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DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES ELEM.

Grimes One Hundred Years

"What Happened Yesterday Is History Today" - H. F. Stickle

Rev. Harry F. Stickle
and
Mrs. Hazel May Stickle, authors

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Grimes Centennial Celebration Dates are June 5, 6, 7, 1981

This book given to the
Grimes School by the
Centennial Committee

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By Rev. Harry F. and Mrs. Hazel M. Stickle

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Introduction

A. Authors:

We have enjoyed very much this the writing of the history of Grimes. Much prayer has gone into this book and we can testify how our Lord has answered our prayers, and so to God be the glory.

Every effort has been taken to make certain all information in this books is accurate. We have secured and used original sources such as manuscript, legal papers, maps, etc. We have used history books published at the turn of the century, newspapers, etc. We have secured our information from personal interviews, etc.

We wish to give a special thanks to all who have contributed information, pictures, manuscripts, Northeast Dallas County Record, newspapers, etc.

B. Forward

1. **Chapter explanation:** There are four chapters. Grimes, dealing with settlements before Grimes and starting of towns, settlements, etc. before 1881. Groups, dealing with church, postal service, medical profession, service groups, city hall, etc. Growth, dealing with business organization. Glow, or families, a personal history of families who have or are now living in Grimes and Grimes area, Webster and Jefferson township of Polk County, also, Walnut and Grant townships of Dallas County.

2. **Clarification:** Certain information we feel we should give the source and thus will state where such needs to be given, otherwise we will not state as such, this is to save publication expense. It will be noted that only a few pictures will relate to the subject matter on the page where the picture is placed. Some pictures are not as clear as we would like them to be, but these, in most cases were taken from a newspaper, and it was either show a picture or no picture at all and our decision was to have the picture placed in the book.

3. **Where we started:** This information we found: "1910 - Grimes, Jefferson and Webster townships. Grimes, named in honor of Governor and Senator Grimes, is fourteen miles northwest of Des Moines. It is an incorporated town, and has a newspaper, the Advocate, two banks, and a good school, three churches, the Presbyterian, Christian and Lutheran. It has an electric plant, a commercial exchange, a Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company, and its citizens are in all other respects progressive in spirit. It has two general stores and other places of business. It is on the Milwaukee road, and is a favorite halting place for automobile tourists from the capitol city. It makes extensive shipment of grain and livestock. The first house erected in Grimes was in 1881". From here we started.

C. Sources

Abstracts
Atlas of Polk County - 1902 & 1907
Atlas of Dallas County 1914
City of Grimes minutes of meetings
Court Records
County original plats of towns
Christian Church congregational meeting minutes
Des Moines Globe

Des Moines News
Des Moines Register and Tribune
Des Moines Polk County History 1911
Diamond History of St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Diamond History of Presbyterian Church of Grimes
Mrs George (Presley) Findley, two manuscripts
Grimes Advocate
Grimes Citizen
Grimes Presbyterian church session records
Grimes School annuals
Historical Picture Files
History of the Des Moines Public School 1846-1976
History of Dallas County
History of Polk County 1880
History of Presbyterian Church 1837 - 1800
Insurance map of Grimes 1905
Legion Record and scrap book
Lions scrap book
Northeast Dallas County Record
The Little Man With A Long Shadow
The Story of Quaker Oats
P.T.A. scrap book of Grimes
Pure Nostalgia of Early Iowa

