

## GRAND VIEW - OLD TO NEW HOME

The Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway missed the town about a mile. Citizens of this little town did not have the money to contribute to the railroad to induce them to come through their area.

"If we came through the town we would have to build two expensive bridges," the railroad men said, "what with the middle and south forks of Chambers joining here; plus all the branches coming in at this point." Thus, in 1883 the people voted to move the town. During the move the following happened:

The momentary silence was penetrated by the cry of a new born baby as Doctor J. H. O'Hara lightly spanked his son, Walton, to start the baby breathing. Mrs. O'Hara sank back against the pillows exhausted. The rocking and jolting had stopped for a little while, and although the house sat at a crooked angle, it was a relief to be still. Soon the workmen would tighten the ropes again and the house would be slid and jerked along to its new location, the men would be yelling at the mules and at one another.

"We are about half way between old and new Grand View," Doctor O'Hara told his wife.

Moving buildings in those days took a lot of man power and mule power, and two or three days were sometimes required to move a single building over the narrow, dirt road.

New Grand View (name later changed to Grandview) was located on land which had belonged to Mrs. Samuel S. Ramsey, the former Adella Scurlock, daughter of James F. and Rebecca Scurlock.

Among the last buildings to be moved were the churches and the academy. The Masons bought out the Methodist interest in the old union building and had it moved to the west side of the railroad tracks and converted into a hotel. The Masons erected a brick building on the corner where the lodge is still located. Their building burned during the big fire in 1920, was replaced and burned again in August 1967. The present building is one-story, thus for the first time in its history the Grandview lodge is now meeting on the first floor. The oldest lodge in Johnson County, it was organized in 1860 and worked under the Grand Lodge of Texas until they received their charter in 1861. In the early days the Masons of Grand View were called to meeting by a cow bell which A. D. Kennard picked up on the prairie in 1856.

All that remains of the old site of Grand View is the cemetery, which of course, has greatly expanded. A man who was born in a house which stood here, now lies buried on the same spot where he was born.

The Methodists constructed a small church building on the west side of the tracks in new town. About 1902 they moved to the east side, although some of the members were definitely opposed to the move, and one woman said she would never attend the church again.

The building was placed on a corner near the site of the present church, because at that time the Grand View Collegiate Institute stood where the church is now. One of the earliest elders of this

church was Rev. J. C. G. R. Patton, who arrived in 1869 to teach and preach at the old union building. He was one of the most distinguished of the early teachers in Johnson County, and also considered one of the great early Methodist preachers. During his long service as a minister he never accepted pay for his preaching. It is generally conceded that he married more couples than any other minister in Johnson County, marrying, baptizing, and conducting funeral services in the second and third generations of a large number of families.

Rev. Patton, his son, Charles, and grandson, Ed Patton, are the ones who discovered the huge rocks which they thought might indicate Spanish buried treasure, on a wooded piece of land northwest of Grandview on Rock Tank Creek, which they bought in 1890 for the wood supply.

Another elder in the Methodist Church was Rev. Wm. Price, considered one of the great pioneer preachers. He served at Grandview from 1873 to 1877. Price's Chapel was named for him.

The Baptists moved their old building to the new town and continued to meet in it for a number of years. It was placed at about the same location at their present sanctuary, which is their second brick building. Of all the preachers she has heard, Rev. D. I. Smyth (born 1841 in Alabama) stands out in the mind of 102-year-old Mrs. Salema Laramore. She says she went to Grand View many times to hear him preach, although she has always been a member of Sand Flat Baptist Church. Rev. Smyth's father came to the U.S. from England as a small boy and because his school teacher had two John Smiths in her class she changed the spelling of one to Smyth to distinguish them apart. Since that time this family has spelled their name with a "y." Rev. Smyth, licensed to preach at 16, taught in the Caddo Grove school for five years, came to Grand View in 1876, taught for two years, then at Oakland (just west of the old town of Grand View) three years, was a missionary for the Alvarado Association three years, then from 1888 on he pastored a number of churches, being one of the very few ordained pastors in the county.

In early days the Masons seemed to have a knack, and the money, to develop good schools, so in 1869, according to Mrs. Abernathy, or 1873, according to Miss McCorkle, the Grand-view school was placed under the control of the Masonic Lodge, the academy building constructed, and Rev. Patton called in to take charge. Following the Rev. Patton as head of the school were: N. W. Grant, Rev. D. I. Smyth, T. E. Pittman and James E. Garrison.

School continued to be held at old Grand View until 1886, at which time the building was torn down and used in the construction of a large, impressive structure in the new town. It was under the direction of J. E. Garrison. In the "History of Education in Johnson County, Texas" by Miss Nellie McCorkle, she stated that, "In 1894-'95 the Grandview Collegiate Institute was organized in connection with the public school . . . by Professor James E. Garrison, who presided as head of the school until 1900, when he was succeeded by W. B. Head." This school issued large, beautiful parchment diplomas.

The main school building was torn down and a larger building constructed in 1899, opening in 1900 with W. B. Head in charge. This building was on the order of the Burnetta College at Venus.

