

OKLAHOMA  
TERRITORY

## TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of  
History  
Before  
Statehood

INDIAN  
TERRITORY

# Writer Praised Banker's Farm

Though settlers often lived in dugouts, sod houses and log cabins, they attempted to provide tasty variations for their menus by growing orchards and large vegetable gardens. When one succeeded, the achievement merited admiration, conversation and from time to time, a glowing story by an eloquent writer.

Such is the description by J.B. Thoburn in his "History of Oklahoma," telling of a visit to the farm home of Elva C. Barrows, a banker who had come to Oklahoma with his parents in the run of 1889.

"Long before the winding road opens to your vista the long rows of blooming trees, the faint aroma of peach blossoms strikes in upon the facilities," Thoburn wrote. "Then the road curves around and you see, as far as the horizon permits in the sandy, loamy hills what looks like miles upon miles of fruit trees.

"None could visit this wonderful orchard without declaring it was a beautiful sight. Comprising 80 acres and lying five miles southeast of Tulsa, it can easily be reached by automobile over some of the best roads in the state. Yesterday, there were 4,600 peach trees, all three years old, in full bloom.

"In addition, there were hundreds of plum trees, the great part being literally white with blossoms. In other directions were thousands of apple, crabapple, cherry and other varieties of trees.

"Near the farm house is a large packing shed, two stories in height. In a large barn on the premises is found a specially constructed wagon which will be used to haul a maximum load of fruit to the market."