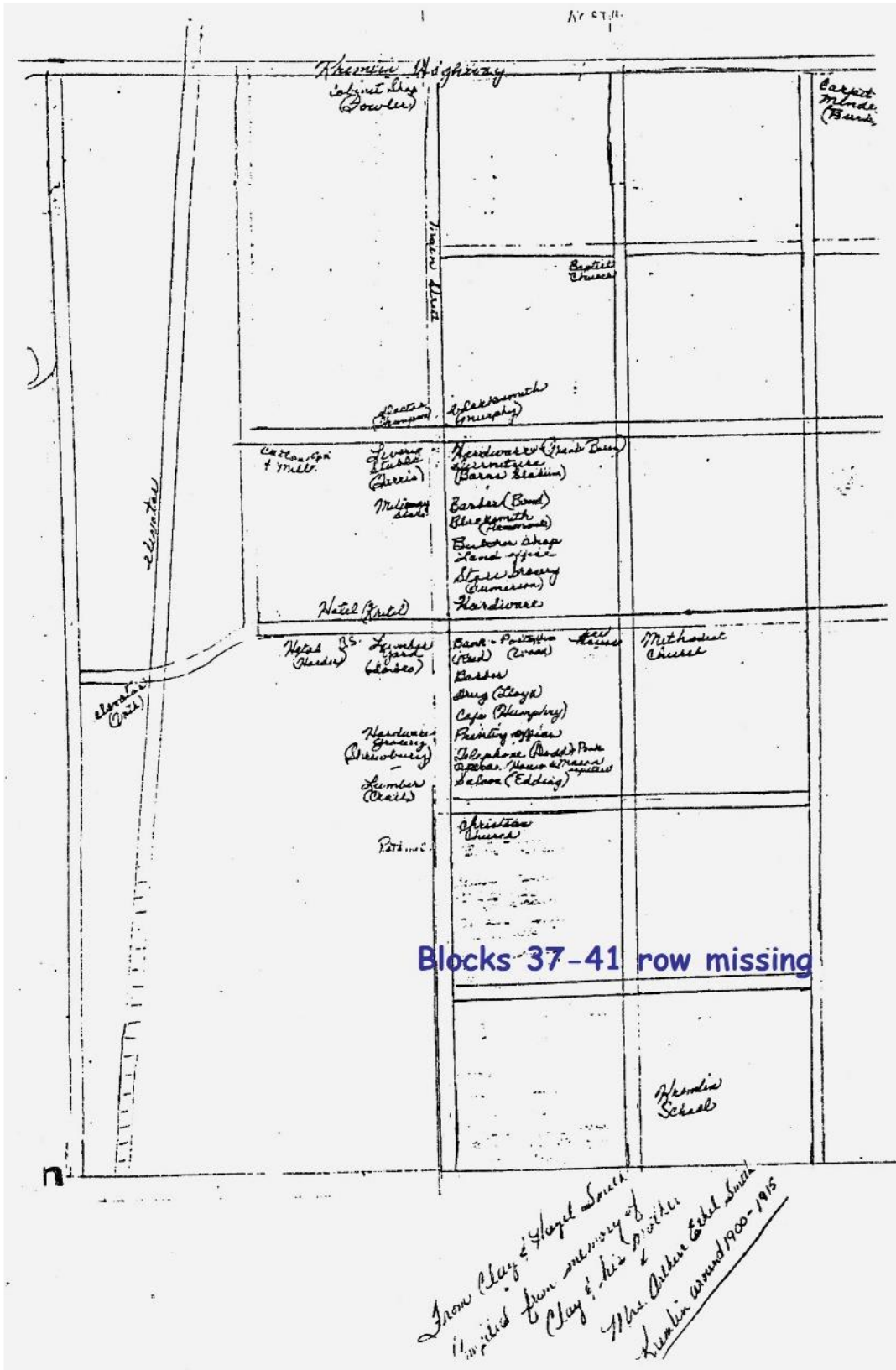


An annotated 1906 Kremlin Town plat map is shown below - businesses and churches are from a [hand-drawn map of Kremlin around 1900-15](#) - see map on following page. That map is from [Clay](#) and [Hazel Smith](#), compiled from memories of Clay and his mother, [Ethel M Hall Smith](#). I thought the 1906 plat map best for showing locations, although [we do not know the date of that hand-drawn map](#). The Murphy blacksmith shop with its forge inside still stands on Main Street, just N of where the Community Hall was until destroyed by fire in 1969 (see photo bottom p 103).



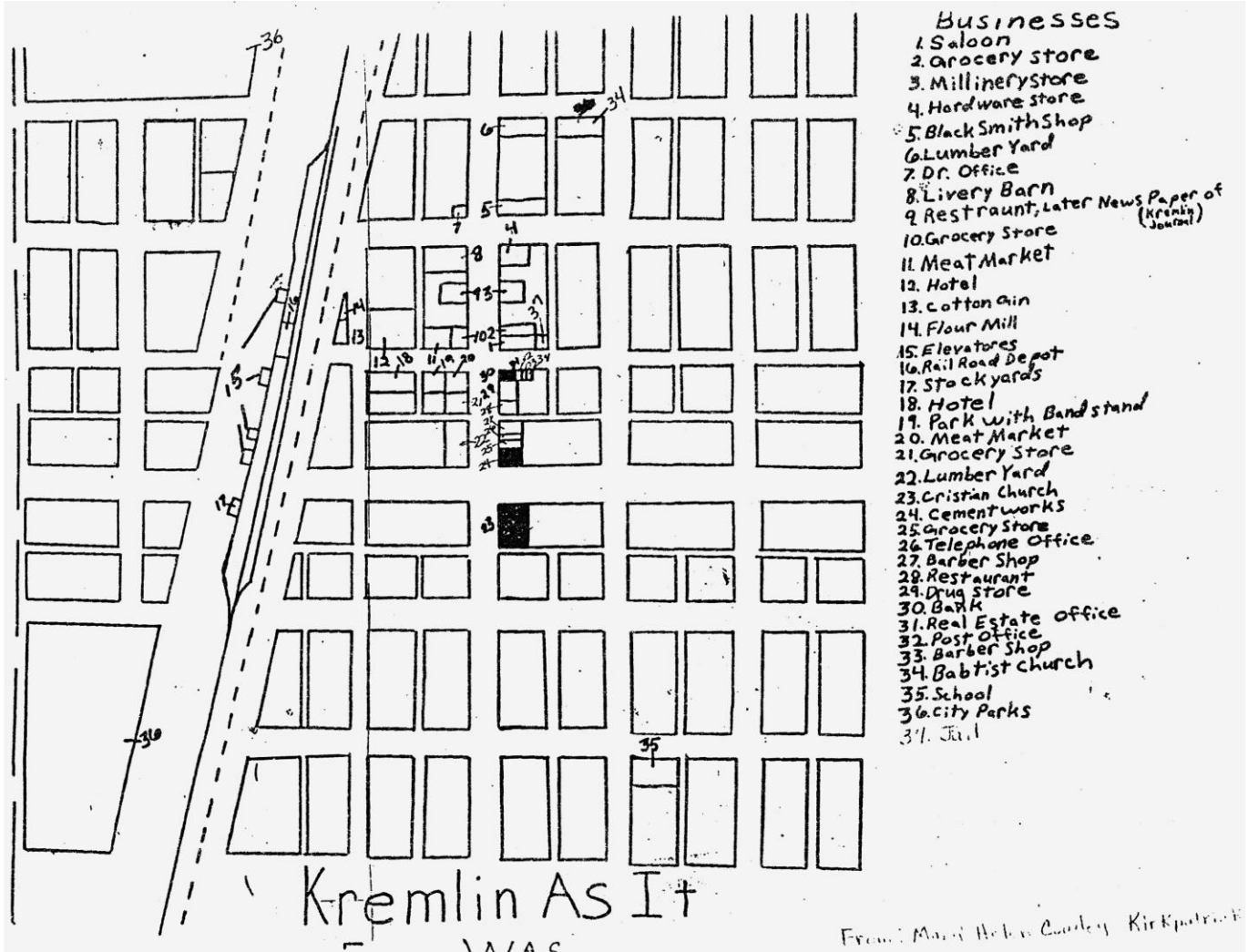


The hand-drawn map of Kremlin in 1900-15, shown below, is from memories of Clay Smith and his mother (see legend on previous page). Note a row of blocks (37-41) is missing in this sketch. (from Myron Toews, who obtained it from Ginny Zaloudek's collection of memorabilia from the 2001 Kremlin Centennial Celebration. A second copy is from Ernie Voth archives, courtesy of his daughter Susan Voth Kilmer, also via Myron Toews)



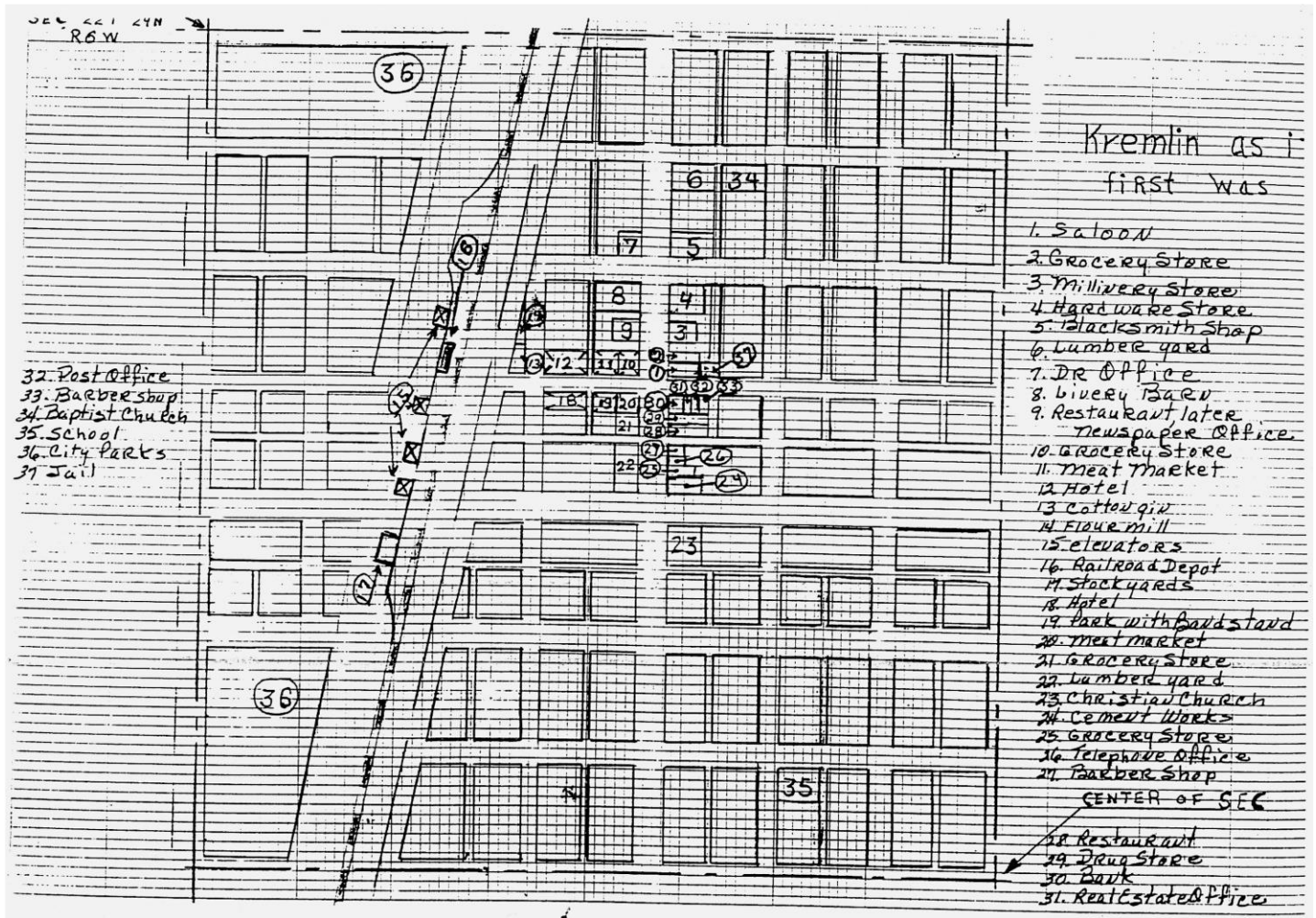


A hand-drawn map of "Kremlin As It Was," drawn and labeled by [Mary Helen Coakley Kirkpatrick](#). A later version, presumably re-drawn from this map, is on the next page, with clear legend added. The map below and the following 2 are all from 2001 Kremlin Centennial Celebration memorabilia of Ginny Zaloudek via Myron Toews





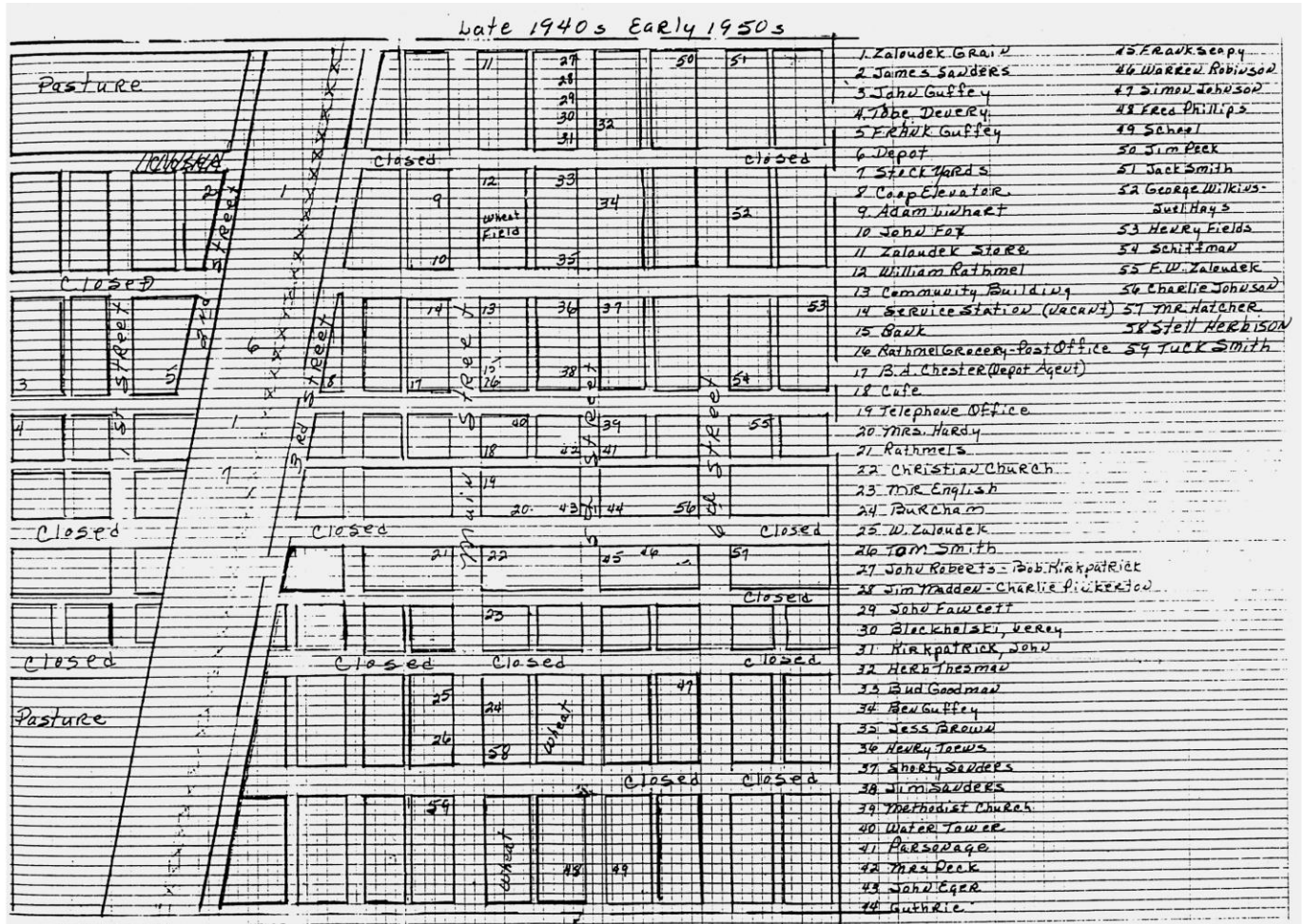
The map below is a later version of the hand-drawn map of "Kremlin As It Was," drawn and labeled by Mary Helen Coakley Kirkpatrick and shown on the previous page. I have added a clear legend below.



- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Saloon                              | 20. Meat Market        |
| 2. Grocery Store                       | 21. Grocery Store      |
| 3. Millinery Store                     | 22. Lumberyard         |
| 4. Hardware Store                      | 23. Christian Church   |
| 5. Blacksmith Shop                     | 24. Cement Works       |
| 6. Lumberyard                          | 25. Grocery Stroe      |
| 7. Drs Office                          | 26. Telephone Office   |
| 8. Livery Barn                         | 27. Barber Shop        |
| 9. Restaurant (later Newspaper Office) | 28. Restaurant         |
| 10. Grocery Store                      | 29. Drug Store         |
| 11. Meat Market                        | 30. Bank               |
| 12. Hotel                              | 31. Real Estate Office |
| 13. Cotton Gin                         | 32. Post Office        |
| 14. Flour Mill                         | 33. Barber Shop        |
| 15. Elevators                          | 34. Baptist Church     |
| 16. Railroad Depot                     | 35. School             |
| 17. Stockyards                         | 36. City Parks         |
| 18. Hotel                              | 37. Jail               |
| 19. Park with Bandstand                |                        |



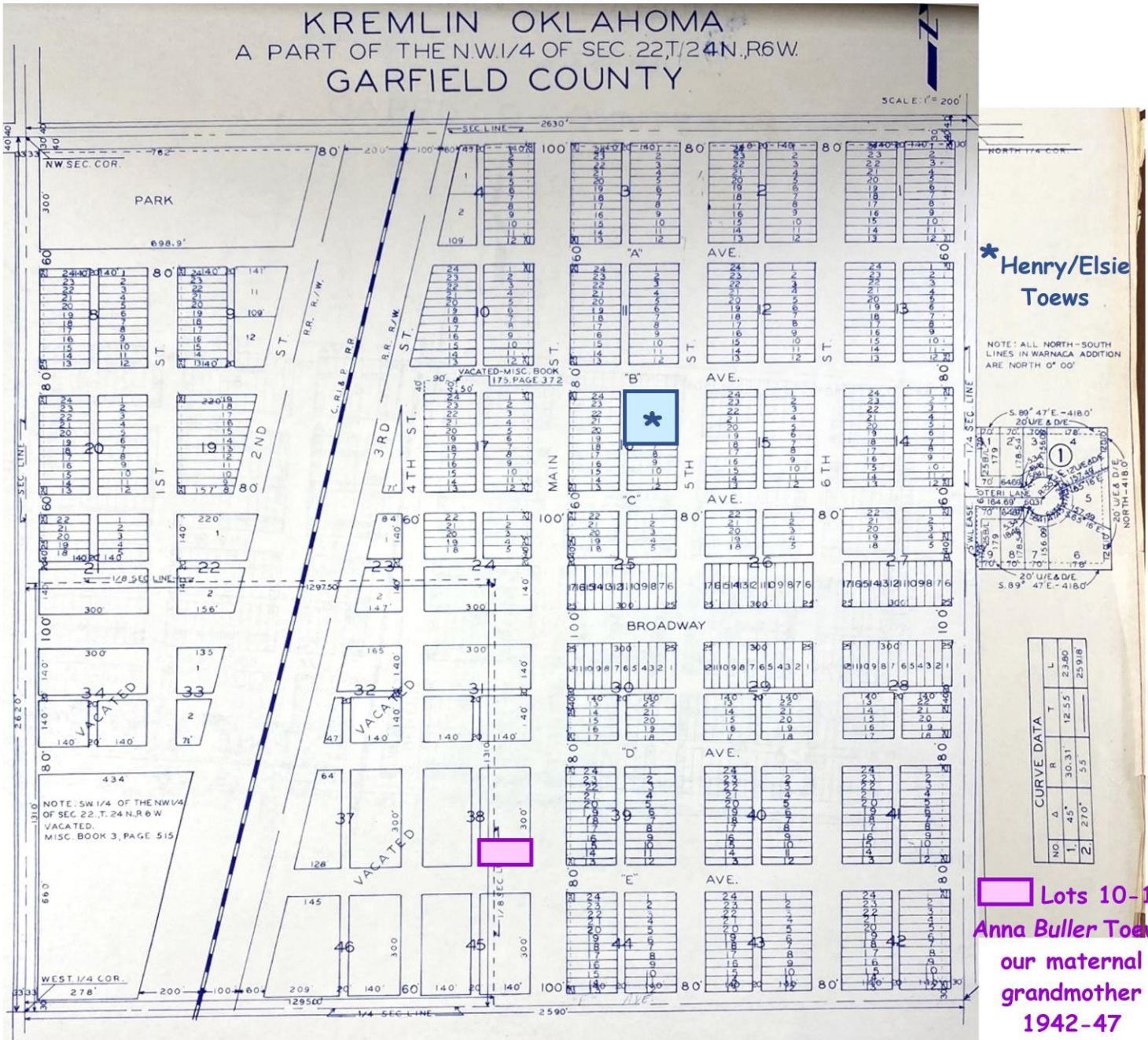
A map of Kremlin businesses and families in the Late 1940s-Early 1950s, we believe from the same source as the previous two maps. A clear legend has been added below the map.



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zaloudek Grain</li> <li>2. James Sanders</li> <li>3. John Guffey</li> <li>4. Tobe Devery</li> <li>5. Frank Guffey</li> <li>6. Depot</li> <li>7. Stockyards</li> <li>8. Co-op Elevator</li> <li>9. Adam Linhart</li> <li>10. John Fox</li> <li>11. Zaloudek Store</li> <li>12. William Rathmel</li> <li>13. Community Building</li> <li>14. Service Station (vacant)</li> <li>15. Bank</li> <li>16. Rathmel Grocery/Post Office</li> <li>17. BA Chester (depot agent)</li> <li>18. Café</li> <li>19. Telephone Office</li> <li>20. Mrs Hardy</li> <li>21. Rathmels</li> <li>22. Christian Church</li> <li>23. Mr English</li> <li>24. Burcham</li> <li>25. W Zaloudek</li> <li>26. Tom Smith</li> <li>27. John Roberts/Bob Kirkpatrick</li> <li>28. Jim Madden/Charlie Pinkerton</li> <li>29. John Fawcett</li> <li>30. Blockholski, Leroy</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. Kirkpatrick, John</li> <li>32. Herb Thesman</li> <li>33. Bud Goodman</li> <li>34. Ben Guffey</li> <li>35. Jess Brown</li> <li>36. Henry Toews</li> <li>37. Shorty Sanders</li> <li>38. Jim Sanders</li> <li>39. Methodist Church</li> <li>40. Water tower</li> <li>41. Methodist Parsonage</li> <li>42. Mrs Peck</li> <li>43. John Eger</li> <li>44. Guthrie</li> <li>45. Frank Seapy</li> <li>46. Warren Robinson</li> <li>47. Simon Johnson</li> <li>48. Fred Phillips</li> <li>49. School</li> <li>50. Jim Peck</li> <li>51. Jack Smith</li> <li>52. George Wilkins/Juel Hays</li> <li>53. Henry Fields</li> <li>54. Schiffman</li> <li>55. FW Zaloudek</li> <li>56. Charlie Johnson</li> <li>57. Mr Hatcher</li> <li>58. Stell Herbison</li> <li>59. Tuck Smith</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

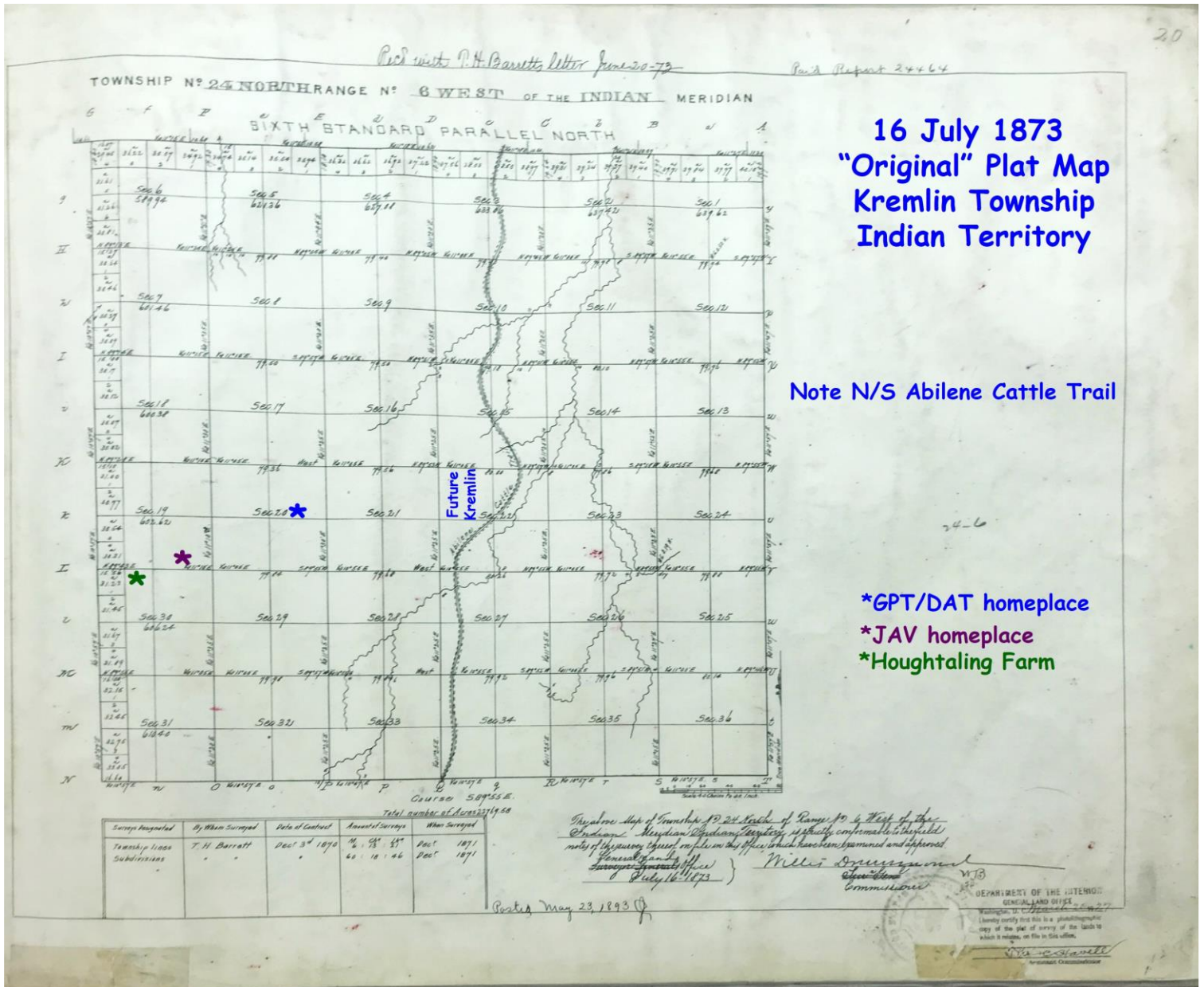


A "modern" plat map of Kremlin (date unknown) is shown below: Select former Toews family properties are identified.



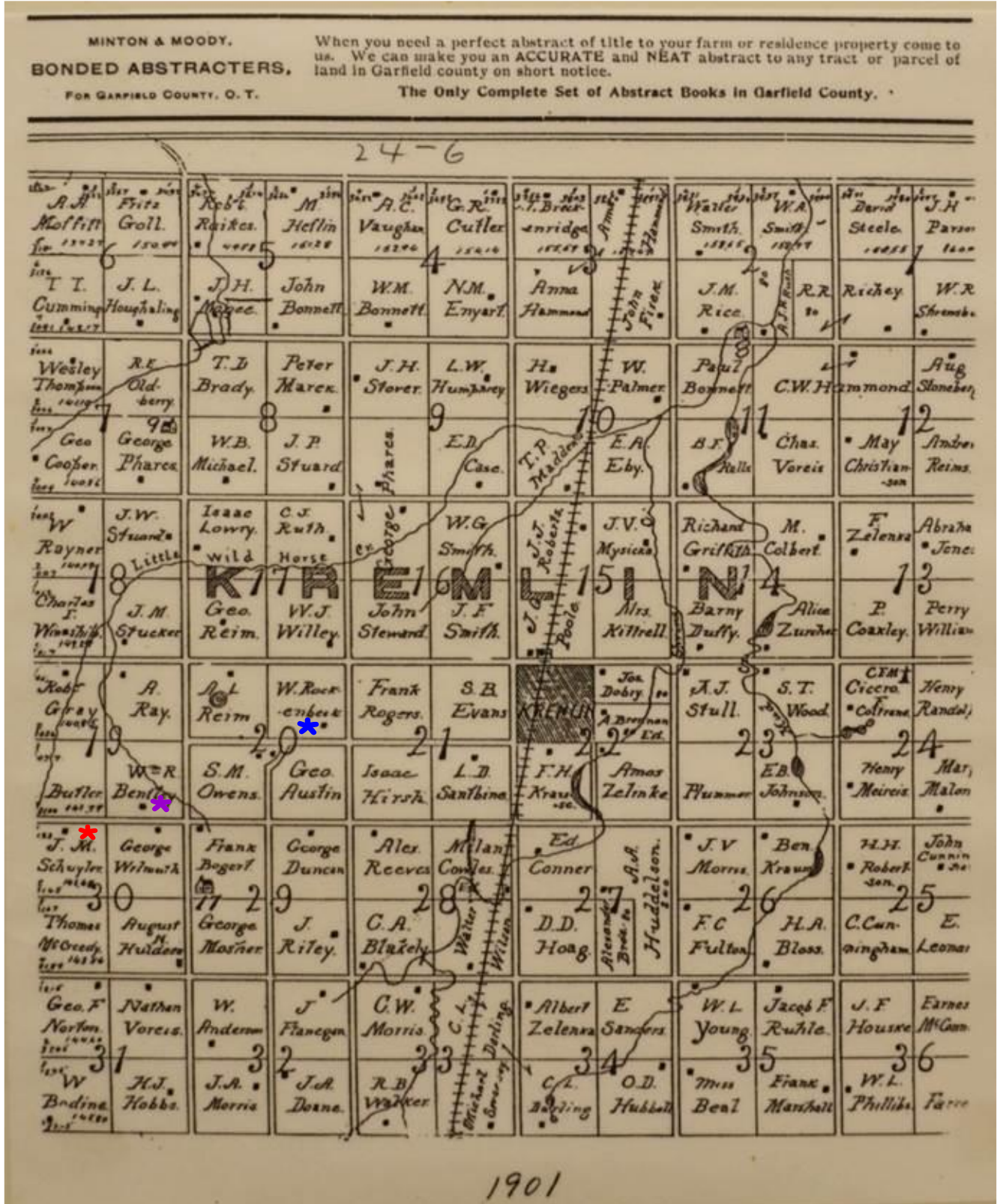


The **earliest known plat map** of what will become **Kremlin township** is shown below - it was filed on **16 July 1873**, more than 20 years before the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run. It was part of **Indian Territory** at the time it was surveyed. The **Abilene Cattle Trail**, later known as the **Chisholm Trail**, had its peak capacity during 1871-73. The **Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific (CRIP) Railroad** line would follow the Chisholm Trail closely in the late 1880s (see **"Kremlin OK and the Rock Island Railroad"** on our **Kremlin History website** for details). From a plat book in the **Garfield County OK Register of Deeds** office, discovered by Myron Toews.



