

A HISTORY
OF
PLATT NATIONAL PARK

By

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I Introduction

A. Geographical Setting Platt National Park lies among some gently rolling hills in the south central part of Oklahoma, 80 miles southeast of Oklahoma City, in Murray County, adjacent to the City of Sulphur. It is about 300 miles west of Hot Springs National Park and 600 miles east of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Platt is the only area in Oklahoma administered by the National Park Service.

To the southwest lie the Arbuckle Mountains, an excellent cross-section exhibit of the rocks that underlie Platt National Park. Between the crest of the mountains on U. S. 77 and Ardmore, Oklahoma, there are interpretive exhibits of the Arbuckle geology that are of great interest.

The park, with a total area of 911.97 acres, extends in an irregular form a distance of approximately 3 miles from northeast to southwest along Travertine and Rock Creeks. Elevations in the park range from 920 to 1,150 feet. The average temperature is 63° and the precipitation averages 38.45 inches per year.

The 32 known mineral and fresh water springs constitute the basic reason for the establishment of the park. It is interesting to note that the Chickasaw tribe itself is responsible for the preservation of the springs by ceding the area to the government for protection

The springs are classed in 4 main groups. Eighteen are sulphur, five are iron, three are bromide and six are fresh. Many of the smaller mineral springs have been combined to provide easier dispensing. Of the fresh water springs, Buffalo and Antelope are the biggest and best known. Named for the wildlife that watered there, these two springs have flowed at the rate of 5,000,000 gallons a day and are the main supply for Travertine Creek. These springs have gone dry many times in the past and at this date, February, 1956, the springs have been dry for well over a year.

Most of the area is well wooded and traversed by streams with a number of springs and cascades. Travertine Creek, which flows through most of the eastern end of the park, is a beautiful stream of clear water. The stream is broken by cascades in many places as the result of the heavy deposition of travertine from the water. Rock Creek enters the park from the north just west of the principal entrance from the town of Sulphur and joins Travertine Creek near Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs. In the western part of the park is Bromide Hill, a steep wooded bluff 162 feet above Rock Creek. It is recorded that the summit of Bromide Hill was known to the Indians as "Council Rock". In ages past smoke signals broadcast the news of peace and good hunting from its summit. In later years, after the coming of the white man, it became known locally as "Robbers' Roost", a supposed lookout point for bandits. A magnificent view of the surrounding country is

available from the summit. The principal mineral springs of the park issue from the base of this hill.

The abundance of water in a comparatively arid area also attracted vast numbers of wild animals and gave the region a reputation as a hunting ground. Traces of this linger in the naming of the 2 springs after the buffalo and antelope.

B. Prehistoric and Aboriginal History of the Area

Little archeological work has been done in the immediate area of Platt National Park, but finds in the vicinity indicate that, at least during the few hundred years immediately preceding the advent of Europeans into America, the culture of the local Indians was typical of the southern plains and the Indians were probably related to the modern Wichita and Caddo tribes, lived in houses of poles and thatch, and had a mixed hunting and farming economy.

History records no large number of Indians in Oklahoma but such as were there were, as a rule, fierce and warlike. In the north were some bands of Osage Indians, and in the southwest, near the Wichita Mountains, lived small groups of Wichitas, Kiowas and Comanches. No doubt these small groups of Indians did know about the spring waters and made use of them. It is not definitely known when the springs were first used by the Indians, but tradition has it that the waters were used for curative purposes many decades before the coming of the white man.

C. Coming of the White Man

Approximately fifty years after the discovery of America, Spanish soldiers led by Coronado were traversing the plains of western Oklahoma seeking the fabled land of Quivira and writing descriptions of what they saw. About the same time another Spanish explorer named De Soto entered the Gulf Plains region and met the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes, two of which play a very important part in the history of the park. These were the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

The Spaniards did not find the gold and silver they were seeking, but the accounts of their journey tell of the "fat black land". They mentioned the sweet wild plums and grapes, which centuries later were almost the only fruit the early settlers of Oklahoma had until their own newly planted orchards were old enough to bear. However, the Spaniards had little interest in the wide plains and fertile valley and no Spanish settlements were made.

Nearly one hundred fifty years later, people of another nation entered the valley of the Mississippi from the north, and over a period of time some of them came to Oklahoma. This nation was France and these people were not seeking gold and silver, but trade with the Indians, who were willing to barter furs for beads, knives and bright colored cloth. The French explored the great Mississippi River from the headwaters to the mouth and after a time built, at the mouth, the town of New Orleans. From here the

hardy French trappers and traders worked their canoes up the Mississippi River and followed its western tributaries, the Red and Arkansas Rivers, into Oklahoma. They made no lasting settlements in this new country, but they did name some of the rivers and mountains in Oklahoma.

D. Principal Events of the Colonial Period (-- to 1783)

From about 1689 to 1800 we find the rulers of two or three great nations each seeking to secure the western half of the Mississippi Valley for his own country. This great region, of which Platt National Park is a part, was called Louisiana. It was claimed first by Spain, later by France. France returned it to Spain to repay that country for aid given to the French in the Seven Years' War. Spain ruled it for nearly forty years, but in 1800 returned it to France. In the meantime, the United States had won its independence from England, and in 1803 President Jefferson bought Louisiana from Napoleon, ruler of France. The price was fifteen million dollars and all of Oklahoma (except the panhandle) including that portion which is now Platt National Park, was a part of this great region.

E. American Period (1783 --) to the Beginning of the Movement to Establish the National Park

Between 1820 and 1840, five large tribes of Indians were driven from their old homes east of the Mississippi River in the states that border on the Gulf of Mexico, and given new ones in Oklahoma. These tribes were the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw

and the Seminole. Two of these great tribes, the Choctaw and Chickasaws were given that part of Oklahoma which included Platt National Park. The Choctaws were the first to move. Their move was started by the "Treaty of Doak's Stand" signed in 1820. In this treaty the Choctaws agreed to give up a large area of land in Mississippi in exchange for a grant in Arkansas and Oklahoma, lying between the Red River on the south and the Arkansas and Canadian Rivers on the north. Final movement of the tribe was accomplished under the terms of the "Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek" signed in 1830. This treaty provided that the Choctaws should give up all lands in Mississippi and move to Oklahoma. Also, the United States promised that they should never be included in the limits of any state or territory and could make their own laws and govern themselves. The territory assigned to them would be closed to any white settlement.

The Chickasaws, who are closely related to the Choctaws and seemed to have had more contact with white people, probably realized more quickly than some of the other Indians, that removal to the west was certain to come, and therefore useless to fight against it. The Chickasaws signed two treaties, one in 1832 and another in 1834. The treaty of 1832 provided that they would send a party west to look for suitable lands. Not being able to find suitable lands, they drew up the treaty of 1834 which merely provided that they would continue to seek land in the west for their use.

About this time the Choctaws and Chickasaws began to talk over the question of uniting. It was the Choctaws who suggested to the Chickasaws that they give up their lands in Mississippi and settle in a district of their own in Choctaw country. Therefore, by an agreement and by a signed treaty in 1837 the Chickasaws gave up their land in the East and settled in the western part of the Choctaw country. For this separate district they agreed to pay the Choctaws five hundred thirty thousand dollars. The right to dispose of it was held in common by both tribes. The two tribes were to be under the same government and laws. Since the Choctaw country was divided into three districts at the time they had been moved into the territory, the Chickasaws became the fourth district. The two tribes were then combined except that each retained its own annuities and other funds paid by the United States for lands they sold in the East.

Soon after the Chickasaws had moved west into the Choctaw territory they began to grow dissatisfied because the Choctaws, who had the greater population, also had the greater influence in government. Finally in 1855, a treaty was signed at Washington in which two tribes, as well as the government of the United States had a part. This treaty provided for a division of government and property, and now the park became part of the Chickasaw Nation. The word "Chickasaw" in Choctaw language means "to rebel".

It is not established just when the first American came to the area, but in some records it is shown as a Thomas Nuttall. He was a professor of botany at Harvard. Nuttall accompanied a party of soldiers from Fort Smith, Arkansas, under the command of Major William Bradford in 1819.

Major Bradford's command had been ordered into the Indian territory to remove any white families that had settled in the area, as the United States government had planned to move the Choctaws into the region. Several settlers were found and forced to move into Texas, which was at this time Spanish territory. Nothing was recorded about the move. After the soldiers had departed, Nuttall remained behind to study the plants and animals of the region, part of which is now Platt National Park.

In the spring of 1824 Fort Gibson and Fort Towson were established in the eastern part of Oklahoma and were for a long time well known and important places in the Indian country of the south. Several years later when war broke out between the Osages and the Kiowas and other small tribes who lived in the southwestern part of Oklahoma, a large expedition was sent out from Fort Gibson and Fort Towson to stop the warfare. At the same time they were to pay a visit to the wild bands of Kiowas, Wichitas and Comanches who lived in the Southwest about the Wichita Mountains.

This expedition was a large one and was under the command of General Henry Leavenworth. They moved up the valley of the Washita

to a point near the present town of Madill. Here Leavenworth was hurt by a fall from his horse and died a short time later. A Colonel Henry Dodge took command and soon left the valley of the Washita, traveling in a westerly direction to the Whchita Mountains, probably crossing the Arbuckle Mountains and park region to a place a few miles west of the present park. Here Fort Arbuckle was established on April 19, 1851. The fort was named for General Arbuckle who had succeeded Leavenworth as commander of the soldiers in Indian Territory.

Fort Arbuckle was a most important frontier post in these early days, not only serving the Indian country, but was the headquarters for government surveying parties throughout all the surrounding area. It was abandoned June 24, 1970 when the establishment of Fort Sill absorbed all business of the region.

The old North-South Trail, which follows the Washita River, was only a few miles to the west of the present park.

During this time the springs area was being used by the Indians as a water hole for their animals. It apparently was known to them as "Buffalo Suck" where great herds came to water. Also, about then (1878) a few hardy settlers began to lease land in the area from the Chickasaws for grazing. A few missionaries were working among the Indians in the region, but not much is recorded as to their travels through the area. It is recorded that one old cowman named H. H. Allen purchased from the Indians

in 1882 a ranch near the present Platt National Park. He said that he first visited the famed springs in 1848 and 1849. He found the region quite undeveloped. He stated, (Sulphur-Times Democrat November 18, 1909):

"That was about ten years after the Indians had emigrated here from Mississippi. Where your pavilion springs now are was a perfect loblolly of mud and water. This was a favorite place for great herds of buffalo that roamed over the rocky hills and valleys at that time. They would coat their furry hides with a plaster of mud in order to free themselves from insect pests. After completely plastering themselves with mud, the buffalo would stand around the wallows and sip up the water, so I presume this is how the springs came to be called "Buffalo Suck". During my first visit to the springs I shot buffalo on the hills south of the pavilion. Deer, antelope, and wild turkey were to be seen in great herds and flocks. The Indians were quite a different people from what they are now; they knew much less of white men's ways."

In 1885 Dan Carr, a settler from Alabama, hearing of the vast opportunities to be found in new lands west of the Mississippi, came west until he reached the Indian country. Crossing the present park region, he found it to be the site for the headquarters of the old Froman Ranch. The only white man in the country at that time lived ten miles to the north. This ranch house was located near the present Hillside Springs and just across the street south of the Pavilion Springs. This location was supposed to have been marked by a "bench stone" placed by the government surveyors at the time they surveyed the region.

