



THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

March 6, 2023/ Vol 2

sja PHOTOGRAPHY
Photographer: Sarah Mitter, D.

DOWN AT THE DEPOT

The Birth of Drumright

On the morning of Tuesday, March 12, 1912, Tom Slick found himself at the farm of Frank Wheeler, 12 miles east of Cushing. The day started out as an ordinary day in early March. It was cool and damp. Tom Slick was hopeful that this latest drill site on Frank Wheeler's farm might actually bring in a gusher, unlike the previous recent dry holes.

Mr. Wheeler had bought this land prior to Oklahoma statehood in 1907. The price then was sixty-five cents an acre. The land had been part of the Creek Indian land allotments. Slick had leased Wheeler's land for one dollar per acre.

Everything was looking promising at this new location and drilling began. They drilled deeper and deeper, until suddenly the

ground began to rumble, as oil and mud blew up into the sky. Oil sprayed forty feet above the derrick. The well eventually grew to a depth slightly over 2,300 feet. The Wheeler #1 produced 400 barrels of oil per day. Wheeler became wealthy, receiving \$125 in royalties every day, and later those royalties increased. The Wheeler #1 was the first producing well in what would become the famous Drumright-Cushing oilfield.

But on this day, the well was capped, and fresh dirt was spread over the oil on the ground to hide the evidence. Slick needed to keep this a secret as long as possible, so that he could capitalize on signing up more leases in the area. To slow down any competitors, Slick leased every available

horse, mule, draft team and wagon he could find in the area. He also hired every notary, and according to rumors, sent them all away on vacations so that they couldn't be hired to notarize any new lease agreements in this area.

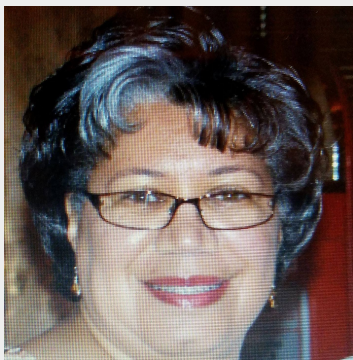
But by March 21, 1912, the word was out. The newspapers carried the information about the newest oil strike, and the rush of humanity to this area began. The town sprang up almost overnight. There was a throng of oilfield workers, merchants, investors and adventurers that flocked to this area. People came so fast, they lived in tents or shacks, even turning box cars into dwellings. This first was appropriately called "Ragtown".

Two local landowners, Aaron Drumright and James W. Fulkerson, decided to plat a townsite. The town was initially called "Fulkerson", but after

some thought, the town was renamed "Drumright". Then came boarding houses, cafes, gambling dens and roadhouses where the oilfield workers would spend their money. A post office was officially opened on December 28, 1912 and the town of Drumright was incorporated on May 27, 1913.

Did you know that you can own a little piece of Drumright history? Down at the depot, you can purchase a two-ounce bottle of crude oil straight from the Wheeler #1. This well is still producing oil, 111 years after that discovery well. The Wheeler #1 is even listed on the National Register of Historic Places here in Drumright. So thanks to the perseverance of Tom Slick, the forward thinking of Aaron Drumright and James W. Fulkerson, and the unceasing production of the Wheeler #1, Drumright is still on the map!

By Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil

PHOTO FROM THE PAST

Photo from Deborah Wilson



This is just one of our 100s of photos documenting our Boomtown history. We are re-designing our OilField room. When completed it will tell the story of Drumright through discovery to current.

WHISKER'S COUNTRY BAKERY IS BACK!

Several months ago, the owners of Whisker's Country Bakery were driving back to their homebase in Cushing from a day at the Drumright Food Court. A strong gust of Oklahoma wind blew up and tossed the truck and trailer off the highway and into the ditch. Thankfully, there were no major injuries to the baker's, but that cannot be said about their truck and food trailer. Both were total losses and getting the business back up has been tough, but they are now back and working hard to build up their customer base.

Recently, they were set up in Drumright and served up not only lunch, but delicious breakfast fare, transporting me straight back to my grandma's kitchen!

While visiting with one of the owners, Ms. Peggy Morris informed me the logo should be on the trailer soon, so if you drive by the Drumright Food Court and see a lone white food truck, chances are it's Whisker's. It takes extra effort to get here, as they must have a friend tow the trailer and park it for them, as they are still without a truck. She expressed gratitude for the Drumright community that has been so good to support them. She'd like for past and new customers to know they're back and hope to be able to continue to make the trip to Drumright.

By Tammy Posey



Obituaries

Carl Dwight Thompson

Carl Dwight Thompson was born at Agra, Oklahoma on October 11, 1944 to the Alva & Ellen (Wittman) Thompson. He passed from this life in Drumright on January 26, 2023 at the age of 78 years, 3 months, & 15 days.

Carl was raised & educated in Agra & was a 1962 graduate of Agra High School. In high school, Carl always had a band, playing swing with Rusty Estes. He continue having a band until he lost his 3 fingers in a wreck which forced him to quit playing the guitar. He married Linda Hubbard on November 9, 1962 & to this marriage 3 sons were born: Carl Dale – Ronald Wayne - & Randal Dwight. In 1968 while working on the Physical Education Building at OSU, he fell through the roof. He was told he would never walk again. But with several weeks in the hospital and lots of physical therapy, he was able to walk some but was still crippled. After the accident, he attended OSU and received a Bachelor Degree in Commercial Industrial Drafting & Electrical Design. He worked for a Tulsa company for several years. For the past several years, he has been a resident of the Drumright Nursing Home. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 4 Brothers: Walter

– Harley – Jack - & Lee; 4 Sisters: Leota Wright – Nellie Stevens – Lovey Toles - & Lois Blake Reedy. He leaves behind his 3 Sons - 1 Grandson – 8 Granddaughters – 10 Great Grandchildren – Several Nieces – Nephews – a Sister-in-Law: Betty Thompson - & several other relatives.