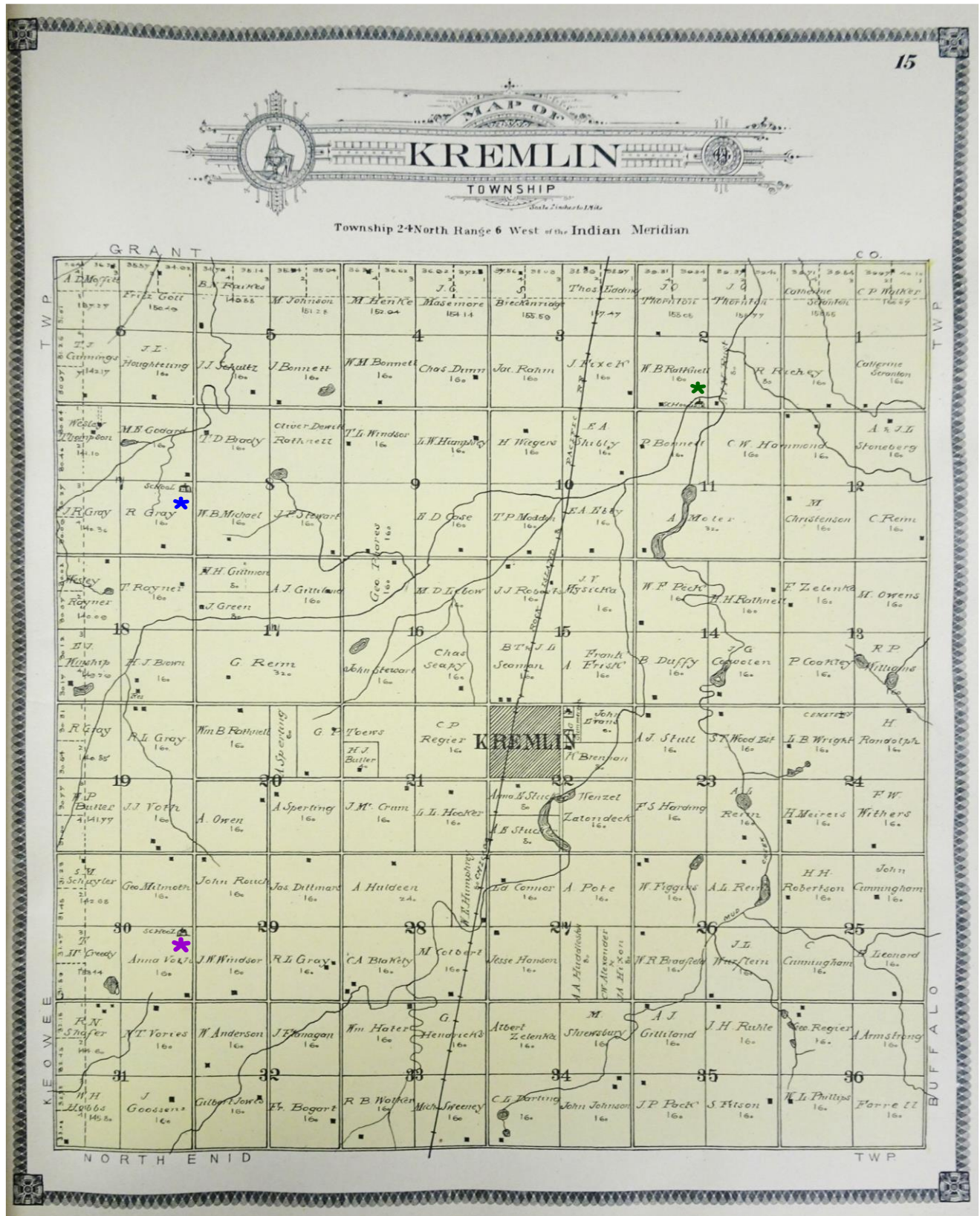


A plat map of Kremlin Township from 1901 is shown below ("24-6" on the top margin denotes Township 24N and Range 6W, part of the proper legal description). The George P/David A & Rosa M/Galen-Arrel-Myron Toews home-place is denoted with (\*) and our Houghtaling Farm with (\*). The Jacob J/Jacob A/Rosa M Voth home-place is marked with (\*). Also note the N-S half-section road (no longer present) ending in section 20 and existing E-W half-section road through sections 20 & 21. CRIP Railroad is now present.



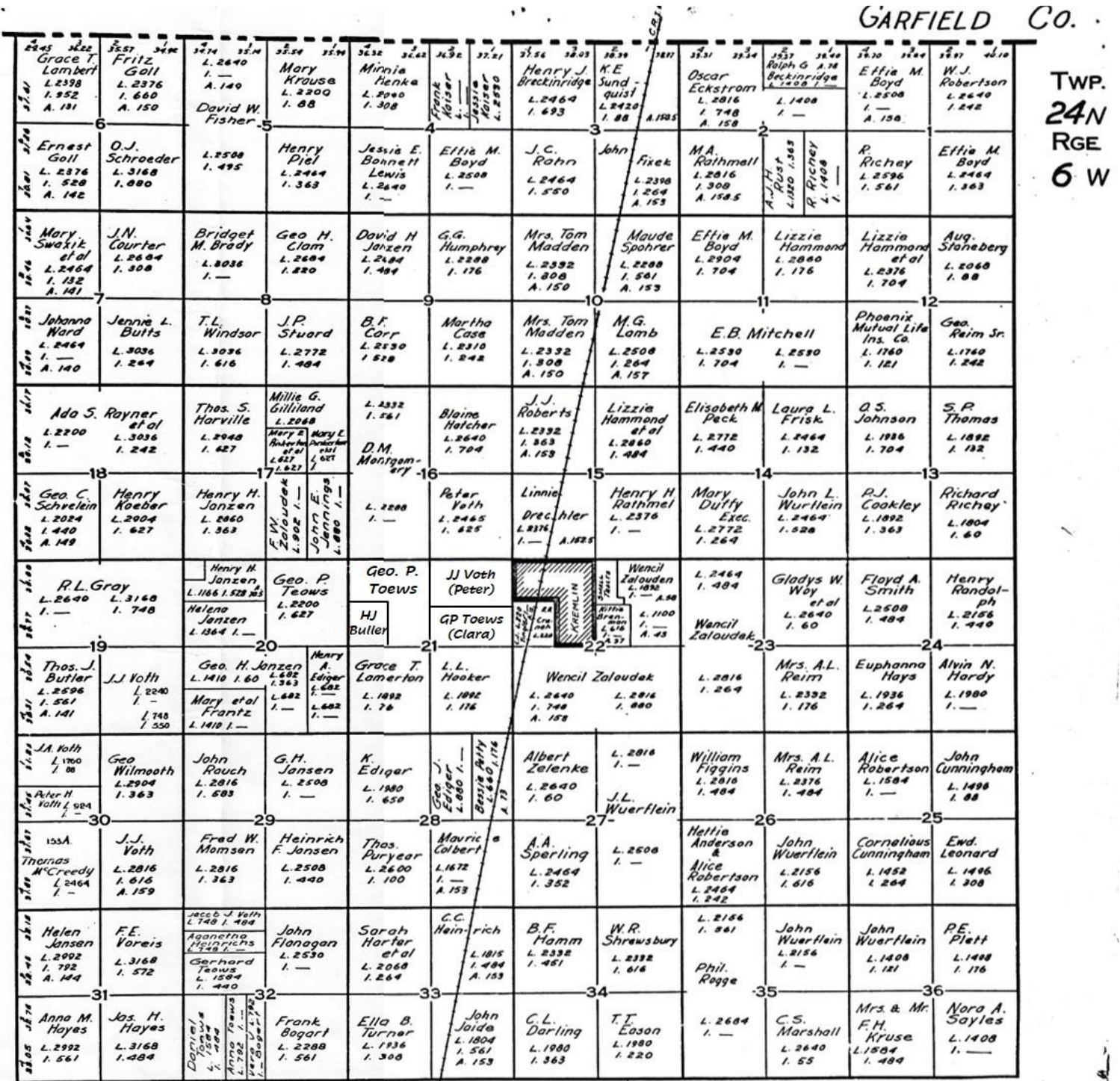


A plat map of Kremlin Township from 1906 (5 years later) is shown below. Note that now our Grandfather George (Gerhard) P Toews owns 120A of NW/4-21-24-6 (GG-Grandpa Heinrich Buller the other 40 A) and 100 A of NW/4-20-24-6, while G-Grandpa JJ Voth owns SE/4-19-24-6. Wild Horse\* (Section 7), Pleasant Valley\* (Section 2) and Columbia\* (Section 30) Schools are identified. Ogle Atlas





For chronological continuity, three additional **Kremlin Township** maps are included. The **1936 WPA Township map** is shown below. High-quality maps of all OK townships are available online from the [OSU Digital Maps collection](#). Maps generously provided by **Myron Toews**.



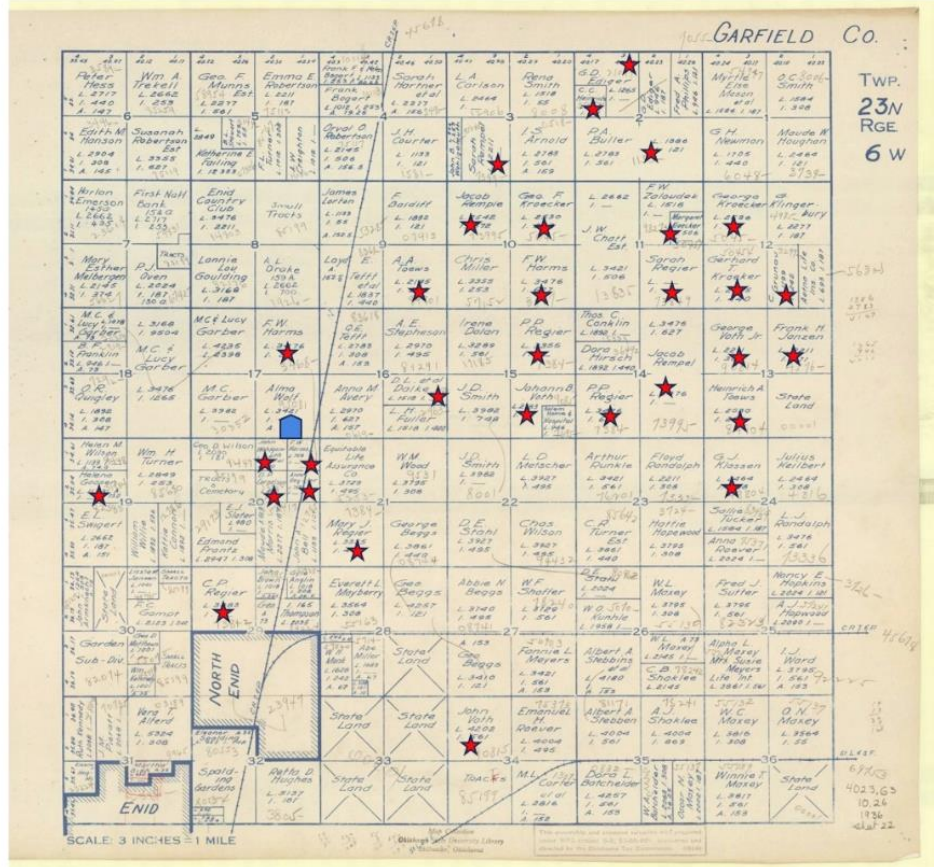
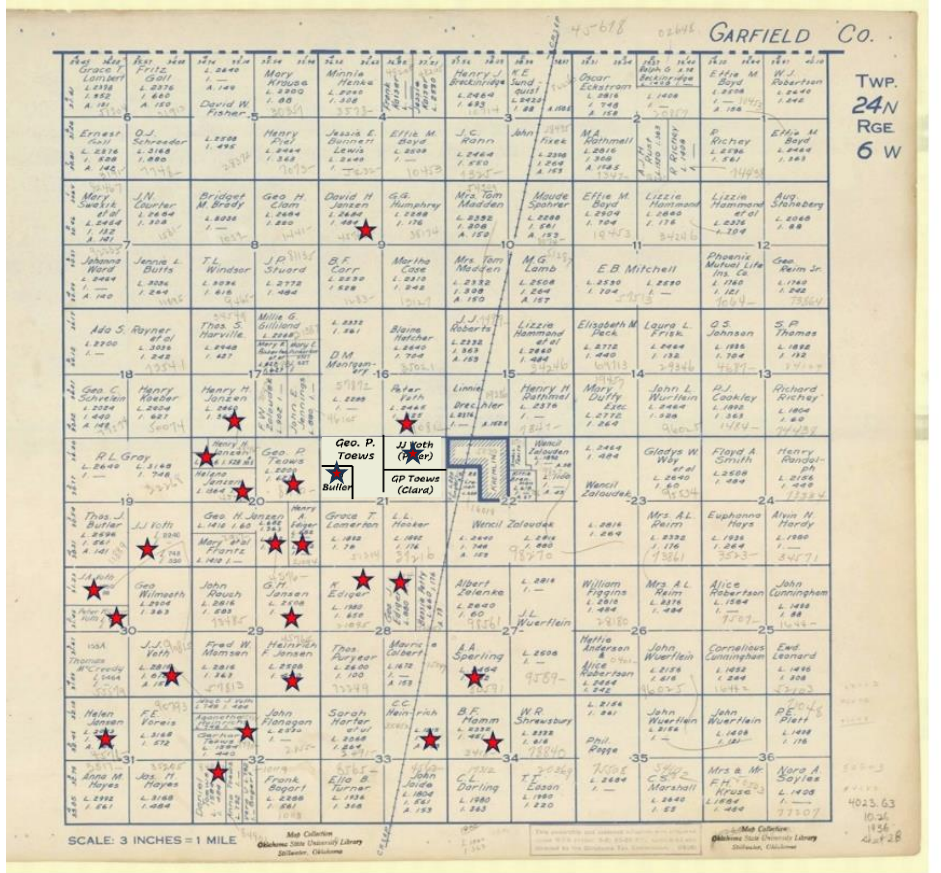
SCALE: 3 INCHES = 1 MILE

This ownership and acreage information is derived from the 1936 WPA Township Map, prepared and directed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. (89-2)



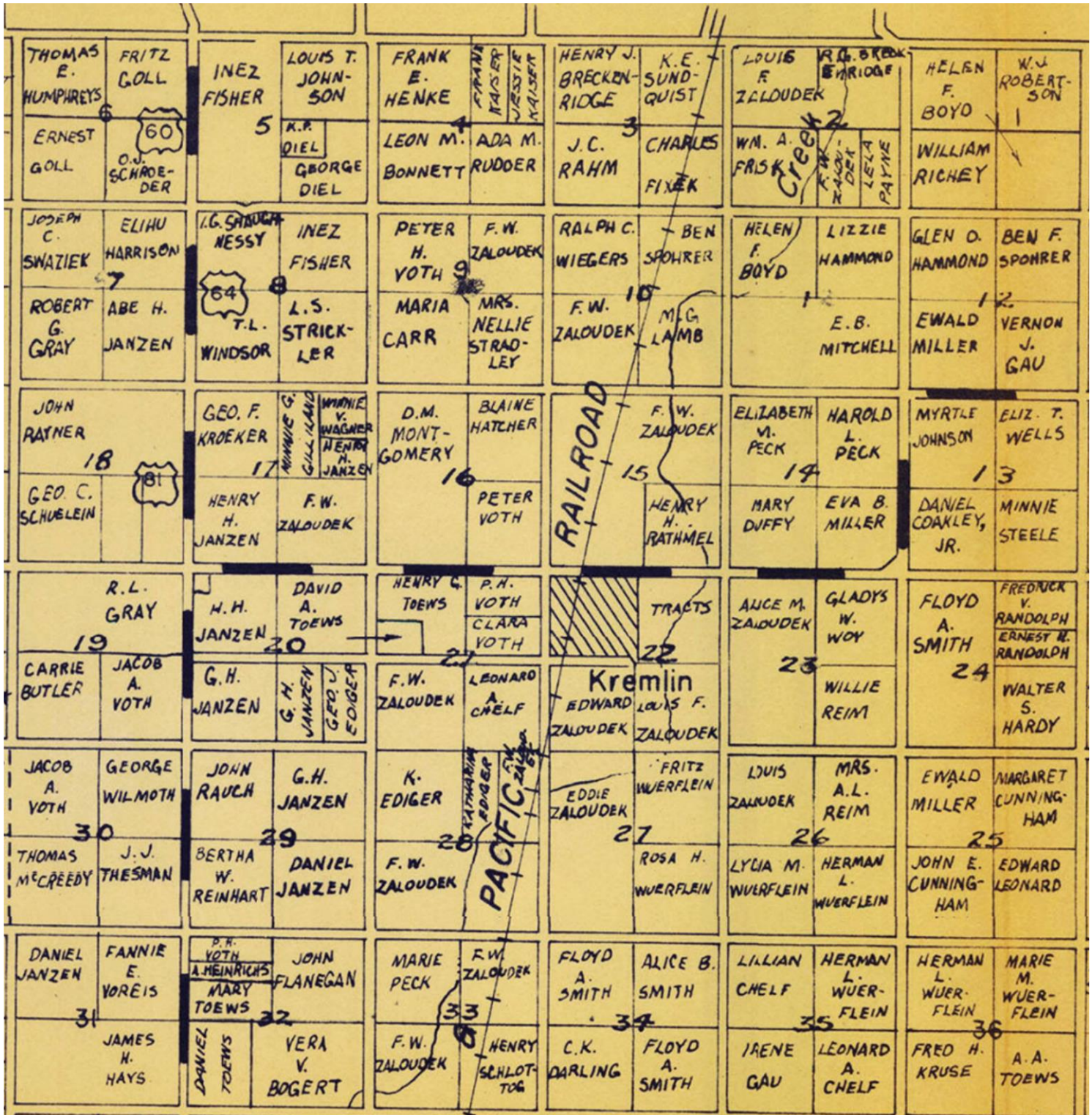
Because many of the **Mennonites in our area** farmed in the Kremlin and N Enid townships, a collage of **1936 WPA maps** of those townships with Mennonite farmers denoted with stars (★) is shown below. The **N Enid MB Church** is also indicated.

Prepared by Myron Toews



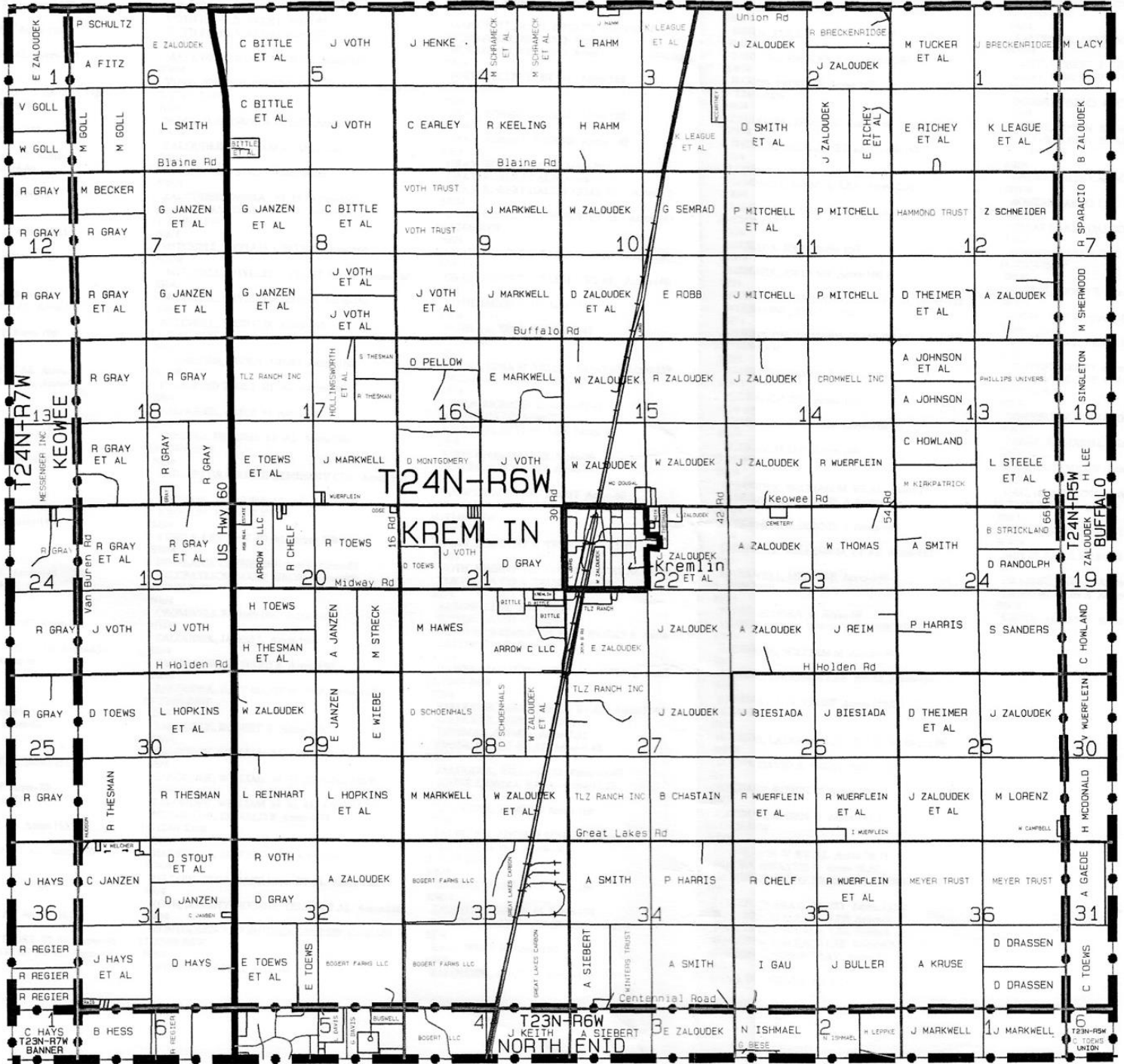


The 1951 plat map of **Kremlin Township** below is from a Garfield County Ownership Map accessible from the [OSU Digital Collections](#). I find this map especially relevant since it is contemporary with my childhood and early adulthood days.





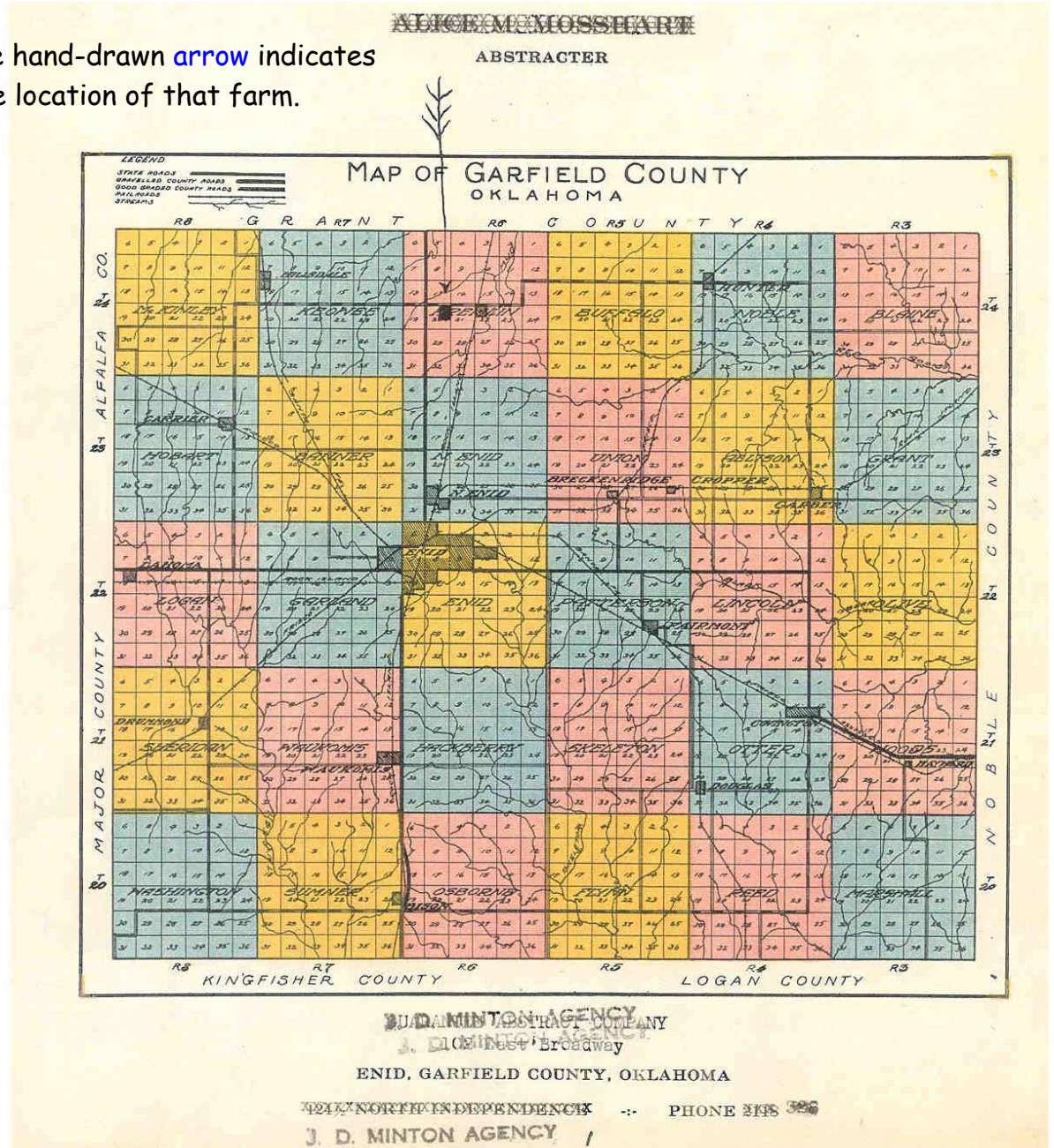
This **Kremlin Township map** is the latest available, perhaps **2000** or so. In this map, our parents, **David A & Rosa Toews**, own NE/4-20-24-6, an adjacent "40" directly E and NW/4-30-24-6, our **Houghtaling Farm**. **Great Lakes Carbon plant**, with its numerous rail spurs is on NE/4-33-24-6.





Map of Garfield County, from the abstract of title for our home-place (NE/4-20-24N-6W).

The hand-drawn arrow indicates the location of that farm.



GARFIELD COUNTY PLACE NAMES  
And Ghosts of the Past

	R.8 W.	R.7 W.	R.6 W.	R.5 W.	R.4 W.	R.3 W.
T. 24 N.	Coldwater	HILLSDALE Jetmore	Wild Horse KREMLIN	Papa Buckles	HUNTER	Edgewood Highland Sibley.
T. 23 N.	CARRIER Glenella	Itana Blanton	Billings Jct. N. ENID Steen	BRECKINRIDGE Jennie Cropper	Relief FAIRMONT	Clark Stacy McCardie GARBER
T. 22 N.	LAHOMA Wilcox Spencer	mitz V. A. F.	ENID Last Enid	Shea White Luella	Fairmont Fannie CO	Gladie Maxwell Bloomer TRIPP
T. 21 N.	DRUMMOND Del Norte Barr		Waukomis	Skeleton	DOUGLAS Cruz Shaner	INGTON Sibley HAY WARD Goss Ladysmith
T. 20 N.	Wildwood Zangwill			Zybra		Elgin Pattex

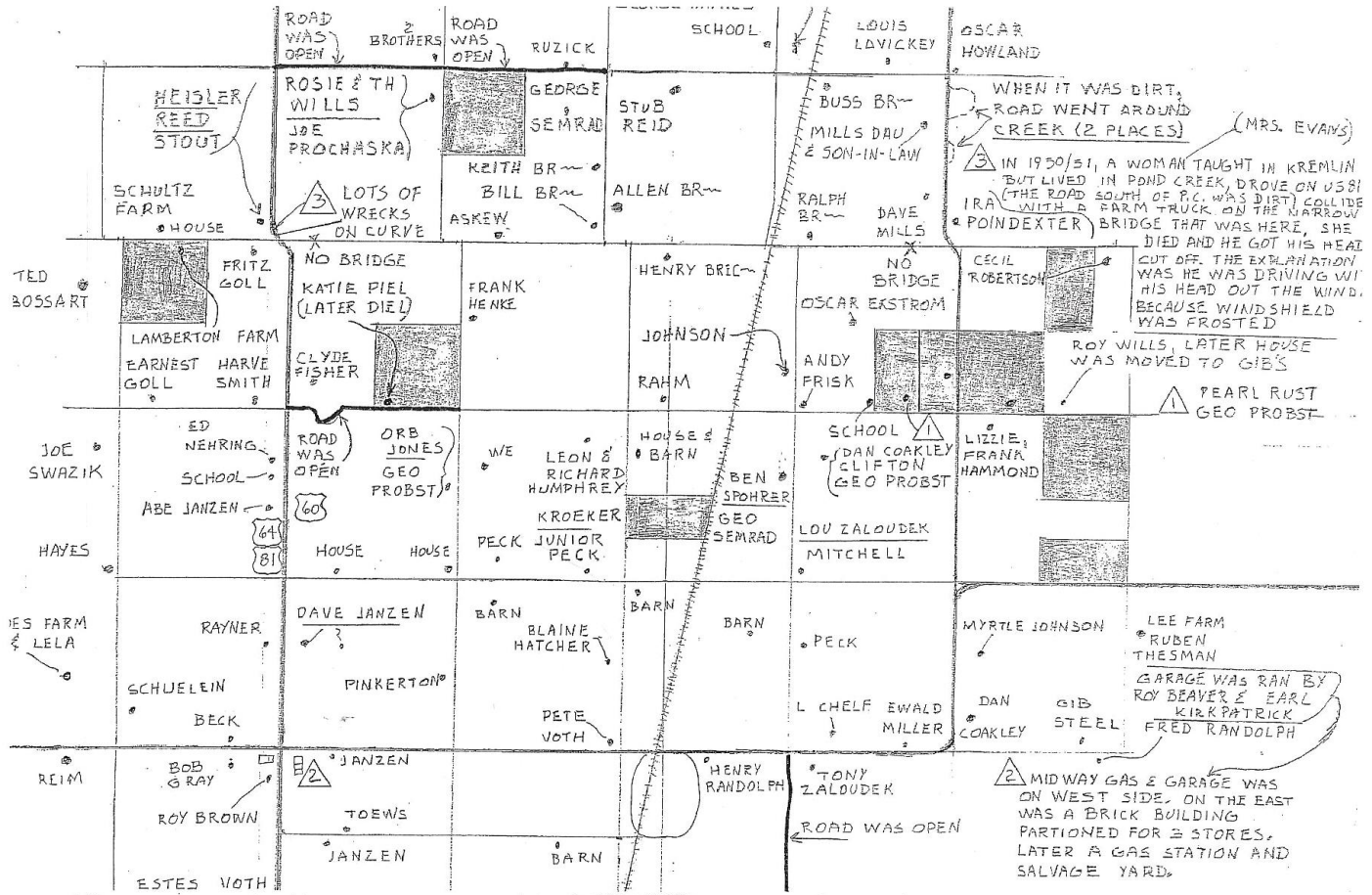
An interesting map of "Garfield County Place Names" from "O County Faces and Places" (see references at end). Note the township and range designations as the ordinate and abscissa, respectively, of the map, and many towns no longer extant (denoted by script).