The old Froman Ranch was first established by a man named

Noah Lael, a mail carrier on the route from Gainesville, Texas, to Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory. In 1872 he came to Mill Creek, Indian Territory, which is just a few miles south and east of the present park. He secured the contract for shoeing horses for the El Paso Overland Stage Company. In a few years he had acquired what was then considered a nice fortune.

The Mill Creek stage stand was located at the home of Cyrus Harris, Governor of the Chickasaws. After a time Lael married one of Governor Harris's daughters and in 1878 moved to Sulphur Springs. Here he established a cattle ranch, which was the beginning of the settlement at the Springs. (Chronicles of Oklahoma, ^March 1926, Annual Report of Czarina C. Conlan, Supervisor Indian Department). In this report she states as follows:

"Mr. Lael thought Miss Lucy Harris the most attractive of the daughters of the Governor. It was his good fortune to woo and win her as his wife. So they were married in 1878, when she was just past sixteen. At that time, when a white man married a girl of the Chickasaw or Choctaw Tribe, he became one of them, and was accorded the same privileges. In those early days any Indian could take up a claim which was not used and have every right to it except the right of giving deeds."

There on a prominent hill, he built a four room house, his first home. Then he went to Texas and bought three hundred head of cattle. When the cattle were located on the ranch he took his young wife to the new home. This was the beginning of the settlement of the place now known as Sulphur Springs.

Perry Froman, another intermarried citizen, who had married a Chickasaw widow, Mrs. Lovina Colbert Pitchlynn, bought this ranch from Noah Lael in 1882. The bill of sale is as follows:

"Know all men by these presents that we, Noah Lael and Lucy Lael of Tishomingo County Chickasaw Nation, do this day bargain, sell and convey to Perry Froman a certain place lying on Rock Creek, Tishomingo County; known as the Noah Lael "Sulphur Springs Place" and all the improvements belonging to said place, for the consideration of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars in hand paid, the receipt hereby acknowledged. We do hereby warrant and defend the title of said place to Perry Froman, his heirs and legal representatives forever.

"Given under our hand and seal this 26th day of September, A.D., 1882,

NOAH LAEL
LUCY LAEL"

The number of acres involved was not specified in the conveyance, but it was said to be four miles square.

Perry Froman went into the cattle business on a very large scale as at times he handled as many as fifteen thousand head a season. He continued to hold the ranch place until the allotment of the Chickasaw and Choctaw lands was made.

During the War Between The States (1861 - 1865), the Five Civilized Tribes joined the South and waged war against the United States. As a result, when the war was over they were told that their treaties with the United States were no longer in force since they, themselves, had broken the treaties by joining the South and fighting against the United States. They were told that

they must make new treaties, the terms of which would be set by the United States.

In April 1866 the Choctaws and Chickasaws signed a single treaty with the United States. In this treaty, made jointly by the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes, they agreed to free their slaves and to give each slave forty acres of land. (Later this agreement was refuted by the Chickasaws). They were also to grant rights-of-way to railroads and give up the other lands, as a home for Indians from the Western Plains country.

With the close of the war the country of the Five Civilized Tribes was in a very desolate condition. Even though the Indians still retained their tribal government and lands, they had no funds, no taxes to pay the expenses of their government, except the interest on the funds derived from the sale of their western lands to the United States. To offset the lack of funds, the Chickasaws began to lease lands to the cattlemen coming in from Texas, issue permits to white men to live in the Indian country and to operate a business. This was the start of the breaking down of their control of the tribal lands. This, plus the establishment of railroads which brought many white people into the country, further increased the pressure to eliminate the Indians' control of their lands.

The first railroad down through the country was the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway, which was built across the

Indian Territory from Missouri to Texas in 1873. The next railroad that further increased the Indians' problem by bringing more white people to Indian country was the extension of the Santa Fe across Oklahoma at the time of the Opening in 1889. Later the Santa Fe continued south across the Chickasaw Nation to Gainesville, Texas. They established a depot at the town of Davis, some nine miles west of the park.

No white person living in the Chickasaw Nation had any real rights. He could be forced to move at any time, he couldn't hold office in the government of the Chickasaw Indians unless he had intermarried with members of the tribe. Many white people came into the Territory even though they were not wanted by the Indians, and eventually they established themselves by making friends with the Indians, and in spite of anything the tribal officers could do they would not leave.

With the further development of Oklahoma, the white settlers began to clamor for statehood. Finally, the United States government passed the Organic Act of 1890 which established the Oklahoma Territory, including all lands not controlled by the Five Civilized Tribes. Shortly thereafter, the white settlers of the Oklahoma Territory began to demand statehood. Some wanted to make two states out of the territory, one to be from the Territory of Oklahoma and the other the Indian Territory. Others wanted to join the two and make one state. It seemed that the general opinion of Congress at that time was to join the Oklahoma and Indian Territories and make one state. They felt that the Indians

were not ready for statehood.

The Five Civilized Tribes still resented the government's attempt to take over their lands, as their first treaties with the United States guaranteed the Indians their own government and provided that they should never be included within the limits of any state. They even kept men in Washington to work against any bill which might be proposed that would change these conditions and interfere with their government or tribal lands system. In time, however, far more white people were living in the Indian Territory and holding permits than there were Indians. The government then tried to get the Five Civilized Tribes to sell the unused lands to the white people, but the Indians still adhered to their treaty rights.

In 1893 an Act of Congress provided for the appointment of a commission of three members to discuss with the Five Civilized Tribes the matter of giving up their tribal government and to secure their consent to change their affairs so that the Indian Territory could be prepared for statehood. This commission was called the Dawes Commission. For two years the commission made no progress, until finally in 1895 they reported to the government that the tribal governments were all in bad shape and that the former treaties should not be considered as binding under conditions such as existed in the Indian Territory.

In 1896 the Dawes Commission was directed to make up

tribal rolls, to enroll the Indians of the tribes. This would furnish a record of the names of all Indians who should rightfully share in the tribal lands. Soon the Indians realized that they could not stop the work of the Dawes Commission and they might as well give up the struggle against this new form of government for the Indian Territory.

The Atoka Agreement, made on April 23, 1897, took care of the allotment of the lands for the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Then in June, 1898, the Curtis Act was passed by the government and signed by the President. This act provided that all Indian tribal courts would cease and that all cases arising in the Indian Territory would be tried in United States courts. Tribal laws were abolished. The Dawes Commission was ordered to continue their work. Lands where minerals were known to be were not allotted, but reserved to the tribe as a whole. Townsites were reserved for future selling of town lots, towns were incorporated. Both Indians and white people were allowed to vote in all city elections and by 1900 the United States was in almost complete control of the Indian Territory.

In the Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for 1901, the Secretary makes mention of appointing a townsite commission to work in the Indian country. Members of this commission who were to handle the Chickasaws' interest were Samuel N. Johnson, Troy, Kansas, and Wesley Burney, Ardmore, Indian Territory.

This act of May 31, 1900 (31st Stat. 221) authorized the Secretary of the Interior under rules and regulations provided by him to survey, lay out and plat into town lots, streets, alleys, and parks, the sites of such towns and villages in the Chickasaw Nation which had a population of 200 or more. Therefore, between July 13, 1900 and March 22, 1901, the exterior limits of the town of Sulphur were established which at that time included the present park area around the springs.

Eventually the Frisco Railway and the Santa Fe extended their lines to Sulphur Springs; however, the first railroad that tried to establish connections to Sulphur Springs was known as the Sulphur Springs Railway Company. They were granted authority on October 11, 1900, by the Secretary of the Interior to locate and survey a line between Hickory and Davis via Sulphur Springs, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, provided the company would relinquish any right it might have acquired in its articles of incorporation in the matter of establishing electric light plants. The railroad company agreed to this. On February 8, 1901, the railroad company transmitted to the Department of the Interior maps of definite location along two sections, showing the survey of road from Hickory to Davis. The Department returned, approved, under act of March 2, 1899, the map showing the survey of the section from HICKORY to Sulphur Springs, and disapproved the map showing the survey from Sulphur Springs to Davis. The Secretary's

Office assigned Special Agent Taggart to appraise the damage done as a result of the survey in locating the line from Hickory to Sulphur Springs. The total amount awarded the Chickasaws for damage resulting from the survey was \$881.46.

II. The National Park Movement Covering the Subject Area

A. Establishment of the Park

The original movement to establish the area as a National Park can probably be attributed to the Indians themselves. The movement must have been started during the period just prior to the final allotment of the Indian lands.

With the allotment of the Indian lands from tribal ownership to individual ownership and the Secretary of the Interior having the authority to reserve certain sections for townsites, the Indians must have felt they would not be able to use the springs. Also, the settlement of the town of Sulphur Springs was getting well established by 1900. It was a thriving little settlement located around the principal springs, and apparently some commercial use of the waters was being made.

This area had been the Indians' summer camping and hunting grounds long before the white man had moved in. These springs were their "cure all" for many diseases. From the Indians the white man learned of their medicinal uses. During July and August, some of the most prominent families of the Chickasaw and Choctaw

Tribes might be found camping for a week or more around the springs. Therefore, the Indians wishing to preserve these springs for all time for the use of their tribes, entered into a treaty with the United States, which would cede to the United States lands to include some thirty different springs. The reservation was not to exceed 640 acres and was to be selected under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, within four months after the final ratification of the treaty. It was to be held, owned and controlled by the United States without any restriction except that no part should be disposed of for townsite purposes during the existence of the two tribal governments.

It is possible that the idea for making the area a National Park could have originated with some representatives of the Government. As Platt was one of the first National Parks created, it is quite possible that the United States Government was interested in creating a National Park to serve the central part of the United States to provide recreation and to make available the benefits of the springs for the multitude of the middle classes who could not afford the cost of traveling to the more distant western parks.

The late Dr. Charles N. Gould was the first geologist employed by the Territory of Oklahoma and he was also the first to teach geology at the University of Oklahoma, and was Regional Geologist, Region Three, of the National Park Service. He wrote

an article for the Chronicles of Oklahoma, June 1932, entitled "Beginning of the Geological Work in Oklahoma", in which he referred to a trip he made, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, to the area now known as Platt National Park. There follows an excerpt from that article:

"It was during this summer (1901) that the preliminary surveys were made looking toward the setting apart of certain tracts of land near Sulphur as the Platte National Park. (He meant Sulphur Springs Reservation.) Acting under an order from the Secretary of the Interior Mr. Taff and I visited the region and spent a week riding horseback over the country. We visited the mineral springs and studied general conditions. The report which was made recommending the establishment of a national park at this place was acted upon favorably by Congress and a park was established."

The Act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stat. 641, 655), was an Act to ratify and confirm the agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes for turning the land over to the Government. The agreement for the land was made by the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, with the Commission's representing the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. The selection of the land was under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

There follow excerpts from report of Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903, Sulphur Springs Reservation:

"By the provisions of Section 64 of the Act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stat. L., 641), confirming the agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, there was ceded by said tribes to the United States a tract or tracts of land in the vicinity of the village of Sulphur

"in the Chickasaw Nation, not exceeding 640 acres, to be selected under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior within four months after the final ratification of said agreement (which was September 25, 1902) to embrace all of the natural springs in and about said village, and so much of Sulphur Creek, Buckhorn Creek, and the lands adjacent to said natural springs and creeks as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Interior for the proper utilization and control of said springs and waters of said creeks, said lands to be selected so as to cause the least interference with the contemplated townsite at that place consistent with the purposes for which said cession was made, and when selected and ceded the lands were to be held, owned and controlled by the United States absolutely and without any restriction, save that no part thereof should be platted or disposed of for townsite purposes during the existence of the two tribal governments.