I. Grimes

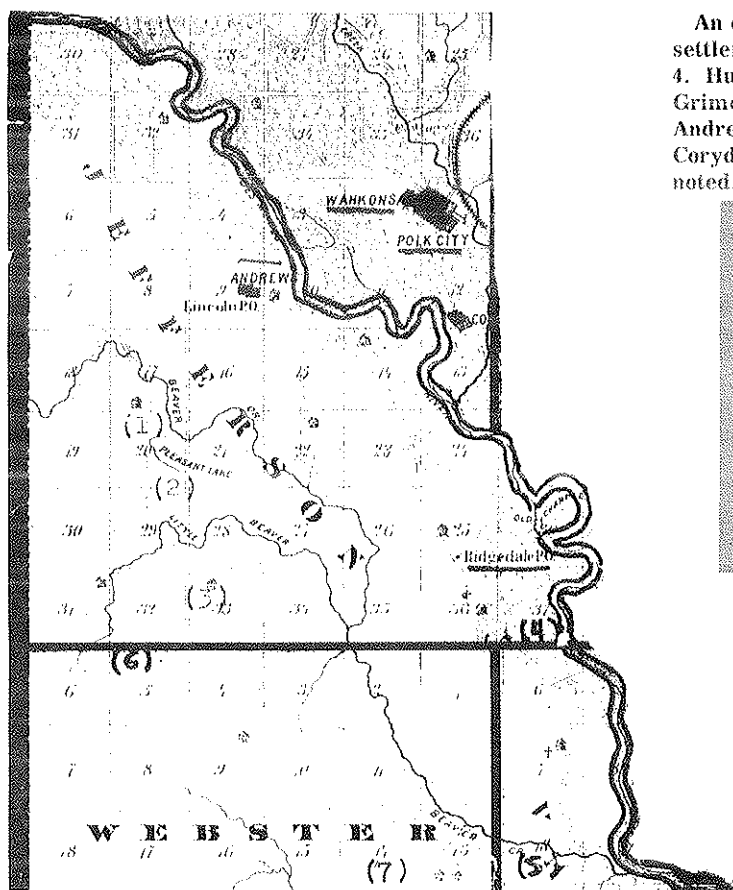
A. Villages and settlements before Grimes.

1. **Dallas County:** At first Walnut and Grant townships were all one with Walnut township being organized in 1867 and Grant township being organized in 1878. "The first settler was Mr. Humphrey and a few years later came Paul Goff and A. Hoff and W. L. Briggs," (from History of Dallas County). There was a settlement started called Hoff and the first grave marking is dated 1855 that of Amos Hoff. "At one time this was called Osprey" (Regional Association of Local Governments)

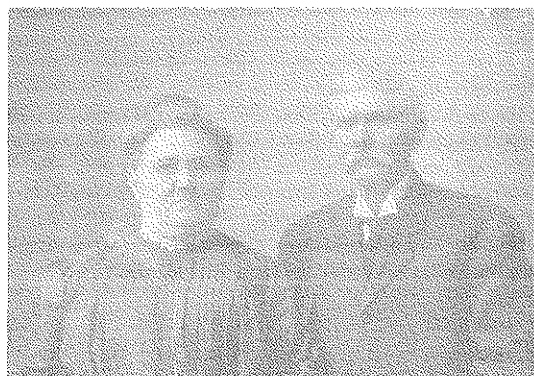
2. **Polk County:** Jefferson township was a part of Madison township at one time. Madison township was organized in April 1847 and included part of Lincoln, Jefferson and portion of Crocker township. When organized it comprised one quarter of the population of the county of Polk outside of Des Moines, (that is the city of Des Moines). Then in 1851, out of Madison township Jefferson township was organized. The oldest town in this area of the original Madison township is Polk City which was settled in 1846 by George Bebee with the town being organized in May, 1850, however, there was an Indian village adjacent which was called Wahkonsa, the date of the start of this village is not known.

Webster township: In 1860 Walnut township was organized and then in June, 1878, Webster township was organized from what had been at one time part of Jefferson and Valley townships. Webster township was shunned by the early settlers because it was prairie land and had but few trees; this accounts for the late date in organization.

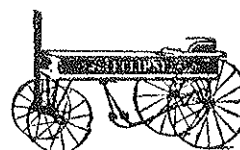
Jefferson township had a number of settlements whereas Webster township had only one settlement before 1881.



