

[Mrs. T. C. Brown]

Claudia Harris P.W.

Amarillo, Texas

District #16 PANHANDLE PIONEERS Interview: Revised by Mrs. T. C. Brown

1605 Hillcrest Street

Amarillo, Texas

Mrs. Brown came to Amarillo 35 years ago. Previously she had attended school at Clarendon in the public schools, but not at Clarendon College, which she remembers as being established by the Rev. Hardy. Earnest (Dusty) Miller and his wife are graduates of Clarendon College, as she recalls.

When Mrs. Brown first came to Amarillo saloons were still in operation, but they were soon closed after an election at which the citizens voted local option. Women could not vote at the time and took little interest in political affairs.

At the time there was no paving in the town. The Elks Club was the show place of Amarillo, being the finest place of its type between Denver and Dallas. The Deandi Theatre was in operation on Taylor Street , across from the location of the new post-office (west). The Grand Opera House was located at Seventh and Polk streets. The opera house later burned down. The old McIntosh Hotel was "somewhere on Lincoln".

Street cars were in operation on the busiest thoroughfares of the town, one running to Glenwood Park every thirty minutes. "We young folks thought that it was highly hilarious to ride out to Glenwood on Sunday afternoons", recalls Mrs. Brown, smilingly.

Library of Congress

When Mrs. Brown first came to Amarillo, she worked for J. Levy, who had the first department store in Amarillo. Mr. Levy, as she remembers him, was a charming young man who came to Amarillo to enter business, in which he was most successful.

Mrs. Brown also worked for White and Kirk's, which was then at Fifth and Polk where Harry Holland's store now is.

Mrs. Brown remembers that in the early days of her residence on the plains the dust was not so bad, although the wind blew hard then, as now. But there was more snow and rain. Winters were colder. Mrs. Brown remembers the winters of 1918 and 1919 as the coldest that she ever saw. [????] Interview from Mrs. Brown at 1605 Hillcrest

I came here 35 years ago. I did not go to school here but I did go to school in Clarendon. When I first came I worked for Mr. Levy who had the first real department store in Amarillo. It was located at 501-3-5 Polk Street. He came here just as a young man and went into business. He was an Alysesh Jew and had a charming personality. He was a good manager and prospered.

I also worked at White & Kirks. It was located where Harry Hollands now is at Fifth and Polk Streets.

When I fist came here saloons were still here but the people voted local option. The women didn't vote of course so I didn't pay too much attention to the election. There was no paving at all and none was put in until 1911.

The Elks Club was the first show place of [?] Amarillo. It was the nicest place of its kind between Dallas and Denver. There was the D & I and the Grand Opera House which was at 7th and Polk. It later burned down but I was away at that time.

Library of Congress

Dust wasn't so bad then. Of course the wind blew and there was some dust but nothing like it is now. I think that was due to the pastures. All that's under cultivation now and causes more dust than if it were a pasture.

There was lots of snow. 1918 and 1919 were the coldest winters I ever saw.

Mrs. Wetsell was a Lady Courageous if there ever was one. She is the sweetest and alertest most alert woman I ever knew and she is about 80 years old too.

The old McIntosh hotel was on Lincoln some place but I can't remember the number.

I never went to the Clarendon College but Dusty Miller and his wife are [both?] graduates of that school and should know a great deal of its history. I think Rev. Hardy organized it.

I remember the street cars. There was one that ran out to Glenwood Park. They just ran every 30 minutes. We young folks just thought it awfully hilarious to ride out to Glenwood on Sunday afternoons. [????]