* * * * *

On November 19, 1902, there were selected and reserved for said reservation 629.33 acres. On the same date action was taken looking to the appraisements of the improvements on said segregated lands. No specific appropriation was made in said section for carrying out its provision except as to payment for the land, but on October 9, 1902, the Comptroller of the Treasury, upon the request of the Department, rendered an opinion holding that payment for improvements owned by persons at the date of the ratification of the act might be paid for out of the funds of the United States in the Treasury not otherwise provided for. The improvements were appraised at \$87,462.85.

* * * * *

On January 15, 1903, the Department requested the Secretary of the Treasury to place to the credit of said tribes \$12,586.60, of which the Chickasaws were entitled to \$3,146.65 and the Choctaws \$9,439.95.

* * * * *

A special Indian Inspector has been appointed and detailed to care for and protect the reservation, and to secure payment of rentals under temporary leases with the occupants under rules prescribed by the Secretary."

The Indian Inspector assigned to carry out the instructions

of the Secretary was a man named Frank C. Churchill. Soon after arriving in the Reservation, in order to carry out the Department's instructions, he issued the following notice:

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. RESERVATION, Sulphur, Ind. T. August 1, 1903. Sir: I am authorized and directed by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior to notify in writing all parties concerned, that upon delivery of warrants in payment for improvements, former owners of the property will be allowed ten days from such time of payment, to remove, until arrangements are made with the Department, by lease or otherwise, to occupy such property temporarily; that the Department considers when payment for improvements in any case is made, that will be sufficient notice to such occupants that the government has acquired title to the improvements and that any one who neglects or refuses to obey the notice will be considered a trespasser. All persons interested will please take notice. Very Respectfully, SGD Frank C. Churchill, U. S. Indian INSPECTOR."

This was the first purchase and movement of the town off the land selected to be made a park. The amount of land selected under the Act of July 1, 1902, was 629.33 acres.

Apparently a controversy came up as to how much land should be included in the new townsite of Sulphur and some felt more land was needed to protect the springs. The Secretary made a trip to the Reservation to inspect the area. When he approved the exterior limits for the town of Sulphur on October 30, 1903, he excluded an additional tract of land north of the land first selected on July 1, 1902. This additional tract of land included that portion of Rock Creek, which now extends north of Broadway in the present town of Sulphur. The Secretary then requested the

Geological Survey to make a study of the lands to see if any or all of the land excluded from the townsite was necessary to preserve the springs and waters from pollution.

Meanwhile the town of Sulphur was being moved from the location of the first purchase of land. It became a town on wheels overnight. Most of the town moved to the section of land excluded from the townsite, but reserved by the Secretary for future addition to the park. This land was also reserved from allotment to the members of the Indian tribes.

Residences, cafes, grocery stores, dance pavilions, Post Office, and hotels were moved to lots selected in the new town location. One large \$50,000 hotel was dismantled and moved. Soon a new thriving town sprang up. Many of the houses were new and a few were made of brick.

It apparently took about a year for the Geological Survey to complete their studies on the additional land that the Secretary felt was necessary to provide adequate protection and sanitation of the springs and water. These surveys were conducted by Gerald H. Matthes and he prepared a report for F. H. Newel, Chief Engineer of the United States Geological Survey. The date of this report was December 27, 1904. He also submitted a list with this report outlining the existing lands by a yellow line. (This report and a copy of the map is apparently filed in the office of the Secretary of the Interior.

Then special authority was included in the Indian Department Appropriation Act of April 21, 1904 (33 Stat., 220) for the purchase of additional land. The right to acquire this land however, was given under the original agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in the Act of July 1, 1902. This land was purchased in the same manner that the early tract was, except \$60.00 was given per acre instead of \$20.00 as in the former purchase. Likewise, all improvements were appraised and paid for. 218.89 acres were added to the park, bringing the total acreage of Sulphur Springs Reservation up to 848.32 acres. Also, this new addition included the maximum part of the new town of Sulphur, and again part of it had to move. A list of the structures offered for sale on the reservation in the 1902 and 1904 acquisition forms Appendix D.

On June 29, 1906, a joint resolution was passed by Congress (34th Stat., 837) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to change the name of Sulphur Springs Reservation in Indian Territory to Platt National Park in honor of Orville Hitchcock Platt, deceased senator from Connecticut. For 26 years he had served Connecticut in the Senate and for many years had been a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs. It is said that no other member of Congress knew as much about the Indians as he. No other was so familiar with their lives and legends. It was he who learned from the Indians of the great purported curative powers of the springs

and from them he learned of possibility that these springs would become private property and that the water would be commercialized when Oklahoma became a state. It is stated that to prevent this, it was he who secured the creation of the Sulphur Springs Reservation. The naming of the park for him was made in recognition of his distinguished service to the Indians and the world at large. The area then became known as Platt National Park and was the seventh in chronological order of establishment of all the parks administered by the U. S. Government.

Following is the joint resolution of June 29, 1906 (34th Stat. 837) taken from the laws related to Platt National Park printed 1908:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to change the name of the Sulphur Springs Reservation, an Indian Reservation now in the State of Oklahoma, formerly in the Indian Territory, so that said reservation shall be named and hereafter called the "Platt National Park" in honor of Orville Hitchcock Platt, late and for twenty six years a Senator from the State of Connecticut and for many years a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, in recognition of his distinguished service to the Indians and to the country."

Exclusive federal jurisdiction over the area was recognized by the State of Oklahoma when they adopted their constitution on July 16, 1907. Article I, Section 3, of this constitution provided for the government to retain jurisdiction, which was exclusive control and jurisdiction over the land.

B. Popular Attitude Toward the Park Movement

At the time the old town of Sulphur was being moved from the park to the new location the residents of the town began to disagree among themselves over the new town's best location. Some wished to settle on the hills to the east. Others thought the region to the west would be more desirable and still others wished to remain in the old residential part of the old town to the south. This disagreement lasted for many years. As a result the people settled in widely scattered directions around the park boundary and this condition still exists today. No doubt during this disrupted period from 1902 to 1904 many people were dissatisfied with the government's administration of the area and the way the movement was handled, but little is recorded in our files or can be located referring to the disagreement except a few newspaper items such as the following:

"The Sulphur Journal, Sulphur, Ind. Ter., Friday, April 8, 1904

THE GOVERNMENT BUYS "RED SPOT"

The people are satisfied however, realizing that the Government will treat them justly, and that it ends the townsite fight. Will expend about \$1,000,000 for lots and improvements."

"Washington, D. C., April 7, 1904. Honorable D. J. Kendall, Sulphur, I. T., Amendment changed and you are paid for lots and improvements. John H. Stephens."

"The above is a copy of a telegram received here late last evening and the following is the change in the amendment to the Indian Appropriation bill as it affects Sulphur referred to in the above telegram:

"Should the Conference Committee adopt the bill extending the Sulphur reservation, then strike out the clause 'legally placed there' and make the bill provide payment

"for all improvements made prior to October 20, 1903, and those under actual construction at that time and have since been completed.

"Second - That payment for all lots in said additional reservation be made to the owners at their actual value under occa----- said October 20, 190----- of three ----- by the Secretary of the Interior, one by the Go----- ickasaw Nation and the third by the Mayor of said town -----ur".

"The taking of the 'Red Spot' will make the government's investment in Sulphur about \$1,000,000 and the future lawmakers of the United States are in duty bound to make appropriations, from time to time, commensurate to the investment, and, looking at it in the right way, it is the best thing that could have happened for the good of the town, for 90 percent of the money the government will invest will remain here and it will bring 100 percent more people to invest and become permanent residents than would have come had conditions remained the same as heretofore."

Another article that appeared in the Sulphur Democrat, Sulphur, Oklahoma, July 31, 1913, nine years after the movement of the town from the park. A statement made by Representative Claude Weaver in which Representative Weaver introduced a bill into the House which would increase the compensation to those people who had sold their property to the government when the park was created. The article states as follows:

"Representative Claude Weaver has just introduced his first bill in the House which, if passed, will cause the government to grant delayed justice to the property holders in the old town of Sulphur, who, it is delcared lost heavily when the government seized their holdings in 1904 when the Platt National Park was created. At this time the residents of old Sulphur were forced to move without the boundaries of the park reservation, and the appraisers priced the value of their property far below what it was actually worth. Representative Weaver's

"bill would permit all those who suffered losses to make proof of the value of their property at the time of the acquisition of the park in the Court of Claims and it is thought that the government will be forced to pay many thousands of dollars more than it actually did to the citizens affected by the property condemnation."

Even though there is evidence of considerable dissatisfaction in those early days, throughout the years it is evident that the people have been proud that the area was made a national park. In their Chamber of Commerce (which was known as the Commercial Club in those days) literature they quoted in their publication 3½ years after the town had moved out of the park, the following:

"The city takes its name from the famous sulphur springs which are located within the Platt National Park, and while these medicinal waters contain no sulphur in the solid form, they are known as sulphur springs. In order to impress upon the minds of one unacquainted with the medicinal qualities of these waters, it is only necessary to refer them to the fact that the United States government has spent half a million dollars merely to possess or own these springs and this was done on the bare analysis made by a chemist sent from Washington City to make the analysis. The wonderful cures that have been recorded here of such diseases as nervous breakdown, stomach and kidney trouble, and rheumatism, it is sufficient indication of their wonderful medicinal qualities".

Further evidence down through the years that the park is supported by the people is that on three different occasions, in 1913, 1925 and again in 1933, recommendations have been made by the Secretary of the Interior that the park be given to the state and made into a state park. Regardless of these recommendations, the people have secured popular support and it has been continued in the National Park System. For instance, in the Sulphur Times

Democrat, dated February 27, 1913, the following article appears:

"OUR PARK IS SAVED

"The flurry over the fear of the loss of Platt National Park caused by the paragraph that passed the House providing that the United States cede the park to the State of Oklahoma, is now a thing of the past. When the bill reached the Senate Tuesday, Senator Owen raised a point of order which was sustained, knocking out the clause, thus saving our park.

"Senator Owen is considered a hero in the Senate by the citizens of Sulphur and his popularity is greater today than ever before."

Even today people would vigorously oppose any measure to eliminate or change Platt as a national park. The people are vitally interested in park development, operation, and maintenance even though they might not understand Park Service policies.

III. History of the Area as a National Park

There is not much recorded on the early days under the headings of early transportation, accommodations, guide and other visitor services and visitation, and Platt, being located near a town, did not establish concessions in the park. However, the first year or so while the town was being moved off the park, businesses did operate under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. In 1908 three licenses were granted, one for a refreshment stand to W. O. Bourland, and to photographic privileges. In 1910 the Department tried to make every effort to secure proposals for certain privileges in the park for the convenience of the public. This was not successful. At the time they had in

mind such concessions as rowboats on Rock Creek, refreshment stands which would include the sale of cigars, daily papers, photographs, and for the commercial shipment of the Black Sulphur water. The first automobile permits were issued in 1910. This was for taxi service through the park and seven such permits were issued, five were two-seated cars and two were three-seated cars. Permits were issued to water livestock and for grazing. During early days, special regulations were issued to provide for the control and use of waters from the springs. No person was permitted to remove more than one gallon of water at a time from the Bromide Springs due to the small flow of water and because of its medicinal value. No water was to be used for commercial purposes except as that strictly authorized by the Secretary of the Interior. The practice of issuing permits for such types of concessions lasted for several years, but after the establishment of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916, all such permits were eventually eliminated.