An early map, dated around 1870, 1. McClain farm and settlement; 2. Towner farm; 3. Ayers Grove settlement; 4. Hunstville settlement; 5. Lovington settlement; 6. Grimes town; 7. McDivit Grove settlement. Note: Andrew - Ridgedale - Polk City - Cor on the map indicated Corydon now covered by the lake. Indian village is also noted.



Mr. and Mrs. S. W. McClain
built 3 stores in Grimes
and the annexation of McClain addition.



S. W. McClain farm is what we know as the Carl Heidman farm. Mr. McClain with his parents came to Jefferson township in 1851. He was born December 2, 1844 in Nelson County, Virginia. He finished his education at Haus and Body's private school in Des Moines in 1863. In 1867 he went to Butte, Montana during the Gold Rush, returning home in two years with \$10,000.00. On December 11, 1879 he married Miss Elizabeth Coburn. Later they moved to the Grimes area. He was in the general merchandise business, later grain and coal and established Grimes first implement business. He also built two other buildings on Main Street which were used for business purposes.

J. W. Towner was born March 25, 1834 in Canada and came to this country in 1874. Later there was a post office established at Towner Lake, with Mrs. Towner as postmistress from January 21, 1879 to October 22, 1883. Mr. Towner had a summer resort at the lake which was one of the best in the county, that is, until the board of supervisors decided to drain the lake, even though Mr. Towner went to court about the matter, he lost.

Ayers Grove was established by Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Finley in section 33. This was located one half mile east of what is now Highway 141 and one mile north. This settlement was named after Mrs. Finley, for on October, 1848, Jonathan married Miss Mary B. Ayers of Ohio. They moved to this county in 1853, establishing their settlement. Miss Elizabeth Ayers was postmistress from 1880 to 1882, and here is where most of those from the Grimes area received their mail.

The Towns of Andrew and Lovington: The town of Andrew (now known as Lincoln Cemetery) where the bridge crosses the Des Moines River (Saylorville Dam area), was laid out in 1857 by William Fraizer and Nathan Andrews. The town of Lovington was laid out in December 1854, along Beaver Creek (where Lower Beaver Road crosses under I-35 and I-80). Before Grimes was started some people did some of their shopping in Lovington. The town, however, was disbanded before 1883.

Huntsville: Mr. Charles Hunt was born in Vermont and married Miss Celicia Spalding in 1861 and they moved to this county in 1877. They established their settlement that year, but it did not remain as such long.

Ridgedale was across from what is now Camp Dodge near the Hyperion Club, and had a post office established in June, 1858, which was disbanded March 31, 1902, when the mail came out of Grimes. The first postmaster was Silas W. McClain.

There was but only one settlement in what we know as Webster township before 1881 and that was McDivit's Grove which was settled in 1875 by Mr. and Mrs. McDivit. All that remains is the cemetery, which is on Meredith Road at 70th Street in Urbandale. The Methodist Church was located to the west of the cemetery also in 1875 at an expense of \$2,900.00.

4. Beaver Creek is located in both Jefferson and Webster township, most of the creek being in Jefferson township and it is interesting to note that the name of the Beaver Creek in the Indian language is Amaqua

Creek. In the early days almost every creek had one or more grist mills and in 1895 a Mr. W. F. Hart lived in Grimes and his occupation is given as Grist Mill operator. The Grist Mill in Grimes was located on the S.W. corner of S. 3rd and Ewing. According to our information the Grist Mill at Dallas Center was operated by horse power and changed over to gasoline motor at the turn of the century, and we assume that this was the case in Grimes.

B. The Railroad and other transportation

1. 1869 "Brings Joy": On file with the state of Iowa in December 26, 1869, a land grant was filed for the purpose of a railroad to be located somewhere in townships of Jefferson, section 32 and in section 5 of Webster.

There was joy to the Samuel Stewart family who had just moved here in the spring of 1869. Samuel was born in Canada, January 13, 1835, and married Miss Ella Graham, November 28, 1856. They moved to their farm that was bounded on the west by Dallas County and on the south by Webster township, section 31 of Jefferson township.