An earlier hand-drawn map of the area mostly N of Kremlin is shown below; it probably dates to the mid-1950s since a 1950-51 auto accident is referred to. Map provided by Myron Toews, who got it from Ernie Voth who got it from Terry Thesman, who thinks it came from a Richey.

For orientation, the oval at bottom center denotes town of Kremlin and Toews/Janzen/Voth at lower l margin denotes farmsteads of David A Toews, George Janzen & Jacob A Voth, respectively.

Of special interest is that Midway Gas and Garage was located W of US-81 (see note 2), run by Roy Beaver and Earl Kirkpatrick. At one time there was a creamery in the 3-store brick building E of US-81. Be sure to read note 3 (upper R margin) about frequent wrecks on US-81 @ Garfield/Grant Co line! See following section on "The Midway" as well.



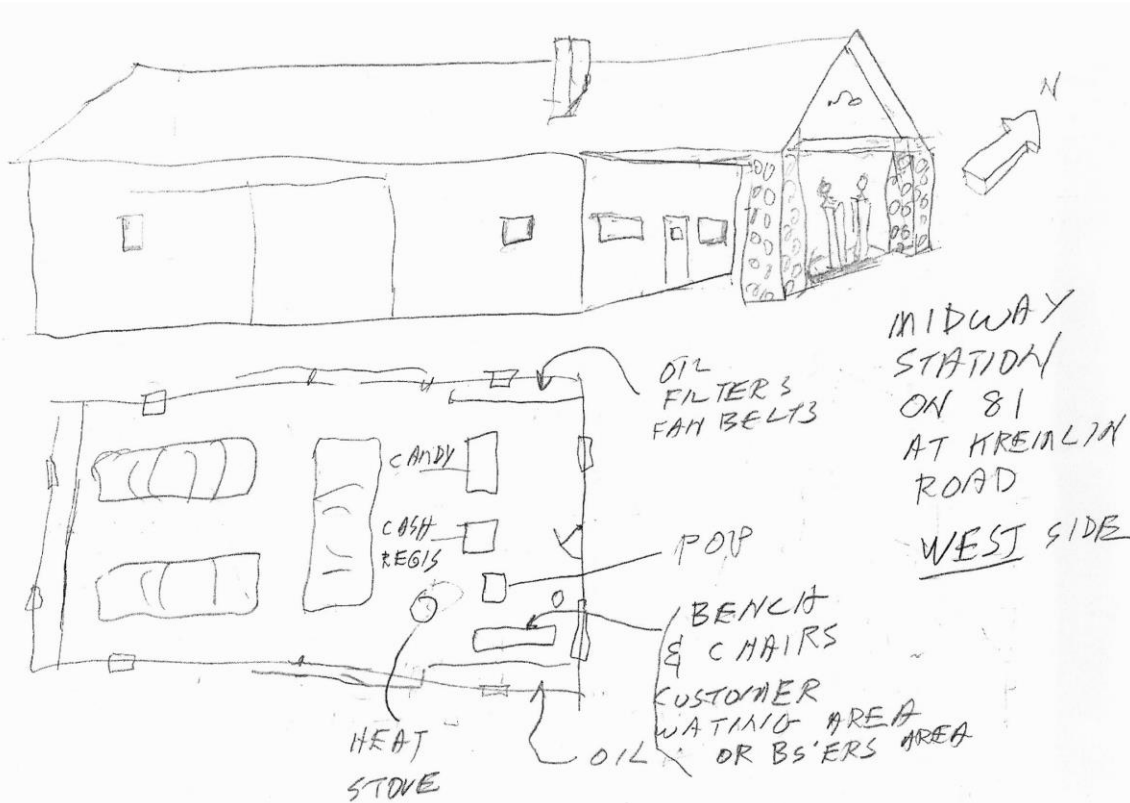
*Ernie got this from Terry Thesman*

Current DOT and Google Earth maps of the town of Kremlin are in Appendix V.



**The Midway** - Perhaps this is a good place to insert a bit of information on "**The Midway**" - it is not clear what the intersection of the Kremlin-Hillsdale blacktop (now Keowee Road) and US-81 is "midway" between, but it is approximately halfway between Enid and the former "**Four Corners**" restaurant/truck stop to the N where US-81 turns E to Pond Creek and US-60 & 64 turn W towards Nash. The Midway has long been a small commercial center - 1936 Kremlin Twp map already has the corner SE of the intersection under separate ownership, and it remains so to this day.

Interestingly, in the late 1940s-early 1950s, much of the activity was SW of the intersection, the corner leased from [Robert "Bob" Gray](#). There was a gas station with a mechanic shop later in the back, staffed by Earl Kirkpatrick and Roy Beaver; Roy started the business when he moved back to Kremlin from CO in 1945. He says Roy Brown owned the building (possibly the land as well) at that time. A drawing of this establishment by [John Richey](#) (son of [Bill](#) & [Mary](#), oldest brother to [Robert](#), [Eldon](#) & [Donna](#)) is below. Myron Toews interviewed him in October 2022 in his Wichita KS home and was given this useful sketch. It seems likely the map on the previous page also came originally from John.



[Robert Dale Gray](#), who grew up and still lives on this farm, recalls the service station with a later mechanic shop in the back, but mostly he remembers piles of junk on this corner ([Elfrieda Buller](#), who grew up 2 miles W, concurs!). There was also a house, later moved across the highway to the current Midway location.



With regards to [Midway commerce across US-81 to the E](#), there was a brick building divided into 3 sections, one of which served as a creamery. Aerial photos, some of poor quality, of the Midway intersection are shown below. During my childhood/early adulthood, there were 2 houses present in addition to commercial structures on the E side - one where Kremlin Farmers Grain Co assistant manager [Don Struble](#) lived and one where [Jim Harris](#) had his tag agency and later insurance agency. In addition to the main Midway building/service station, there was a large metal Quonset hut and [Midway Garage](#) E of it staffed by [Marion Wells](#) during my time in the area. The 1954 photo shows the gas station and a house W of the intersection, with the main building, Quonset shed and 1 house E of the intersection, but Midway Garage is not yet present. No buildings remained on the W side by 1961, although this corner section is still delineated, perhaps by a pasture fence? I personally have no memories of anything W of US-81.



[Current Midway](#) is shown at R - main building (perhaps a newer structure?), Quonset shed and former Midway Garage are all present. (Google satellite image)





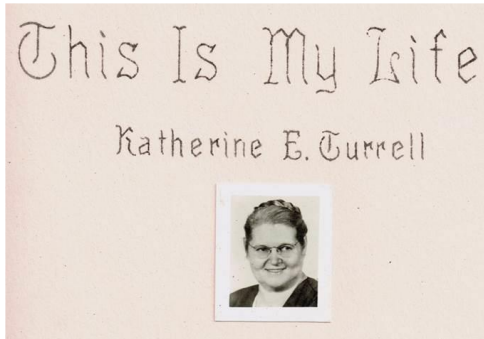
**The Midway** as it exists in **November 2022** is shown in the photos below. Upper panel shows **The Shop**, former **Midway Garage** operated in my childhood by Marion Wells, and the Quonset building (currently **Ragin' Cajun Sandblasting & Painting LLC**). Looking SW  
Lower photo shows **Ragin' Cajun Quonset building** and **Midway Store/service station**. Gas pumps at extreme L and diesel pumps at extreme R. The impressive eclectic collection of deep-fried victuals basking under heat lamps in the Midway Store is well worth a stop. Pizza and burgers are reportedly pretty good! No-ethanol gas too! Looking NE.





## Comments by Kate Turrell on living in and around Kremlin - early 1900s

Katherine Ella Voth Turrell was a first cousin of my grandfather Jacob A Voth. For a time, her family (Abraham and Maria Lohrenz Voth) lived on the Wilmoth Place, across the



road S from the JAV home-place. They later lived in several locations in and around Kremlin. She has written (1961) a manually typed ~275 page "life story," much of it later-life exhaustive diary entries, but the first 15 or so pages have valuable information on her family's ~1900 move from Henderson NE to the Kremlin area and her 13 or so years in that community. Some notes relevant to

early Kremlin history are below:

For a time, her family lived at the S end of Kremlin, on a 4 acre plot that was bordered by the Half-Section Road. She notes that there was a creamery nearby, on the bank of Sand Creek, east side of town

~ 1906, her father and his brothers ("Voth Brothers"; sons of Jacob Voth) traded their Huber threshing machine as part of a deal to buy a general store in Kremlin, E side of Main St, S end of town. They did not own it for long. There was an "entertainment hall" above the back of the store, with outside stairs going up. Kate only went once, but remembers a crowd watching a magician-type guy, hypnotizing people and doing sleight-of-hand tricks. She hints it maybe did not enjoy a good reputation, despite, or more likely in keeping with, its obvious popularity.

~1906 - there was a Kittrell Hotel with a restaurant - Kate was dishwasher for a bit

~1906 - The Burts owned a dry goods store, "NW corner of Main Streets"

Around 1909, her uncle Pete Voth owned a grain elevator just S of the Kremlin depot - there was a siding to load boxcars. There was also a flour mill in town at that time.

1910 - Frank Lott was a printer and published a newspaper around 1910 - Kate worked there setting type very briefly.

1913 - Francis Seapy owned a hardware store in Kremlin.

The Abraham and Maria Lohrenz Voth family, including Kate, moved from Kremlin to Dallas, OR, leaving the Kremlin depot on Sunday morning, April 13, 1913. The Kremlin Baptist Church dismissed with a prayer for them (they were parishioners) and then came *en masse* to the depot to see them off. Most of the Methodist and Christian church congregations were there as well.

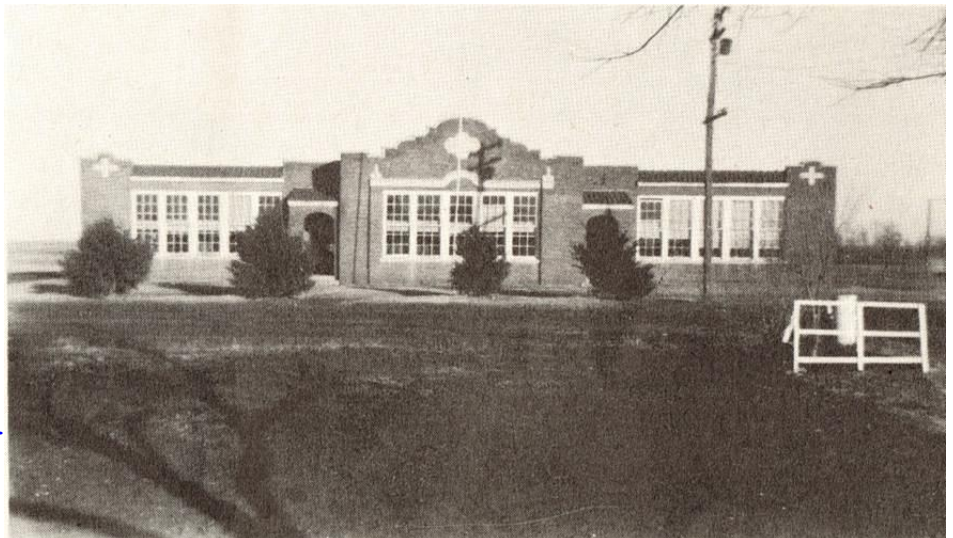


The initial [Kremlin School](#) building, a wooden structure, was built around 1910 (below). We believe it was on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, just S of current Keowee Rd (Kremlin-Hunter blacktop).



A new [6-room brick schoolhouse](#) built in [1931-32](#), shown below, graduated its first high-school class in 1933. The Nov. 1939 Enid newspaper article notes that "the attractive building of the Kremlin School accommodates 128 students from its 180 square mile district territory which is combed daily by its three school buses."

There were also three one-room schoolhouses in Kremlin Twp (see map p 20) as well as some in N Enid and Buffalo Twps that eventually merged with Kremlin District 18 - see our ["Kremlin School History"](#) & ["Arrel's Kremlin School Days"](#) - on our [Kremlin website](#).





The 1922 Enumeration Report (school census) for Kremlin School District 18 is shown below. Note the list begins with the George P/Anna Buller Toews children (except eldest daughter Clara) and contains many familiar Kremlin names - Gumerson, Randolph, Rathmel, Smith, Wuerflein, Peck, Kirkpatrick, Mitchell, Reim & more. (FWZ Community Building)

COPY OF ENUMERATION REPORT  
INCLUDING THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LIST

After completing the enumeration on the booklet blank form furnished by the County Superintendent, the District Clerk, or the Enumerator, should make two complete copies of data for each name on this blank—one copy to be a record of the office of the District Clerk, the duplicate to be given the teacher at the beginning of the school term. From this list the teacher will keep a careful record of those of compulsory age and those absent reported as required by law to the School District Board and the County Superintendent.

Dist # 18 Kremlin Sch.

NAME OF CHILD	Sex	M.	Date of Birth			Age	Indicate Deaf & Dumb Feeble Minded	Number	NAME OF CHILD	Sex	M.	Date of Birth			Age	Indicate Deaf & Dumb Feeble Minded
			Month	Day	Year							Month	Day	Year		
Henry G. Toews	M.	M.	Aug	10	1904	19		46	James H. Herbison	M.	M.	July	17	1916	7	
Peter J. Toews	M.	M.	Jan	20	1907	16		47	Margaret Offner	M.	F.	Apr	5	1910	13	
Jacob B. Toews	M.	M.	Apr	27	1909	14		48	Floyd Smith	M.	M.	Oct	22	1902	20	
Anna P. Toews	M.	F.	Mar	12	1913	10		49	Edna Smith	M.	F.	June	14	1905	18	
David A. Toews	M.	M.	Oct	20	1916	6		50	Clay Smith	M.	M.	July	19	1907	16	
Pauline Mitchell	M.	F.	Oct	25	1905	17		51	Aubrey Smith	M.	M.	Oct	13	1909	13	
Norman Mitchell	M.	M.	June	14	1907	16		52	Lynx Smith	M.	M.	Feb	23	1912	11	
Edna Mitchell	M.	F.	May	26	1910	13		53	Florence Smith	M.	F.	Feb	17	1904	9	
Felma Betty	M.	F.	June	1	1909	14		54	Francis L. Shearhead	M.	F.	Dec	4	1906	16	
Clarence Betty	M.	M.	Feb	2	1911	12		55	Wm. Shearhead	M.	M.	Aug	8	1901	16	
Emmie Spurling	M.	F.	Aug	30	1911	12		56	Clark Shearhead	M.	M.	Mar	2	1911	13	
Clarence Spurling	M.	M.	May	11	1915	9		57	Allen Shearhead	M.	M.	Sept	24	1902	10	
Edward Kirkpatrick	M.	M.	Nov	27	1906	16		58	Leak Peck	M.	M.	July	8	1914	9	
Francie Brown	M.	F.	Sept	27	1910	12		59	Betty Wuerflein	M.	F.	Dec	30	1909	15	
Gladys Brown	M.	F.	Nov	2	1912	10		60	Eric Wuerflein	M.	M.	Aug	30	1906	17	
Fred G. Allen	M.	M.	June	9	1917	6		61	Fred Wuerflein	M.	M.	Dec	17	1909	13	
Wm. Crinan	M.	M.	July	15	1910	13		62	Betha Wuerflein	M.	F.	Jan	1	1910	13	
John Lawrence Ceur	M.	M.	Oct	2	1916	6		63	Lydia Wuerflein	M.	F.	Oct	20	1912	10	
Helen Bowler	M.	F.	May	12	1915	7		64	Maria Wuerflein	M.	F.	July	2	1915	8	
Milhelminia Johnson	M.	F.	Nov	18	1902	20		65	John Wuerflein	M.	M.	Mar	25	1917	6	
Clara Johnson	M.	F.	Dec	14	1916	6		66	Rosa Wuerflein	M.	F.	Sept	28	1913	9	
Albert Burt	M.	M.	Oct	21	1902	20		67	Mildred Seapy	M.	F.	Apr	13	1905	15	
Wallace Burt	M.	M.	May	7	1905	18		68	Murjorie Farrell	M.	F.	Feb	16	1903	15	
Alice Burt	M.	F.	Sept	21	1907	15		69	Edwin Standon	M.	M.	Mar	10	1916	7	
Edna Irene Mapey	M.	F.	Aug	22	1904	19		70	Marie Gonzalez	M.	F.	Mar	30	1908	13	
J. Carlton Rathmel	M.	M.	June	16	1905	18		71	Lydia Gonzalez	M.	F.	Jan	1	1911	12	
M. Carolyn Rathmel	M.	F.	June	16	1905	18		72	Jarphine Gonzalez	M.	F.	Mar	13	1913	10	
H. Marion Rathmel	M.	M.	Aug	27	1907	14		73	Mary Gonzalez	M.	F.	Sept	26	1915	7	
Grace Smith	M.	M.	Oct	12	1912	11		74	Eugene Cooke	M.	M.					
Bearl Cooper	M.	F.	Mar	4	1909	14		75	Lloyd L Peck	M.	M.	May	7	1904	19	
Borby Cooper	M.	F.	Dec	19	1912	9		76	Marj B Duff	M.	F.	Aug	27	1902	20	
Ralph Gumerson	M.	M.	Aug	6	1905	18		77	Catherine Duff	M.	F.	Mar	20	1907	16	
Reve Gumerson	M.	F.	Sept	28	1909	14		78	Flavy M. Kiniton	M.	F.	Feb	7	1917	6	
Eugene Gumerson	M.	M.	July	17	1910	12		79	Velma M. Kiniton	M.	F.	June	24	1917	6	
Leona Gumerson	M.	F.	Aug	14	1915	8		80	Tom Brennan	M.	M.	Dec	26	1903	19	
Ruth Gumerson	M.	F.	Sept	26	1905	17		81	Joseph Brennan	M.	M.	Dec	18	1904	16	
Lynden Gumerson	M.	M.	May	15	1910	13		82	Henry Brennan	M.	M.	Nov	13	1908	14	
Ed Gumerson	M.	M.	June	28	1913	10		83	James Brennan	M.	M.	Aug	10	1912	11	
Joe Harter	M.	M.	Sept	17	1907	14		84	Wm. Brennan	M.	M.	July	26	1914	9	
Edwin Harter	M.	M.	Sept	7	1908	14		85	Augusta Reim	M.	F.	Mar	2	1908	20	
Ernest Randolph	M.	M.	Jan	30	1909	14		86	Etch Reim	M.	M.	July	25	1905	18	
Fred Randolph	M.	M.	Dec	31	1910	12		87	Anna Reim	M.	F.	Sept	26	1907	15	
Clara Herbison	M.	F.	Sept	27	1905	18		88	Wm. Reim	M.	M.	Feb	28	1910	13	
Marie Herbison	M.	F.	Mar	22	1910	12		89	Leonard Reim	M.	M.	Jan	16	1914	9	
Chas. Herbison	M.	M.	Mar	24	1915	8		90	Della Anderson	M.	F.	May	21	1914	9	



The addition of more rooms, including a gymnasium, in the 1950s was the school I attended all 12 years. For additional information on Kremlin School, see Arrel's "[Kremlin School Days](#)," on our [Kremlin website](#). Myron is also preparing a more detailed account.



The [Columbia School House](#) is shown at L below - it was originally a one-room school-house located on US-81 about ½ mi S of the present H Holden Road, 1 mi S of the Midway Corner. This was where my mother, [Rosa Marie Voth Toews](#) and her siblings went to grade school. It was moved to across from the bus barn after we had started school and was used as the shop building until a second high-school addition was built.



The high school was demolished in 2015 (middle below, the author on the day before demolition) and a completely new building erected in a short period of time (below R). A few concrete decorations from the old school building (e.g., below L) were incorporated into the new building façade.





As best I can tell, there have been **three churches in the town of Kremlin**. In addition, many of the early townspeople and citizens in the surrounding community attended the **North Enid Mennonite Brethren Church** (just S of N Enid), the **Roman Catholic St Francis Xavier Church**, the **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** (both Enid OK), or other nearby churches.

The first church established is reported to be the **Baptist Church**, although I have not found any information or photos of this church.

The **Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church** was located at the SE corner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue. During my boyhood days, the Rathmel Clan were almost the entire congregation. I have been inside this church, which no longer stands, when joint Christmas or other joint services were held.



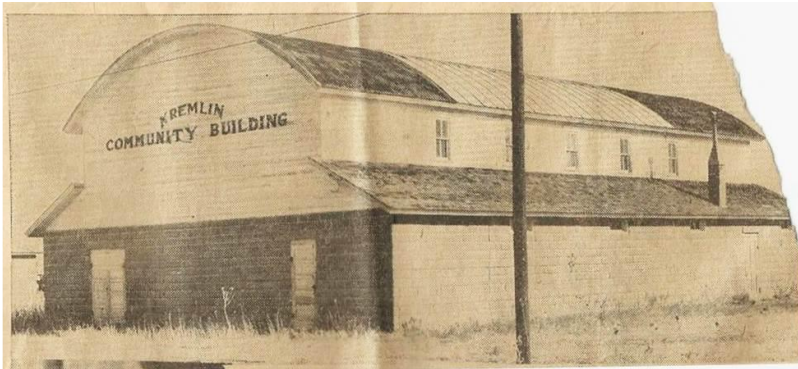
The **Kremlin Methodist Church** (since 1894; NW corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and C Avenue) has seen at least two structures (see below). The current building (1966) was constructed on the site of the previous building, so while the new church was being built, the congregation met in the Kremlin Community Hall. The David A Toews family attended from the mid-1950s onward, following the closing of the N Enid MB Church. See "**History of the Kremlin Methodist Church**" by **Betty Jo Thurman** (2001).





The **Kremlin Community Building** (aka **Community Hall**), financed through sale of local shares of stock, was constructed in 1929 at a cost of approximately \$5,000. In addition to community gathering functions, it served as the gymnasium for Kremlin basketball games and the auditorium for school plays and programs even while I was a youngster. The photos below, all that I have managed to find, show the Kremlin Community Building. It was destroyed by fire ca 1967. **Kremlin Fire Department** decided to just "let it burn!" Sad!

**Below:** L: from an Enid Morning News article about Kremlin (Nov 1939). R: Henry & Elsie Toews' wash house and the community building after a big snow (mid-1930s).



**Below:** (L) Town Council members **FW Zaloudek** and **Fred Phillips** (Council member John Gearheard not pictured), and long-time Kremlin mayor **Floyd "Tuck" Smith**, from the same Nov, 1939 newspaper article as the community hall photo above;

(R) Enid Morning News photo featuring Bank of Kremlin cashier **Henry G Toews**, businessman **FW Zaloudek**, and Postmaster **JC "Carlton" Rathmel** (ca early/mid 1940s).



*Gathered for a morning gab session are Henry G. Toews, cashier of the Bank of Kremlin; F. W. Zaloudek, whose success in the sale of farm machinery attracted nationwide attention, and J. C. Rathmel, postmaster for the past 12 years. All are natives of the Kremlin community.*



On [16 March 2003](#), Myron, Arrel & Galen Toews interviewed their first cousin [Ernest H](#)



["Ernie" Voth](#) (1925-2011) about his memories of times past. Ernie's knowledge of the Kremlin community and its families was literally encyclopedic and his recall of events past night total, something that always amazed me - he could tell you without thinking the year anyone around Kremlin graduated from high school, when and who they married, when they died, and so much more. [Notes on this page](#) are of



[Ernie's memories of Kremlin in his childhood/young adulthood](#), ca [mid-1930s to mid-1940s](#).

[Grain Elevators in Kremlin](#) at that time were Farmers Grain Company and Goultry Grain Company (later to become Zaloudeks). [Ben H Guffey](#) had a [blacksmith shop](#), SW corner of Main and C Streets, facing C Street. Note that [Hub Guffey](#) earlier had a blacksmith/shoeing shop and general store (see p 4), perhaps at the same location. [Long Bell Lumber Company](#) had a [lumberyard](#), W side of Main Street N of the Rathmel home and S of Ben Guffey's blacksmith shop. There had been a hotel with a restaurant W across Main St from Rathmel Grocery, but it was no longer standing - just a big hole now.

[Mr. Hambright](#) had a ["cream station"](#) and [barbershop](#) (see photo p 9), E side of Main Street, S of C Street and Rathmel Grocery. Hambrights also lived in this building, formerly a Kremlin bank. Myron notes our grandfather [George P Toews](#) usually went to Kremlin on Saturdays for a pre-Sunday shave and Ernie says, "From Hambright!" Yes, and perhaps it was [John R Hambright](#) (1887-1942) - he is buried with his wife [Ethel McC.](#) in the Garber OK Cemetery.

There was a [doctor](#) living in Kremlin during those years, delivering babies and more during house calls. Ernie believes that our [Aunt Elsie Toews](#) and [Helen Zaloudek](#) were the first mothers to travel to Enid for delivery of their babies.

Folks would often get on the train at the depot in Kremlin and go to Enid, then come back when business was finished; there were several daily trains each way. [Gerry Toews Reimer](#) recalls her mother taking the train to Enid to visit her mother, returning later in the day. [BA Chester](#) (see p 33) was the long-time depot agent in Kremlin and the Chester family lived in depot. A Kremlin-based [section crew](#) repaired and maintained the railroad - "section hands" would go out with their little hand-pump (and later gasoline-powered) rail cars. There was a section-hand workshop near the N Kremlin crossing (E side of tracks).



While I was a young lad, the [Rock Island "Rocket" passenger train](#) (Ft Worth TX to/from Kansas City MO) passed through Kremlin each day each way without stopping (although it did stop in Enid). Unfortunately, it did stop abruptly one day - [14 April 1948](#), just a couple months shy of my birth - there was a [massive train wreck](#) involving a dump truck, a freight train, and the Rocket passenger train ([see following pages](#)). Photo above shows the



Rocket at the Enid OK Rock Island Depot - perhaps it shows Grandfather George P Toews carrying Gerry Toews Reimer in front of the locomotive.

When the Rocket passed through Kremlin, a mail bag was thrown out for collection by the depot agent, and there was a post with an arm that held the outgoing mailbag on a loop beside the track. A hook protruding from the mail car grabbed the outgoing mail bag from the arm without the train stopping. "Air Mail" for just a few seconds!

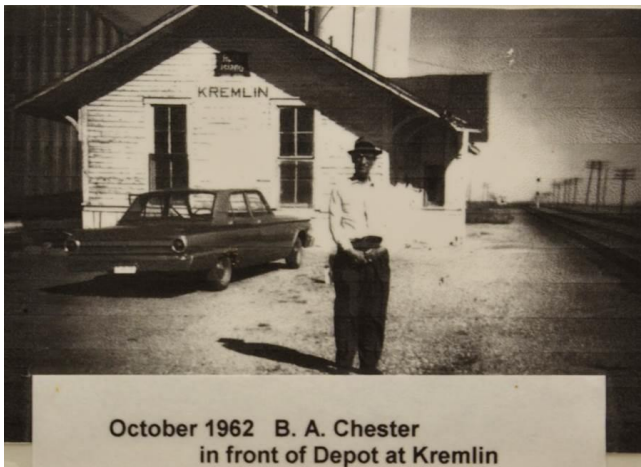
Photo at R shows another [Rock Island passenger train](#), taken by [Uncle Jake Regier](#) as the train pulled into the [Enid station](#) on [Easter Sunday, 1960](#).



**Kremlin School/Rock Island Rocket memories:** [Mick Zaloudek](#) (Class of 1956) recalls taking the Rocket to Chicago for his senior class trip (juniors went along as well). Three other schools, including Pond Creek, also had cars on the same train for their senior trips. In [May 1959](#) (when I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade), the senior class, including [James Buller's sister Loretta](#), also took their [Senior trip to Chicago on the Rocket](#) - it made a special stop at the Kremlin depot so the class and chaperones could board, and the entire school was let out to give them a proper send-off and to witness this historic event.



There were numerous [daily freight trains](#) as well - I remember a few with steam locomotives, but most all were already diesel/electric locomotives in my childhood days. The loss of rail passengers and increased truck traffic eventually resulted in the closing of the Kremlin depot. [Harvey Smith](#) was depot agent when I was a young lad. [Boyd A "BA" Chester](#), quite a character, was the last depot agent, retiring approximately when I was in high school (mid-1960s). At that time, he and his wife [Lucile](#) lived in a trailer house behind the former Rathmel Grocery/Bank of Kremlin building. Earlier, the Chesters actually lived in the Kremlin Depot for a time. Eventually (1982) ownership of the railroad passed to the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad, which continues to operate it to this day. The [Railroad Museum of Oklahoma](#) (702 N Washington) in Enid is well worth a visit. ["Kremlin OK and the Rock Island Railroad"](#) is available on this website.