The first superintendent was an Indian Service Inspector named Frank C. Churchill. One of his first actions was to remove part of a cotton gin on the bank of Rock Creek. On September 16, 1903, Mr. Churchill was relieved by Indian Service Inspector Joseph F. Swords, who served in this capacity as an Inspector for a short time and then was made superintendent.

The first report recording the volume of flow from the springs was made in 1908. It gives the following:

Bromide Springs	275 gallons per day
Bromide Sulphur Springs	250 gallons per day
Black Sulphur Springs	500 gallons per day
Hillside Springs	129,600 gallons per day
Pavilion Springs	200,000 gallons per day
Beach Springs (Now Black Sulphur)	125,000 gallons per day

The several offices in the park were connected by telephone and West Central Park, now known as Flower Park, was wired for electric lights. Besides the main office, there were in 1908, five residences, five pavilions, and ten rest houses.

For a good many years appropriations for the maintenance and upkeep of Platt were very limited and very little money was provided for its development. Total appropriation for the park in 1908 was \$5,780.00. The money that year was spent as follows: Springs and creeks, \$1,057.54; bridges, \$1,213.58; survey for sewer, \$761.90; domestic water \$774.09; building repairs, \$590.00; mowing weeds, building trails, etc., \$429.89; miscellaneous, \$607.07; total, \$5,334.94.

As the park was located in range country and not fenced, one of the major early day problems was the control of the cattle being driven through the park and to prevent stray cattlemen from utilizing park lands for grazing. In 1907, approximately 6,000 head of cattle were driven through the park in day time hours.

In the summertime many more were driven through at night due to the heat. The stockmen resented any effort on the part of the government to prevent their grazing, and it is recorded that over 11,000 head were driven off park lands. To prevent this grazing trespass a barbed wire fence was constructed at a cost of \$2,500 which temporarily alleviated the problem.

Central Park, now Flower Park, the region just north of the Lincoln Bridge and east of the Vendome, was being used as a meeting place for all public gatherings, conventions, ex-Confederate Soldier meetings, and summer Chautauquas. The Interior Department was even petitioned by the National Chautauquas to build a large steel auditorium for convention purposes, but the request was never granted.

By now the town was getting pretty well established adjacent to the park and was being given considerable publicity as a summer resort. Many people from Texas were coming in and building summer homes in the town.

The last of the buildings constituting the old town of Sulphur, the Bland Hotel, was torn down and removed during April, 1908.

Outside interests were also making plans to build an interurban line from Chickasha to Sulphur if the new town of Sulphur would guarantee a bonus of \$50,000 and grant a streetcar franchise with interurban privileges. The project was to be completed on

or before September 1, 1910. Stock in the company was sold and attempts were made to raise money. The roadbed was even constructed between Sulphur and Davis and today remains of this old roadbed can still be seen along the highway. This wild scheme failed financially and it became the idle fantasy of a bankrupt company with impractical dreams and little financial backing.

1908 seemed to be a year of proposals and failures. The government considered changing the directing of the park over to the Smithsonian Institution, but a mass meeting of the citizens, who felt that the Interior Department could develop it better, decided against this, and persuaded the Department to keep the park. Next the Interior Department proposed the building of a 100-foot street and boulevard all the way around the park. Since it would come within the city limits of the new town and would have to be financed by the city, already financially poor, this proposal was not accepted.

The most important improvement during 1908 was the construction of a wire-suspension bridge across the creek to Bromide Springs. This bridge was designed by a consulting Engineer H. B. Huckley of the Interior Department and was constructed at a cost of approximately \$700, during the administration of Superintendent Colonel Green. This bridge apparently exceeded the expectations of the designer as it carried an average of 500 people daily. The construction and use of this bridge must have been unique as it

was described in an illustrated article appearing in an issue of the Scientific American in 1908. Many inquiries were received regarding this bridge and one was received from London, England. The bridge was washed away in a flood in the early part of January, 1916. It was then replaced by a steel arch suspension bridge at an approximate cost of \$3,600. The steel arch bridge remained in use until the present Bromide Spring Pavilion was constructed by the CCC. At that time the water from the Bromide springs was piped to the new pavilion on the north side of Rock Creek. The Grand Army of the Republic held its reunion in the park on September 16, 1908.

Records indicate that people were registered, in a fashion, prior to 1908, but the oldest record we have of visitors being registered in the campgrounds started on April 15, 1908. The man's name was Frank Bledsoe of Duncan, Oklahoma. He was a farmer and came to Sulphur by train. The next party was Mr. J. P. Ables, his mother, sister, and four children from Haleyville, Oklahoma. The party visited the park on May 20, 1908, and came by wagon. During 1908, 106,332 people visited the park and of these 1,000 were campers. This was quite an increase over the 1907 year when 25,000 visitors came to the park. However, in 1907, 3,000 campers came by wagon.

By now the new city of Sulphur had reached a population of approximately 3,500 people and the question of their water

supply became paramount. In 1903, General Mathes, a United States Geological Survey Engineer, had recommended that the town of Sulphur be permitted to divert water from Antelope and Buffalo Springs for their water system. He was governed in this recommendation by the fact that when the area was set aside as a park, he felt that the government had deprived the future city of Sulphur of its main source of water, and that its use should be restored insofar as it would not interfere with the use by the government or mar the beauty of the streams. The Interior Department in 1905 sent a Mr. N. C. Grover of the United States Hydrographic Survey to make a study of their water problems. He recommended that the town construct two reservoirs, one at each of the springs. It was estimated that the reservoirs would cost approximately \$2,500. He felt that since the springs flowed at approximately five million gallons of water daily and was about 98 percent pure, enough could be taken from the springs for the city without depriving the park of any necessary water. This plan apparently was impractical and was abandoned.

In 1907 the city of Sulphur was granted temporary permission to take water from the creek just below Little Niagara Falls. The permit was for 100,000 gallons of water daily. The city was to construct the reservoir outside the park, but the city was financially unable to build the reservoir. However, this plan was adopted a few years later and Sulphur obtained its supply of water

from Travertine Creek, then called Sulphur Creek, until 1920. The city then began to drill its own wells and now has its own source of water from deep wells. The Park Service now purchases its water from the City.

In 1907 the name of the creek flowing through the park from Buffalo and Antelope Springs was changed from Sulphur Creek to Travertine Creek. The change was approved by the U. S. Board of Geographical Names because of deposits of soft limestone known as travertine, caused by the water running over them.

Because of the growing importance of increased attendance in Platt National Park, the Interior Department felt that certain rules and regulations should be issued pertaining to the operation and protection of the area. Therefore, on June 10, 1908, the first rules and regulations were issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

It was during the fiscal year 1907-08 that Superintendent Green recommended to Congress that money be set aside for construction of a building near the superintendent's office to be used as a jail house, that an electric line be constructed and operated by water power from the springs, that a fish hatchery be created, that the government employ a scientific forester for the reforestation of the denuded parts of the park and that a summer camp be established for a squadron of cavalry from Ft. Sill. On June 3, 1909, Colonel A. R. Green resigned to live in Washington and was succeeded by Will French.

The summer of 1909 was an unusually hot and dry one all over the country. Many people suffered from the heat and the drouth and cities such as Dallas and Oklahoma City were faced with a water famine. This hot and dry weather apparently had not affected the springs and creeks in the park. The city of Sulphur sent out an offer to furnish water free on board the railroad cars to the needy cities. They estimated that they could ship from the immediate vicinity ten million gallons of water over the railroad lines serving Sulphur. Before the plan was carried out fall rains started and alleviated the situation. This might have been the beginning of the period when water was started to be shipped out of the park. Records show that it was shipped as far east as Pennsylvania and this practice continued for many years.

In July of 1909 Governor Haskell visited the park. He was the first Governor of Oklahoma and made his first official visit to the park just eighteen months after Oklahoma had been made a state. A large reception was held for him in Flower Park.

During these early years government appropriations were very low. They averaged some \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year for the operation, maintenance, and construction work in the park. Very little reforestation or landscaping was carried on. Apparently to meet expenditures, part of the park was fenced and rented out as grazing lands to the neighboring ranches. Alfalfa and oat hay were raised in the park, sometimes sold and sometimes kept for the

park's own use. In addition, corn was raised. This practice continued until Stephen T. Mather, Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior at the time, visited the park. His main recommendations during his visit were that grazing be eliminated and all entrances to Platt be closed except two or three, and that these be beautified and maintained in better form. He recommended also that more land be purchased to square up the boundaries of the park but this was never acted upon by the government.

One new spring was discovered near the Bromide Mountain by Superintendent William J. French. This spring contained elements different from any other in the park and it was named Medicine because of its purported medicinal value. Today it is piped to the Bromide Pavilion and flows from fountains beside those of the Bromide and Sulphur waters. In the Bromide Pavilion four different kinds of water can be had by the visitor.

The first record of the springs going dry was in 1911. In March, 1911, Antelope Springs went dry and Buffalo Springs became dry in June. All creeks in the park were dry; the city had to tap the sulphur wells for its water supply. By April, 1912, Buffalo began to flow, but only a small amount and on April 28, 1912 Antelope began to flow. However, they stopped on September 18, and did not start to flow again until November, 1913. The Indians say they were dry in 1888, 1891 and 1896. Since 1913 these springs have been dry several times. They were dry from February, 1918

to March 1919; April, 1927 to August 1927; September, 1938 to July 1940; and December, 1951 to April 22, 1952. The old Indians have a theory that Buffalo and Antelope Springs were supplied by a subterranean branch of the South Canadian River. Their reason for this deduction is that every time the water in the South Canadian River went dry the springs dried up likewise.

The appropriations for the care and maintenance of the park for 1912 was increased to \$10,000 and many improvements were made. The more important springs were walled up and cement walks installed to them. 4,466 square feet of cement walks were laid and a cement stairway built up the slope near Bromide Springs. Sixty young trees were planted. In the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Bureau of Indian Affairs approved August 24, 1912, provisions were made for the construction of a sanitary sewer system in the park. \$17,500 was set aside, the money to be made available when a like amount of money was appropriated by the city of Sulphur. All money was to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

In 1913 Congress failed to pass any appropriations for the park. On July 1, 1913, during the height of the summer season, all work was suspended and this lasted until October 25, when an emergency bill of \$8,000 was passed by Congress. Reports were circulated that the government had abandoned the park. When the emergency appropriation was received, this quieted all rumors.

The City of Sulphur matched the government's funds and the sanitary sewer system was constructed through the park in the spring and summer of 1913. This was the first sanitary sewer system for the park and the town. The sewer system was constructed by contract and was supervised by Interior Department Engineer Mr. E. A. Keys. The total cost was \$20,238.13, which was paid for jointly by the Federal Government and the city. The total main line of the sewer through the park was 7,900 feet and it had four branch lines of approximately 4,700 feet. The construction of this sewer system involved two siphons, one under Rock Creek on the main line, and one on the branch line to the park buildings, running under Travertine Creek. The system was to serve a maximum of 16,000 people. These two siphons are still in operation today.