Joy for the John Betz family. John was born in Germany, October 20, 1815, then in New York on October 27, 1853, married Miss Mary Meistermillier. They settled in Jefferson township in the fall of 1853 and his descendants still live in this portion of our area.

Joy for Henry Seibert who resided in section 9 of Webster township, who was born in Germany May 24, 1832, and married in Philadelphia Miss Mary G. Stanger. They moved here in the spring of 1869.

2. 1874 F. M. Hubbel and J. S. Polk of Des Moines began the project of a railroad which finally came through this area of Grimes. This is the year they began to buy land, but it was seven more years before the building of the railroad started.

3. 1881 The Railroad arrives. The beginning of the railroad started in the spring of 1881 at Clive, and was known as the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern Railroad. This railroad was completed to Madrid, but it took time to build the railroad, for it was not finished until 1882. The first rails were spaced at a narrow gauge track, but in later years, around 1893 - 1894, the rails were all taken up and new, heavier rails were put in and spaced standard width of 56 inches.

The first depot was a box car. Then a small depot was built soon thereafter the same year, in 1881, which also was used for the telegraph operator and express agent. This depot also was used by Mr. Patrick Sheeky, the first agent section boss. By 1905, however, the railway had changed ownership to the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad and the depot had been expanded to modified station size (18' x 20' x 64'). At this time the formal name for the line was the Boone Branch of the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. The office was in the south end of the waiting room and in the north part was the express office. The first depot had empty railroad spike kegs which were turned upside-down for seats in the waiting room.

A Mr. Brown was the first agent and Mr. Bill Wyatt was the last agent who left in 1973. Mr. Wyatt lived in Adel and commuted to and from Grimes. The last resident agent was Mr. Vernon McGee.

The first section house was built in 1881 along the

right-of-way just north of 3rd Street for Mr. Sheeky and family and the last section foreman was Mr. Charles Nelson, and he and his wife were the last to live in the section house. They are the parents of Mrs. Florence Ibsen of Grimes and Mrs. Anna Wagner of Ames. The section house was moved around 1934 and still stands at the NW corner of North 3rd and Ewing Street.

4. Conclusion: In 1906 an account from a newspaper states "six trains per day pass through Grimes, all carry passengers. Passenger train service can be had at almost every hour of the day. This gives residents an excellent opportunity for visiting in the city and the service will doubtless be further improved. The distance from Des Moines is 14 miles, and the trip back and forth is a pleasant one." Today, 1980, according to the C.M.S.T.P. Railroad chief dispatcher there are only freight trains that run twice a day, one in each direction. Also, today Grimes is served by a four lane highway and we still enjoy rapid transportation to the city. The U.S. Mail now comes no longer by train but by truck. We can well realize the JOY they had in the coming of the railroad, for in like comparison has the coming of our paving of Highway 44 the first time in 1929, and the re-paving in 1980. Yes the joy of the coming of I-35 and I-80 and also I-235, and Highway 141 all a four lane highway.

C. Land Development

1. We Get Started: The first one to occupy the land where Grimes now stands was the Mr. and Mrs. William Menser family in 1856, then in 1860 the Jesse Liggett family occupied the farm, and in 1870 the W. M. George family took possession. In the spring of 1875 it was Mr. and Mrs. Watkins who took over the farm land, and their home is now standing where they lived. This is the home now occupied by Mrs. Edna Smith along Highway 44, 621 1st Street.

