

## Rev. E. C. Hicks Relates His Personal Account of Oklahoma Race In 1893

Opening of the Oklahoma country, as seen by a resident of Smith River, told as only Rev. E. C. Hicks could relate it, brought to Rotarians perhaps the only eye-witness account possible in the country today of that famous opening of country, depicted in the story, "Cimarron" of which a movie has been made.

"I wasn't quite 20 years old, and I found out that I wasn't a citizen, when I stood practically all day in the sun at Hennessey, I ans., that day in late August, 1893, but I soon remedied that matter, to become one of the settlers to enter that territory. Being under age I could not settle on anything but a town lot, so I chose Enid.

"I wish I could draw a picture in words to describe the start of the race, on that level prairie, some 300 miles long and 60 miles wide. As far as the eye could see, one could observe all modes of transportation, from people afoot, on bicycles, in buckboards, prairie scooners, and horseback.

"As far as the eye could see, there was nothing but disorder once the starting signal was made. If a person fell in the pathway of an onrushing wagon or schooner, he lost his life—it was labeled an accident. Men lost their lives—perhaps thousands of them, but the race never halted for one moment.

"While I saw nothing except in that center section from where I started, I did see plenty of hardships, plenty of hunger and plenty of strife for possession of parcels of land. I gained Lot 4 of some block I cannot remember the number of. While away at the land office, filing on it, a 'squatter' was there when I returned. I never tried to put him off, I merely told him that I had the papers to prove my ownership.

Later, when I returned to my school teaching in Nebraska, I sold this lot to the same man for \$10. Two years later I could have bought it back for the same amount, plus plenty of other lots in Enid. That was in 1893. Today, Enid sits in the center of the rich oil country, is a city of some 75,000 people.

"On my return to Nebraska I had occasion to stop at Wichita, Kans., for a day. There was an old man from New York at the hotel where I stopped. He told me that I could do nothing better than to take a few hundred dollars and buy up many of the lots in that town, hit so severely by the panic of 1893 and years of drouth. Being young I couldn't see it. However, had I listened to him, I could have been one of the wealthy people of the world today.

"These same lots which I had an opportunity to buy for less than half the taxes against them—a few years later were worth millions, when the big flour industries came to that country.

"Looking back at that experience, I in my 77th year, see America, always going forward. True, I saw men hurt, killed or badly injured. In that wild rush to gain new land, there was always someone who had sympathy, who had compassion to stop and administer aid, take the injured to a train to be sent to a hospital in Kansas.

"The government will never, if it could, open up land again

in the same manner. It learned a lesson that cost many lives. I am glad that I saw that opening, despite the fact that I'd never like to see another. Had I stayed there, perhaps I might have been wealthy, but there are many other things in life far more satisfying to the human mind.

"That motley array of humanity, in complete disorder, made a lasting impression on me, one I shall never forget. It taught me to appreciate the finer things which come from life and its associations. I was glad to have been there."

### Visitors Present

Earl Munson, new owner of Hotel Brookings, and Mr. Mitchell of Mitchell Bros. Trucking Co., were guests of the club at Tuesday's meeting. Archie Hendricks, president, was unable to be present, as he had driven all night to reach here after being called to Portland by the serious illness of his father.

### Weather Report

for the past week, ending on Sunday:			
	Max.	Min.	Rain
March 6	54	34	....
March 7	58	37	....
March 8	53	44	..22
March 9	50	42	..26
March 10	52	39	..32
March 11	48	30	..03
March 12	51	31	....
Rainfall for week	.....83		

### Realty Transfers

Two parcels of business property on the main street of Brookings changed hands during the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Goetz, owners of the Goetz Cottages, purchased the old Chevron Station and lot from Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Woody of Colusa, Cal-

ifornia. The Goetz plan to construction of a business building as soon as the present lease with Standard Oil Co. can be terminated.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bollinger sold the two lots between Vincent's Restaurant and the Pine Cone Theatre, also two additional lots to the rear, to Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Zenier. It is understood a new building is also planned for this location. Both transactions were handled thru the Pete J. Lesmeister Agency.

### Not By Bread Alone

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season: his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Ps. 5-1.

We are in a free land; and have the right and power of our own choice; but God's word is clear and true: we shall reap what we sow.—Jos. M. Johnson, Gold Beach.

### LOCAL NEWS

You lovers of home-made bread, grind your own grain in Electric Lee (household) flour mill and get the benefits of all the vitamins. A post card will bring you particulars. H. H. Graham, Box 3, Brookings.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ransom and son, Wally, returned last Wednesday from a trip to Bakersfield, Calif., where they visited their son and brother, Homer, and family. En route home they visited Mrs. Ransom's relatives, the Stakeys at San Francisco and Vallejo.

Mr. and Mrs. Kay Kessler who left a couple of weeks ago for

Dixon, Wyo., and Craig, Colo., to take delivery of a pickup, arrived home earlier this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Felsheim, of Bandon, were Friday visitors in this area, on their honeymoon trip. Mr. Felsheim, publisher of the Western World at Bandon, called at the Pilot for a visit. Mrs. Felsheim formerly employed at Bank of Bandon after her graduation in 1948 from Stanford.

Mr. and Mrs. Clive D. Manley have arrived in this area from Corundu, Canal Zone, and will make their home here. The Manleys purchased a 120-acre ranch

on the south bank of the Chetco from Arnold D. Gleinke last summer.

Archie Hendricks was called to Portland Saturday by the serious illness of his father. He returned Tuesday morning by driving all night long.

Rev. E. C. Hicks, pastor of the Methodist church, Smith River, was guest speaker at the local Rotary club, Tuesday noon, relating his experience during the opening of the Oklahoma territory to settlers in 1893.

Use the classified columns of the Pilot to reach your buyers—it will pay you.

### For Dependable Auto Repairing SEE R. B. MCGUGIN

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CLOSED SATURDAYS OPEN SUNDAYS

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The more than \$7,710,000,000 spent for alcoholic beverages annually is equaled by alcohol-caused human waste, lost opportunity and misery.

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