An area adjacent to Cold Springs was cleared and a picnic area established with benches and tables. This area is now used as the Cold Springs Campground. 108 shade trees were planted in East Central Park (now Flower Park), West Central Park, and along the Buckhorn Road (now part of Highway 18).

It was during the year 1913 that one of the greatest needs was a new administration building. The first one had been an old building constructed by two Germans as a summer camp. Superintendent William J. French reported it had been so loosely put together that rodents and snakes inhabited the walls, rats stocked them with winter provisions, and on damp days the odor was offensive. A prop held the chimney in place. The mice built nests

in the desk drawers, using office supplies to build them with. Superintendent French did not get the new building.

The office was then moved to the present stone building. It appears it was erected about 1894, by a Graves Leeper, who used it as a family residence while he managed an adjoining lumber yard. It also appears that Leeper rented the property to a Jack Wright, another pioneer of Oklahoma, who used it as a residence until it was used for Federal Court Commission Meetings. Numerous Indian land claims were settled in this old building, and when court was not in session, it became a school house and a community center. When the Sulphur Springs Reservation was established in 1902, the building was owned and occupied by George H. Schevireing, and shared the fate of all buildings within the Reservation - it was to be condemned. However, in 1903 the government leased the property back to the same Sshevireing who used it as a hardware store until his lease was terminated in 1904. In 1904, it became the office of the park superintendent.

It was used this way for nearly thirty years when it was remodeled by CCC funds, and a wing of the same type of native stone was used. One has to look closely to detect the difference between the old and new parts. After the remodeling was completed it contained an office for the superintendent, a room for the clerk, a public room for visitors, and a large porch extending across its eastern side. The public room had an attractive fireplace, a file room and a museum of natural history pertaining to Platt.

In October, 1946 the museum and files were removed from the public room and it was converted into the Superintendent's office. The old superintendent's office was made the park central file room.

Several years passed with nothing of particular interest taking place so far as the park was concerned. Crowds came and went, some seasons were better than others with a tendency toward better weekend traffic than during week days. Increases in travel were noted during hot and dry summers. Word of the purported curative powers of the mineral waters spread and people visited the area in increasing numbers. Appropriations increased each year as demands grew greater and additional help was employed, but even with the increases in appropriations, through the years the administration was always handicapped by lack of sufficient finances, because of the increases in supplies, materials and wages. In 1906 the appropriation was \$5,000 and in 1952 had increased to \$61,778.46. This figure includes the roads and trails and rehabilitation allotments.

In May, 1933, one of the Civilian Conservation Camps was located in Platt National Park. It was removed from the park in the spring of 1940. During the seven years that the CCC camp was in operation, some 500,000 trees, shrubs, and vines were transplanted to reforest certain areas and to aid in restoring these areas to their original scenic beauty.

They examined and treated many trees in the park by tree surgery methods, made a detailed study of the plant life of the area, cleaned up the rubbish and driftwood from the creeks, deepened many of the old swimming holes and made them more useful for the public and did many routine maintenance projects which improved the service to the public. They assisted in the suppression and presuppression of fires. Some of the major projects accomplished by the CCC was construction of a trail from Buffalo and Antelope Springs in the eastern end of the park to Bromide Springs in the western end. This trail was five miles in length and followed the banks of the creek. It took three years to construct the trail. They landscaped Buffalo and Antelope Springs, constructed a new utility area, made additions to the administration building, comfort stations, reworked the campgrounds, installed 205 fireplaces and picnic tables, created many picnic sites throughout the area, many minor trails and walks, installed new signs and new park highway entrance markers. In fact, it was during the CCC days that the greatest strides were made toward the improvement and development of the park since it was established.

In this program of development years, the CCC was aided by the establishment of the Public Works and Civil Works Administration programs. Their main accomplishments were the construction of comfort stations, improvements to employees' residences

reconstruction of sewer lines, Black Sulphur causeway, construction and surfacing of Perimeter Drive, construction of a new bridge over Travertine Creek on what is now Highway 18 and assistance to the CCC in the trail construction program.

Shortly after the beginning of World War II all construction and development work was stopped in the park, the CCC camp was removed and Platt was reduced to maintenance operations only. Nothing new in the way of construction or development was accomplished until Rock Creek Campground was constructed. This was started in the fall of 1950 and completed in 1951. This is one of the most modern, up-to-date campgrounds in the Service.

IV. Events as a Unit of the National Park System

Platt was never under the jurisdiction of the Land Office or the War Department. However, during the time the town of Sulphur was being moved from the Reservation, it was under the control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. When Inspector Swords was designated Superintendent on July 1, 1904, supervision of the park was directly under the Secretary of the Interior. When the National Park Service was established in 1916 the park was then administered by the system.

A. Dedication Our records do not show that the area as a national park was ever dedicated or had any formal opening. Two dedication ceremonies were held. The first dedication ceremony was that of the rock arch foot bridge across Travertine Creek known

as Lincoln Bridge which was constructed in the fall of 1908 and was dedicated as Lincoln Bridge on February 12, 1909. This bridge cost \$3,985. Superintendent Green gave an oration on Lincoln and his personal reminiscences of him as a neighbor and friend. A Mrs. Lucy Bennett christened the bridge with a bottle of mineral water and her dress was made from material bought from Lincoln when he had a store in Salem, according to newspaper articles. Another structure was dedicated about this time. In 1909 the first steel bridge across Rock Creek on Davis Avenue (now Broadway) was dedicated. This bridge was dedicated on June 16, 1909, as the Washington Bridge. The bridge prior to this across Rock Creek (which divides east and west Sulphur) was an old wooden structure. Sometimes in high water boats had to be used by the traveling public between east and west Sulphur. This bridge cost \$7,380. The bridge had a roadway of reinforced concrete with a pavement of creosoted blocks on top. It was constructed so that it would carry the proposed interurban line that was to be brought to Sulphur. None of our records indicate what type of dedication ceremony was held. This bridge was more of a special benefit to the City of Sulphur than to the park.

B. Outstanding Celebrations, Calamities, etc.

In 1933 the first Easter Pageant was held in Platt National Park. It was held at the base of Bromide Hill and was sponsored by the Sulphur Junior Chamber of Commerce. The men responsible for the idea were Mr. Gene Cope and Mr. L. S. Nobles

of Sulphur. Both men are still living in Sulphur. Total expenditure for putting on the pageant was \$26.00 and an audience of 7,000 people viewed this spectacle. These men spearheaded production of the first three pageants and in 1937 the Junior Chamber of Commerce became responsible for the production. The last pageant was held in 1939. It drew some 20,000 people. The pageant was dropped later, apparently due to lack of a sponsor.

In 1937 the Chamber of Commerce of Sulphur held their Opening Day and Water Carnival in the park. Prior to this time it had been held in the city. This event was held in the park until the beginning of World War II.

To further gather facts in the way of celebrations would require a very detailed and exhaustive search. Our records are extremely limited here on special events affecting Platt.

Our records indicate that the first tornado that touched the park occurred in the spring of 1908. It passed through the west end of the park. No one was killed, but 30 or 40 trees were damaged. On May 4, 1914, a severe electric storm and tornado passed through the area, leveling the park barn. Lightning struck and killed the park mules. The most damaging tornado affecting the park occurred on March 13, 1922. The tornado formed in the area south of Bromide Hill, and did most of its damage by uprooting trees in the Rock Creek area. In the town of Sulphur two persons were killed and 34 injured, and much property damage resulted. If any other tornadoes have hit the area, they have not been recorded. A slight one occurred July 14, 1952, in the vicinity

of Antelope Springs and Cold Springs Campground, damaging approximately 30 to 35 trees and slightly injuring a park visitor.

At approximately 12 midnight January 21, 1916, the greatest overflow of Travertine and Rock Creek occurred. The flood completely devastated that portion of the park along the bank of the two streams. It destroyed the road to Bromide Springs, the Bromide bridge, damaged the Washington and Lincoln Bridges, some 8,500 feet of fence, destroyed the Bromide Springs Pavilion, and the residence of the watchman was washed away. The Deficiency Act of March 31, 1916, carried an appropriation of \$10,000 to repair the roads, bridges, etc. damaged by the flood. It was first thought that the heavy snow, rain and sleet had caused the flood, but later investigation showed that the old interurban roadbed which was built across Rock Creek just north of Sulphur in 1910 had softened under the melting snow and rain and the volume of water which had banked up behind it caused it to give way, permitting a large volume of water to rush down the creek.

In May, 1953 a damaging flood caused more than \$11,000 in damage to the park. Heavy rains falling on the watershed of Rock Creek on the 11th and 12th created more runoff than the creek could handle. A considerable portion of Sulphur along the creek was under water. At 11:30 A.M. on the 12th the crest of the flood arrived pouring up to 3 feet of water through Pavilion Springs and completely flooding the Bromide Pavilion. Roads were severely

damaged and vast amounts of debris had to be removed.

C. Principal Boundary Changes or Additions

Only one boundary change or addition to the park has been made since 1904. On March 6, 1942 the National Park Service, by condemnation suit, acquired 63.75 acres of land along the western boundary of the park. This is known as the Giles purchase. It cost the government \$2,490.63. The land was acquired for campground development.

D. Principal Physical Developments

Most items appearing under this topic have been mentioned elsewhere in this report. Early in the history of the park administration the idea of the development of an access road to the numerous springs was conceived. Little, however, was accomplished on this project except for narrow and dangerous roads until the beginning of the CCC program. Under this program the necessary surveys were completed and through the cooperation of the CCC and the National Park Service, the road was designed and completed. The road was one of the early and major projects of the CCC program at Platt. Preliminary work was started in 1933 and final black-topping completing the road was laid in October and November of 1939. Trails in the park were laid out and completed under the supervision of the CCC. The park's contribution toward the road was approximately \$70,000. The value of this road, including CCC participation, must be around \$500,000.

The next most important physical development of the park was the establishment of organized campgrounds. Camping was permitted in the park prior to the development during CCC days of organized campgrounds, at the tourists' choice. First development of the area now known as Cold Springs Campground was begun in 1913. It was first used as a picnic area and later became a camping site and was finally closed in 1936 and 1937 for the purpose of development into an organized campground along the plan designed by Dr. Meinecke. It thus became the first established permanent, organized campground in Platt National Park. Development of Central Campground took place soon after. Even after the development of these two campgrounds, visitation continued to increase and continued camping at the Bromide Springs area was permitted in order to handle the overload of campers. Camping in this area was discontinued in October, 1950, with the completion of the new Rock Creek Campground in the west end of the park. Total cost of the Rock Creek Campground including purchase of land, installation of water lines, sewer lines, electricity, construction of comfort stations, individual campsites, etc., was \$53,000. It is generally conceded to be one of the finest campgrounds in the National Park Service.

The following construction items are more of a benefit to the city of Sulphur than to the park: the park's contribution

toward the development of the Buckhorn road, now Highway 18, and the now Davis Avenue Bridge located on that neck of land protruding into the town of Sulphur along the banks of Rock Creek. Through the period of years from 1913 to 1939 government funds were used to assist the state of Oklahoma in maintaining our present Highway 18 for its construction, alignment and development.