In 1881 the Union Land Company of Des Moines was formed consisting of J. S. Polk (president), Grover Hubbel (secretary), also on the committee was W. O. Mathony and R. S. Rennels. They purchased 40 acres of land from W. W. Watkins and plotted the town of Stewart (Grimes) then the Grimes Land and Improvement Company purchased 31 acres and S. McClain purchased 30 acres comprising the total of what is now the land owned by W. W. Watkins south of what is now Highway 44. An auction was held in May of 1881, the auctioneer was a Mr. B. Alleson, and Mr. W. J. Stewart purchased the first lot where he built his drug store. This building is still standing and is located on the west side of Main Street on the southwest corner of the alley. The second lot was purchased by J. N. Presley, who at the time lived on a farm in Dallas County one mile west of the county line along Highway 44, the farm that lies on the northwest corner. Mrs. Presley's father had been in the mercantile business in St. Louis so this was no new adventure for them. Their store was located on the southeast corner of Main and south of 2nd Street. (There is a picture of this first store in Chapter 3.) The third lot was purchased by Charles Reed, who built his blacksmith shop across from what is now city hall and the fire station. He also moved the hotel to Main Street in 1882, where our post office now stands. Where he moved the hotel from no one seems to know, however, in 1882 he built his home which is still standing, just east of the then Blacksmith

Shop. The former house of Charles Reed is 417 S. 2nd Street. About the same time Mr. S. L. McClain built his store on the southwest corner of Second and Main. This is where Mr. McClain put in a mercantile business, and he had as his clerk a Mr. Ben Foster for a few years until the business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Jay. The building that Mr. McClain built is still standing at 209 S. 3rd, which is the home of E. M. Slauson. This was a two story building when it was first built. Later on Mr. McClain built two business buildings, one his Implement building next to his first building and the building where the Friar Brother had their store. Therefore, we had in Grimes at the close of the year 1881 and the beginning of the year 1882 two mercantile businesses, a drug store, a blacksmith shop, a hotel and a doctor who had his residence and office above the drug store. We will write about the doctor in another chapter, and show his picture.

Where did these families live that first winter? Our information indicates that there was not enough time to build homes as well as business establishments. We understand that the Charles Reed family lived in the upstairs of the blacksmith business for it was a two story building. Mr. and Mrs. Presley and family we know had living quarters in the store. Mr. John Stewart became a widower in January of 1881 and lived in the back of the drug store, and the doctor lived upstairs over the drug store and also had his office there.

Congratulations

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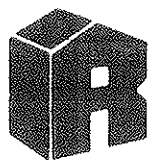
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992-3247

Roy Griggs, Grimes
986-3709

Congratulations

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Congratulations Grimes

On Your Centennial

In the past 10 years we have built 167 homes,
53 apartments, for a total of 220.



Mr. and Mrs. Osterhout. Mrs. Osterhout's grandfather, Mr. Granger, was on the Grimes Land Improvement Committee, and it was on a portion of this farm that Grimes first major housing development in 60 years came.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Miller (first home built, they are still living in this home).



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In 1883 the Union Land Company transferred their holdings to the Grimes Land Improvement Company. From the Des Moines Daily News, dated July 24, 1902, we note: "To the Grimes Land and Improvement Co. is due to great measure probably than any other source the growth of the town. It was this company that took over the town site in 1883 two years after its location by the Union Land Co. which was a sort of auxiliary to the D.M.N. and W. road. The Grimes Land and Improvement Co. at once secured options on additional ground, laid out several small additions, graded the streets and alleys, and practically set the ball rolling. The towns people lent a ready hand too, and the steady growth is accounted for by the wisdom of those promoters of the town of Grimes. S. W. McClain was the first president, C. L. Weiser is vice president, W. J. Stewart secretary, Samuel Steward and B. F. Granger are directors. All have served faithfully since the formation of the company. Town lots have always been sold at a reasonable price. Residence lots were made 66 feet wide and many have been improved by erection of houses ranging from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00 and still the work goes on, for a visit there at this time shows several houses in course of erection and at least half dozen that have been completed within the past three months. This company also established the Grimes cemetery."

Mr. B. F. Granger was born in New York, August 7, 1835. He moved to Fort Dodge in 1856, and in the fall with his wife, the former Miss Calista Rood whom he married February 7, 1855. They settled on a farm in section 31 of Jefferson township. The farm is just west of James Street and north of Highway 44.