Professor Head was single when he came to Grandview, but when he saw the lovely Lula O'Hara, daughter of Dr. O'Hara, he didn't remain a bachelor long. Miss Bertha Cousins says that Prof. Head taught mental philosophy and history. W. A. Hearon also taught history; he later became dean at Polytechnic College, and then a professor at Southern Methodist University. Julius McDonald, math teacher, was later a teacher at Simmons University in Abilene. This school attracted many fine teachers.

The Grandview Collegiate Institute was one of four schools in Johnson County that offered instruction above that of secondary education. Miss McCorkle says, "The school plant consisted of a large frame building, erected at a cost of \$65,000, and two large dormitories (one for boys and one for girls). The school had a well equipped laboratory, which included one of the first X-rays brought to this section of the state."

Peyton Irving, county superintendent, reported for 1898-'99 that the school consisted of seven rooms, five for regular school work, and two for music and art. Irving said the building was well furnished and supplied with all equipment needed, including a lab for students of chemistry and physics. He said the school was well organized and the instruction good, and about 300 pupils were present. He stated that the colored school, with 31 pupils, in a one-room building, equipped with benches, was also doing good work and that the discipline was good.

Early in 1907 W. B. Head, who was also associated with the Grandview light plant, ice plant, and telephone company, resigned as head of the school to become chairman of the board of directors of the Texas Power & Light Co. at Dallas.

On March 4, 1907 Grandview was incorporated as an independent school district, and when the 1910-'11 term began, the school became a high school. The large school house and one dormitory burned in 1920 and the school relocated at its present site.

Business lagged in the new town for some time, some firms dropped out entirely, but gradually others began to move in. By 1890 business had increased to such an extent that the First National Bank of Grandview was organized on June 26. (Now First State-see banks.) One of the first aldermen in Grandview was Samuel S. Ramsey, who came here in 1878 and formed the firm of Walton & Ramsey in 1888. They handled dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries and farm machinery. They employed three salesmen and their business averaged \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually.

Other merchants were Walker & Hayden, dry goods and groceries; Hill & Head, dry goods and groceries; Ross & Co., hardware; Savage & Gebhard, and John W. Ross, both drug stores; J. A. Hill, furniture and musical instruments; A. J. Sewell, groceries; two blacksmith shops, run by J. M. Aker and Otho Miles. Otho Miles also had a tin shop, along with the blacksmith business. Mrs. Laramore said he could put new bottoms in tubs and cans, etc. like no one else she ever knew. There were several saloons and livery stables and two hotels, one run by Mrs. Vickers and the other by Hugh Marr and his wife.

In 1891 the Christian Church erected a building, giving the town three churches.

Soon after the town moved, J. C. Denman began publishing a weekly newspaper, which he called the Grandview Sentinel. After about a year he sold out to G. W. Humphreys, who after two years sold to O. F. Dornblazer in 1888. James H. Walker, son of the pioneer, Philip Walker, bought the paper from Dornblazer and changed the name to the Grandview Graphic. This plant burned about 1898, and again in 1920. The name was changed to the Grandview Tribune by M. L. Hair, publisher and owner in the 1920's. His son, M. L. Hair, Jr. was the editor. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Burch are the publishers of this paper at the present time.

Grandview lawyers were H. C. Gardner and S. J. Lancaster, and doctors were: J. H. O'Hara, whose brother was a hardware dealer; Charley M. and Will M. Yater. The Yater brothers grew up with Salema Rogers' (Mrs. Laramore) elder brother, and she said, "They were great cronies." Other doctors were: J. D. Chambers, G. W. Hayden, and S. W. Cooper.

Mrs. Laramore said if they couldn't get one doctor they got another, but Dr. S. L. Hamilton, who practiced in old Grand View, was their favorite. She said he loved children and they loved him. He died shortly after moving to the new town. J. O. Files is said to have been a doctor as well as a druggist in old town. Dr. Lewis H. Gebhard was another who practiced at old town, moving there in 1860. He moved to Cleburne in 1875, where he opened a drug store, then in 1879 he returned to Grand View, remaining until 1886, at which time he moved to Waco. Gebhard was kept busy all through the Civil War; he served with the Texas Rangers one year, then entered the regular army as a surgeon. He served under General Hood.

Mrs. Laramore said that "Granny" Laramore (wife of Colonel Laramore) told them that the boys were mustered out in their field (between Grand View and Alvarado) and she sold vinegar pies to the soldiers. She sweetened them from a barrel of syrup purchased in Louisiana.

By 1891 farms were thick around Grandview and 7,000 bales of cotton were ginned that year. Lewis Harrell and John A. Harrell operated gins on their farm. Mrs. Laramore's brother, Will Rogers, worked for John Harrell on the farm and in the gin and was always called on when equipment broke down. He lived with the Harrells eight years.

Mrs. Laramore said when the switchboard was installed at old Stubblefield you had the privilege of calling anywhere free the first day. "I called Mrs. Harrell and asked her how that boy she adopted was doing. She said, just fine, and we both had a good laugh. Of course we were talking about my brother, Will."

Block, Viola. "Grand View - Old Home to New Home." History of Johnson County and Surrounding Areas. Waco: Texian Press, 1970. 56-61.

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