

OKLAHOMA  
TERRITORY

# TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of  
History  
Before  
Statehood

INDIAN  
TERRITORY

AUG 22 1982

## Convention Proposed Merging of Territories

In May 1900, Rep. John A. Moon of Tennessee introduced a measure in Congress for organization of Indian Territory under the name of the Territory of Jefferson. It was not considered seriously but figured in discussions of Oklahoma statehood.

A "single statehood" convention was held at McAlester in December 1900, although that city was one of the centers for separate statehood for Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory.

A delegation was sent to Washington to urge action and to foster a bill that would enable the people of the two territories to adopt a state constitution and be admitted to the union. No action was taken at that time.

Another inter-territorial convention was held at Muskogee Nov. 15, 1901. Similar procedures were followed, but again Congress did not enact legislation for either single or dual statehood.

Soon afterward, a bill measure known as "The Omnibus Bill" was introduced in Congress, attracting considerable debate. It would have authorized statehood procedures simultaneously for the territories of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

The statehood movement that had begun in Oklahoma shortly after the first land run in 1889 was gaining momentum, but this was not the final legislation. Oklahoma had to wait until 1906 before the "Enabling Act" was passed.