Mr. William John Stewart:

1856, October 23, born Ogle County, Illinois

1869 moved to this county with parents

1869 - 1872 attended Lincoln School Des Moines

1872 - 1876 attended Simpson College, Indianola,

Iowa with a degree in Chemistry

1876 - 1881 taught school (country school)

1879 married Miss Jessie Granger

1881, January 9, son born (Elmer)

1881, January 14, wife Jessie passed away due to childbirth

1881, March 24, son passed away (son Elmer)

1881 moved to Grimes, started drug store business

1884, September, married Miss Ella A. McKee, she also was a pharmacist and helped operate the drug store

1887 joined the Presbyterian Church

1887 Son Earl was born

1890 elected to 23rd General Assembly of Iowa

1892 started the Creamery

1892 started the "Pill" factory

1894 helped to have Grimes incorporated, first mayor

1896 Son Harold was born (6 - 11 - 96)

1897 Son Harold died (4 - 20 - 97)

1900 organized Grimes Savings bank

1900 elected director to Telephone Company

1902 elected to Grimes school board

1902 started "canning factory"

Thus it went on and on for William John Stewart when on September 30, 1944, it was our sorrow to attend his funeral service, conducted by Harry Stickley.



An early home in Ayres Grove



Home of Mrs. Edna Smith, formerly Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Watkins farm home also wash house.



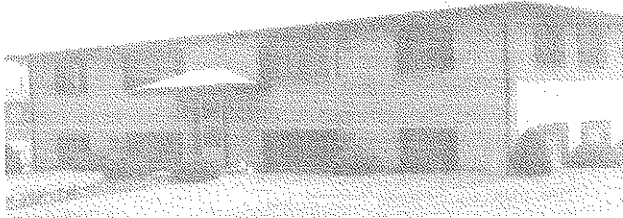
Section house as it stands today on N. 3rd and Ewing St.



Early homes in 2nd Channon addition. Can you find 4 homes? Can you identify who lives in these homes today? The building on the right is part of the Christian Church.

Congratulations Grimes

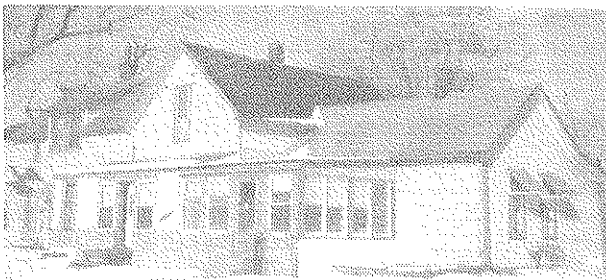
On Your Growth



Apartments at
501 N. Jacob
Marlin & Ruth Docter
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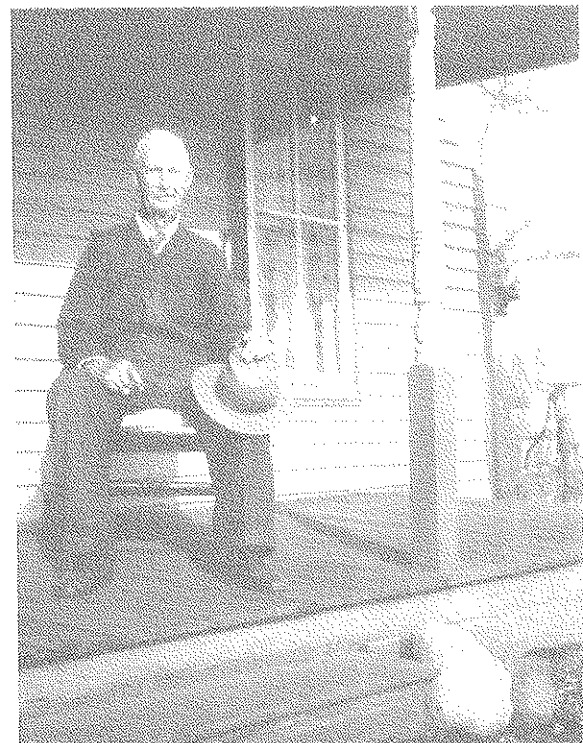
Apartments at
411 S. Main
Marlin & Ruth Docter
986-3760
Larry & Marge Madole
276-2608



First apartment house in Grimes. Built about 1890 by K. F. Houghtaling, grandfather of Hazel. It was known through the years as Fox's flats. This apartment house still stands today.