E. Noteworthy Donors and Donations

In the spring of 1917, Oklahoma City presented the park with 6 white tail deer, three fawn, one young buck, and two does. These deer increased in number for a few years and were apparently becoming well established, but due to the small size of the area and increase in visitation to the park and increase in the town's population surrounding the park, the deer drifted south into the foothills of the Arbuckle Mountains. The last deer was seen in the fall of 1939.

During the winter of 1920, three elk were transported from Yellowstone National Park and three buffalo secured from the Wichita Game Preserve were released in the park. The expenditure of transporting the elk to Platt was borne by public spirited citizens in the town of Sulphur. Total cost was \$37.00. These elk were maintained in the park in a fenced enclosure until January of 1935. At that time they were eliminated from the park as not being native to the area.

The buffalo herd was established in Platt National Park in 1920 upon receipt of a bull and two cows from Yellowstone

National Park. At one time this herd had increased to approximately 25 head. A detailed study of the carrying capacity of the 100-acre buffalo pasture was made. The herd was reduced to between 8 and 10 head as it was shown that this was the maximum number of buffalo the pasture would feed. Regular reduction programs are maintained to keep the herd within this number.

In 1922 the city of Sulphur and the Chamber of Commerce constructed and paid for two community houses in the park, one at the Bromide Springs area and the other in the Cold Springs Campground. They constructed sewer lines, water lines and electricity to each community house. Estimated expenditure was between \$13,000 and \$14,000. In the fall of 1946 the community house at the Bromide Springs area was taken over by the government and utilized as a temporary museum. In the spring of 1947 the community house located at Cold Springs Campground was converted to temporary quarters for seasonal personnel.

F. Miscellaneous

On August 9, 1918, Mr. J. P. Slaughter, meteorologist of the Oklahoma City Weather Bureau Office came to the park and established the small weather observation station. This consisted of a rain gauge and minimum and maximum temperature thermometers. Records have been maintained every day since.

The only record of a birth in Platt National Park is that of a girl born in Central Camp on February 23, 1926. She was named Mary Plattina Douglas. When a delayed birth certificate

was obtained for her in March, 1943, she was a messenger at the Puget Sound Navy Yard in the State of Washington.

On August 2, 1952 at 4:00 p. m., a Miss Glenda Peck of Stratford, Oklahoma became the bride of Glenn Fox, Oklahoma City. The marriage was performed at the foot of Lincoln Bridge by Reverend Bonner E. Teeter of Sulphur. The reason for the young couple's choosing this site in the park for their marriage was that Mr. Fox's parents were married at the same spot 27 years previous.

G. Evolution of Policies

1. Development and Use

The policy affecting development and use of the area has remained unchanged since the date of establishment. At that time the policy was determined to be the protection, maintenance and development of the mineral springs, and make them readily available for the use and enjoyment of park visitors. In accomplishing this policy, the town was first moved from the area. This required approximately 2 to 4 years. The land then had to be cleaned and restored to its original vegetation cover type. This was not fully accomplished until near the close of the CCC program in 1940. In those early days the Interior Department in administering the area, permitted the raising of alfalfa, corn and oats. This practice continued until about 1931. Each administration in those early days worked toward making the springs accessible to the public by the construction of roads, trails and pavilions.

These were later improved during the CCC period. They also established certain areas in the park for campgrounds and picnic sites. The present condition of the park is the outgrowth of these developments throughout the years. Visitation first started by horseback and wagon, then by trains, averaging from 2,000 to 30,000 visitors a year before the advent of the automobile. With its development, visitation to the park increased fourfold. At present the park is chiefly a day use area, with people coming in from nearby towns to have a picnic lunch or dinner in the park, swimming in the creeks and returning home.

2. Interpretive Program

Nothing much was done toward the development of an interpretive program until the advent of the CCC program in 1933. During the summer of 1933, a small staff of CCC enrollees under the supervision of Botanist George C. Merrill started the collection of flowering plant specimens of the park. The work covered a period of approximately two years during which time they catalogued some 600 specimens of 86 families of plants. Identification of the plants was made by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Regional Botanist W. B. McDougall made a study of the flowering plants of the park in 1936 and developed the first key to the botanical exhibit. He also established Platt National Park as being located within the botanical crossroads in the United States, finding such plants as western cactus, prickley pear, yucca;

southern plants such as hackberry, persimmon, Texas bluebonnet; and eastern plants such as birch, dogwood, grape honeysuckle, and Eastern pine. During the same year the first organized ornithological study of the park birds was made by Mr. and Mrs. William Hutchinson of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Following their study, they compiled a checklist of the birds of the park.

In 1935 Donald C. Hazlett, Junior Geologist for the National Park Service, submitted a report entitled "Geology of the Vicinity of Platt National Park. In 1938 geological interpretive signs were installed on the main trails in the park at Antelope Springs, Travertine Island and Bromide Hill. Tables giving the chemical content of the mineral springs were placed on display in the Bromide Springs Pavilion. In 1939 George Gould and Stewart Schoff of the United States Geological Survey prepared a report, "The Geological Report of Water Conditions at Platt National Park". During the time he was a geologist for the State of Oklahoma, Mr. Gould also prepared, in 1906, a report on the water conditions at Platt. He was assisted at that time by Joseph A. Taff.

In 1939 and 1940 seasonal guide Herbert R. Antle, in cooperation with a local geologist John Fitts, collected representative geological specimens and placed them in a room adjoining the administration office as the first museum for Platt National Park. Later on, Mr. Antle added some archaeological exhibits to this collection. It was maintained in the administration office until the fall of 1946 at which time it was moved to the community house

in the Bromide Picnic area. There a small information and temporary exhibit museum was established. In 1949 a study on the ground of museum and interpretive needs was made by Museum Curator William E. Macy. Mr. Macy also assisted in the preparation of the exhibits and opening of this temporary home made museum. In the early 30's when considerable manpower was available, occasional conducted field trips and interpretive talks were given to campground visitors. Also when possible, special conducted service by a ranger was furnished organized groups on trips through the park.

The first request for a seasonal naturalist was included in the preliminary estimates of 1938, and requests for naturalist services have been included in every estimate since. Requests for a permanent park naturalist have been made from time to time. The first seasonal naturalist position was established in 1950. His work consisted of operation of the museum, giving occasional talks and a five minute radio program over KVLH. The radio program covered such subjects as temperatures, amount of precipitation, news of special groups visiting the park, travel for the day, and nature notes. This program was paid for by the local Chamber of Commerce.

In the summer of 1951 the second seasonal naturalist position was established and in July the first campfire programs were given at the Bromide Springs Pavilion. Two talks each week until Labor Day were given. The subjects covered were the National Park Service, National Park areas, wildlife, and plants of the area.

Two nature walks each week were instituted. In 1951, the first self-guided tour pamphlet was prepared for the benefit of those viewing the park by automobile. Material for the preparation of the first two permanent, professionally built, exhibits was submitted to the museum laboratory. Later two more exhibits were proposed and all four are now on exhibit.

In October of 1955 the Park Naturalist position was filled by Paul F. Spangle.

V. Appendices

A. Names of Superintendents of Platt National Park and dates of Their Tenure

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Frank C. Churchill	Inspector	August 1, 1903	September 15, 1903
Joseph F. Swords	Inspector	September 16, 1903	June 30, 1904
Joseph F. Swords	Superintendent	July 1, 1904	April 30, 1907
Albert R. Green	Superintendent	May 1, 1907	October 22, 1909
William J. French	Superintendent	October 23, 1909	February 13, 1914
Richard A. Sneed	Superintendent	February 14, 1914	June 30, 1919
Thomas Ferris	Superintendent	July 1, 1919	March 25, 1923
Robert G. Morris	Superintendent	March 26, 1923	May 15, 1925
Forest L. Carter	Superintendent	May 16, 1925	November 30, 1925
William E. Branch	Superintendent	December 1, 1925	September 30, 1926
King Crippen	Superintendent	October 1, 1926	December 31, 1929
William E. Branch	Superintendent	January 1, 1930	March 31, 1944
Thomas C. Miller	Superintendent	April 1, 1944	March 31, 1951
Perry E. Brown	Superintendent	April 1, 1951	June 30, 1954
Wm. R. Supernaugh	Superintendent	August 1, 1954	December 31, 1955
William E. Branch	Superintendent	January 1, 1956	- - - - -

B. List of Important Personnel

First Clerk-Stenographer

- Una Robert, who began work April 25, 1905. She worked until about 1919. Miss Robert is now deceased.

First Park Ranger

- Forrest Townsley, who began work June 18, 1904. Mr. Townsley was employed in the park as patrolman and first park ranger for a good many years. He later transferred to Yosemite National Park where he became their Chief Ranger, which position he occupied until the time of his death. Our records do not indicate the time he left Platt.

Second Park Ranger

- Robert A. Earl, who began his employment as patrolman sometime during 1905. Our records do not indicate how long he was employed or his reason for leaving the park.

First Project Superintendent

- W. L. Scott, Sr., of Sulphur, Oklahoma. After leaving the Park Service in 1935, Mr. Scott returned to the private contracting field. He was replaced as Project Superintendent by his son, W. L. Scott, Jr., who served until the close of the CCC camp in 1940.

C. List of Important Friends of the Park now living, with Post Office Address

A. S. Mike Monroney, Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Rhae S. Goffe
108 E. Vinita
Sulphur, Oklahoma

Robert S. Kerr, Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

C. W. Purtle
932 W. 12th
Sulphur, Oklahoma

Carl S. Albert, M. H.
New House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Eugene Frier
1301 Division
Sulphur, Oklahoma

Roy J. Turner, Ex-Governor
904 Hightower Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Sam Rayburn, Speaker of House
New House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Johnston Murray, Ex-Governor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

David Wenner
923 W. 10th
Sulphur, Oklahoma

John Coleman Powell, Judge
Criminal Court of Appeals
411 N. E. 16th
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

John Jarman
New Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Elmer Thomas, Ex-Senator
(Mailing address unknown)
Washington, D. C.