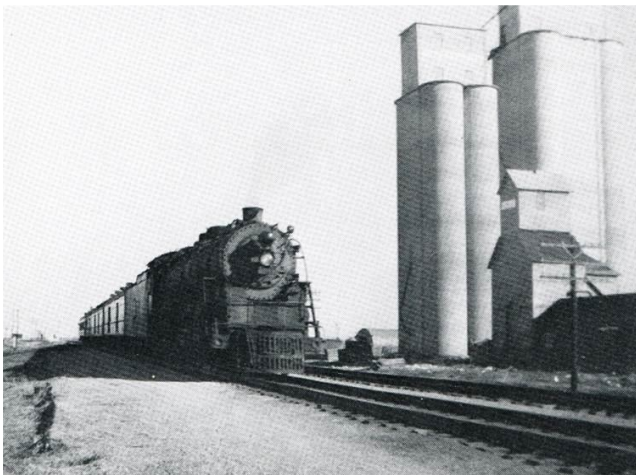
October 1962 B. A. Chester  
in front of Depot at Kremlin



CRISP DEPOT 1965  
KREMLIN, OKLA.

The [last steam passenger train to pass through Kremlin](#) (date unknown) is shown at L below. Note the initial wooden/tin grain elevator but also the first and second concrete elevators of the Farmers Grain Company Co-op. Also note Zaloudek's round-top shed between the locomotive and (behind the) elevators. Looking NNE

At R below is a [Jacob A Voth](#) photo of a [steam train at the Kremlin depot](#) - note milk/cream can on the station platform and Grandpa Voth's stylized JAV initials on the depot at L. The caboose of a train on the passing track is also visible. Looking N





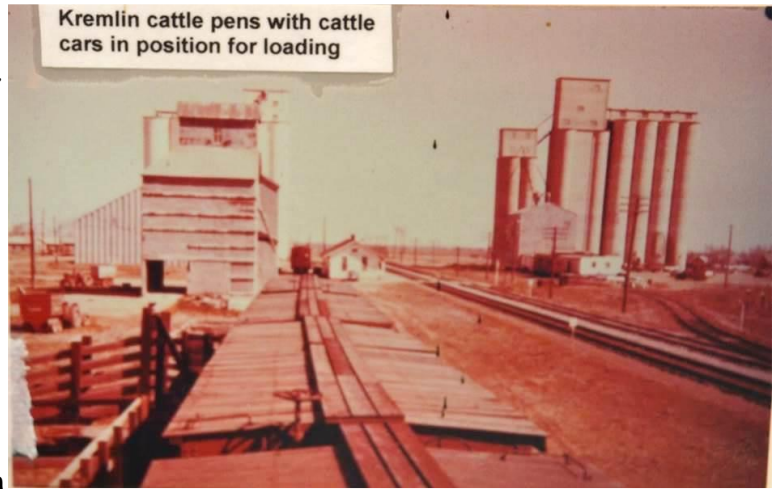
Some additional photos of the Rock Island depot and Kremlin grain elevators are shown below. **Top:** labelled "[Kremlin Christmas 1946](#)" - provided by [Dick Chelf](#) from his parents' family archives. Dick's parents were longtime Kremlin School administrator, teacher, and school board member [Leonard A](#) and wife [Lillian "Tillie" Zaloudek Chelf](#). Looking NW.

**Bottom:** Rock Island depot with Zaloudek's grain elevator at L and Farmers Grain elevators at R. Note warehouse and feed mill are already present. Looking N towards Pond Creek; photo from [Tom Burke](#) (Facebook page), shared by [Danny Zaloudek](#).





"Kremlin cattle pens with cattle cars in position for loading" - The cattle cars are on the house track W of the depot. Note the cattle loading chute, Zaloudek's tin elevator (used at the time as a feed mill for their feed lot 1 mile S of town), flat storage building, and concrete elevators. On the R (E) side of the main and passing tracks, note the siding to Farmers Grain Company, the warehouse, new feed mill (on site of original wood/tin grain elevator), and concrete elevators. ca late 1950s-1960s. (photo from FWZ Kremlin Community Building) Depot at center.



Rock Island freight train in the passing track near the N Kremlin grade crossing, ca late 1960s. Note the boxcars in the Farmers Grain Company siding, bulk fertilizer plant and grain elevators at L. Across the tracks W, Zaloudek's bulk fertilizer plant, concrete grain elevators, and old tin elevator. Great Lakes Carbon Corporation's petroleum coke processing plant is visible in the background just R of the boxcar. (online photo).



A relatively recent photo of Zaloudek Grain Company office, elevator & flat storage building is shown at R.





## Train Wrecks In Or Near Kremlin

There were a number of [train wrecks in and near Kremlin](#), several with significant consequences for the future of the town. A summary of photos and information we have been able to glean from various sources are shown below. [For a much more detailed and comprehensive account, see our "1948 Rocket Wreck & Others In & Around Kremlin OK", as well as "Kremlin OK & the Rock Island Railroad" - both also on \[this website\]\(#\).](#)

**1914 Freight Train Derailment:** One of the earliest Kremlin train wrecks was in 1914. All we have is the photo shown below and caption "Train wreck at Kremlin, 1914," from p 834 of Vol II of Garfield County Oklahoma (1893-1982), published for the 1893 Land Run Centennial Celebration (1982; Joster's Publications, Topeka KS).



**1930 Freight Train Derailment/Fire:** These photos are mostly from the David A & Rosa Toews Family archives, with one from the FWZ Kremlin Community Building. A newspaper article from the Sweetwater (TX) Daily Reporter is also included below.

**Summary:** Northbound CRIP second-class freight [train # 98](#) consisted of 76 loaded cars, mostly tank cars, and a caboose, pulled by [Engine # 5039](#). The train derailed at [11:37 AM on Friday, 12 September 1930](#) in Kremlin while traveling approx. [35 mph](#) (speed limit for loaded tank cars). Four transients ("trespassers" in railroad jargon) were immolated in the subsequent explosions and fire. The actual cause of the derailment is a bit complicated, but was basically the result of [faulty maintenance](#) and [inadequate inspections](#).

The derailment occurred near the N switch of the (E) passing track, about 800' N of the Kremlin depot and fairly near the N Kremlin grade crossing. [21 cars](#) near the center of the train derailed, and 19 of them were piled up within a distance of only 230', all of them destroyed when their contents exploded and burned.



Some photos of this train wreck are shown below:



Above, l & r: Kremlin locals viewing the fire (L); R, close-up of same view from the road shown at L (inverted from original print) (white patches in L photo above may be flames)



Above: Two additional views of the derailment and fire. Photo at L, looking NNW, shows final two derailed cars (they did not burn) and the rear of the freight train at extreme L. 150' separated them. Photo at R is looking NNE towards tracks and Farmers Grain elevator from W of the depot (FWZ Kremlin Community Building).



Above, L & R: Railroad crane removing debris, including tank cars, from the wreck site. Note the steam engine of the salvage train in the l photo, probably looking S.



Another photo showing a railroad crane removing destroyed tank cars from the 1930 Kremlin train wreck. Note exploded railcar tank suspended by crane.



The seven photos above appear to be all from the same roll of film - they all have the same ornate printed border. ([David A & Rosa Toews Family archives](#), except for one photo as indicated).

Several additional photos from this train wreck are shown below - from the [OK Historical Society's Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection](#), specifically "[Kremlin.](#)" This latter site contains other vintage photos of Kremlin as well.

Below: "[Rock Island wreck at Kremlin, where 4 men were killed, 18 oil cars destroyed, and houses burned.](#)" (Earl's Photo Shop; 28 November 1930; OHS Photo Collection)





Photos below are from the same OHS collection as previous page, taken on **14 September 1930**. Captions for all three read simply **"R.I. near Kremlin."**



**A number of buildings on each side of the track were destroyed by the fire**, including at least 3 homes and **Omer Fowler's woodworking/carpentry shop** (near the Zaloudek's elevator office site, W side of tracks). In fact, the damage was more extensive than this and the town barely escaped almost complete destruction; a significant portion was destroyed by the fire.



**April 1948 Rocket Wreck:** A brief summary and some photos of this accident follow. Myron's 1/2019 interview with [Johnny Voth](#) was very helpful. On **14 April 1948**, the **5-car southbound "Texas Rocket" first-class passenger train** of CRIP Railroad (**Train # 509**) was crossing the N grade crossing at Kremlin OK, located about a quarter-mile N of the depot, when a large **1944 K-8 International dump truck**, loaded with 31,600 lbs of wet sand and *en route* to just E of the crossing, failed to stop. Despite last-seconds evasive action by the driver, it struck the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rocket car at its rear "truck" (set of wheels), causing the last 3 cars of the Rocket to derail and strike cars at the rear of a freight train (**Extra 5035 South**) sitting on the adjacent E siding. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> passenger cars were raked and damaged by the collision with the freight train in the siding, and the last two cars were immolated by fire. The fire resulted from a punctured propane tank beneath car 4 - the propane was used to power the air-conditioning system in that car. After the accident, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Rocket cars leaned against cars 80-84 of the freight. The 5-car passenger train consisted of a diesel-electric locomotive (# 626), a baggage-mail car, a dining car, 2 coaches, and a coach/observation/parlor car, in that order.

There were **3 fatalities** and 31 passengers, plus the truck driver and a railroad employee (flagman in 4<sup>th</sup> car), were injured. Among the injured was **Frank Dvorak**, UWISC band director, on his way to judge the **Tri-State Music Festival** in **Enid OK**. Most of the derailment occurred at the N siding switch of the (E) passing track, and the collision between the Rocket passenger cars and the caboose and last 15 cars of the 94-car freight train standing on the siding ended only 110 feet N of the depot. All 5 cars remained attached to the locomotive.

The "**Kremlin Road**," sand/gravel at the time, was being hard-surfaced and several large dump trucks were making 10 or more daily trips back and forth across this grade crossing. One of the dump trucks did not see the approaching Rocket and it collided with the train. The dump truck side doors were equipped with canvas "side-curtains" above the doors that each had 2 small celluloid windows. Readers should appreciate this direct quote from the accident report: "**Examination after the accident disclosed that the small celluloid windows in the canvas curtains were streaked with red-colored mud, and that this condition impaired visibility to a significant extent.**" The collision turned the truck onto its right side S of the crossing. Perhaps the driver's last-second evasive action lessened the severity of the aftermath of the collision.

All six photos on the next page are from [David A & Rosa Toews Family archives](#). These photos all have September 1948 embossed on the prints below the images.



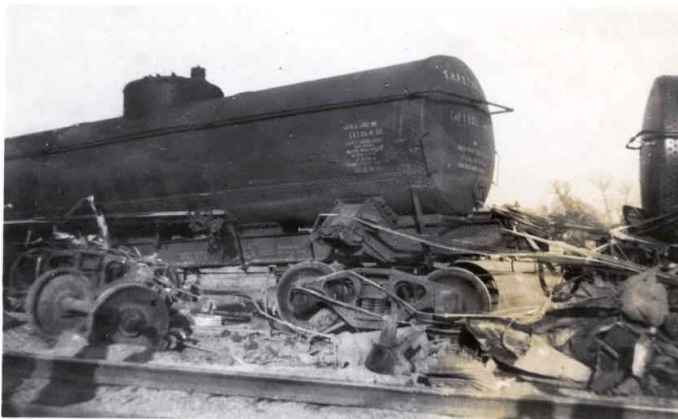


**Above upper L:** Spectators and OK Highway Patrol car in front of coach/parlor/observation car (last car on the train) against tank cars of the freight train sitting in the siding. Looking E. Photo taken soon after the accident, 14 April 1948.

**Above upper R:** Damaged and burned passenger coach, perhaps car 4, after removal of damaged freight train cars. Note severely damaged right side and vestibule at end of car. Railcars behind it are possibly on the (W) house track). Note tin elevator at far R. Looking NW.

**Above lower L:** Overturned caboose and derailed tank car very near Kremlin depot, looking S, after removal of Rocket passenger cars. "Zaloudek's" tin grain elevator is behind depot.

**Above lower R:** Another S view of coach/parlor/observation car (last car on the train) against tank cars of the freight train sitting in the siding. Taken soon after the accident.





Previous page, lower L & R: Damaged cars of freight train sitting in the siding with Texas Rocket debris and ashes beside them, after removal of Rocket passenger cars. Looking E.



Above: photos of the dump truck that hit the Rocket on 14 April 1948. L: Note the mangled RR-crossing sign amid the sand pile from the truck and the N Kremlin grade crossing past the wrecked truck. Looking N towards Pond Creek. (Al McLaughlin, OHS Photo Collection)

Right: "Dump Truck That Hit The Train" (FWZ Kremlin Community Building).

Below: "Kremlin Citizens Providing Care" (FWZ Kremlin Community Building). Perhaps Zaloudek's grain elevator and elevator office are at upper right. Note stretchers at lower R, and an occupied stretcher at center. Looking NE.







Above: "Fire in the Hot Springs rail car in Kremlin Oklahoma" looking NNE from near depot (from online photo search). Note Farmers Grain Company elevators, including small tin elevator building and the overturned freight caboose in front of the elevators at far L. The front car is the "Hot Springs" coach car (car 4; name visible on side) and the back car is the coach/parlor/observation car (car 5). The open side flaps on both cars may indicate the position of the propane gas cabinets under the cars. The engine and first 3 cars have been uncoupled and removed S along the main track.

Right: Another view of the [Hot Springs coach car](#), looking S - from the Daily Oklahoman.

Caption reads "A side view of wrecked and burned coach of the Rock Island Rocket."

Note front cars of the Rocket at extreme R.

Al McLaughlin, 14 April 1948

OHS Photo Collection



Right: from an Oklahoma Publishing Company newspaper article; caption reads: "Siding ripped from passenger train hanging on sidetracked freight." (Al McLaughlin, 14 April 1948, OHS Photo Collection).

Note the OK Highway Patrol officer examining the debris.



Right: A salvage crane lifts car #3 back onto the main track. From an Oklahoma Publishing Company newspaper article; caption reads: "This was car truck hit. Did not burn." (Al McLaughlin, 14 April 1948 OHS Photo Collection)



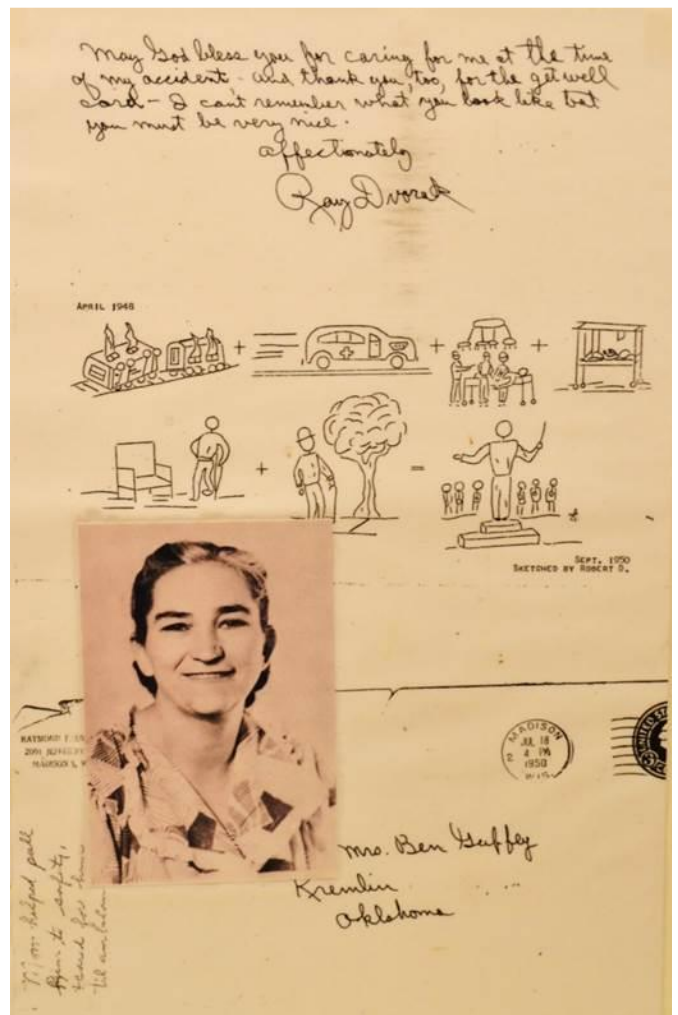


"May 16, 1948 photo of Raymond Dvorak, University of Wisconsin band director arriving in Madison after a train accident in Kremlin, Oklahoma. He is on a gurney with attendants, and a train is in the background." Wisconsin State Journal, 17 May 1948.

Mr. Dvorak was on his way to Enid to judge the [Tri-State Music Festival](#) when the 14 April 1948 Kremlin Rocket wreck left him 12 miles shy of his destination and in the [Enid General Hospital](#) for over a month with a fractured left tibia.



He wrote a nice thank-you letter in July 1950 with some cartoon drawings to [Mrs. Ben \(Willie\) Guffey](#), who "helped him to safety and cared for him til ambulance came" (from notation on the envelope) - it is on the wall of the FWZ Kremlin Community Building, and well worth viewing.



**June 1950 CRIP Freight Train Wreck 4.73 miles N of Kremlin: CRIP Extra 5034 North**, consisted of Engine 5034 (4-8-4 steam locomotive), 52 cars, and a caboose. At 8:07 PM, while moving at an estimated 50 mph 4.73 miles N of the Kremlin depot, the first 29 cars and cars 38-43 derailed. The engine ended up on its L side on the L (W) side of the rail-bed fill and the tender was separated from the engine and stopped upright and off its trucks, about 18' S of the locomotive. Both were badly damaged. The flammable contents of the cars at the front of the train ignited and 27 cars were destroyed in the fire. The other cars were badly damaged. The fireman and front brakeman were killed, and the engineman, conductor and flagman were injured. The engineman was the only survivor aboard the locomotive.

The fill on which the accident occurred was constructed in 1889, and boring samples after the accident indicated that a **5-7'-thick bed of quicksand** underlay the fill at a depth of about 17'. Apparently, the quicksand underlying the fill was displaced by fill material as the train passed, resulting in the sinking of the track when the engine passed over it. Thus the **accident was officially caused by the sinking of this fill.**





There was another train wreck in Kremlin 3 years prior to the 1948 Rocket wreck. On **2 October 1945**, [Richard F.](#) (75) and [Rosie V Pennock Richey](#) (67), grandparents of [Donna Richey](#), were heading to Enid with a crate of chickens on the back of their automobile, presumably to sell them. They collided with the Rock Island Rocket at the Kremlin crossing. Perhaps some of the chickens survived, but the Richeys did not. They rest in the Kremlin Cemetery. We have no photos of this event.

[Johnny Voth](#) remembers a [Banfield Packing Co](#) (N Enid slaughterhouse/packing plant) **truck** hitting a train (maybe Rocket/maybe not) when he was in first or second grade. He was born 1932, so probably ~1940.

**Later day train wrecks:** Several of us remember when a N-bound freight train struck a VW Beetle at the Kremlin blacktop crossing, dragging it maybe a quarter-mile before stopping (it is a downhill grade from Enid to Pond Creek). This was in **1962**, my early high school years. The dark green VW Bug was severely mangled and when my Dad and I walked down to look over things (the train and bodies were already gone), I innocently lifted up a nice gray felt Stetson dress hat, only to find a chunk of human brain underneath (cerebellum/pons, although I did not know that then!). I am sure the hat was placed over this after the rescue squad folks had departed out of respect to the dead. The deceased were [George W.](#) (71) and his son [Lomon H Joyner](#) (41), from the Helena/Carrier area.

[JoAnn Toews Rice](#) remembers a horrible train wreck just N of Kremlin, in the middle of the night (early 50s?). Perhaps this was the 1950 wreck N of Kremlin?

[Dennis Toews](#) remembers a freight train derailment N of that crossing not involving a collision, presumably due to speeding downhill by the engineer. We have all heard about the difficult uphill grade going S from Pond Creek to Enid during steam locomotive days, and this last derailment was presumably due to overenthusiastic taking advantage of that reverse downhill grade. Sometimes an additional steam locomotive had to be added to make the uphill Pond Creek to Enid grade in earlier times.

In **July 1972**, there was a **freight train wreck** at the N Kremlin crossing. The news photo below from FWZ Kremlin Community Building shows Enid firefighters battling blaze. We have found no additional information on this wreck.



Enid firefighters at train wreck at the north Kremlin crossing in July 1972.

### Kremlin & the Zaloudek Family

The Zaloudek family is perhaps the most prominent family in the Kremlin area. The bit of historical information on this page precedes a more detailed description of FW Zaloudek and his enterprises. The photo below, ca 1915 and courtesy of Daniel Zaloudek (son of Lou and Ethel), shows paterfamilias **Wencel Zaloudek** and his family.



- 1 Catherine Kuchara (Wencel's mother)
  - 2 Wencel (1877-1956)
  - 3 Mary Makovec (Wencel's wife; 1884-1965)
  - 4 Tony (1902-1975; Alice)
  - 5 Florien (FW; 1903-1989; Helen)
  - 6 Lillian ("Tillie"; 1905-2000; Leonard Chelf)
  - 7 Alice (1908-2002; Floyd "Tuck" Smith)
  - 8 Lou (1909-1997; Ethel)
  - 9 Ed (1912-1987; Varina)
- Irene (1917-2010; Gau) not in photo



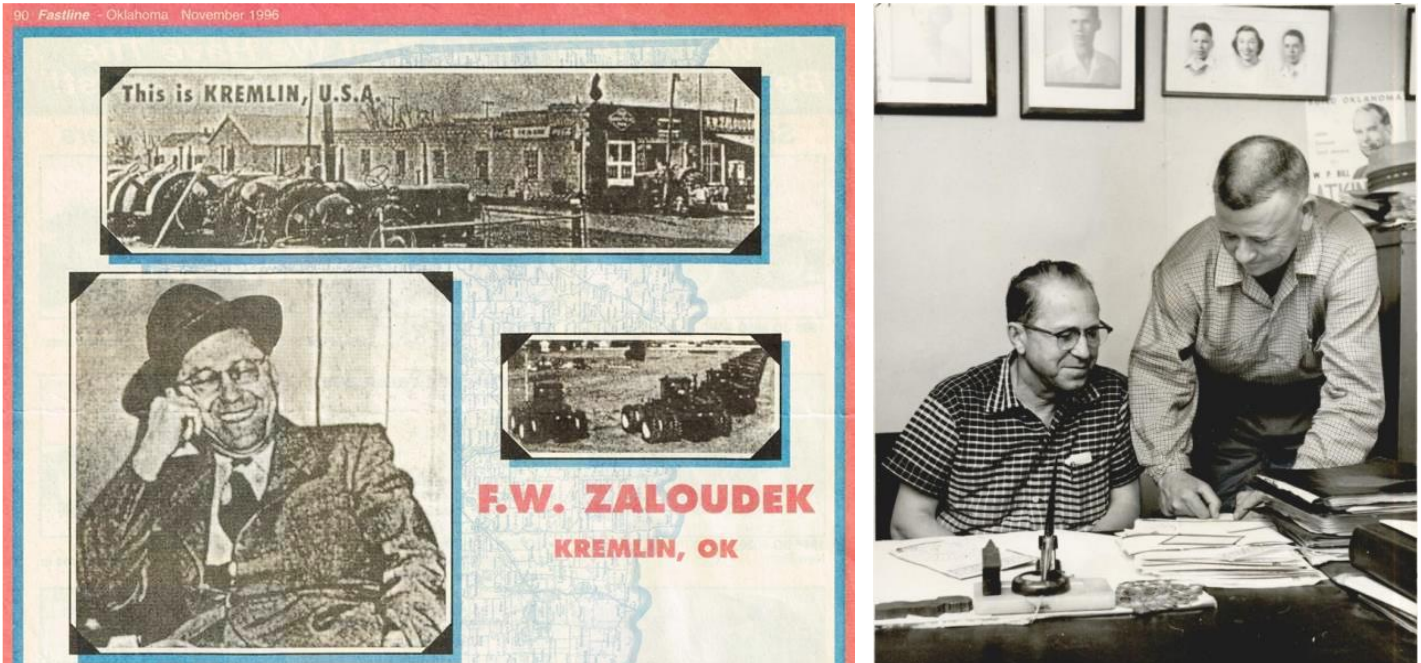
The **Wencel Zaloudek family** lived where Lou Zaloudek lived during our childhood, just SE of Kremlin School grounds - see photo at R. Their original house was between the barn/shed and Sand Creek.





## FW Zaloudek

Undoubtedly the most influential person in Kremlin's history, the present author excluded, was **Florien W "FW" Zaloudek** (1903-89). Of Bohemian (Czechoslovakian) heritage, legend has it that he started his first business with \$1.65 in tangible assets when he purchased a run-down garage with a single gasoline pump in Kremlin at age nineteen. By 1952, he had become the largest JI Case tractor dealership in the world (#1 of over 4,000 dealerships). Well known for his civic endeavors, he served 8 years on the Federal Reserve Board.



Note the main building in the photo at L above, with the cast-iron **JI Case "Old Abe" Eagle** mounted atop a globe of the world - behind this building is **Don Decker's** blacksmith/repair shop (see also recent photos on p 92). The photo below that shows FW enjoying his later years. The 23 July 1958 photo at R above, from an Oklahoma Times news article, shows FW in his office, I believe with head salesman **Tom Neal**. The caption reads, "Orders for farm machinery which quickly total carloads are pouring into the office of F. W. Zaloudek, left, Kremlin, reputed to be the world's biggest implement dealer." (OK Historical Society OK Publishing Company Photo Archives)

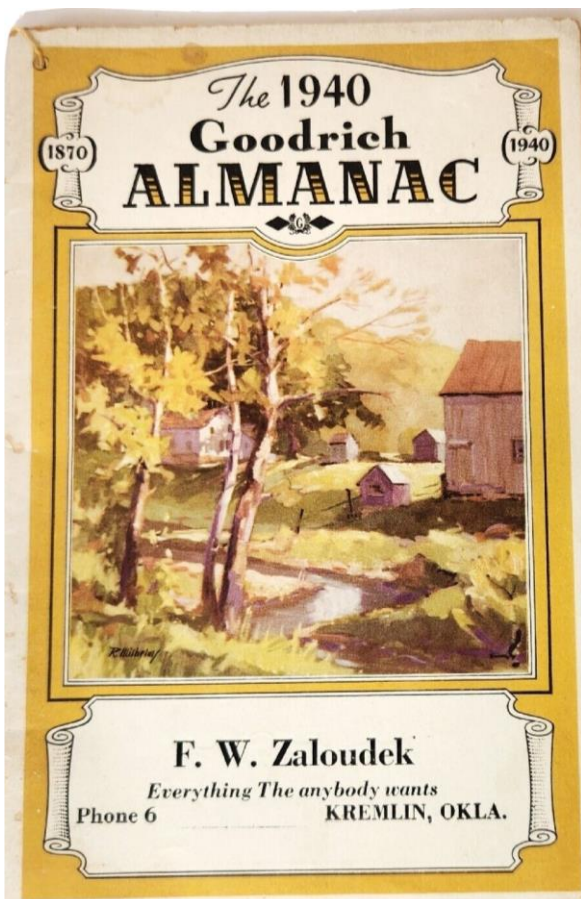
Award-winning JI Case dealer **FW Zaloudek**  
 (FWZ dealership; photo by Myron Toews)



A vintage ad for FW Zaloudek (ca 1990) is shown below R. Note the Case-IH emblem and newer Case-IH tractors. In 1984 Tenneco bought International Harvester's agricultural equipment division and merged it with JI Case, with the farm brands combined as Case-IH, although the corporation legally remained the JI Case Company.

"This is Kremlin U.S.A."

A 1940 Goodrich Almanac from FW Zaloudek is shown below L



This is KREMLIN, U.S.A.

He had \$1.65 in tangible assets at 19 yrs. old when he took over a run down garage and an old-fashioned gasoline pump.

In 1952 Florian Zaloudek led 4,000 Case dealers in the United States and Canada in sales. Zaloudek knew the secret to his phenomenal success — service. He stated once, "...if we didn't have a good service department our sales would drop 50 percent tomorrow."

The first Case machinery Zaloudek sold was a Model 18-32 tractor and Model P combine. He took horses as trade-ins.

Zaloudek's sons, Bill and Bob, joined the business in the early 1960s after college and serving in the military.

They have continued the Zaloudek tradition of businessmen including expansion into the banking and grain industries.

F.W. Zaloudek is still one of the top Case dealers in the United States and looks to be promising in the future. In 1953 Zaloudek's comment, "...farmers have larger farms...they need them to make the kind of living they want: to send children to college, to travel, to have a nice car and labor-saving household appliances..." This still holds true today.

**F.W. ZALOUDEK**  
KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA  
874-2211

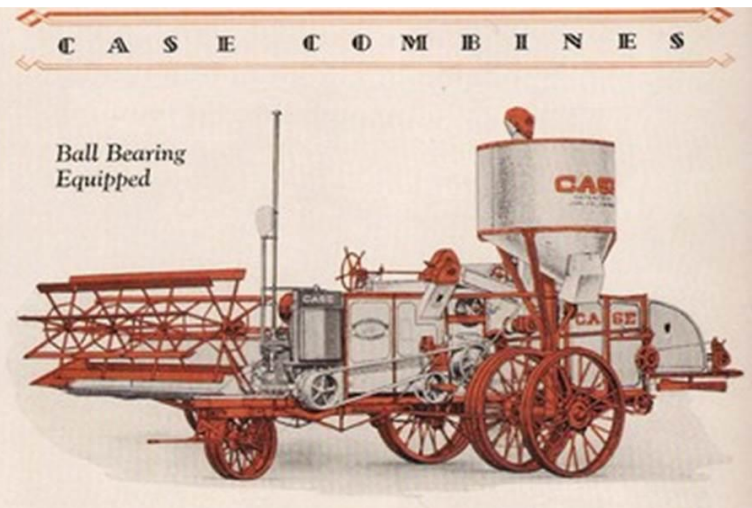
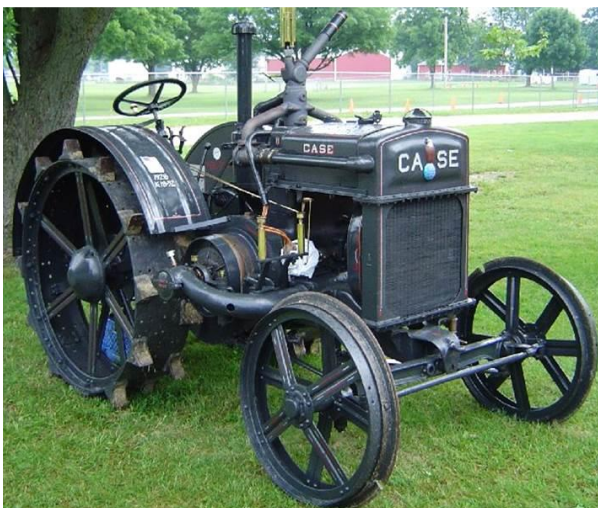




Photo at L above shows Zaloudek's round-top shed (W side of Main Street) where fence posts, wire and other farm supplies were stored and behind that, the Farmer's Grain Company elevators to the SW (only the small wooden elevator and first 4-silo concrete elevator are present).