Mr. and Mrs. John Black. He was an early merchant and banker in Grimes.



Earl Stewart states in the Grimes Advocate 1906 the first house built in Grimes was the Pressley house. This is the home which was located west of the weigh scales building today. The man is Andy Black.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hufford, 200 N. Main. Mrs. Jessie Bohrofen was 13 when her folks built this house.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reed, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pinegar.



Joe Reed who did some Livery Business. The home nearest is now rased and this is a parking lot for our school. Also the S. Shiffer home to the right, still standing today.

2. Annexations

Let us go back to Mr. W. W. Watkins. He moved with his family from Webster township across the road (Highway 44) to Jefferson township, on a 280 acre farm which tract of land had been purchased by Mr. Alexander and Mr. P. More in 1854. They sold it in 1857 to Mr. John Delshoyal, then he sold it to Mr. Goston in 1869, and then Watkins purchased this farm in 1881.

The first annexation to the town of Grimes was the 31 acres by the Grimes Land Improvement. The next annexation to Grimes was the cemetery which was annexed in the late 1880's. The next annexation was in 1897, by Mr. Will Channon. Mr. Channon had purchased 40 acres of land from Mr. Watkins and at a later date purchased 60 acres from Mr. Watkins. Just before the turn of the century, Mr. McClain legally annexed to Grimes 30 acres of land had been purchased from Watkins, which was all in Webster township and from the east side of Jacobs Street (for the west side of Jacobs was in the original plot). Then came the second Channon addition. From the Des Moines Daily News, July 24, 1902, we note the following: "Five years ago Wm. F. Channon moved into Grimes from the country. He had lived for ten years in the farming section to the north, and had enjoyed a prosperity that spoke well for his enterprise, and in locating at Grimes he believed he could aid in building up this comparatively new municipality. Mr. Channon is a man of middle age, and active real estate agent and farmer. He owns lots of land near the town and also choice building sites right inside where they will become very valuable in a short time. He laid out an addition along the north line of the town.

There are homes still standing in the original plat. There is the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stewart which is the first house on the west side of Main Street, the first house south of Highway 44. Old Dr. Grover's home still stands just north of the Legion Hall, the original location was on the corner of Highway 44 and Main Street.

One of the first homes in the first Channon Addition was that of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hufford, the parents of Mrs. Jessie Bohrofen, who remembers the building of the home, which was before the turn of the century.

Some of the homes in the Second Channon Addition are on the west side and east side of Jacobs Street. This second addition of Channon came after the turn of the century.

There was the building of homes from time to time however, it seemed that there was not much large scale building in home building for nearly 50 years. It was in the early 1950's around 1952 that the Circle Drive was developed by the Sloan Lumber Company. Then around 1965 came the area developed by Mr. LeGrand of the Grimes Lumber Company, this is known as the Beaver Crest addition. Then came the Mobel Park known as Valli Village which was developed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fletchall, this was in 1968. The next annexation, that of some of the Granger farm, now known as the Mr. and Mrs. Norton Osterhout farm, this annexation and addition, known as the Park View addition or Cosgriff Plaza addition, was started in 1971. Then in 1974, our annexation of the land south of Grimes. In 1978, came the Carlson addition known as the Channon Heights addition, and the last has been the Taylor Estate under the leadership of Mr. Merlin Perdue in 1978, this being a portion of the farm owned by Mrs. Ethel Taylor. We have