Joe Bailey Cobb
(formerly Oklahoma State
Senator)
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Eugene T. White
4 E. Tahlequah Avenue
Sulphur, Oklahoma

W. L. Scott, Sr.
Sulphur, Oklahoma

Richard D. Norwood
112 E. Wynnewood
Sulphur, Oklahoma

D. Structures Offered for Sale in 1902 and 1904 when Area Was Made a Reservation

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Maxwell, Caviness & Parks	Stone building on corner of Fourth Street and South Pavilion Square, including store fixtures.
2	Frank Mysing	Small frame structure on Mosely Avenue.
4	W. D. Covington	(a) Two-story building on South Pavilion Square. (b) Frame house on corner Fifth and B Streets
6	R. C. Brown	(a) Two-story rooming house corner Fifth and B. Streets, known as Southern Hote. (b) Two-story frame cottage on Fifth adjoining Southern Hotel
8	Dr. A. V. Ponder	Two-story frame dwelling on Fifth Street near B. Street.
9	Mollie R. Wallace	Two-room structure on Fifth Street near B. Street.
11	C. A. Hewitt	Two-story frame structure on east side Sulphur Creek near Mosely Ave.
12	Dr. J. E. Bailey	Frame stable and log house on B Street corner of Fifth Street
13	Mark D. and Bettie Walker	Two-story frame rooming house corner East Pavilion Square and B Street known as the Brown Cottage.
14	J. C. Davenport	Two-story frame building on East Pavilion Square.
15	R. S. Caviness	Stone building on East Pavilion Square near B Street.
16	H. Calhoun	One-story frame structure, comprising two stores, situated on East Pavilion Square adjoining Caviness Building.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
17	Thomas Cowan	One-story frame store building adjoining Calhoun property.
18	Thomas Harvey	One-story stone store building, adjoining Cowan property.
19	James Crawford	One-story stone store building adjoining Harvey property.
20	Isaac C. Renfro	Frame cottage on Mosely Avenue next to Park Hotel.
22	First National Bank	(a) Two-story building on Fourth Street near Beach Avenue. (b) One-story stone building on Fourth Street with an L running through to Beach Avenue.
23	Francis M. Mitcham	Two-story stone building on Fourth Street adjoining First National Bank Building.
33	George R. Robberson	Log house on Mosely Avenue near eastern town boundary.
34	E. S. Bright	(a) Frame House on Mosely Avenue adjoining Sulphur Creek. (b) Frame house on Mosely Avenue adjoining Blackwell place.
35.	J. L. Jenkins	Frame house, barn, and outbuildings known as the Cunningham farm.
36	W. L. Townsley	(a) Frame store building on Fourth Street near Beach Avenue. (b) Stone bakehouse and oven situated in rear of (a).
37	Juanita Sanches	Frame cottage near Fifth Street on eastern line of reservation.
38	J. A. Platt	Frame cottage and barn on Mosely Avenue on the bank of Sulphur Creek.
39	Moses B. Leavitt	One-story stone building on corner Fourth Street and Beach Avenue.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
40	Joseph J. Fry	One-room frame structure on Beach Avenue near Mosely Avenue.
53	Miss Mollie Shewbert	Frame barn on south side of Sulphur Creek adjoining the Shewbert farm.
56	Thomas W. Frame	One and one-half story frame store building on corner of Beach Ave. and Spring Street.
57	W. W. Butt	Frame ice house situated on Springs Street near A Street.
58	N. L. Hale	Two-story frame store building corner Beach Avenue and Fourth Street.
60	Jerome S. Sheppard	Frame cottage on West Pavilion Square near B Street.
64	Mrs. M. M. Carathers	Frame bath house on West Pavilion Square near B Street.
66	Mrs. M. L. Nations	Frame store building near C Street on Fourth Street.
69	J. F. Cunningham	Frame cottage on Fourth Street near C Street.
71	C. G. Frost	Frame building, known as the bottling works on west side of Rock Creek.
74	E. B. Johnson	Frame cottage on Third Street near C Street.
76	Thomas Y. Shockley	Frame cottage on West C Street near First Street.
80	A. M. Curry	Frame house on West Broadway near First Street.
83	J. C. McGinnis	Frame house on First Street south of Broadway.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
86	T. J. Carter	Frame house west side of Rock Creek near Bromide Spring
90	W. A. Rybee	Frame cottage in West Sulphur, adjoining Rock Creek.
94	Louise Weddle	Frame cottage on west side of Rock Creek on Bromide Road.
95	Mrs. Susan L. Glover	Rock House, Block 248, between I and J and Third and Fourth Streets.
96	A. J. Orr	Frame cottage in Block 247, on I between Fourth and Fifth Streets.
97	Ruthy Gosnell	Frame cottage, southeast corner Block 250 between Fourth and Fifth and J and H Streets.
98	J. B. Turley	Frame cottage in Block 404, on First Street, between I and J Streets.
112	L. Easley	Frame cottage in Block 4, corner Sixth and D Streets.
114	R. L. Shewbert	Farm, house, barns, and sheds in Block 37, between Tenth and Eleventh and B and C Streets.
121	W. W. and E. A. Butt	Frame cottage on Fourth Street near C Street.
122	S. Bonneau and William Ross	Two-story building, stone, on Beach Avenue corner of Spring Street.
601	J. G. Mayes	Frame house in Block 188.
602	J. G. Mayes	Frame house in Block 167.
603	J. G. Mayes	Three-room frame house in Block 52.
604	W. W. Boyd	Two-room house, storm house, etc., in Block 437.
604	W. W. Boyd	Eight-room house, barn, storm house, etc., in Block 3.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
606	W. W. Boyd	Two-room house in Block 167.
607	W. W. Boyd	Four-room house, barn, storm house, fruit trees, etc., in Block 193.
608	Mrs. L. J. Lawler	Four-room cottage in Block 190.
609	Allen B. Riviere	Three-room house, kitchen (separate) fencing, etc., in Block 3.
610	Alma W. Sylvester	Four-room house, fence, fruit trees, etc., in Block 190.
611	A. H. Sharum	Two-room frame house and box house in Block 437.
612	W. A. Blocker	Frame house, barn, fencing, etc., in Block 435.
613	Mrs. O. F. Easley	Frame house, fruit trees, and fencing in Block 3.
614	L. Easley	Stone store building and box house in Block 167.
615	Mrs. M. C. Robinson	Stone store building, one-story, in Block 167.
616	George W. Womack	Two one-room box houses in Block 217.
617	George W. Womack	One-room house in Block 438.
618	T. E. Cate	Stone building and an iron house in Block 166.
619	T. E. Cate	Two-room house in Block 194.
620	T. E. Cate	Three-room house, barn, and fruit trees in Block 435.
621	T. E. Cate	Stone building in Block 167.
622	George W. Glasscock	Rock building in Block 167.
623	J. D. Anderson and McCule Suffudy	One and one-half story frame building in Block 167.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
624	J. M. Remington	Box stable in Block 3.
625	H. F. Newblock and John Boatwright	Frame shed in Block 167
626	C. C. Lovelace	(a) Frame house, barn, etc., in Block 186. (b) Frame house on Mosely Avenue in Block 53.
627	Samuel F. Rodgers	One-story Box store house in Block 168.
628	Maxwell, Caviness & Parks	Stone store building, brick front, in Block 166.
629	William H. Dill	Two foundation walls and two dead walls in Block 2.
630	Mrs. Lottie Ehman	Four-room house, trees, etc., in Block 3.
631	T. Slover	Six-room house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 199.
632	J. H. Perkins	Three-room house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 186.
633	C. H. Bessent	Two-room house in Block 7.
634	Mrs. Laura Jones	One-room house in Block 168.
635.	Mrs. Lizzie Tate	Three-room residence, storehouse, and shed in Block 4.
636	Mrs. Robbie Daugherty	One-story box house in Block 4.
637	William Smith	(a) Three-room frame house, barn, shed, fruit trees, etc., in Block 215. (b) Three-room house in Block 187.
638	Wm. D. Covington	(a) Three-room house in Block 4. (frame) (b) Three-room house in Block 4. (box)
639	Wm. D. Covington	Six-room house, barn, storm house, etc., in Block 26.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
640	Ellen Staats	Two-story house, barn and outhouses in Block 198.
641	George H. Schwiening	Four-room residence, fruit trees, shed, and outhouse in Block 6.
642	George H. Schwiening	Brick-front store in Block 166.
643	J. H. White	Four-room house in Block 168.
644	Mrs. M. M. Carathers	(a) Two-room house in Block 192 (b) Five-room house and outbuildings in Block 192.
645	W. W. Coker	Three-room house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 193.
646	Paul Harrison	Frame house, shed, etc., in Block 193.
647	R. E. Scarborough	Two-room house in Block 194.
648	Mary A. Surber and Frank Surber	Two-room house, barn, shed, etc., in Block 196.
649	Dr. J. E. Bailey	Frame building, fruit trees, shed, etc., in Block 226.
650	J. H. Johns	Three-room house, barn, etc., in Block 226.
651	G. C. Masters	Frame house in Block 196.
652	Berry & Rawlings	Box building in Block 194.
653	Josie Anderson	Two-room house, crib, outhouse, etc., in Block 225.
654	C. H. Moore	Five-room house, barn, trees, etc., in Block 225.
655	Mrs. Irene Moore	Four-room house, barn, etc., in Block 197.
656	E. W. Fletcher	Box house in Block 198.
657	Robert H. Lowrance	Box house, stable, etc., in Block 187.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
658	L. O. Teague	Frame house, barn, smokehouse, trees, etc., in Block 187.
659	Mrs. W. A. Townes	Stone foundation in Block 190.
660	J. H. White	Two-room house in Block 190.
661	J. H. English	Three-room house, barn, trees, etc., in Block 227.
662	U. A. Fox	(a) Three-room house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 227. (b) Slated barn in Block 167.
665	Mrs. Amy Slover	Frame house, barn, outhouses, fruit trees, etc., in Block 215.
666	John A. Payne	Two-room house in Block 215.
667	P. Brower	Box house, outhouse, etc., in Block 168.
668	P. Brower	Three-room house, barn, trees, etc., in Block 5.
670	Cornelius M. Bales	Two-room frame house in Block 417.
671	Wm. F. Wells and Joseph R. Baker	Two-room box house in Block 418.
672	J. W. Ellis	Stone foundations in Block 425.
673	G. M. Weems	Frame house, outhouses, board fencing, fruit trees, etc., in Block 428.
674	J. W. Kelachny	Two-room house in Block 427.
675	W. A. Poff	Three-room house in Block 437.
676	Dunn & Brown	Frame house in Block 28.
677	C. G. Kean	Two-room house in Block 28.
678	L. A. Warner	Frame house, barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 28.
679	Nathan Turk	Stone dwelling in Block 28.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
680	J. H. White	Frame store building in Block 28.
681	J. H. Wright	Two-room frame office in Block 2.
682	Rev. R. W. Cummins	Stone and brick house in Block 167.
683	Rev. R. W. Cummins	Three-room house, fruit trees, etc., in Block 28.
684	Rev. R. W. Cummins	Barn, stable, etc., in Block 28.
685	O. L. Bates	Frame store building in Block 28.
686	Mrs. Belle Thompson	Frame house, outbuildings, trees, etc., in Block 192.
687	J. M. Bayless	One-story frame dwelling in Block 2.
688	J. M. Bayless	Stone foundation in Block 1.
689	Mrs. Mary L. Slover	Two-room house in Block 438.
690	J. W. Kolachny	Frame store building in Block 168.
691	Robert I. Lee	Two-room house and stone culvert in Block 169.
693	W. H. Ford and Millie W. Ford	Five-room dwelling, barn, etc., in Block 169.
694	C. G. Frost	(a) Frame house, stable, etc., in Block 1. (b) Two stone foundations in Block 249.
695	Johnnie A. Bright	Frame building, trees, etc., in Block 6.
696	C. J. Webster	One-room office in Block 28.
697	C. J. Webster	One-story stone building in Block 167.
698	Mrs. M. C. Blocker	Frame residence, frame building, barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 166.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
699	Carey-Lombard Lumber Co.	Two lumber sheds, lime house, office, etc., in Block 192.
700	E. I. Newblock	Five-room house, barn, shed, etc., in Block 219.
701	C. C. Strahan	Four-room frame house, two-room box house, storm house, fruit trees, etc., in Block 241.
702	J. M. Campbell	Three-room dwelling, frame barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 7.
703	T. Y. Shockley	Frame barn in Block 5.
704	Mrs. Kate McNees	Frame house painted gray, frame house painted green, outhouses, etc., in Block 246.
705	Mrs. Kate McNees	Frame house, outhouses, trees, etc., in Block 427.
706	W. G. Caviness	Three-room frame house, outhouses, etc., in Block 219.
707	W. G. Caviness	Two-room box house in Block 220.
708	M. C. Adams	Frame house, outhouses, fruit trees, etc., in Block 417.
709	R. A. Cudney	Frame house in Block 407.
710	C. V. Fox	Frame house, outhouses, trees, etc., in Block 227.
711	C. E. Foley	One-room house in Block 200.
712	B. W. Sloan	Frame house, barn, outhouses, etc. in Block 196.
713	Mrs. Flora Brower	Five-room house, barn, shed, trees, etc., in Block 191.
714	Nellie N. McCandless	Box house in Block 52.
715	Mrs. M. Bettie Hankins	Stone hotel building with frame addition, washhouse, picket fence, trees, etc., in Block 190.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
716	Mrs. Florence Rawlings	Four-room frame building, board fence, shade trees, etc., in Block 225.
717	Mrs. J. H. Wright	Eight-room dwelling, barn, iron, fence, etc., in Block 194.
718	C. L. Moss	Frame dwelling, outhouses, etc., in Block 407.
719	J. C. Elliott	Frame house in Block 33.
720	Thos. F. Hazard	Two-room house in Block 53.
721	J. N. Vernon	Three-room house in Block 417.
723	C. L. Moss	Frame house, crib, trees, etc., in Block 221.
724	J. C. McCandless	Frame barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 219.
725	J. T. Adams	Two-room house in Block 222.
726	Rev. R. W. Cummings	Frame house, shed barn, etc., in Block 222.
727	Mrs. Mattie L. Kendall	Three-room house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 193.
728	John Bastable	Box house, barn, etc., Block 171.
729	G. L. Spurlock	Stone foundation in Block 408.
730	Willis B. Lowrance	Two-room frame house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 170.
731	J. P. Lockwood and W. W. Lockwood	Frame house in Block 172.
732	J. P. Lockwood	Two-room house in Block 172.
733	A. H. Smith	Three-room house, barn, etc., in Block 243.
734	W. O. Harris	Five-room house, stables, etc., in Block 417.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
735	W. P. Puryear	Two-room house with shed roof and two-room house with shingle roof in 218.
736	A. V. Ponder	Eight-room house, barn, shade trees, etc., in Block 34.
737	E. S. Bright	Frame house, barn, trees, etc., in Block 243.
738	J. D. Ryan	Three-room dwelling, barn, shed, trees, etc., in Block 243.
739	W. D. Watson	Three-room house, outhouse, fruit trees, etc., in Block 416.
740	O. Thomas	Two-room house and one-room house in Block 52.
741	O. L. Bates	Five-room frame house, barn, storage house, outhouses, etc., in Block 194.
742	J. D. Anderson	Three stone foundations in Block 243.
743	J. A. Nelson	Seven-room house, barn, outhouse, trees, etc., in Block 52.
744	Anna L. V. Haacke	One-room house in Block 408.
745	Mrs. R. C. Brown	Frame house, barn, outhouses, fruit trees, etc., in Block 409.
746	J. K. Blanks	Fruit trees and grapevines in Block 240.
747	J. W. Hornbuckle	frame house, barn, fruit trees, etc., in Block 224.
748	P. M. Bolin	Four-room house, barn, outhouses, fruit trees, fencing, etc., in Block 224.
749	J. H. White	Frame house, cabin, etc., in Block 228.
750	S. N. Richardson	Four-room house, barn, trees, etc., in Block 241.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
751	R. V. Baxter	Three-room house, stable, stone foundation, etc., in Block 415.
752	Daniel McGraw	Hotel building, known as Park Hotel, cottage, engine room, pavilion, electric light plant, outhouses, fencing, etc., in Block 61.
753	G. S. Brown	Frame house in Block 23.
754	J. W. Gillett	Frame house in Block 219.
755	J. C. Berry	Five-room house, barn, outhouses, trees, etc., in Block 220.
756	Mrs. B. E. Trone	Five-room house, stable, etc., in Block 53.
757	Tams Bixby	Three stone foundations in Block 436.
758	Robt. M. Cummings	Small frame building in Block 419.
759	Mrs. Mattie A. Chamberlain	Seven-room house in Block 417.
760	S. D. Doncho	Four-room house, stone foundation, etc., in Block 220.
761	Mrs. W. A. Townes	Frame house barn, etc., in Block 185.
762	O. L. Bates	One box house, 18x30 feet, one box house, 14x30 feet, one storage house, outhouses, etc., in Block 419.
763	Nellie H. McCandless	Frame dwelling, barn, trees, etc., in Block 191.
764	Bastable & Bates	Box house in Block 414.
765	Mike Sod and McCule Suffudy	Two-room house, barn, etc., in Block 191.
766	Mrs. Sue E. Case	Two-room house in Block 26.
767	R. S. Caviness	Six-room house, storm house, shed, outhouses, fruit trees, etc., in Block 219.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
768	J. D. Moss	Frame House, barn, etc., in Block 241.
769	Jerome Whitesel	Frame house, barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 192.
771	Jerome Whitesel	Six-room dwelling, outbuildings, etc., in Block 2.
772	Mrs. H. F. Weems	Two-room house, barn, shed, fruit trees, etc., in Block 171.
773	L. D. Sanders	Three-room house, fruit trees, etc., in Block 414.
774	F. F. Easley	Frame house, barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 196.
775	A. C. Cole and M. E. Cole	Five-room house, barn, outhouses, fruit trees, etc., in Block 167.
776	Roy C. Oakes	(a) Brick and stone building in Block 165. (b) Brick and stone building in Block 167.
777	Missing	Missing
778	Roy C. Oakes and J. D. Kerby	Frame house, barn, picket fence, etc., in Block 62.
779	A. J. Orr	Three-room frame house, barn, fencing, etc., in Block 414.
780	W. L. Berry	One four-room house, one two-room house, two barns, fencing, etc., in Block 220.
781	J. P. McKemie	Hotel building known as Reservation Hotel in Block 1.
782	Josephine Jones	Three-room house, one-room house, buggy house, stable, fruit trees, etc., in Block 221.
783	J. F. Terry and Fannie Terry	Four-room house, picket fence, barn, trees, etc., in Block 196.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
784	I. C. Renfro	Two-story stone store building in Block 2.
785	Cumberland Church	Presbyterian Church building in Block 51.
786	Mrs. Kate Manahan	Four-room cottage, trees, etc., in Block 246.
787	Mrs. Maud Meyers	Four-room house in Block 189.
788	C. J. Webster	One-room frame house in Block 6.
789	Missing	Missing
790	C. J. Webster	Frame residence, barn, etc., in Block 169.
791	C. J. Webster	Frame building known as Masonic Hall in Block 165.
792	Missing	Missing
793	C. J. Webster	One-room frame building (on alley of land claimed by R. H. Lowrance) in Block 187.
794	C. S. Leeper & Bro.	One three-deck lumber shed, frame office, two-story sash and door house, lime house, picket fence, etc., in Block 437.
795	C. M. Bennett	Frame house in Block 437.
796	C. L. Crow	(a) Three room residence, stable, out-houses, etc., in Block 427. (b) Frame barn, fencing, etc., in Block 427.
797	J. N. Kirkpatrick	Two-room box house in Block 3.
798	J. M. Webster	Four-room frame house, barn, out-buildings, fruit trees, fencing, etc., in Block 27.
799	J. M. Webster	Box house in Block 1.
800	Missing	Missing

