

OKLAHOMA
TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

INDIAN
TERRITORY

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Inventions Helped New State Grow

Inventions were changing the living patterns for most Americans about the time Oklahoma became a state. The Wright brothers had flown their first airplane in 1903, and interest was sparking for aviation.

The horseless carriage had made its debut, and bold young men were taking to those machines and motorcycles. The telephone was becoming popular, and a number of towns in the territories could boast of electric lights even before statehood.

According to a story published years ago in *The Daily Oklahoman*, the first automobile in Oklahoma City was brought to town by a young lawyer named J.H. Everest in 1900. Its noise, odors, novelty and the terrific speed of 15 mph made it a center of attraction. By the time of statehood, it was reported automobiles were causing downtown traffic congestion.

More would soon be on the way.

An advertisement in *The Daily Oklahoman* in the summer of 1907 offered a Ford Model T. Run about for \$650. Another ad for the Oklahoma Motor Co. reported on the Fourth Annual Glidden AAA Tour. It described a 10-day road test of 1,570 miles in seven states to compare stamina and durability of about 40 makes of cars.

The ad declared that "a \$1,250 Reo led them all." Then it added that this Reo "immediately made an official 500-mile non-stop dash from New York to the Jamestown Exposition, principally by night, over rough and sandy roads in less than 24 hours actual running time."

Other makes of cars mentioned in the ad included Columbia, Pierce, Apperson, Cleveland, Shoemaker, Aerocar, Deere, Dragon and Maxwell. Horsepower ranged from 16 for the Reo up to 65 for a Pierce.