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'Bromide Springs'

Early State Resort

Early Oklahomans were observant of natural wonders, and when an area seemed to offer possibilities as a resort, someone usually tried to exploit it.

Today, the small community of Bromide on the Johnston-Coal counties line still offers scenery but its stardom as a health resort has faded.

A flowery description of "Bromide Springs" appears in "History of Oklahoma" by J.B. Thoburn in a biography of Gerald H. Galbreath, whose family built the Galbreath Hotel in Bromide. Robert Galbreath of Tulsa, early oil and gas developer, uncovered a body of manganese and hematite ore near Bromide while he was operating a stone quarry there. He mined these materials for some time.

"Gentle step-like declivities succeed one another to the summit of a long meandering mountain, clothed with grass and trees, and winding gracefully back toward the main range of the beautiful Arbuckle Mountains," Thoburn wrote.

"Like the prongs of a fork run little streets to the very door of the (Galbreath) Hotel. One of them goes back into the timber of the valley where blue waters run over picturesque falls, form beautiful bathing pools and run swift and deep over the clear rock-bottomed haunts of many kinds of fish," the historian continued.

"Another leads to the bromide spring, the sulphur spring, the fresh-water spring, the bath house, sanatorium hill and a dozen other points of interest to the health seeker."

The writer observed that if "temporary aberrations of the weather" forced suspension of activities, the modern hotel offered "all the facilities for pleasure that the globe trotter finds in the average hotel of the cities."