A later photo at R above looking S down Main Street shows the W portion of the FW Zaloudek enterprise - a tin building with dock that housed oil barrels, grease buckets, tires, and similar materials, 4 large petroleum tanks with pumps, and the round-top shed also shown at L. Note the additional larger 4-silo concrete Farmers Grain Company elevator behind the tanks and the Kremlin service station at back center. (Joe Miller, 23 July 1951, OK Publishing Co)

The first farm machinery FW sold was a [Model 18-32 tractor](#) and a [Model P combine](#). For more details on the myriad FW Zaloudek enterprises, see section below. Photos below show a JI Case Model 18-32 Crossmotor tractor (1925-28, until the Model L was introduced) and the JI Case Model P combine.





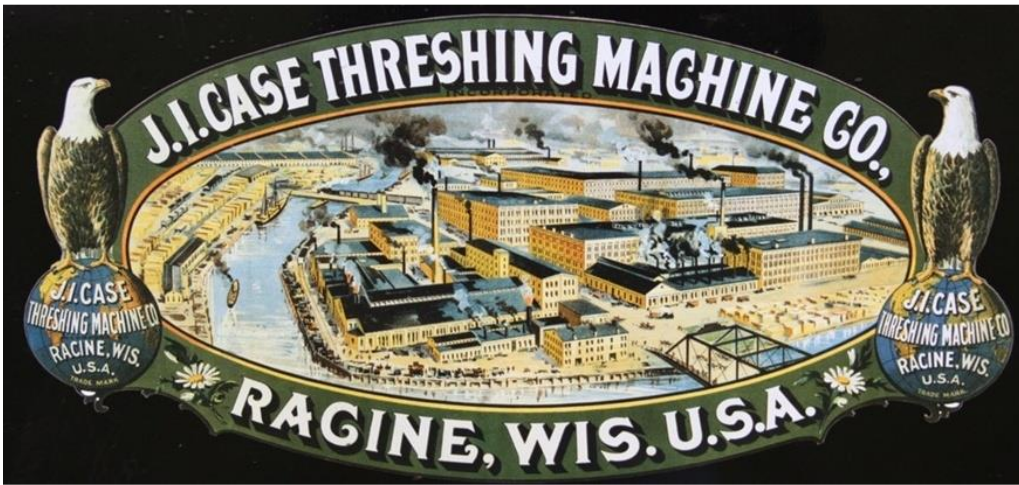
The [first Model L tractor FW sold](#) was to my grandfather [Jacob A Voth Sr.](#) After it had lived out its days, including years abandoned among the weeds by Grandpa Voth's fuel tank W of his machine shed, it enjoyed a second life when FW managed to buy or barter for it and restored it to pristine condition. It toured tractor shows and fairs throughout the US for a number of years, and currently resides in the Round Barn N of Pond Creek.

Top photo shows [FW Zaloudek, Jacob A Voth Sr & Jacob A Voth Jr](#) with that original L Lug Case tractor and a brand new Case 1070 Agri-King tractor. The Voth Family likes to think it was an even trade! Lower photos (2005) show Toews Brothers with the restored Model L in the FWZ Dealership (L, [Galen & Myron](#) & R, [Galen & Arrel](#))





I promise you will be very interested to read about ["The Story of Old Abe - The Case Tractor Eagle."](#) By the way, the FWZ "Old Abe" eagle/globe statue is still in possession of the Zaloudek family - ask Myron for details and a photo. Another "Old Abe" at R.



Some additional photos of the Zaloudek's business are below (from walls of the FW Zaloudek Kremlin Community Building by the Bob Voth ballfield):

Note the two men working on the tractor tire and gas pump in front of [Zaloudek's Store](#) in the R photo. Original mechanic's bay behind tractor.

Below (L): [Jerry Lee](#), general clerk and butcher at Zaloudek's Store. [Jerry and FW Zaloudek](#) are shown by the pop machine (40¢!) in the store at lower R. Note Campbell's soup cans and raisins on the R and chain saws and spray paint on the L! Parts Department & deli case at rear. Quite a store!





View of [FW Zaloudek main building](#) with [Kremlin Café](#) across Keowee Road. I believe this café was the first of two on this site. Note Case Eagle sitting on globe atop the building corner. Lumber building at R and Don Decker's shop at back. Note rear tractor tires, steel fence posts, farm gates, barbed wire rolls, creosote timbers and winch-truck. Looking NE from Main Street. Photos courtesy of Daniel "Danny" Zaloudek.



Billboard along US-81 just S of Midway denoting [FW Zaloudek](#) as [Worlds Largest JI Case Dealer](#). In 1952, FW Zaloudek lead 4,000 other Case dealers in the US and Canada in sales. Note [930 Comfort Kings](#) shown have squared yellow fenders, introduced ~1964.

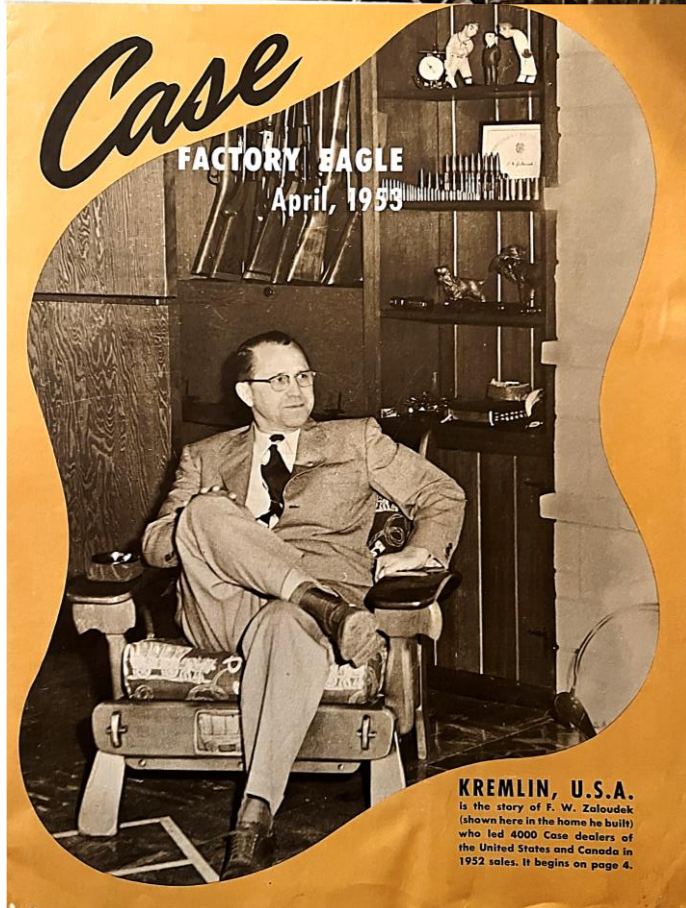




The [April 1953](#) issue of [Case Factory Eagle](#) featured [FW Zaloudek](#) and his enterprises - it is filled with great photos, some of which are presented below. We will also post the entire magazine on our [ToewsBrothersKremlin](#) history website. Dick Chelf family archives

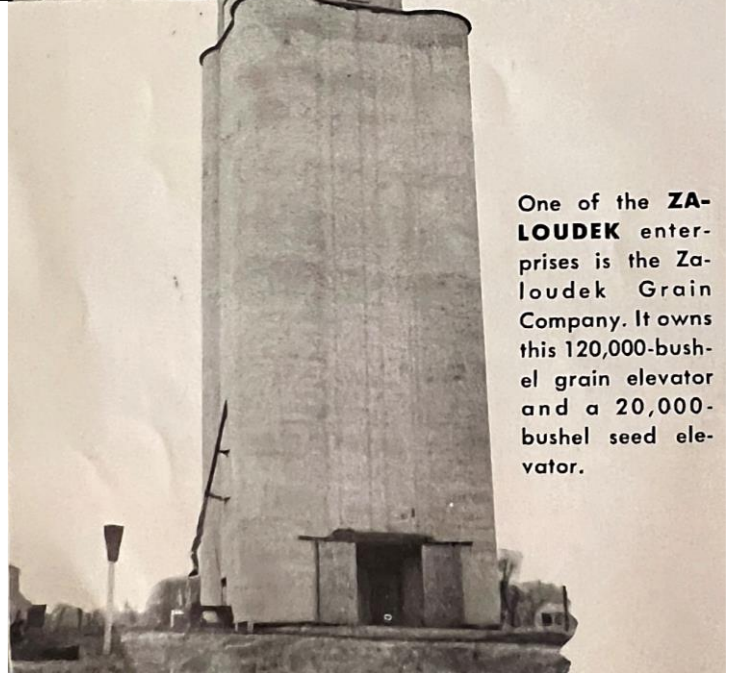
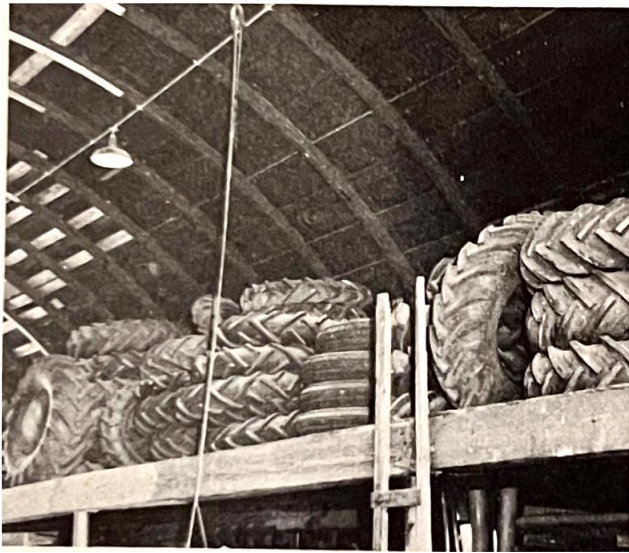


**This is KREMLIN, U.S.A.**



Clockwise from top: "This is Kremlin"; mechanics putting new tires on an LP-gas Model LA tractor; head mechanic [Bob Kirkpatrick](#) replaces oil filter cartridge on a Model L tractor built in 1929. Note crank in foreground for starting; [FW Zaloudek](#) posing in his new home E of his enterprises.





One of the **ZALOUDEK** enterprises is the Zaloudek Grain Company. It owns this 120,000-bushel grain elevator and a 20,000-bushel seed elevator.



Above R, from top: [Howard McDonald](#), Zaloudek Grain Co manager, stamps a weight ticket; Zaloudek's elevator.

Above L from top: tractor tires in large Quonset-type warehouse; bulk fuel tanks, general store, with edge of lumberyard at L; [Leonard Chelf](#) (parts manager) and [Betty Jo Kirkpatrick Thurman](#) working the counter in Zaloudek's store.



## Aerial views of Kremlin OK through the years

**Earliest available aerial view of Kremlin OK** - although out-of-focus and of low resolution, it is still useful. Perhaps **1930-40s**? Note the final 8-silo addition to Farmers Grain Company elevators has not yet been constructed; the original tin elevator is present but not the warehouse. Ed Zaloudek farmstead with barn is at extreme L and Lou Zaloudek farmstead is at lower R. Kremlin School without high school/gym addition, but with what appears to be 2 one-room schoolhouses S and E of the building are present. CRIP depot, Christian Church, Rathmel Grocery, Community Hall, and FWZ round-top shed (upper R) are all visible - if you look hard enough! Looking NW.



**1954 Aerial view of Kremlin** (OE-3N-85 SHAREOK). Pete Voth farmstead upper L and Ed and Lou Zaloudek farmsteads at bottom. Note Farmers Grain elevators with final 8-silo addition complete, Kremlin School with high school/gym addition and bus barn just N of the grade school, Columbia Schoolhouse, Rathmel Grocery/Post Office/Bank of Kremlin, Community Hall, Christian and original Methodist Churches, and FW Zaloudek enterprises.





**1961 Aerial view of Kremlin**, with somewhat better resolution than 1954 image. Again, Pete Voth farmstead upper L and Ed and Lou Zaloudek farmsteads at bottom. Note new office building and feed mill at Farmers Grain Company and flat-storage grain building at Zaloudek Grain Company. Shop/Music Room addition E of gym at Kremlin School is present, and new bus barn is across from Columbia Schoolhouse. Christian and Methodist Churches, Rathmel Grocery/Post Office/Bank of Kremlin, Community Hall, and FW Zaloudek enterprises are all visible. SHARE-OK.ORG image



The following 4 pages show views of the town of Kremlin in the **late 1950s/early 1960s**, taken from the headhouse of the Zaloudek Grain Co elevator. Courtesy of **Daniel "Danny" Zaloudek**, via Myron Toews. Danny is the son of **Lou** and **Ethel Zaloudek**.

Below: **Looking NNE**; note CRIP railroad with Pond Creek in the distance, and line of new Case 930 Comfort Kings and used tractors at **FW Zaloudek dealership** at R. The railroad grade crossing with Kremlin blacktop was the site of the **1948 Rocket wreck**. There was a freight train waiting in the siding just visible at bottom R and the siding switch was involved in the derailment and subsequent fire. Telephone and telegraph poles are visible either side of the tracks.





The entire commercial site of **FW Zaloudek** is shown in this photo, looking **NE**. Note the main FWZ brick building at center, with white **Kremlin Café** to the N and long lines of tractors and combines to the L and R. Also note the oil shed, oil tanks and Quonset hut building with lumber sheds across Main Street. The "new" **post office** is S of the Quonset building and appears quite new. Don Decker blacksmith/repair shop E of the main building and **FWZ home** to the NE, with additional repair sheds and stable N of the Café. During this time, FW Zaloudek was the **world's largest JI Case dealer**.



Looking E down B Avenue with Main Street running N/S in foreground. Note Farmer's Oil Company building with Community Hall to the E and Henry and Elsie Toews home and garage behind it. Also note the red-roofed white building with outhouse and outbuilding N of the oil company building, perhaps a former one-room schoolhouse? Also note Farmers Grain Co elevator at right and anhydrous ammonia tank at bottom. Many houses of folks we knew are visible. Tony Zaloudek homeplace visible at back.





**View Looking SE:** Note **Farmers Grain** yard at bottom, with hammermill operating atop feed mill, diesel tanks, grain truck on scale, and warehouse with boxcar in siding. The **Christian Church**, **telephone exchange building**, **water tower**, newer 4-bay bus barn, **Columbia Schoolhouse**, **Kremlin School** without football field are visible. **Lou Zaloudek** homeplace behind school and **Ed Zaloudek** homeplace SW of school.



Looking S along CRIP Railroad, with piles of raw coke at the future Great Lakes Carbon site, but no kilns or smokestacks yet visible (actual operation began in 1967). WB Johnston and Union Equity elevators in Enid just visible on horizon, with Zaloudek's feed lot N of GLC site. Note Zaloudek's tin elevator, then used as a feed mill, with tractors and feed carts, and pens for loading cattle onto railcars (see also photo on p 101 of this elevator being razed) W along the house track. Kremlin CRIP depot visible at bottom with a rail flatcar loaded with round-fendered Case 930 Comfort Kings on the house track. S end of Zaloudek's flat storage grain building visible bottom R. Garold Fox pasture to R of tin elevator and cattle pens.



A more recent (ca 2010?) aerial photo of Kremlin showing grain elevators, town hall, new elementary school (red roof) addition and football field. Wencel/Lou Zaloudek farmstead at extreme R above school. Looking ESE.





Nice photos of the [Bank of Kremlin](#) and [Rathmel Grocery](#), [Kremlin School](#), and [Farmers Grain](#) and [Zaloudeks Grain elevators](#), also from Danny Zaloudek. ca 1961



# The Kremlin of my childhood and young adulthood (early 1950s-late 1960s)

Throughout my childhood and including my college years, Kremlin for me consisted mainly of the **Kremlin School** (District I-18), **Bank of Kremlin**, **Rathmel Grocery & US Post Office** (same part of the building; shared with Bank of Kremlin), myriad **Zaloudek** enterprises including the **JI Case tractor/farm machinery/GMC dealership** and **Zaloudek Elevators and Grain Company** (see below), **Farmers Grain Co-op**, and for some special years, the **Kremlin Café**, in addition to maybe a hundred houses. There was also the **Kremlin Community Methodist Church** where we worshipped and a **Disciples of Christ (Christian) Church** (Rathmel clan was most of the congregation), and the **Community Hall**, as well as the **Kremlin Telephone Exchange building** (adjacent to the water standpipe); "**Old Lady Webb**" was the nosy spinster operator when I was a young lad, and **Marie Harter Peck** had this job in earlier years (see photo below). The cooperatively-owned party-line phone system was taken over by SW Bell Telephone Company in the early 1950s. In 1951, the exchange rate



was \$1.75/month for a four-party line. I believe **Grandma and Grandpa Jacob & Elizabeth Voth**, **George and Anna Janzen**, and maybe **Uncle Pete and Aunt Clara Toews** were the other members of our party line. Our ring was "**1 long, 2 shorts.**" Our SW Bell phone number was **804-F-13**. The crank phones with obligate telephone operator assistance and party lines were replaced by dial phones and private lines when I was somewhere in late

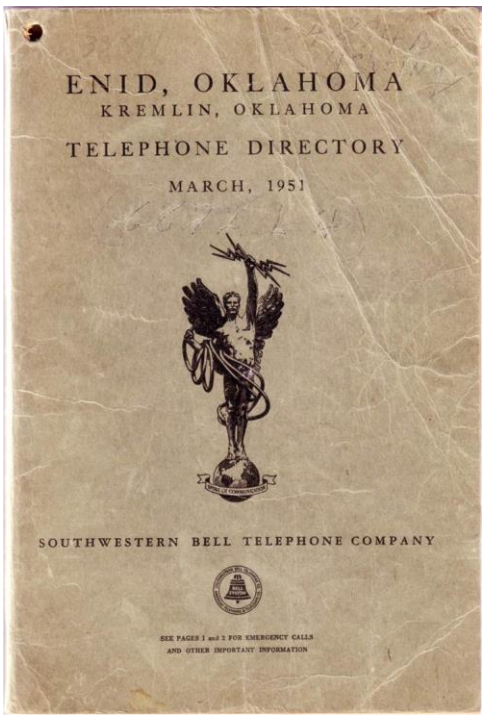
grade school (ca late 1950s). The **Kremlin listings from the 1951 SW Bell Telephone directory** are shown at R:

## LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA

EXCHANGE RATES PER MONTH within the Initial Rate Area:  
 BUSINESS—Individual Line \$3.25, Extension Telephone \$1.00, Additional Listing Per Line \$.25,  
 RESIDENCE—Individual Line \$2.00, Four-Party Line \$1.75, Extension Telephone \$.50, Additional  
 Listing Per Line \$.25.  
 STATION-TO-STATION TOLL RATES to a Few Oklahoma Points:  
 Oklahoma City 60c; Tulsa 70c; Muskogee 80c; Enid 15c; Lawton 80c; Ardmore 85c.  
 Rates Quoted do not include U. S. and state sales tax which are computed as follows:  
 U. S. Tax  
 15% of the total of all calls under 25c.  
 25% of the total of calls of 25c and over. (This tax is computed to the nearest multiple of 5c on  
 each call from a coin telephone).  
 State Sales Tax  
 2% on calls to points within the state where applicable.

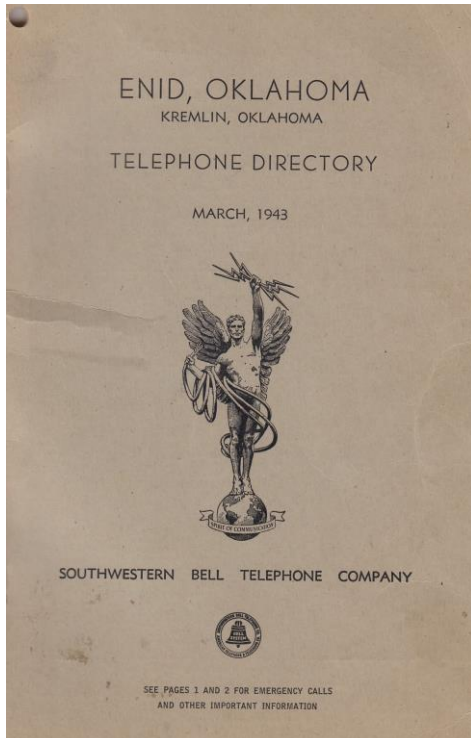
<b>B</b>	Hays LeRoy r.....21
Baker Corbin.....818-F-11	Hender Frank.....804-F-31
Bank of Kremlin.....39	Hill J. E.....807-F-12
Beaver Roy H r.....31	Hopkins Justiel.....804-F-22
Bank Lincoln r.....807-F-3	Hoys Lloyd.....803-F-11
Buller John P r.....803-F-21	
Burnett Harve.....35	
	<b>I</b>
	Ingham Walter r.....810-F-4
<b>C</b>	
Chelf L A r.....810-F-12	
Childers M G r.....801-F-13	
Coakley Dan r.....811-F-4	
	<b>J</b>
<b>D</b>	Janzen Abe r.....818-F-13
Darling C L.....812-F-11	Janzen George H r.....804-F-31
Devery Frank M r.....33	Janzen Henry H.....804-F-22
	Janzen John H.....804-F-32
	Janzen Marvin r.....803-F-12
	Jenkins John.....812-F-22
	Jenkins Forest r.....812-F-22
	Johnson Edna.....810-F-2
	Johnson Arthur.....810-F-22
	Johnson Frank r.....810-F-2
	Johnson Ira.....810-F-11
	Johnson T.....810-F-5
	Johnson Wayne.....810-F-13
<b>E</b>	
Ediger Dan r.....804-F-14	
Ediger H A r.....804-F-23	
Eser John r.....29	
	<b>K</b>
<b>F</b>	Kaiser Charley r.....810-F-112
Farmers Elevator.....19-J	Kaiser E Mrs r.....810-F-121
Federal Bureau of Investigation.....	Kirkpatrick Bob.....54
For the Telephone Number or Address.....	Kirkpatrick J R.....11
call....."Information".....	Kirton Billie r.....801-F-4
Forth W D r.....810-F-9	Kirton Roy W r.....801-F-2
Frisk Andrew r.....811-F-3	Klewer Alvin r.....804-F-4
Frost H L r.....807-F-21	Kremlin John.....98
	Kroewer Geo F r.....804-F-121
	<b>L</b>
	Leonard Ned r.....812-F-111
<b>G</b>	
Goll Fritz r.....809-F-22	
Goll Marlin r.....809-F-13	
Goodman C W r.....807-F-27	
Gray R G.....801-F-3	
Gray Robert.....807-F-11	
Guffey F C r.....15	
Guffey John r.....16	
	<b>M</b>
	McDonald Howard L.....811-F-14
	McNeyr Alfred H.....812-F-21
	Miller Ewald r.....810-F-21
	Monsen Ben r.....803-F-3
	Monsen Ralph r.....803-F-11
	Moulton Don r.....25
<b>H</b>	
Hammond C W r.....811-F-13	
Hardy Nannie M r.....18	
Hardy Walter r.....810-F-111	
Harrison E.....30	
Hatcher Blaine r.....818-F-3	
Hays J L r.....813-F-3	
	<b>N</b>
	Newell Loren.....19-W

<b>80 OKL-ZAL</b>	
<b>O</b>	Smith A M r.....813-F-14
Okla Gas & Elec Co Tap Sta.....801-F-2	Smith Clay r.....813-F-111
Oilbert Fred L r.....801-F-11	Smith Floyd Tuck.....22
Olive Chapel Parsonage.....807-F-121	Smith Harvey r.....809-F-111
	Smith L.....28
	<b>SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPH CO.....36</b>
	Sperling Clarence.....804-F-112
	Spooner Ben F.....811-F-111
	Stewart J E r.....801-F-21
<b>P</b>	
Payne J M r.....811-F-11	
Peck E F r.....818-F-31	
Peck Elizabeth Mrs r.....13	
Peck H L r.....811-F-12	
Palmerston C E r.....26	
Probst George r.....811-F-2	
	<b>T</b>
	Tapp Virgil L.....24
	Thesman Herbert r.....32
	Thesman Jacob J r.....804-F-11
	Thesman Jacob J r.....807-F-4
	Thomas Bryan r.....804-F-3
	Toews Dan A r.....804-F-12
	Toews David A.....804-F-13
	Toews Henry G.....14
	Toews John.....818-F-14
	Toews Mary.....804-F-2
	Toews Peter r.....812-F-121
<b>R</b>	
Rahn Henry r.....810-F-4	
Randolf Fannie r.....806-F-2	
Randolph Fred.....810-F-31	
Rathmel Carolyn.....809-F-11	
Raugh John r.....807-F-22	
Reim Bill r.....807-F-13	
Reim A W r.....803-F-112	
Reim Ada J Mrs r.....809-F-21	
Reim Mary A r.....800-F-11	
Reinhart L M r.....812-F-3	
Richey Wm r.....811-F-121	
Rickabaugh John r.....810-F-22	
Rock Island Depot.....54	
Rogers D B r.....818-F-2	
Romine E r.....801-F-21	
Romine J B Mrs r.....801-F-14	
	<b>V</b>
	Voth Jacob A r.....804-F-21
	Voth P H r.....804-F-111
	<b>W</b>
	Wierford O B r.....812-F-2
	Wierflein John.....812-F-13
	Wierflein John A r.....812-F-12
	<b>Z</b>
	Zaloudek A r.....807-F-2
	Zaloudek Ed r.....800-F-4
	Zaloudek F W.....17
	Zaloudek F W Store.....6
	Zaloudek Grain Co.....28
	Zaloudek Lou.....800-F-2
	Zaloudek Tony r.....810-F-23
	Zaloudek Wensel r.....4
<b>S</b>	
Sanders A J.....5	
Schiffman S Virgil Mrs r.....5	
Schuestein George.....803-F-4	
Schuestein Kit r.....813-F-4	
Sesay Frank r.....37	
Shores Ben r.....801-F-111	





The [Kremlin list of subscribers](#) for an even earlier 1943 directory is shown below. Note the simple numbers for customers living in Kremlin and longer hyphenated numbers for rural party-line customers. Directory images provided by [Myron Toews](#). Kremlin Telephone Office photo from [FWZ Community Building](#).



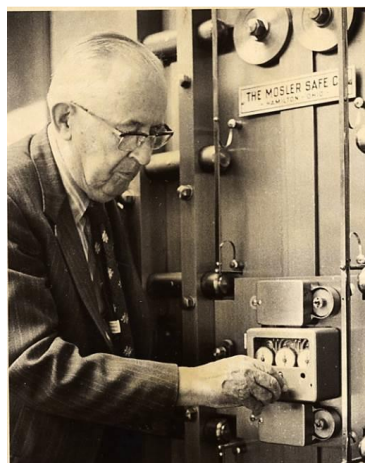
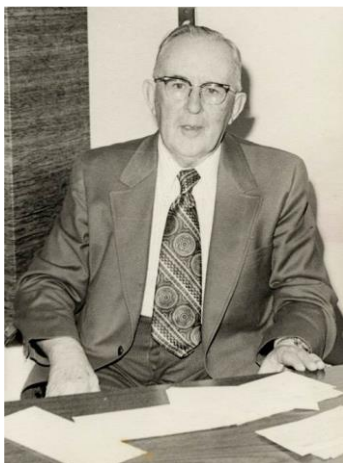
## LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS KREMLIN, OKLA.

**EXCHANGE RATES PER MONTH** within the Initial Rate Area:  
**BUSINESS**—Individual Line \$2.75\*. Extension Telephone \$1.25\*. Additional Listing Per Line \$ .25.  
**RESIDENCE**—Individual Line \$1.75\*. Extension Telephone \$ .75\*. Additional Listing Per Line \$ .25.  
 \*25 cents less for wall equipment.  
**Station-to-Station Toll Rates to a Few Oklahoma Points:** Oklahoma City 50c; Tulsa 65c; Muskogee 80c; Enid 10c; Lawton 75c; Ardmore 90c.  
 Rates Quoted do not include U. S. and state sales tax which are computed as follows:  
**U. S. Tax**  
 10% of the total of all calls under 25c.  
 20% of the total of calls of 25c and over. (This tax is computed to the nearest multiple of 5c on each call from a coin telephone).  
**State Sales Tax**  
 2% on calls to points within the state where applicable.

