

OKLAHOMA
TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

INDIAN
TERRITORY

OCT 25 1982

Manufacturing Boosted Employment and Trade

Although agriculture was recognized as the basic industry in the territories, residents diligently sought to attract and develop other industries to provide jobs and strengthen trade. These included lumbering, mining, petroleum and manufacturing.

Perspectives of size of industrial installations in that day were vastly different from investments required now. An early milling business was described by J.B. Thoburn in "History of Oklahoma," as well as a couple of pre-statehood cement plants.

Thoburn wrote that the Rea and Read Elevator Co. was "one of the foremost corporations of its kind in the eastern part of Oklahoma, the well-equipped mills and elevator in the city of Tulsa being of the most modern type and the products of the plant including the highest grades of flour from both hard and soft wheat."

It was stated that the mill had a capacity for the output of 500 barrels of flour and the elevator capacity was 60,000 bushels. Brands of flour manufactured include "Dinner Party," "Main Line Special," "Peach," "TulsaStar" and "Rich and Rare."

Two large cement plants were established in Oklahoma in 1906. Growth in population and construction that was occurring made the need for additional building materials obvious.

Adam L. Beck formed the Oklahoma Portland Cement Co. at Ada in association with George L. Kice, J.M. Wintersmith, William L. Whitaker and Claude Rodarmel. Capital stock was \$300,000.

The same year the Dewey Portland Cement Co. was incorporated at Dewey, with general offices in Kansas City, Mo. It had a capital of \$1 million, with an average daily production of 3,500 barrels of high grade Portland cement.