



AUG 12 1982

Landmarks Given Descriptive Tags

Landmarks were more important before statehood than they may appear to today's travelers. Roads often were poorly defined and highway signs were non-existent. Settlers gave names to almost any landmark that could be identified to specify locations.

Rivers, creeks and springs were high on the list, and they often were named according to obvious characteristics. Thus, we have a number of Sandy Creeks and Beaver Creeks in the state, as well as Cowskin Creek, Rush Creek and Walnut Creek. Many of the names given to springs were colorful, although a few were not necessarily terms that would sound inviting to modern travelers.

In Marshall County, for instance, there was a sparkling spring on the edge of a prairie. In nearby hills Indians had killed many rattlesnakes, so the name of Rattlesnake Springs was given to the watering place, as well as the prairie.

Whether trees were plentiful or scarce, they often gave their names to identify locations. Round Grove, Pecan Grove and Hickory were among those used.

Naming of communities often was confusing due to settlers in different areas selecting identical names. These were cleared up when applications were filed for post offices.

The town of Capron got its name because its earlier name of **Virgil**, chosen in honor of a local doctor's son, was duplicated elsewhere in the territory. The town had acquired the name of Virgil because it had been found that the original name of Warren was duplicated.