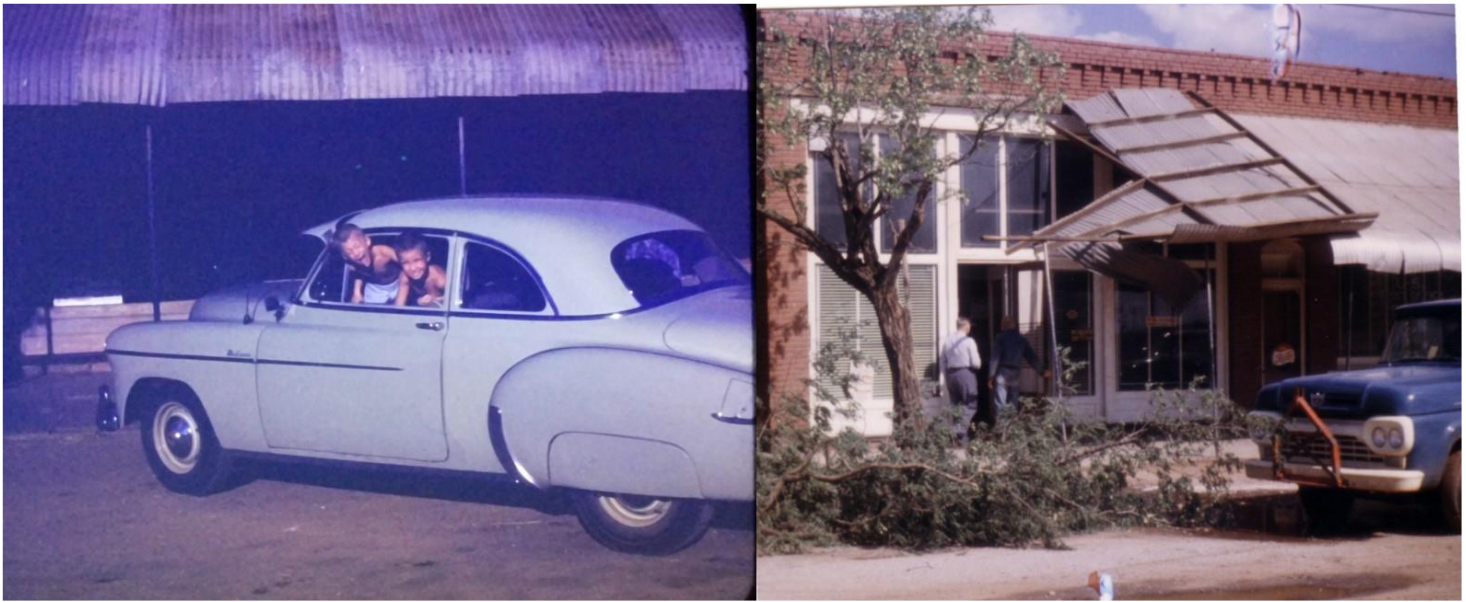
Bank of Kremlin	39	Madden Jimmy Mrs r	3
Beck Garfield r	803-F-11	Midway Garage	802-F-2
Beck Lincoln r	807-F-3	Midway Lunch	802-F-21
Boyd Frank r	811-F-2	Midway Produce Station	802-F-11
Brown Roy r	802-F-3	Miller Ewald r	810-F-21
Buller John P r	803-F-21	Momsen Ben r	803-F-3
Burk Bryan r	807-F-221	Montgomery David M r	818-F-111
Burk J J r	807-F-111		
		Okla Gas & Elec Co Tap Station	801-F-2
Caskey Paul Rev r	807-F-121	Olbert Fred L r	801-F-11
Chelf L A r	810-F-12		
Childers M G r	801-F-13	Peck E F r	818-F-31
		Peck H L r	811-F-12
Darling C L r	812-F-11	Petty Sam r	812-F-22
Dawkins Earl r	811-F-4	Piel Henry r	818-F-21
Dodds W D r	810-F-14	Pinkerton C E r	803-F-2
		Pleasant Plain School	807-F-23
Ediger H A r	804-F-23		
Eger John r	29	Raugh John r	807-F-22
Ekstrom Oscar r	811-F-11	Raynor Ada I Mrs r	809-F-11
Estes Jess r	804-F-3	Reim A W r	803-F-112
		Reim John r	807-F-13
Farmers Elevator	19-J	Reinhart L M r	812-F-3
Fisher C C r	818-F-11	Richey Wm r	818-F-2
Forth H D r	810-F-5	Rickabaugh John r	810-F-22
Fowler Omer r	16	Rock Island Depot	45
Frisk Andrew r	811-F-3	Romine Ed r	801-F-211
Frost H L r	807-F-5		
		Sanders A J r	5
Gearheard J N r	19-W	Schlottog Gene r	812-F-12
Goll Ernest r	809-F-13	Schuelein George r	803-F-4
Goll Fritz r	809-F-22	Seapy Frank r	37
Goltry Grain Co	28	Shores Ben r	801-F-111
Goodman C W r	27	Smith Clay r	811-F-111
		Smith Floyd Tuck r	800-F-3
Hammond C W r	811-F-13	Smith Harvey r	809-F-111
Hanson N C r	810-F-3	<b>SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO</b>	36
Hardy Nannie M r	18	Spohrer Ben F r	811-F-31
Hardy Walter r	810-F-111	Stewart J E r	801-F-21
Hatcher Blaine r	818-F-3		
Hayes L A r	809-F-3	Thesman Frank J r	807-F-211
Henry J E r	803-F-12	Thesman Jacob J r	804-F-11
Hill J E r	807-F-12	Toews Dan A r	804-F-12
		Toews George A r	804-F-2
Ingham Walter r	810-F-4	Toews George P r	804-F-13
		Toews Henry G r	14
Janzen Abe r	804-F-14		
Janzen David H r	804-F-121	Voth J J Mrs r	804-F-112
Janzen George H r	804-F-31	Voth Jacob A r	804-F-21
Janzen Helena r	804-F-32	Voth Menno r	803-F-13
Janzen Henry H r	804-F-22	Voth P H r	804-F-111
Johnson Arthur r	810-F-13		
Johnson Clay A r	810-F-31	Weibe Jacob r	804-F-4
Johnson Frank r	810-F-2	Wuerfein John r	812-F-13
Johnson Ira r	810-F-11		
Kaiser Charley r	810-F-112	Zaloudek A r	807-F-2
Kaiser E Mrs r	810-F-121	Zaloudek Ed r	800-F-4
Kirton Billie r	801-F-4	Zaloudek F W r	17
Kirton Roy W r	801-F-12	Zaloudek F W Store	6
Kremlin School	38	Zaloudek Lou r	811-F-21
Kroeker Paul r	818-F-14	Zaloudek Tony r	810-F-23
Kuehl John r	807-F-131	Zaloudek W r	800-F-2



**Bank of Kremlin** - The first bank in Kremlin was chartered 21 May 1900 in Kremlin, Oklahoma Territory by Joseph Dobery, seven years before statehood. My uncle [Henry G Toews](#) began working in the bank as an apprentice in 1923, immediately after graduating from high school - he worked for his lunch the first year. He walked to Kremlin each morning from the [George P Toews](#) home-place 2 mi W of town, and the bank paid for his lunch at the Kremlin Hotel just S of the bank. He began earning a small salary after the first year, but still worked on his parent's farm when needed. Eventually he managed to purchase most of the bank. When I was young, Uncle Henry was president of the bank, [John E Eger Jr](#) the vice-president, [Aunt Elsie Toews](#) the teller, and [Herb Thesman](#) a sometime employee as well. There was a fancy wooden tellers counter with tall ornate metal grilles framing the two teller's windows, and thick marble slabs on which to slide the money back and forth - Uncle Henry could usually be found counting change spread out all over the marble slab, using almost all of his fingers to round up whatever coin he was counting at the moment, then rapidly sliding them off the slab onto the counter behind them. Aunt Elsie, when not tending a teller window, was busy at an old microfilm machine on the N wall where she would rapidly take pictures of the cancelled checks. There was a big vault in the wall behind the wooden partition, with the safe inside. To the right as you entered, there was an office separated from the lobby by a low wall with a swinging door. This was presumably Uncle Henry's official office, but I mostly remember him behind the counter, taking in and counting money. In 1969, Henry sold the bank to VW Mendenhall with significant involvement of the Zaloudek family - he and Elsie moved to Enid where he continued in the banking business at Security National Bank until his death in 1984. [Photos below](#) show [Henry G Toews](#) in his Security National Bank office (L), trying to open his safe (center), and [Vera, Laurence, David, and John E Eger, Jr.](#) with their Woody beside [Rathmel Grocery](#) (R). [Farmer's Oil Company service station](#) is barely visible through the windshield.







**Above:** Two photos of the [Bank of Kremlin](#) during my childhood. (L): [Arrel & Galen Toews](#) in our 1950 Chevrolet Deluxe in front of the bank - my father, David A Toews, is inside to borrow Uncle Henry's Argus C3 camera and light meter and buy traveler's checks from him for our 1954 family vacation to Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park CO.

(R): Storm damage to the Bank of Kremlin and adjacent Rathmel Grocery. I believe it shows [Henry Toews](#) discussing the damage and possible repairs with [Ruben Thesman](#), whose blue Ford pickup is parked at far R. See also photo of [bank and Rathmel Grocery](#) on p 68.

**Rathmel Grocery & US Post Office:** Next door to the Bank of Kremlin, and part of the same building, was the [Rathmel Grocery](#), which also served as the [US Post Office](#), run by [William R "Bill" and wife Clara Rathmel](#). Bill was the Kremlin Postmaster and his brother [John C "Carlton" Rathmel](#) the mail carrier; later [Roy Brown](#) would become the mail carrier. Old Maid sister [Carolyn Rathmel](#) was the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher basically forever, including for all three of the Toews Brothers and years before and after that too (future Tabor College President Vernon Janzen was also one of her pupils). Carlton and Carolyn were twins. [Rathmel Grocery and General Store](#) had a large old wooden refrigerator in the back on the N wall, with multiple wooden doors and metal hinges and latches, and there was a white ice cream freezer with clear glass sliding tops right next to the main glass (candy) counter. Eskimo Pie ice cream bars were a nickel, as were candy bars, and a bottle of pop was a dime (no pop in cans back then; no twist-off caps either!). The soda pop cooler was beside the ice cream freezer, and of course the bottle opener was part of that cooler. Even a nickel was real money back in my boyhood days, but these were also the very early days of the recycling movement, with any discarded pop bottles good for a 2¢ refund.

So we would scour the ditches, particularly along the Kremlin blacktop, for any Pepsi, Coke, Nehi, Fanta, Chocola or other pop bottles and head for Rathmel's Grocery to enjoy the fruits of our labors. Again, see photo [p 61](#) for how it looked during my childhood.

The post office itself with its mailboxes and small service window was at the back, on the right side of the large room, behind a great big potbellied stove, which had a nice rocking chair close-by where Bill Rathmel could sit and fall asleep when it was cold outside but warm inside and nothing else was going on. There was ALWAYS a soggy unlit stogie hanging precariously from the corner of his lower lip. This cozy nook was a favorite community gathering place, by the way, and everyone would sit around that stove and "shoot the shit" when they came in to get the mail or just came in specifically to sit around and shoot the shit. You can barely make out the post-office boxes in the old photo image at R - that pot-bellied stove is to the R of JC Rathmel. (Case Factory Eagle, April 1953).



Postmaster JC (center) and brother Bill Rathmel (L) and a friend warm themselves by the stove which heats RATHMEL GROCERY STORE with its post office quarters seen in the background.

It wasn't much of a grocery store, but actually had a little something of everything, from dusty cereal boxes, flour and sugar sacks, and some canned goods to notebook paper, Big Chief tablets and other school supplies to thread, a few bolts of cloth, other sundry dry goods, and I don't even know what all. There was also a low-wall (waist-high) "office" on the S side in front of the post office portion with a desk, filing cabinets, and a low half-door - I never ever saw anybody in this area. The main thing I remember is that it was THE place to go for lunch at Kremlin High School, and the Rathmels would actually sell loaves of bread and slices of bologna and cheese and whatever to the high school guys and they could keep it in the refrigerator and just take it out and make their own sandwich during the lunch break. This was a very popular thing to do because you could smoke while so far from the school without any risk of getting caught - pretty much the only reason for any business at Rathmel's store during noontime. The mailbox wall and other memorabilia, including possibly that large pot-bellied stove are in the [Cherokee Strip Heritage Center and Museum](#) (see also [OK Historical Society link](#)), but it is all currently in storage in the basement. I have seen somewhere a classic photo of pot-bellied Bill sitting by his pot-bellied stove dozing away with that dangling stogie - I would pay quite a bit for a print of that photo! Maybe it is even buried in the museum basement too?

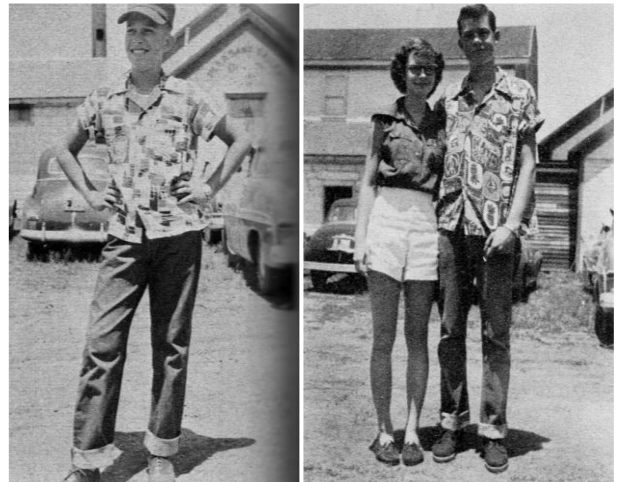


The two photos below show [Rathmel Grocery](#) and adjoining [Bank of Kremlin](#), as well as the [Community Hall](#) in back, looking N down Main Street. Note streetlight hanging above the Main Street/Avenue C intersection and mother and children under the awning in the top photo. The mast-mounted swinging merry-go-round later moved to Kremlin School is visible between the bank and Community Hall. I believe the old "jalopy" in the bottom photo is Carlton Rathmel's mail delivery vehicle. Top photo by Joe Miller, taken [23 July 1951](#), bottom by Jim Lucas, taken [5 December 1952](#) - both from OK Historical Society Collection.



**Community Hall** - This was a large gymnasium/auditorium about a block N of the Bank/Post Office (see photos p 29), and was where Kremlin Schools used to play basketball games before the gym was built at the school site. It was constructed in 1929 for an estimated cost of \$5,000 and was paid for by Kremlin residents and farmers in the surrounding community. A community meeting was held on 9 February 1929 to organize construction and subscriptions were taken to fund construction - the charter document with signatures is shown on the next page. The Community Hall had a nice stage on the W side and bleachers on both N & S sides, and there were advertising signs from all the local businesses on the east wall up high above the basketball goal. There was a coatroom where you walked in on the west end, and a kitchen/concession stand on the east end, S side.

**Jerry Toews Reimer** remembers the **Pleasant Valley Schoolhouse** being moved from the country N of Kremlin to near the E side of the Community Hall during a winter snow, date unknown. It is visible there in numerous yearbook photos from the early 1950s (1953 at R). The original location of Pleasant Valley School (Dist 8) was in SW/4-2-24W-6N of Kremlin Township, near the Grant County line (see p 21 - and our **Kremlin Township Maps-2024**, available upon request).



After the school gym was built, it didn't get much use, but was always the site of **donkey basketball games** when they came to town - the donkeys came in an old school bus all painted up, and the idea was to try to play basketball while riding on donkeys with a mind of their own. There were a couple of guys always walking around with brooms and scoop shovels to scoop up the donkey shit during the games. **Ralph E Godfrey** (**Crescent OK**) founded his **Godfrey's Donkey Basketball** business in 1934, and for the next 47 years, he toured throughout North America with his animals - during the height of its popularity, he had 10 other teams touring as well [Check out "**Crescentdonkeybasketball**" on **FaceBook** to see how things are going these days].

The Community Hall served as the site of services for the Kremlin United Methodist Church during construction of their new building around 1965-66 and it also enjoyed a temporary new life as a roller-skating rink managed by Mose and Leora Thesman for several years before its destruction by fire ca 1968. I was a frequent client during my high-school days, even managing to skate backwards with ease! The roller skates did not escape the fire that destroyed the Community Hall (see following pages).



Resolution forming the **Kremlin Community Building Association** with subscription pledges for funding is shown below (meeting was on **9 February 1929**). There are 2 second pages with signatures. Many familiar names are listed.

We, the undersigned Citizens of Garfield County, Oklahoma, do hereby pledge our moral support to the plan hereinafter set forth, the purpose of which is to build a Community Hall in Kremlin, Oklahoma.

1st. The name of this organization shall be the "Kremlin Community Building Association."

2nd. We, the undersigned, do hereby subscribe the amount of money set opposite our names, to purchase stock in the above named association, with the understanding that the money so raised shall be used for the purpose of building said Community Hall. The building shall be made as follows; the walls to be made of cement blocks, the roof to be constructed with steel trusses or self supporting roof and the building to be approximately 45 by 75 feet. The plans and specifications for said building to be outlined and submitted by a building committee as soon as possible, said building committee to be chosen or elected by a majority vote of shares subscribed and paid for on or before a meeting to be held at the school house in Kremlin, Okla., Monday, February 12th, 1929, at 8 P. M.

3rd. One share of stock shall be valued at \$25.00 and each person subscribing for such share or shares shall immediately give to the party soliciting, cash, check or a personal note for the full amount subscribed, if note is given, it shall be payable Aug. 1st, 1929, without interest and all cash, checks or notes so given shall be placed in escrow in the Bank of Kremlin, to be delivered to the above mentioned Building Committee as soon as they are chosen or elected. Each share of stock shall be entitled to one vote in all matters pertaining to said Association.

4th. It is understood and agreed that if more money is subscribed and paid for than is needed, the unexpended balance shall be prorated back to each subscriber.

5th. It is hereby understood and agreed that all parties subscribing for stock and giving their note in payment, shall be given preference in being hired to work and furnish material for said building and that 40¢ per hour shall be paid for single man, \$1.00 per cubic yard for hauling sand and 25¢ per load for sand.

The following amounts were subscribed at the meeting held February 9th,

1929	John Guerflein, cash	\$100.00	F. W. Zaloudek, cash	\$100.00
	H. Randolph, cash	50.00	Wanda Boys Ass'n.	50.00
	J. E. Eger, cash	50.00	Erle Hammond labor & sand	50.00
	Henry Toews, cash	50.00	C. A. Arterburn	50.00
	A. R. Carr labor & "	25.00	R. Reim labor	25.00
	C. E. Johnson "	25.00	J. Herbison labor	25.00
	A. E. Smith labor	25.00	Ed. Harter labor	25.00
	Wm. Nathaniel "	25.00	Aubrey Smith "	25.00
	Geo. Smith "	25.00	Geo. Guerflein "	25.00
	Adam Lenhart Cash	50.00	W. C. Kirkpatrick	37.50
	H. W. Johnson labor	50.00	Loyle Johnson	25.00
	Joe Harter cash	25.00	ete Toews & "	25.00
	Jess Bates	50.00	Ernest Randolph "	25.00
	Jacob Toews & "	25.00	John Smith "	50.00
	Ned Leonard	50.00	Clyde Herbison labor	25.00
	Wm. Reim labor	25.00	John Fox	25.00
	John Roberts	50.00	G. A. Gumerson	50.00
	Tony Zaloudek & "	50.00		



*Arrel Toews 100.00*  
*Erle Hammond 25.00*  
*Henry Toews 25.00*  
*Wm. Nathaniel 25.00*  
*Ernest Randolph 25.00*  
*John Smith 12.50*  
*Owner Fowler 25.00*  
*Lee Black 25.00*

*Wm. Nathaniel 100.00*  
*Erle Hammond 25.00*  
*Henry Toews 25.00*  
*Wm. Nathaniel 25.00*  
*Ernest Randolph 25.00*  
*John Smith 12.50*  
*Owner Fowler 25.00*  
*Lee Black 25.00*

*Wm. Nathaniel 100.00*  
*Erle Hammond 25.00*  
*Henry Toews 25.00*  
*Wm. Nathaniel 25.00*  
*Ernest Randolph 25.00*  
*John Smith 12.50*  
*Owner Fowler 25.00*  
*Lee Black 25.00*

John Guerflein, cash	\$100.00	F. W. Zaloudek, cash	\$100.00
H. Randolph, cash	50.00	Wanda Boys Ass'n.	50.00
J. E. Eger, cash	50.00	Erle Hammond labor & sand	50.00
Henry Toews, cash	50.00	C. A. Arterburn	50.00
A. R. Carr labor & "	25.00	R. Reim labor	25.00
C. E. Johnson "	25.00	J. Herbison labor	25.00
A. E. Smith labor	25.00	Ed. Harter labor	25.00
Wm. Nathaniel "	25.00	Aubrey Smith "	25.00
Geo. Smith "	25.00	Geo. Guerflein "	25.00
Adam Lenhart Cash	50.00	W. C. Kirkpatrick	37.50
H. W. Johnson labor	50.00	Loyle Johnson	25.00
Joe Harter cash	25.00	ete Toews & "	25.00
Jess Bates	50.00	Ernest Randolph "	25.00
Jacob Toews & "	25.00	John Smith "	50.00
Ned Leonard	50.00	Clyde Herbison labor	25.00
Wm. Reim labor	25.00	John Fox	25.00
John Roberts	50.00	G. A. Gumerson	50.00
Tony Zaloudek & "	50.00		

*Erle Hammond 25.00*  
*Floyd McIntosh*  
*Boys Bureau 25.00*  
*Sam Petty 50.00*  
*August Drescher 25.00*  
*Arrel Toews 50.00*  
*Ernest Toews 25.00*  
*Ernest Toews 25.00*

*Erle Hammond 25.00*  
*Floyd McIntosh*  
*Boys Bureau 25.00*  
*Sam Petty 50.00*  
*August Drescher 25.00*  
*Arrel Toews 50.00*  
*Ernest Toews 25.00*  
*Ernest Toews 25.00*

*Erle Hammond 25.00*  
*Floyd McIntosh*  
*Boys Bureau 25.00*  
*Sam Petty 50.00*  
*August Drescher 25.00*  
*Arrel Toews 50.00*  
*Ernest Toews 25.00*  
*Ernest Toews 25.00*

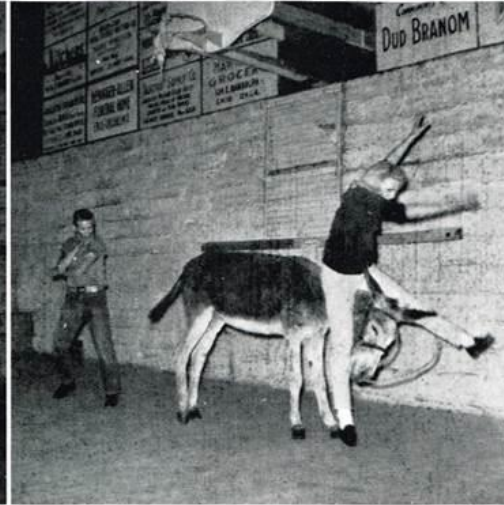


The **Donkey Basketball photo collage** below is from the 1964 Kremlin Bronc yearbook (Helen Wuerflein, editor). Games were played in the **Kremlin Community Hall** building. Note the advertisements above the E goal in the top two photos. Incredibly, I was **President of the Sophomore class** during the 1963-64 school year.

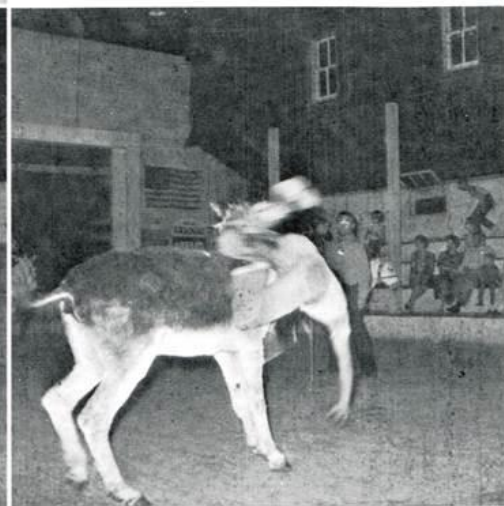


President, Arrel Toews; Vice President, Jeri Thesman; Secretary and Treasurer, Ellis Toews; Reporter, Allen Bese

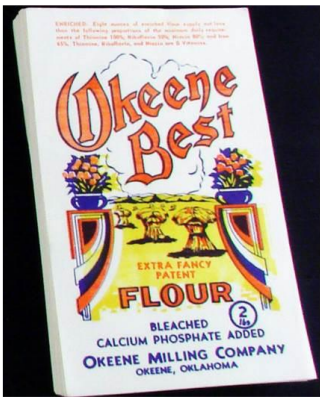
Sophomore



## Donkey Basketball







The Community Hall was also the site of numerous fund-raising [pancake suppers](#), where the [Okeene Milling Co.](#) guy would come and cook pancakes for everyone, making literally many hundreds to thousands of pancakes, with a couple of giant

gas griddles always going and constantly pouring and flipping and filling plates. Dennis Schoenhals' father was one of the pancake flippers for many years. All the pancakes you could eat with plenty of real butter and maple syrup, plus good sausage from a couple whole pigs someone would donate and butcher and grind up entirely for the sausage. Your ticket for the pancake supper was also a coupon for a free bag of [Okeene Best flour](#) too. Later it was home of the [Kremlin Lions Club calf fry suppers](#) to raise money for little league baseball expenses, an evolution of the original pancake suppers. Slice those oblong



"balls" ~ $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick with a deli meat slicer, dip 'em in batter, and fry 'em up - like thick golden sparkling silver dollars when they come out of the fryer - rich and flavorful, but a bit too grainy and glandular for my tastes.

Shown at r, my Dad, [David A Toews](#) and fellow sausage-workers [Bill Toews](#) (father of Dennis, Ellis, Janice & Eldon) and [Roy Beaver](#) (husband of Faye and father of Don Roy), preparing sausage patties for a [Kremlin Lions Club pancake supper](#).



Enid newspaper articles and photos of the **Saturday, 7 January 1969** fire that **completely destroyed the Kremlin Community Hall** are shown on the next two pages.

# Fire Destroys Kremlin Community Building

One of the landmarks in the town of Kremlin was completely leveled by fire late Saturday afternoon as flames swept through the community building, destroying the frame structure and its contents.

Fire units from Enid and Vance Air Force Base were called to the scene but the building was gone "in a matter of minutes," according to one Kremlin resident.

According to reports made later at the central fire station in Enid, cause of the blaze was undetermined.

An Enid fireman, Gene Brintnall, received a slight shoulder injury according to reports from Ralph Cornish, dispatcher at the central station. Cornish said Brintnall, who did not require hospitalization, was injured by a falling wall.

The Kremlin call was received by the local fire department at 4:20 p.m. "It was in pretty bad shape when we got there," was the report given by one fireman. "With a blaze like that in a building like that, there wasn't much chance to save it."

After the fire had been extinguished, the Enid units left a hose there for possible use during the night. A number of Kremlin men remained at the scene to prevent a further outbreak.

Mrs. Jacob Thesman, Kremlin resident, said they had been to Enid and returned home about 4:15 p.m. She said their clock had stopped at 4:30 p.m. and that the town was without electricity and telephone service for a short time.

Mrs. Thesman had nothing but praise for the men from Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company in Enid. "One of the linemen climbed a pole right there beside the burning building," she said, "and was taking care of those wires. They were certainly on the job to see that no one was injured by fallen electric wires and, too, they got the power restored in a fairly short time."

Mrs. Thesman said the community building was a landmark in Kremlin and had been in use for many years as a meeting place and center of student activities. At one time the gym and school auditorium was in the building, she said.

In addition to chairs and tables, there was a furnished kitchen, piano and numerous other items in the building, according to reports of residents.

Mrs. Thesman said she and her husband had about a hun-

dred pairs of skates stored in there. "We had them one year for the school kids," she explained, "and just left them in there."

The entire contents were not known and there were reports that several items had been stored in the building.

Mrs. Thesman commented on the rapid fire. "It just seemed to go all at once," she said, "and it makes us feel a little sad to think this building is gone. It had been here so long and used by so many students."

Winston Guthrie, a resident of Kremlin, said that tar used on the roof was one of the reasons the fire spread so rapidly. "That and the dry wood in it."

Guthrie said the original building had been used for school activities and that an old school building had been moved in right behind it.

In addition to the Kremlin fire, Enid firemen had one of the busiest days Saturday in some time.

However, most of the calls were for grass fires with no damage resulting from them.

They made a run to 1818 E. Chestnut at 11:26 a.m.; one to 619 N. Grand at 1:28 p.m. and another to 2500 N. Quincy at 8:54 p.m., all being grass fires with no damage.



**LANDMARK GOES UP IN FLAMES** — One of Kremlin's best-loved landmarks went up in sudden flames Saturday afternoon as fire swept the community building, destroying it and the contents. Fire units from Enid and Vance Air Force Base were unable to save the frame structure, used for many years as

a community and student activity center. The fire was controlled so that no other property in Kremlin was destroyed and adding double protection were the men who remained during the night to keep watch over the smoldering ruins.

*This was taken from the back, from the east*

## Origin of Community Hall Fire at Kremlin a Mystery

KREMLIN — Cause of a Saturday night fire, which leveled the Kremlin Community Building and destroyed its contents, had not been determined Sunday night.

Fire units from nearby Enid and Vance Air Force Base, answered the alarm, but they said the situation was "impossible."

Enid Fireman Gene Brintnall was slightly injured when hit by a falling wall, but was not hospitalized.

Contents of the building, a community landmark, had

not been itemized Sunday night but it was known 100 pair of roller skates were inside. The structure also contained a piano and a furnished kitchen.



**Photos of Community Hall fire in January 1969** (from Leora Remple [Mrs Mose] Thesman). Note ruins of **Pleasant Valley School** in the flames - this 1-room school was moved to Kremlin School to serve as an overflow just prior to completion of the new high school, then moved adjacent to the E side of Community Hall at some later date. The bottom two photos show the steel girders for the stage curtains still standing, with the building across main street N of the **Farmer's Oil Company** (Bill/Dale Peck) building perfectly framed in the lower R photo.



**Kremlin Café** - Undoubtedly, the first meals for sale were served in the Kremlin saloon and Kremlin Hotel in the early days, but my memories of Kremlin eateries, vague though they are, begin with a "diner" in the garage of [Sarah](#) and [Johnny R Toews](#). Built by Johnny R, this home later housed [Claude](#) and [Mable Gist](#) (Kremlin Superintendent and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher). Sarah was assisted by the wife of Rock Island depot agent, Harvey Smith - meals were cooked in Sarah's kitchen and served on card tables surrounded by folding chairs in that garage. Along with [Lizzie Kirkpatrick](#) (John's wife) and [Mrs. Sanders](#), [Sarah Toews](#) was also a cook at Kremlin Schools.

By my high school days, FW Zaloudek had purchased a small metal diner and placed it N across the Kremlin-Hunter blacktop (now Keowee Road) from his store/tractor repair building. Christened the **Kremlin Café** by devoted locals, [Faye Kirkpatrick Beaver](#) ([Don Roy](#)'s mother) ran this operation for almost 20 years, with culinary assistance by [Sophie Thesman](#) and excellent counter service by two of her daughters, [Rita Sue](#) and [Jeri](#). Sophie's youngest daughter [Carol](#) also later worked in the Café. There was a curved L-shaped counter with maybe 10 stools (no booths) with a grill and kitchen behind and to the right of the counter. Sophie and oldest daughter [Rita Sue](#) remember **Daily Specials** including meatloaf, chicken-fried steak (of course!), fried chicken, hamburger steak, catfish on Friday, and occasionally a big pot of chili. Specials were often cooked and served from a large porcelain electric roaster pan, but for me, the cheeseburgers, fries, and excellent breakfasts were tough competition for any "specials." Faye Beaver baked pies every day too!



[Kay Beaver Randolph](#) remembers her mother taking over the café in January 1962. "It always belonged to FW Zaloudek. Mother leased it for very little money because he (FW) wanted his employees to have a place to eat there in town."

When I worked the 11 PM-7 AM shift at Great Lakes Carbon the summer of 1970 (my first job as a college graduate), the thought of a special hot breakfast served by those friendly and attentive, not to mention quite attractive, servers allowed those long seemingly endless night hours to pass seamlessly. This diner was later moved SW between the newer (former) brick post office and Zaloudek's round-top shed. I hope to be able to further embellish this account with additional memories of others and hopefully photos too!