Sevices entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home.

Vurn Lucille Howard

Lucille was born at Wilson, Oklahoma on March 29, 1937 to the late James Canada Tarwater & Minnie Isabell (Holt) Tarwater. She passed from this life at her home in Olive on February 15, 2023 at the age of 85 years, 10 months, & 17 days. Lucille was raised and educated in Wilson & Henrietta. She married Bruce Howard on March 8, 1953 & they made their home in Jenks. In 1963 they moved to the farm at Olive. Lucille had worked for Central Vo-Tech as a custodian until her retirement. She loved spending time with her family, grandkids, & friends. She also enjoyed cooking and working on the farm raising cattle & horses. Her favorite pastime was drinking coffee each morning on the front porch with Bruce. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband: Bruce in 2022; a son: Bruce David Howard in 2006; and 8 brothers & sisters.

She leaves behind 3 Children: Judy & John Ellis of Mannford – Tim & Pam Howard of Drumright – Charlotte & Corey Jones of Mannford; Grandchildren: Lindsey – Kelsi – Nate – Skylar – Hunter – Ryan – Zach – Colby - & Bailey; Great Grandchildren: Langston – & Paisley. Also numerous Nieces – Nephews – Cousins – other relatives and friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Alvin Columbus Harness

Alvin was born at Shirley, Arkansas on February 27, 1928 to the late Ulysses Harness & Trudy (Horton) Harness. He passed from this life in Cushing on February 10, 2023 at the age of 94 years, 11 months, & 14 days. Alvin was raised & educated in the Cleveland area. He married Dollie Stucks in Oswego, Kansas on January 19, 1945. Alvin had worked in Tulsa for Flint Steel Company & retired from there in 1983. In 1955, they purchased a farm at Silver City & after retirement, he farmed full time & loved every minute of it. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife: Dollie in 2018; a Son: J.D. Harness; a Grandson: Brian Harness; 3 Brothers: Leamon, Faril, & Don; 1 Sister: Zetta Whitwell.

He leaves behind 1 Son: Keith Harness & wife Shirley of Silver City; Daughter-In-Law: Joan Harness of Bristow; 3 Grandchildren – 8 Great Grandchildren – 8 Great Great Grandchildren; 1 Brother: Dwight Harness of Arizona; 1 Sister: Betty McCarthy of Missouri; & a host of Nieces – Nephews – Cousins – other relatives and friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home.

David Wayne Crutchfield

David passed from this life at his home on February 4, 2023 at the age of 59 years, 5 months, & 27 days.

David Wayne Crutchfield was born at Holdenville, Oklahoma on August 8, 1963 to E.J. Rudolph Crutchfield & Peggy Sue (Barnard) Crutchfield. David was raised & educated in Oilton & Jennings. He married Kelley Jean O'Bryant on June 21, 1991 & they made their home in Cushing for a short time. They eventually moved to Meridian where they made their home & raised 2 boys. David had worked in the oilfields all of his life. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, and hanging out with his boys & his friends. He was preceded in death by: Father: E.J. Rudolph Crutchfield, Mother: Peggy Sue (Barnard) Boehm, Grandfather: Luther Rube Barnard

He leaves behind his wife: Kelley; 2 sons: Patrick & Allen Crutchfield, all of Meridian; Grandson: Jude Wayne (Crutchfield) Cook, of Guthrie; 4 sisters: Cindy Motto, of Cushing – Jennie McGee & Husband Don, of Cushing – Shelia Tharp & Husband Terry, of Perkins – Lisa Fernandez & Husband Daniel, of Pixley, California; 1 brother: William Crutchfield & wife Angela, of Carney; his stepfather: Roger Boehm, of Cushing; plus several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Jerry Wesley Cargill

Jerry was born in Cushing, Oklahoma on November 1, 1940 to the late Orion Cargill & Beulah Mae (Robison) Cargill. He passed from this life at his residence on February 19, 2023 at the age of 82 years, 3 months, & 18 days. Jerry was raised & educated in Drumright & was a 1958 graduate of Drumright High School. After High School he attended Oklahoma State University & then went to work for B.J. Hughes for many years. In his later years, he worked as a Hazmat truck driver for Joe Brown Trucking which took him all over the country. He eventually returned to the family homestead, which he purchased from his parents, and remained there the rest of his life. Jerry enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening, & dancing. He also loved spending time with his family & working on his pride and joy, a 1950 Mercury.

His remaining family includes 2 Daughters: Kristi Wiedemann of Yukon – LeAnn & Brian Gage of Edmond; Grandchildren: Emily – Jerod & Madalynn - & Garrett; Great Granddaughter: Blakely; 3 Brothers & 4 Sisters: Norma Jean Haxton of Yale – Mary Walker of Stroud – Linda & Bob Wilson of Owasso – Nancy Robert Foster of Oak Grove – Roland Cargill of North Carolina – Lonnie Cargill of Oak Grove – Larry & Judy Cargill of Cushing; plus SEVERAL Nieces – Nephews – Cousins - other relatives - & friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



April 1st
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Drumright Museum Lawn