<u>Cln. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
801	Missionary Baptist Church	Church building, two-room cottage, barn, picket fence, etc., in Block 218.
802	Edw. E. Doering	Two-room frame house, barn, etc., in Block 187.
803	O. W. Bandy	Five-room house, barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 34.
804	Mrs. N. C. Hilburn	Seven-room frame residence, barn, outhouses, etc., four-room house, outhouse, etc., three-room residence, shed, outhouses, picket fence, trees, etc., in Block 223.
805	C. S. Brown	Frame building in Block 216.
806	Missing	Missing
807	J. H. Wright, trustee	School building, outhouses, etc., in Block 195.
808	W. B. Pyeatt	(a) Two dwellings, outhouses, etc., in Block 190. (b) One-room frame house in Block 198.
809	H. C. Redman	One-room house, three-room house, crib, shed, etc., in Block 52.
810	I. C. Renfro	Frame dwelling, two stables, kitchen (detached), fencing, etc., in Block 53.
811	Missing	Missing
812	Geo. E. Dornblaster	Frame dwelling, shed, etc., Block 245.
813	J. S. Halliday	Eight-room frame house in Block 436.
814	W. J. Shewbert	Three-room frame house, fruit trees, etc., in Block 246.
815	Missing	Missing
816	J. F. Cunningham	Three-room house, outhouse, etc., in Block 437.
817	Frank A. Kimple	Four-room house, barn, etc., in Block 436.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
818	Sulphur Bank and Trust Co.	Brick bank vault and fixtures contained in building owned formerly by Roy C. Oakes, Claim No. 776
819	Eugene E. White	Three-room frame dwelling, fruit trees, etc., in Block 5.
820	N. L. Hale	Log shed in Block 225.
821	Eugene E. White	Eight-room frame dwelling, picket fence, plank fence, fruit trees, etc., in Block 51.
822	Eugene E. White	Blacksmith shop, buggy shed, etc., in Block 166.
823	N. C. Hilburn	Frame storehouse in Block 165.
824	C. J. Webster, cashier	Four-room house, barn, outhouses, etc., in Block 191.
825	Methodist Church (South)	Frame church building in Block 26.
826	C. S. Anderson	Four-room house, barn, outhouses, trees, etc., in Block 168.
827	M. T. Stephenson	Picket fence in Block 227.
828	Missing	Missing
829	Ben S. Brown	One-room house in Block 6.
830	Missing	Missing
831	J. D. Wiley	Stone building in Block 2.
832	Mrs. Mary L. Nations	One two-room house, one five-room house, picket fence, outhouses, fruit trees, etc., in Block 27.
833	D. W. Wiley	One-room frame house, shed, etc., in Block 2.

<u>Clm. No.</u>	<u>Former Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
834	I. H. Lionberger	Stable, fencing, etc., in Block 5.
835	Missing	Missing
836	I. H. Lionberger	Three-room dwelling house in Block 1.
837	I. H. Lionberger	One-room box house in Block 427.
838	F. E. Easterbrook	Bowling alley, exclusive of canvas, etc., in Block 28.
839	Chas. D. Carter	Two-room box house in Block 28.
840	Peter Dunbar	Stone foundation in Block 165.
841	C. C. Clymer	Frame house in Block 62.
842)		
to)	Missing	Missing
845)		
846	Hotel Bland Co.	Hotel building and annex in Block 1.
847	Mrs. M. E. McClure	Frame house, log house, etc., in Block 1.
848	G. W. Peveto	Two box houses, fruit tree, etc. in Block 194.

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Superintendents' Annual Reports from 1920 through 1952.

Sulphur Journal and later Sulphur Times-Democrat (local newspaper), 1904 through August 12, 1952.

Park pamphlets.

Miscellaneous reports and correspondence, park files.