Photo below is of the [Kremlin Café](#) in its second and final Kremlin location on the S side of Main Street near the Kremlin-Hunter blacktop (Keowee Road), just N of the former post office. [David A](#), [Galen B](#), and [Mark G Toews](#) are shown in front (ca 1986-87).



Photo at R below (June 1982) shows the Kremlin Café (adjacent to the former post office) with Farmers Grain and Zaloudek's elevators in background. My Dad's (David A Toews) pickup is parked directly in front of the front door. Note the reflection of the "Café" sign in a mud puddle on Main Street.

The original location of the café was N of the Kremlin-Hunter blacktop directly across from Zaloudek's store (visible in aerial photo on p 75).



**Zaloudek's "Store"** - FW (Florien W) Zaloudek was of Czechoslovakian (Bohemian) heritage and a true American success story. By 1952, he had built his JI Case tractor/implement dealership into the largest of over 4,000 Case dealers in the country, and perhaps he remained at the top for a number of years (for sure, the large billboard on US-81 approaching the Midway stayed in place for most of my childhood and young adult days). In addition to his farm machinery dealership, he had myriad other enterprises including a [grocery/general store](#) (see below), lumber yard, fence post lot, feed and seed warehouse, bulk oil/petroleum tanks, and home appliance store. And don't forget the Zaloudek's grain elevator, across the CRIP railroad from the Farmer's Grain Coop. This was how it was when we were young. The "combination everything store" was part grocery store that had a meat counter towards the back with a few dried out beef cuts and a chicken or two and bologna-type things for slicing in glass-encased display cases with a slicer in back, plus a few bad vegetables and fruits ([Jerry Lee](#) was the manager), and right behind that a bit to the left was a very busy JI Case parts department, managed by a real dandy, [Marion Sink](#) - a real dapper dresser with new sharply creased and spotless blue jeans rolled up just a bit, shiny black shoes, a dress shirt always tucked in, and a Vitalis pompadour with never a hair out of place. Probably only about 5'0" tall, but a real nice guy. On the S side of this main building were the offices of the Zaloudeks, where you'd bargain for tractors or other farm equipment with one of them ([FW](#), the patriarch, or sons [Billy Mac](#) or [Bob](#)) or [Tom Neal](#), their head salesman and #2 all-around man. The front of the store had tires and a few washers, driers, kitchen stoves and maybe a refrigerator or two. There were gas pumps in front of this building, by the way, and the north side was the tractor repair shop, where there were always 3 or 4 mechanics that had the guts of giant tractors exposed for repairs. "[Bob](#)" [Kirkpatrick](#) was the head mechanic (28 years with FWZ) - his father [John Kirkpatrick](#) worked in the shop as well. It seemed like EVERYBODY in the whole Zaloudek operation was always smoking.

This included [Don Decker](#), the blacksmith/welder/ appliance repairman/general handyman, whose shop was behind (E of) the main building. We'd often go back there to see him to get something done, and would always end up staying there a long time because sometimes if he was doing something, he'd just keep doing it until he was done, then finally say, "Hello, Dave, what can I do for you?" He always had on extremely greasy and stained dark green coveralls (I assume he only had one pair and just wore them all his life, but am not sure), and he always had a cigarette barely hanging down from his lower lip - I never understood how it stayed there without falling off, but it did. Most of the time it wasn't lit, so it was just a soggy paper tube hanging off his lip, and occasionally he'd take it out and spit on the floor, then hang it back on his lip. This is where we got our plow shares and cultivator



shanks and sweeps reinforced (hard-faced or "stuedited") with more metal by welding on the points, unless we went to the blacksmith shop in Hunter to have [Johnson Walker](#) (or was it [Walker Johnson](#)?) do this for us - another story in itself! Don also repaired televisions and radios and shelves in the "office" portion of the shop (N end) were haphazardly piled high with boxes of radio and TV tubes. Often times, a refrigerator he was working on was crammed somewhere in the shop.

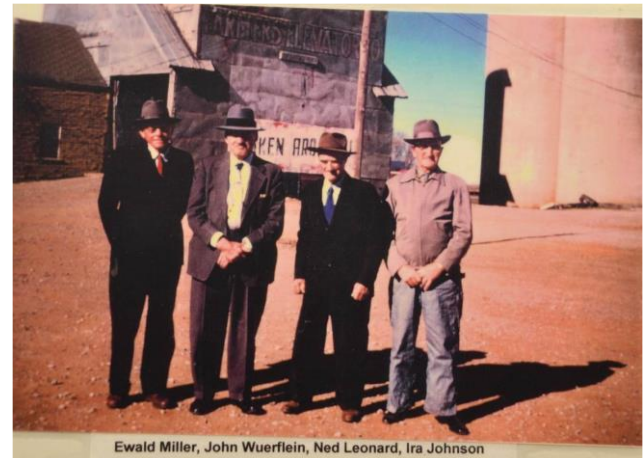
Across the street W from the store was an oil shed with things like motor oil (mostly in 55 gallon drums resting sideways on racks with spigots for filling your 5-gallon oil cans, 5-gallon grease buckets, and a [tin round-top "Quonset-hut" shed](#) for supplies like fence wire and posts, and there were 4 very large upright tanks there too, for gasoline and diesel fuel and kerosene, with a wooden dock you'd back up to when you needed to get diesel fuel or whatever (see photo p 47). Part of their sheds were a [lumber yard](#) (these on the E side of the road, S of the store) with 2-story racks of dimension lumber, shingles, and more (nails &c). So like I said, they had pretty much everything there, probably mostly for their own large operations, but also to accommodate all their farm implement/tractor customers as well. Across the blacktop N were all the new tractors, combines, and other implements, all lined up along the road to impress everyone. They had a big semi that hauled new tractors and combines and whatever all over the state and going up into Kansas and Colorado and down to Texas sometimes as well and it was constantly on the road and busy. I believe [Junior Peck](#) ([Linda Peck's](#) father) drove the semi when he wasn't in the OK state pen for writing hot checks or other misbehavior.

**"The Elevator" Kremlin Farmers Grain Co, or "The Co-op"** - Unfortunately, I have no knowledge of the early history of this operation. Perhaps an interested reader can supply me with some pertinent historical details. I remember the construction of the last bank of 8 concrete silos with their head-house above, with the wooden forms slowly rising all around the entire 4x2 bin new grain elevator as additional concrete was poured into them. I believe this was in my early grade school days, or perhaps even before.

In May 1960, when 11 years of age, my Dad gave me one share (valued at \$25) of [Farmers Grain Company stock](#). Sadly, my share was automatically cashed in when I turned 65, but of course I still have my [original stock certificate](#), signed by [John Kaiser](#) and [Frank Hammond](#). It is shown below, along with a drawing of the Kremlin elevators from a [Farmers Grain Company feed sack](#) (fly specks and all!).



The photo at R shows 4 members of the Farmers Grain Company Board of Directors, date unknown. The old feed mill and original elevator office are behind them. [FWZ Building](#)



Ewald Miller, John Wuerflein, Ned Leonard, Ira Johnson

Some years later, during a couple of my college summers (late 1960s), I worked at the elevator - [Bobby Stubblefield](#) and for part of the summer, [Troy Kunkel](#) - ask me about his last day of work at the Co-op! - were my fellow young co-workers. Unloading trucks full of wheat, barley, and some oats during harvest - this involved opening the tailgates and letting the grain fall into the pit, where it was carried by large vertical cup-conveyor belts to the elevator headhouse where it was funneled into one of the large concrete grain bins, then scraping the wheat from the corners of the truck beds through the open tailgate with large aluminum scoop shovels. We also unloaded boxcars each filled with 100 tons of fertilizer sacks - stacking twenty 50 lb sacks onto a dolly and then somehow balancing it as we moved them into the warehouse where they were again stacked up, fixed tractor and truck tires, made and bagged steer and pig feed, cattle cubes and yes, dog food, in the feed mill, and more. My first day at work at the elevator, [Garold Fox](#), the elevator man, sent me down into the deep basement beside the pit to clean out massive amounts of spider webs hanging heavy with wheat dust - it was stifling hot and smelled of mold and mildew, and really nasty work - and don't forget who wove all those webs! They were down there too! I am sure this was a test to see if I really wanted my job, which of course I did, so I did all I was told, and I think earned at least some small degree of respect in the process. It was, by the way, a great-paying job - \$1.65/hour with time-and-a-half for overtime after 40 hours/week. During harvest, I started collecting overtime Wednesday mid-afternoon. The going wages for



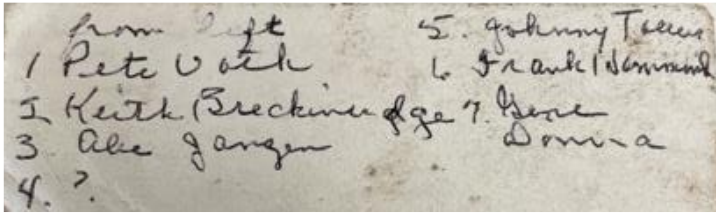
farm labor at this time was \$1.00-1.25/hour, the latter what I earned during my summers working for the [Voth Brothers \(Ernie, Bob & John\)](#), driving combine and tractor and cleaning out those pig parlors (no overtime pay from those guys, but a very good job anyway).

During harvest and for weeks later, an unpleasant job was sweeping out and then coopering the doors of boxcars so they could be loaded with wheat and shipped to Union Equity in Enid or elsewhere. Those boxcars were literally roasting ovens - solidly lined with wood and bare metal roofs with no ventilation, so if we could, this was always best as an early morning task. Sadly though, we were often at the mercy of the timing of the Rock Island switch engine bringing in empty boxcars.

"[Coopering the cars](#)" involved nailing (from the inside of the car, of course) 4-5 heavy 2" thick solid wooden door pieces (approx. 2'x8') across the boxcar door. These wooden door pieces were stacked one above the other and nailed to the wooden lining beside the door with 16d nails, then a large sheet of Kraft paper nailed over the doors to seal completely. The entire interior of the boxcar, except the metal roof, was lined with wood, so only about a foot and a half of open space was left at the top of the door space - this is where we eventually (barely) crawled out of the cars and moved to the next boxcar to do it all over, and where the grain spout from the elevator headhouse dumped in the wheat when cars were loaded. When the boxcar was filled to the maximal extent possible, the spout was removed, the metal doors on the outside rolled shut and locked, with a security seal placed across the lock. Then an electric winch at the N end of the siding pulled the next boxcar into position for loading. If it sounds like the insides the cars when all coopered up were almost unmercifully stuffy, stale, and extremely hot, then I have accomplished my job. During the peak of harvest, 8-10 cars were coopered and loaded each day.

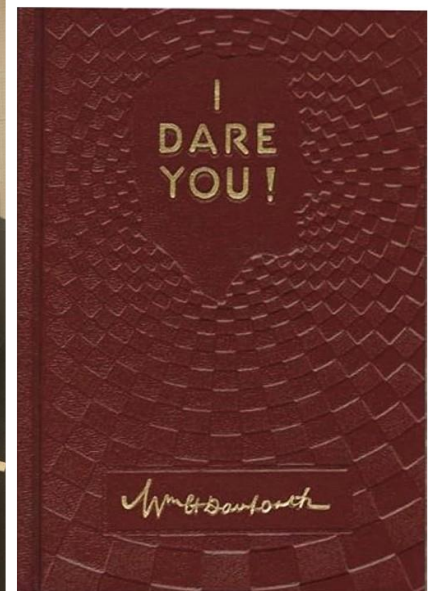
[Ruben Thesman](#) was the yard boss and a hard-driving man - everybody had to work hard all day long or suffer the consequences - again, ask [Troy Kunkel](#)! Ruben's underling was the "elevator man" Garold Fox ([Bob-O's](#) Dad), an easy-going guy whose main activity was continually hand-rolling and then smoking Camel tobacco cigarettes while sitting in a chair in the elevator doorway with wheat being turned behind him. Of course all that wheat dust and hand-rolled unfiltered cigarettes lead to his death of emphysema and lung cancer. Both Ruben and Garold were good guys - I had and still have immense respect for both of them. [Gene Warnock](#) was the manager and [Don Struble](#) the assistant manager of the Kremlin Farmers Grain Company during my high-school and college days.

Perhaps the photo at R was taken when the new feedmill and warehouse were completed?  
 From L: [Pete Voth](#), Keith Breckinridge, [Abe Janzen](#), unknown, [Johnny R Toews](#), Frank Hammond, [Gene and Donna Warnock](#) (Gene was longtime manager of the Kremlin Co-op) ca early/mid-1950s?



My Purina pocketknife

Below: Kremlin Farmers Grain Company patrons on a tour of Ralston Purina, Checkerboard Square, St Louis MO, ca late-1950s?. From L: [Don Struble](#), assistant manager, unknown, unknown, [Bob Voth](#), [Ruben Thesman](#), [Johnny Voth](#), [Jake Rempel](#), [David Toews](#), [Bill Toews](#), [Mose Thesman](#), unknown. Presumably the 3 suits are Purina management. My Dad brought each son a Purina pocketknife and [William H Danforth's](#) "[I Dare You](#)" inspirational book.





I like the [aerial photo of the Farmer's Grain Company](#) looking NNE below because it shows much more than just the elevator operations if you look closely.



Note the [3 sets of concrete grain elevators](#) with the [feed mill](#) (site of the original wooden elevator) and [warehouse](#) (bagged fertilizer and feed, tires, oil, grease, &c) to the S, the [bulk fertilizer building](#) and [anhydrous ammonia tanks](#) to the N, the [diesel tanks](#) to the S between the office and warehouse, and the [seed-cleaning building](#) NE of the office.

Notable structures not immediately obvious include the [old Farmer's Oil Company filling station](#) run at one time by Dale Peck just above (NE of) the seed-cleaning building - it stood across the street W from the Community Hall and was never in operation during my childhood or later years. Above the elevators to the NNE, in order, are the "newer [post office](#)" then serving as a Great Lakes Carbon office (there is an even newer building on Keowee Road next to the Bank of Kremlin now; extreme upper R), the final location of the metal diner that housed the iconic [Kremlin Café](#), and [Zaloudek's round-top storage shed](#). Actually that was the penultimate location of that diner - Johnny Voth bought it after it closed, dragged it to his home-place, gutted the inside, and used it as a pig shed for several years - a very sad and ignominious ending for a very special building. At the extreme upper center is the surviving foundation of [Zaloudek's store/repair shop](#) with

[Don Decker's blacksmith/welding/appliance repair shop](#) to the E. Also note the rows of Case-IH tractors N of the Kremlin blacktop. Maybe [early 1980s](#)? Pressed-tin blacksmith shop ruins are visible extreme R middle, SW of trailer houses. Wayne Schoeling's [KWF \(Kremlin Welding and Fabricating\)](#) shop, built in [1984](#), is not yet present across the street to the N of the old Farmers Oil Company building.

Below is another, more recent, view of the Kremlin grain elevators, looking S - [Farmers Grain Co-op](#) on the L; [Zaloudek's Grain Company](#) on the R. Note the approaching Union Pacific Railroad freight train. The railroad siding beside the Co-op elevators where I loaded boxcars with wheat and Zaloudek's tin grain elevator S and across the tracks are no longer present.



To keep things somewhat up to date, the [FW Zaloudek Implement Company](#) (L) and current [Kremlin Post Office](#) (R) are shown below. They are on opposite sides of the Kremlin-Hunter blacktop (Keowee Road).





The photos below show the former **Bank of Kremlin/Rathmel Grocery Store & US Post Office** as it appeared on **10 August 2018**. Note the satellite dish in upper R of both photos.





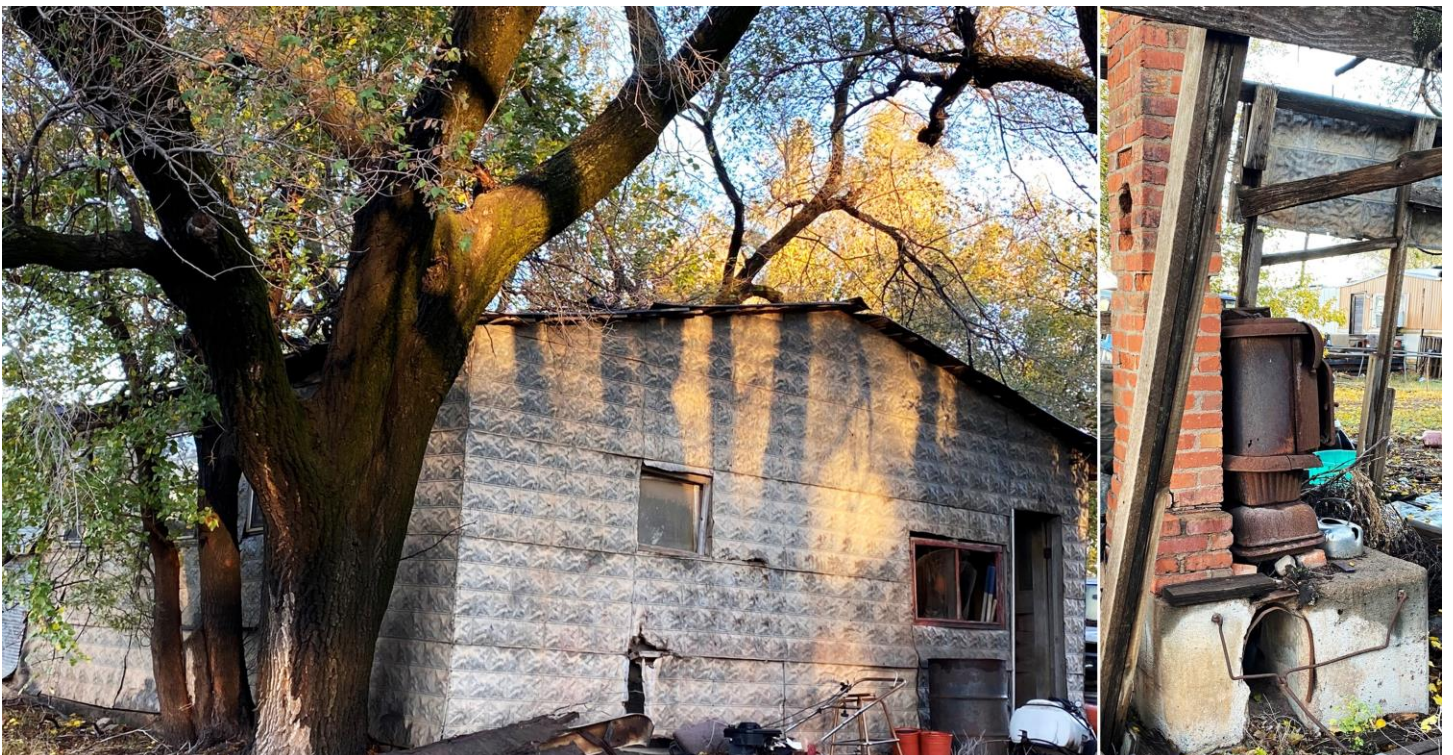
### Current Views of Kremlin

Perhaps a nice way to end this history/memory writing is to share some current views of Kremlin - some **November 2022 photos** with brief commentary are on the following pages.

What remains of the wide sidewalk beneath the corrugated tin awning in front of the **Bank of Kremlin/Rathmel Grocery & US Post Office** building are shown at L below (looking NE). At R, all that remains of this building - concrete chunks at extreme L are remains of bank vault (looking SE). A sad ignominious ending for a cherished Kremlin landmark!



Tin-covered building formerly a **blacksmith shop**, N across B Avenue from former site of Community Hall (**Murphy Blacksmith Shop**; see map on p 18). Note remains of forge and chimney is the photo at R. It is filled with debris, as is the surrounding lot. **John Richey** says this building was also "the **John Deere store (1930)** owned by my grandfather."





[Kremlin Fire Station](#), located on W side of Main Street, and [Town Hall](#), located on site of former Community Hall building are shown below. Note garage and former home of banker Henry G Toews at extreme R of middle photo. Not sure what is behind those two large brown doors! Lower photo shows former [shop of Don Decker](#), FWZ's Mr Fixit! (taken looking E from floor of former FWZ Store)



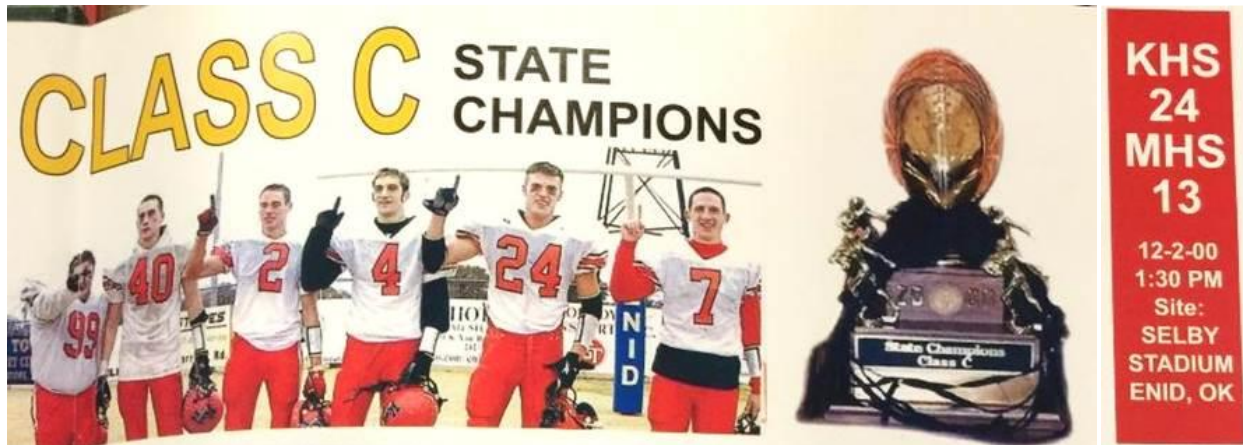


Current views (**November 2022**) of **Farmers Grain Company Co-op** and **FW Zaloudek Implement Company** are in the upper and middle photos below. **FW Zaloudek Community Building** is shown in the lower photo - the **Bob "Rookie" Voth Baseball Field** is at back.





The **Kremlin High School 8-man football team** won the **Class C State Championships** in **1987** and **2000** (Matt Toews was the quarterback; they defeated Medford 24-13 on 2 December 2000).



TULSA WORLD  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2000

**Class C Championship:** Also at Enid, Cody Lakin ran for 188 yards and two TDs as Kremlin-Hillsdale beat Medford 24-13 for the Class C state title.

An estimated 5,000 people watched Kremlin-Hillsdale unseat the defending champs, rolling up 373 total yards and getting three interceptions. The Broncos won their first state title after three runner-up finishes (1968-77-87).

<b>KREMLIN-HILLSDALE 24, MEDFORD 13</b>	
Kremlin-Hillsdale	8 8 0 8 - 24
Medford	13 0 0 0 - 13
M—Ryan Flaherty 22 pass from Joe Biggerstaff (kick)	
KH—Cody Lakin 35 run (Lakin run)	
M—Kent Mennem 82 kickoff return (pass failed)	
KH—Lakin 8 run (Lakin pass from Toews)	
KH—Justin Wampler 19 pass from Toews (Wampler pass from Toews)	
First Downs	K-H 19 Med 8
Rushes-Yards	64-267 27-79
Passing Yards	62 72
Comp-Att-Int	9-18-1 3-17-3
Return Yards	34 0
Punts-Avg	2-24.0 3-34.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1 2-2
Penalties-Yards	2-20 9-15

In 2017, the **Kremlin High School Lady Broncos basketball team** won the **Class B State Championship**, defeating arch-rival Lomega 53-45 - it was the **Enid News-Eagle's Top Sports Story of 2017!**



Equally impressive, but less well-known, are **Girls State Championships** in **volleyball** in **1967, 1968, and 1974**, and **track** in **1977 and 1978**.

## Concluding notes and reference material

This will always be a work in progress so I will always appreciate any **comments**, with respect to revisions and otherwise as well, and any **photos** or **memories** anyone is willing to share with me. This work would not be possible without the help of many persons, most especially my **brother Myron Toews** - he has been tireless in collecting and preserving valuable photos, in conducting priceless interviews with a number of Kremlin citizens, and in his genealogical research. Myron's assistance and participation has been beyond invaluable - he is actually a co-author, or more accurately, **co-producer!** Other valuable assistance with memories and photos has come from [Gerry Toews Reimer](#), [Johnny Voth](#), [Rita Sue Thesman Schmidt](#), [Sophie Thesman](#), [JoAnn Toews Rice](#), [Peggy Smith Harris](#), [Daniel Zaloudek](#), and [John Richey](#), among others - their interest and help is much appreciated.

Separate documents titled ["Kremlin OK and the Rock Island Railroad,"](#) ["The 1948 "Rocket" Train Wreck and Other in & Around Kremlin OK,"](#) ["Kremlin Methodist Ladies 1931 Quilt"](#), ["Kremlin School Days"](#) , ["Aerial Farmstead Photos"](#), and more are all also available on this [Toews Brothers Kremlin History Website](#) as well.

Arrel Toews  
Carrboro NC  
Updated 6 July 2024

## Appendices

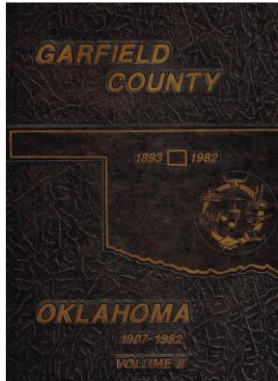
(all of them useful and worth looking at)

I - Naming the Town of Kremlin OK Newspaper Article	110
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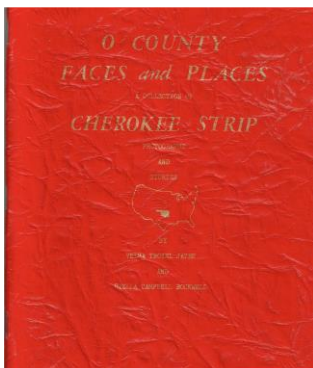


## Sources of useful information & photos

The walls of the FW Zaloudek Kremlin Community Building are covered with a treasure trove of vintage Kremlin photos, newspaper clippings and other valuable information on the Kremlin community, well worth an extended visit. Bring your camera (or phone)!



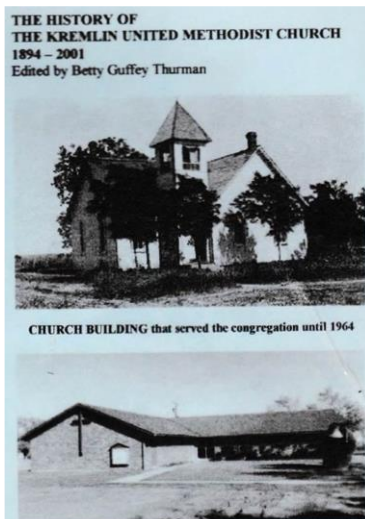
**Garfield County Oklahoma 1893-1982**, Oklahoma Diamond Jubilee Edition, Garfield County Historical Society, Stella Campbell Rockwell, editor. Kremlin information on pages 833-4 (V II). **Many of the old B/W photos of Kremlin come from these two pages.** Lots of additional information about all of Garfield County, including various families, other towns, and rural schools. Published as part of the Cherokee Outlet Land Run Centennial celebrations in 1982-3. I own both volumes. (1982; Josten's Publications, Topeka KS).



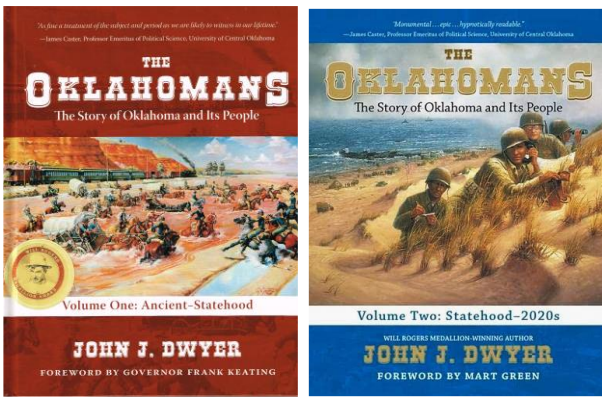
**O County Faces and Places** booklet - Velma Troxel Jayne & Stella Campbell Rockwell, 1968 (from Grandpa Jacob A Voth Sr; signed by Velma Troxel Jayne). I own this booklet.



**History of Kremlin by Jacob Toews** (a project of his high school junior class) - really interesting reading with some information available nowhere else. I am happy to send scans of the entire 28-page handwritten booklet if asked - it is somewhat of a priceless classic! Cousin **Richard Toews** has the original copy.



**The History of the Kremlin United Methodist Church 1894-2001**, edited by **Betty Jo Guffey Thurman**. Good resource for Methodist Church material, but the included ca 1937 "Church History" by **Truth Darling** also has a good bit of interesting early Kremlin/Land Run history. Myron and I have .pdf copies.



Exactly what it says it is - **The Oklahomans - The Story of OK and Its People!** Not much about Garfield County/Enid/ Kremlin, but fascinating and very interesting books. Very nice paintings and lots of photographs, maps, and other visual information. **Volume I** (2016) begins in "ancient times" and concludes in 1910, just after statehood. Written almost like a

chronological historical encyclopedia - I discovered it in a gift shop in Waukomis several years ago and highly recommend it - maybe not for everyone since it has a somewhat religious foundation to parts, but a great book. I also own **Volume II** (2023). **John J Dwyer** lives near **Waukomis**.

[Kremlin web-link](#) from **OK Historical Society** - some good info in here, although there are errors as well! The OK Historical Society on-line site is an excellent resource of all things OK - its [Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture](#) is worth consulting.

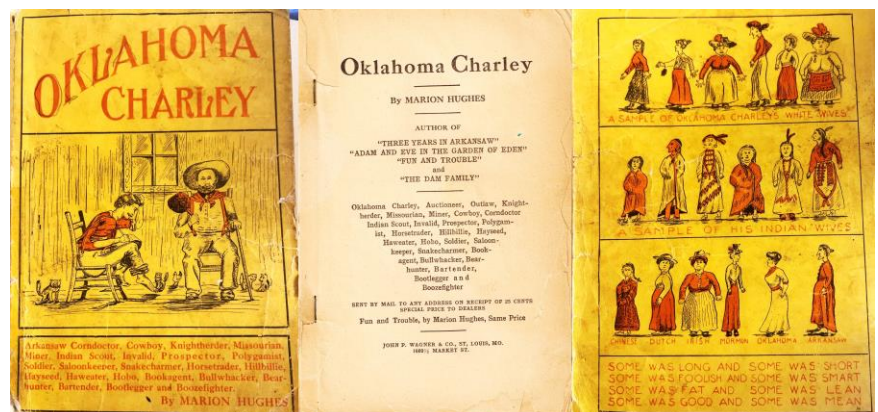
The **Oklahoma Publishing Company Photo Collection** of the **OK Historical Society** has many interesting photos, including some very nice ones of [Kremlin](#).

[Kremlin Cemetery grave listings](#) - very useful supplement to [findagrave.com](#) below. It appears to be up to date, with several entries from 2022-23.

There are active hyperlinks included for many of the citizens mentioned in this history. Those are links to pages on [findagrave.com](#) - they have photos of gravestones, birth & death dates, links to related family members (spouses, parents, siblings & children) and often an obituary. A very valuable resource for historical and genealogical research.

**My personal library** also contains a number of books on the **history of Oklahoma** as well some vintage volumes by authors such as [Marquis James](#), [George Rainey](#), [Angie Debo](#), [Marion Hughes](#) (below R; 1915) and others. Please contact me if you wish to access them.

Notable among numerous OK history books is **Oklahoma - A Bicentennial History** by H Wayne Hodges & Anne Hodges Morgan (Norton, 1977) - a factual, readable, and interesting history of our state.

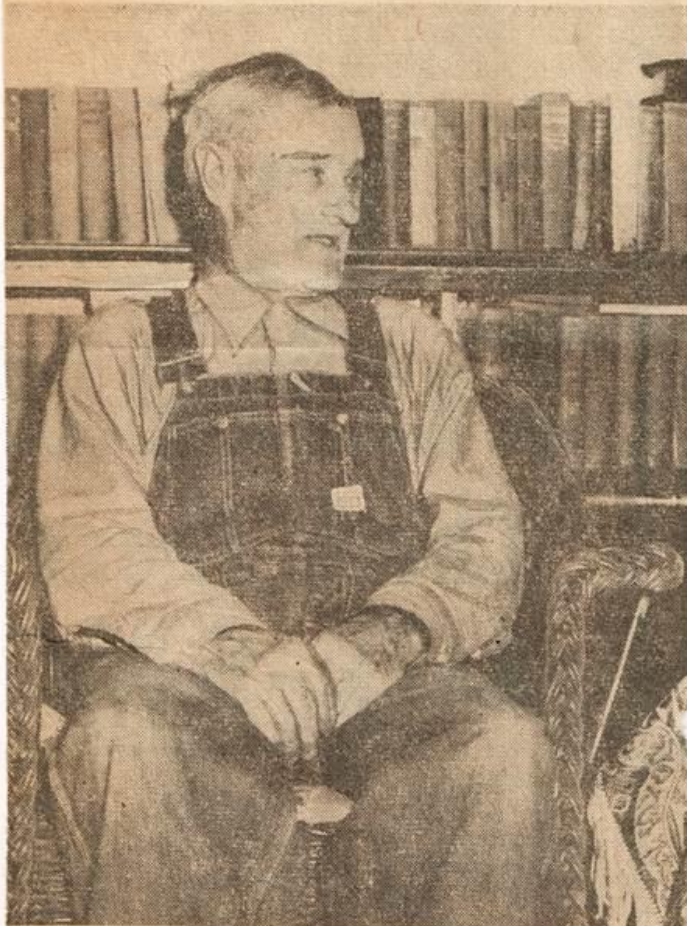




## APPENDIX I - Naming the Town of Kremlin OK

The Daily Oklahoman newspaper article (date unknown) describing the naming of the town of Kremlin is shown below:

# Kremlin, Okla. Has No Tie With Russia



Among the pioneers of the Kremlin community is Ned Leonard, who lives five miles southeast of the town. He recalls the origin of the unique name of the town.

## Moscow's Face May Be Red; Sooner Town Named for Saddle Horse

By JOHN DEXTER  
(Daily Oklahoman Staff Writer)

KREMLIN, April 25—Beetle-eyed bosses in the Kremlin, eyeing fertile fields in which to promote the Russian way of life won't get to firstbase in Kremlin, Okla.

They might as well go drown themselves in vodka as attempt to hitch up the two names.

The coincidence was not even prompted by any Russian-born settler's sentimental urge to bring a bit of the old country to the Cherokee Strip.

In fact, their collective ego would suffer terribly if they knew Kremlin, Okla., was named for a saddle horse. Adding insult to injury, the town was named by the daughter of a 'capitalistic' railroad executive.

WHEN the Garfield county community, north of Enid, received its unique name, Ned Leonard, 82-year old pioneer, and his sister, Mrs. Ethel Newton, were within earshot. Here's their story:

"The town was called Wild Horse because it was close to Wild Horse creek and bands of wild horses roamed the country. But Rock Island officials didn't like that name, which stuck until after the opening of the Cherokee Strip in September, 1893.

"In the summer of 1894, a party of railroad people came down. One of the party, M. A. Lowe, a vice-president, had instructions to change the name.

"Lowe left the selection up to his daughter, who was a horse enthusiast. She wanted to associate her hobby with the former name of the town, so she suggested Kremlin, the name of her favorite saddle horse."

First promoters of the town were Swedish. Irish from western Kansas came later, followed by large groups of German and Dutch from the Mennonite colonies of Kansas.

GARFIELD county's largest Mennonite settlement begins at the county line, three miles north of Kremlin, and extends south to Enid.

Although a mixture of German, Dutch, Bohemian and Irish ancestry now predominates, old world ways have long been forgotten.

This community of 150 persons, in the heart of a rich farm community, supports a bank, two

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

## Our Kremlin Has No Moscow Ties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

large grain elevators with a total storage capacity of more than 300,000 bushels, a store and post-office, a good school, Methodist and Christian churches—and the Zaloudek Enterprises, an American success story in itself.

F. W. Zaloudek, of Czechoslovakian parentage, has built a tremendous business on service. He recently put Kremlin on the map when he was named the 1952 leader among 4,000 Case farm machinery dealers in the United States and Canada.

His other enterprises, established to accommodate his farm machinery customers, include a general store, lumber yard, fence post lot, feed and seed store, oil bulk station, grain elevator and home appliance store.



## APPENDIX II - Kremlin/Wild Horse Post Office

Information below regarding the "Kremlin/Wild Horse Post Office" was compiled in 1993 as part of the Cherokee Land Run of 1893 Centennial Celebration. It includes a first-day-of-issue 9 November 1993 postmark from Wild Horse/Kremlin and features a National Postal Museum 29¢ commemorative stamp that includes Kremlin artist H Holden's "Boomer." H also designed the first-day cover envelope.

### HISTORY OF KREMLIN POST OFFICE

The Kremlin Post Office was established on November 7, 1893, with Harvey E. Thompson as the first Postmaster. The post office was originally located behind the Bank of Kremlin, which was on the southeast corner of Main Street and C Avenue. Kremlin had approximately 250 inhabitants and with the rural customers, the post office provided service to around 400 people.

Thompson served as Postmaster until March 1896, when William Lay was appointed. Following Mr. Lay, Seaman Wood was the third Postmaster, appointed in November of 1897. Wood was a Kremlin pioneer, coming to the strip before the opening to help survey the land. He made the run himself and staked a claim one mile east of Kremlin. His wife Annie Wood followed him as Postmaster in January of 1902. She served until 1915.

From 1915 to 1962, the Kremlin Post Office was run by the Rathmel family. The first Rathmel to be appointed was Henry, who was Postmaster from 1915 to 1941. From there, it went to J. Carlton Rathmel, Henry's son. The Rathmel family bought the building across the street north of the original post office building and moved the Kremlin Post Office into the second location. The building was larger than what was needed for the postal quarters, so the family put in a store in the front of the building. In 1942, Carlton joined the service, and Carolyn Rathmel, Carlton's twin sister ran the Post Office and store. She acted as Postmaster until Carlton returned in November of 1945. Carolyn Rathmel still resides in Kremlin. William Rathmel, Carlton and Carolyn's other brother, also served as Postmaster for a brief period in 1962.

October 26, 1962, Margie Kirkpatrick became Postmaster. The Post Office remained in the Rathmel Store for several months while the new building was being built. In August of 1963, Mrs. Kirkpatrick moved the post office into the new building, located on the corner of Main Street and A Avenue. Here the Kremlin Post Office remained until June of 1979, when the office was moved into a mobile unit temporarily. It was set up in the next block south of the former location. While the mobile unit was used, the present post office building was being built, which is on the corner of Kremlin-Hunter Road and Fifth Street. It was completed on December 9, 1981, and Postmaster Kirkpatrick moved her office again. She retired in January of 1992 and still resides in Kremlin.

During the interim period between postmasters, Sally Kindred, Enid Window Clerk, served as Officer-In-Charge. In May of 1992, Audrey McLain was appointed Postmaster. She was a former clerk at Laverne and Gage, Oklahoma.

The Kremlin Post Office continues to be one of the hubs of the community and will hopefully be around to celebrate in another hundred years.



**Annie A. Wood—postmistress of Kremlin**  
 She is shown in front of the house that she and her husband lived in while they were Postmaster and postmistress of Kremlin. The house was located on the East side and faced the west. Later purchased by one of the Zaloudeks's and torn down.

### LOCATIONS OF POST OFFICE

1. South side of C Avenue, just east of Main
2. Northeast corner of Main at C Avenue (Rathmel Store)
3. Brick building on corner of Main at A Avenue
4. Mobile unit just north of Kremlin Welding on Main
5. 503 Kremlin-Hunter Road

### CARRIERS

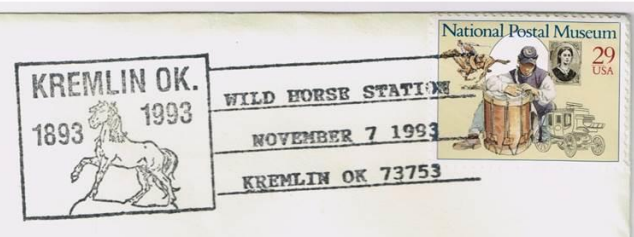
- Roy Brown
- Carlton Rathmel
- Bill Williams
- Ben Dayton
- Lloyd Gates
- Jody Cox

### CLERKS AND POSTMASTER RELIEFS

- Carolyn Rathmel
- Lizzie Kirkpatrick
- Helen Semrad
- Elsie Root
- Darla Underwood
- Ida Hamm
- Gail Sharkey
- Shirley Klugh



**Cherokee Strip Station  
 Kremlin - Wild Horse, Oklahoma**





### APPENDIX III - November 1939 Newspaper Article on Kremlin

Photos of Kremlin Town Council members from this article are shown on p 36.



### LIGHTS, WATER BONDS RETIRED; SCHOOLS GROW

#### Community Hall Built by Co-operation of Town, Country Folk

Occupying one of the most historic sites of the Cherokee Strip, the town of Kremlin, located in northern Garfield county, today has relinquished much of its early importance but is still a thriving community and trade center in the county.

A population of 150 persons occupies the 140 acre townsite that at one time was thronged with pioneers of the Cherokee Strip who carved the town out of virgin territory in the historic land rush.

Located on the Rock Island railroad and only a short distance from U. S. highway 81, Kremlin is an excellent example of how far a small community can go in developing its own immediate trading area.

Despite its proximity to Enid and other larger trading centers the town continues to enjoy a healthy amount of prosperity from its well developed trade territory that is the backbone of Kremlin business.

#### Bonds Reduced

The town government is headed by a council consisting of Floyd Smith, mayor, Fred Phillips, John Gearheard, and Floren Zaloudek and under their efficient management Kremlin is rapidly retiring all outstanding debts of the city.

Nine thousand dollars of bond issues voted for electric lights and a water system have been reduced by half and another issue of \$8,000 will be reduced next year when the bonds are called in.

A splendid example of the community spirit that governs and permeates every civic project is the fact that the water bonds were all purchased by Kremlin residents with none of them put on the open market.

The community building, constructed at an estimated cost of \$5,000 in 1929, was a cooperative affair between the townspeople and farmers in the Kremlin vicinity who donated the cash for the building and with the exception of \$100 have it entirely paid for.

#### Once Principal Town

A thoroughly modern school houses 128 students evenly divided between the grade and high schools with three busses covering an area of 180 square miles to bring the students into Kremlin.

But Kremlin's greatest importance came in the hectic days of the Cherokee Strip when it was one of the principal townsites of what is now Garfield county.

From a story written for the Enid Morning News by Gus Gumerson, Enid realtor, comes much of the early history of the town.

Gumerson had a ringside seat for the opening since he was living in Kremlin, or Wildhorse as it was then known, at the time of the opening.

Gumerson's father was station agent for the Rock Island railroad before the Strip was opened and father and son witnessed the historic race as it surged by and around them.

"On that eventful day," Gumerson said, "I took my position on the Kremlin depot platform. About 1:30 o'clock I saw the smoke of the train at North Enid, the train crossing from the south, and presently I saw the smoke of the train from the north. The trains met at Wildhorse.

"The stock cars were empty of passengers as they had all gotten off at Enid, Pond Creek, Jefferson or some other point but when the train from the south arrived the few passengers remaining got off and took claims around Kremlin, many of which are still owned by the mesteaders."



SCENES AND CIVIC LEADERS of Kremlin, Garfield county town located northeast of Enid, are pictured above. At the top is the Kremlin community building which was constructed in 1929 through the cooperative efforts of Kremlin residents and farmers in the surrounding area. In the center are pictures of the Kremlin town council with John Gearheard at the left and in the group picture, from left to right, Floren Zaloudek, Fred Phillips and Floyd Smith, mayor. At the bottom is the attractive brick building of the Kremlin school which accomodates 128 students from its 180 square mile school district territory which is combed daily by three school buses. (News-Eagle Photos)

[Gus Gumerson's](#) memories of Kremlin depot events on the day of the Cherokee Outlet Land Run (16 September 1893) are well worth reading - from a November 1939 Enid newspaper article. Gus' father Olaus was now serving as the Rock Island station agent at Wild Horse, perhaps still as section foreman as well, on the day the Cherokee Outlet was opened. He later operated a mercantile store in Kremlin for many years, passing away while working in his store on 26 September 1922 at age 83.



## APPENDIX IV - Supplemental Photos & Other Information

"Mrs. WB Rathmel House, ca 1910" - [William B](#) and [Margaret Ann "Maggie" Ulch Rathmell](#) were grandparents of Bill, Carlton and Carolyn. Their son [Henry H](#) (father of Bill, Carlton & Carolyn) dropped the second "l" from his last name and so did his children, but Henry's siblings continued their families with both "l"s. Perhaps this was later home to [William R "Bill"](#) and [Clara A Telford Rathmel](#)? They are all buried in the Enid Memorial Park Cemetery.



[JA Maxey](#) obit (see p 13) says he purchased the Kremlin printing plant from [Gus](#) (not [William](#)) [Gumerson](#), who founded it in 1903; previously Maxey ran a weekly paper in [Pond Creek](#).

[Mary Helen Bogert Iselin](#) says her mother, [Helen C Lynch](#) (future wife of [Frank F "Bud" Bogert](#)) attended and graduated from Pond Creek High School. She took the train from the Kremlin depot to the Pond Creek depot each day, attended high school, then returned to Kremlin on a later train.

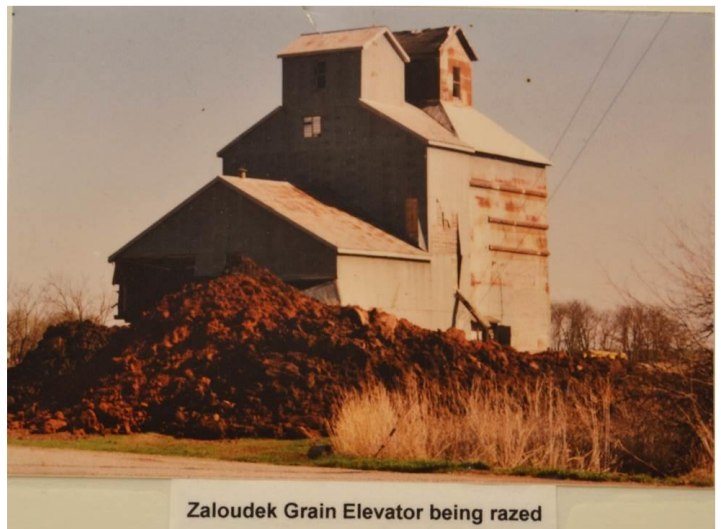
p 99 - [Annie Almira Snow Wood](#), Postmistress, wife of Postmaster [Seaman T Wood](#)  
(photo FWZ Building)

### Zaloudek's tin grain elevator being razed.

It was located W of the tracks and S of the depot. It is also visible at upper l in the "Kremlin cattle pens" photo on p 40.

ca mid/late 1960s?

(FWZ Building)



Zaloudek Grain Elevator being razed

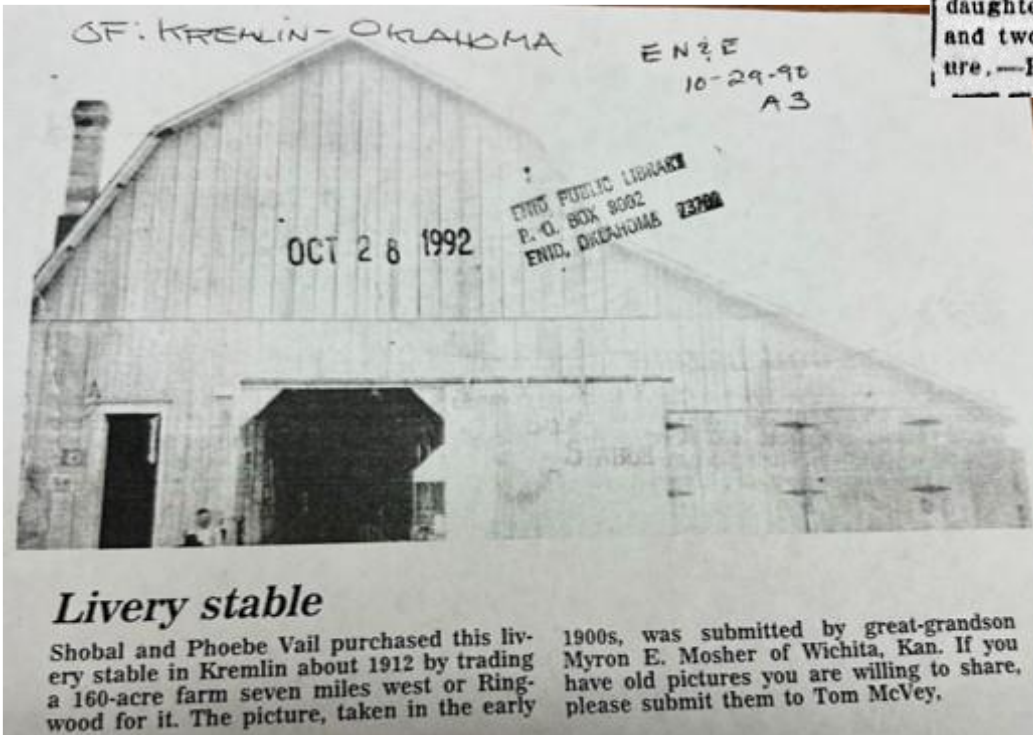


Note the name "Phares" inked in above the livery stable door in photos on p 8 & 10. Perhaps this addition indicates ownership, and perhaps it is George N Phares (1849-1911)? He is the only Garfield County OK Phares buried in the Kremlin Cemetery. His obituary from the Kremlin Journal is at R:

**OBITUARY.**

Geo. Phares was born in Indiana Dec. 4, 1843, moved from there to Iowa, then to Kansas in 1872, where in August, 1875, he was married to Mary I. Maple. To this union seven children were born, one of whom has passed on before. He moved to Oklahoma in 1896. Passed from this life on the 20th day of April, 1911, being 61 years, 4 months and 15 days old. All the children were present at his bedside. He leaves a wife, three sons, three daughters, mother, three brothers and two sisters to mourn his departure. —Kremlin Journal.

Another image of the Kremlin Livery Stable (Enid Public Library) is shown below. Note the 1912 purchase date, soon after George Phares death.



John Richey sketch of an old barn - shared with Myron Toews. John's caption reads "A doctor's clinic had some paintings for sale, one was an old barn in a field, looked lonely. I have been trying to make one to look old and neglected."





In 1994, as part of the Cherokee Outlet Land Run Centennial celebrations, Ginny Zaloudek and other community members organized a town reunion, to coincide with the passage of the centennial cattle drive/wagon train and other local activities. The 4 September 1994 Enid News/Eagle article is shown below, along with a nice photo of (almost) perpetual teacher Carolyn Rathmel and Ginny Z.

# Kremlin reunion unifies the community

By JOE MAYER  
News and Eagle Staff

There are class reunions, family reunions and then there are town reunions.

Former graduates of Kremlin High School and Kremlin residents alike turned out for the Kremlin town reunion Saturday, organized by the all-school reunion committee.

The town reunion ran in conjunction with a pig roast and casino night, sponsored by the Kremlin Lions Club.

The town reunion was started in 1993 as a project to unify the community in celebrating Kremlin's centennial anniversary, said Gini Zaloudek.

Kremlin used to have an annual town reunion in the 1960s that eventually fell by the wayside, said Jake Thesman of Kremlin Class of 1944.

Prior to 1933, students at Kremlin High School had to go to Enid to finish up school. Marie Meyer, 79, was a member of the Class of 1933 and looked back on her senior year in school.

Because of the Depression, graduation was not a fancy ceremony those days for students at the high school.

"It was very economical, we didn't have class rings and caps and gowns," said Meyer.

Meyer, a salutatorian, was the first person to receive a diploma from Kremlin High School's graduating class of 10 in 1933, she said.

Even in the 1930s, graduating seniors had begun to form their own traditions.

"We did have a skip day at the end of school," Meyer said. "We drove up to Drury, Kan., and had a blast."

The class, which took a carload of boys and a carload of girls to Drury, Kan., went boating and had a picnic lunch there, said Meyers.

Meyers went on to have five children. All graduated from Kremlin High School and then scattered out across the country. Her youngest son, Bruce, and his wife, Sandi, from Austin, Texas, came back Saturday for the reunion.

Roy Buss, who will be 80 in February, the oldest member of the first graduating class at Kremlin High School, was in attendance at the reunion, with his wife, Bernice, a 1936 graduate. Buss retired from farming four years ago.

Carolyn Rathmel, 89, attended Kremlin High School in the days when the senior class had to finish school and graduate in Enid and because the 12th grade wasn't taught in Kremlin.

She would later go on to get

her degree from Phillips University and teach school at Hillsdale, Pond Creek and Enid for 34 years.

Rathmel liked the idea for the town reunion.

"I think its wonderful and our school has changed so," said Rathmel.

Rathmel, a lifelong resident of the Kremlin area, also served as the post mistress at the Kremlin Post Office after her twin brother, Carlton, was drafted in the U.S. Army during World War II, she said.

Her family moved to Kremlin in 1905 from Washington, Iowa.

Directly below is a picture of Gini Zaloudek (one of the directors for the celebration) and Miss Carolyn Rathmel (former teacher in both communities and the sponsor of the first Kremlin yearbook).



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Maine & Grand Downtown Enid

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1994 ENID NEWS and EAGLE

Announcement for 2001 Kremlin Centennial (1901-2001) Celebration is shown below:

**1901 Kremlin Centennial 2001  
Western Heritage Celebration  
and All-School Reunion**

**Friday thru Sunday, May 25 - 27, 2001**

Friday afternoon arrival and set up for trade show, arts and crafts booths, vintage cars and machinery. Wagons and riders arrive and set up camp. Beans and Cornbread Chuckwagon Cookout Supper with live entertainment to close out the evening.

Saturday activities begin with registration, coffee and donuts, purchase Centennial Stamp and other souvenirs as well as tickets for meals and events. Visit booths and displays throughout the day. Other activities include, school tours, parade, Artillery re-enactment, trolley rides, stagecoach and carriage rides, cookout barbecue lunch, and rodeo, followed by an alumni meeting. Top off the evening with a barbecue supper and dance.

Sunday, begin the day with coffee and fellowship at the community building followed by church services with gospel music in the park. Potluck picnic dinner follows in the park.

For more information, contact Gini Zaloudek, 580 874-2278



### Addendum with added materials for possible later insertion


We believe, but cannot confirm, that the photos of the [Ford Tri-Motor airplane](#) in a field shown below were taken somewhere near Kremlin OK. Aka "The Tin Goose," 199 planes were built between 1925 and 1933 by [Henry and Edsel Ford's](#) companies. The Enid area was a hotbed of early aviation, with the likes of [Clyde Cessna](#) and others frequenting the area. Clyde Cessna had an aviation business in Enid and did many of his test flights over the [Great Salt Plains](#) salt flats.




[Jimmy Hays](#), father of Janet and Robert, was a very local aviation pioneer - posthumously published by wife Dorothy after his untimely death, "[60 Years of Flying and Farming](#)" is well worth reading and viewing.

A NOSTALGIC LOOK AT OKLAHOMA AVIATION THROUGH THE EYES OF A FARMER-PILOT

*60 years of flying and farming*



BY JIMMY HAYS



Published by The Suburban Pilot, Inc., Kansas City, Mo.

Although it contains incorrect information on the naming of Kremlin, the [28 June 1986 news article](#) is well worth reading - it contains memories of early Kremlin by [FW Zaloudek](#) and [Leonard Reim!](#)

# Kremlin A Close Neighbor Of Enid

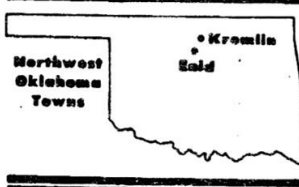
ENE 6-28-86P.C-4

By Art Cox  
Staff Writer

Most citizens of the Soviet Union know where the Kremlin is — right in the middle of Moscow. But few Muskovites know where Kremlin, Okla., is — 12 miles north of Enid. The town got its unusual name from a group of Russian immigrants who settled there during the 1893 land rush.

Even though the political climate changed when Russia and its outlying provinces became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Northwest Oklahoma town kept its name.

Delegations of Soviet farm leaders even visited the town in the 1970s, but found little to compare to the Kremlin buildings with their spires. The only spires in Kremlin, Okla., are the two grain elevators, one owned by the local grain cooperative, the other by the F.W. Za-



loudek Co.

Other structures the town is proud of are a relatively new post office and bank.

In the dozen-or-so years following the Cherokee Strip Run, Kremlin was a prosperous, up-and-coming town, according to Florian Zaloudek, 2544 Homestead Road.

Zaloudek is the founder of the F.W. Zaloudek Co, which bills itself as the largest Case tractor dealership in the world, headquartered in Kremlin.

Zaloudek, who is 82, said the town

once boasted two hotels, three saloons, two hardware stores, two livery stables, a grocery store, a drug store and several other businesses.

"In the early days, Kremlin was a town before Enid," Zaloudek said. "The section foreman (for the railroad) lived in Kremlin."

But Kremlin's spurt of growth was short-lived. In the latter 1920s, when Zaloudek began his implement business, the town was already on the decline.

"In a filling station, that's how I started," Zaloudek said. "I got into the implement business about 1926 or 1927. There wasn't much business there when I started."

Even though the retail business declined somewhat, Kremlin's population of about 200 people has stayed constant over the years.

Leonard Reim, 72, 314 E. Beech,

was a resident of Kremlin until 1976, when he sold his farm and moved to Enid.

He said the town was proudest of its school system, although the high school had only three grades until a bond issue was passed in 1931 to expand it, he said.

"I attended school there in Kremlin, and it was a good school. There were the saloons and a whole lot of entertainment. But the saloons weren't too rough of a place," he said.

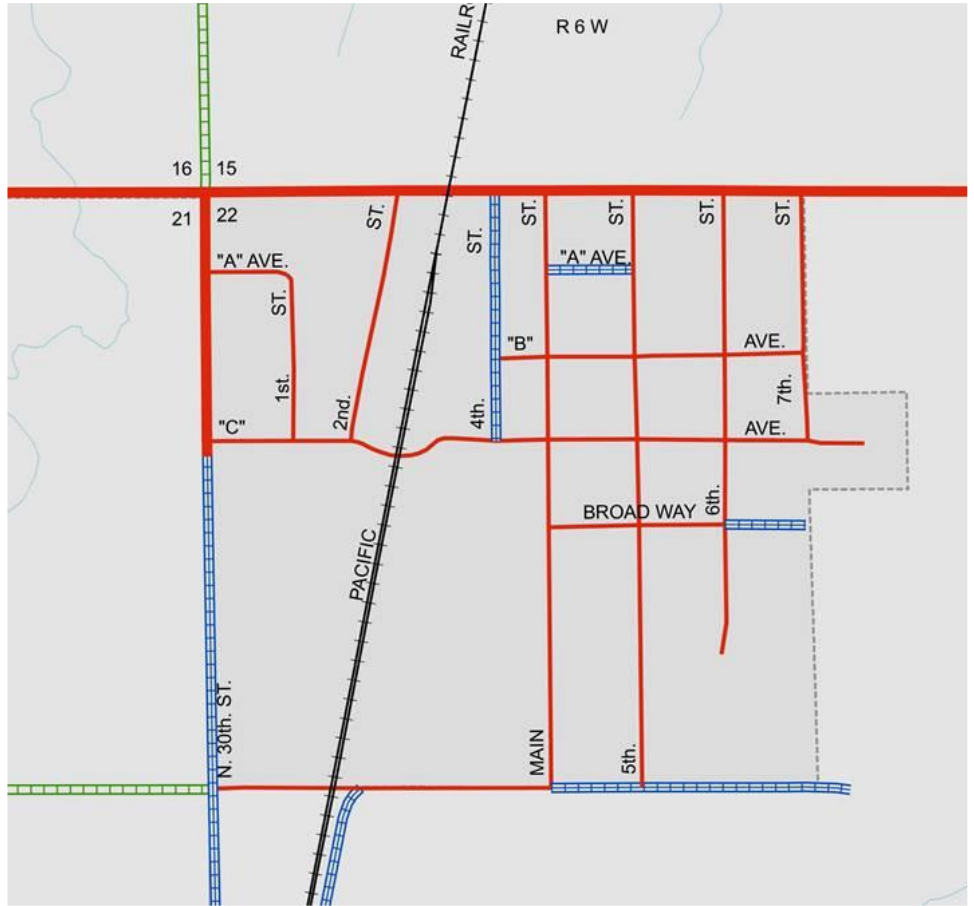
Although Reim lived on a farm just outside of town, he said the town businesses sponsored baseball and basketball teams for everyone.

"We played baseball in the summer time, and had the basketball teams — that was about the main sport then. But the town got some bigger and then back in the late 1920s, it started slipping just a little.



### APPENDIX V - Modern Maps of Kremlin OK

I am including 2 "present day" maps of Kremlin, to help orient those readers who might benefit from it. The street map (top) is from the [OK DOT](#).



The aerial map below is from [Google Maps](#). It has quite nice resolution & detail. You can (almost) see the show-pigs E of the school!

