

OKLAHOMA
TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

INDIAN
TERRITORY

NOV 11 1982

City Slow in Becoming Big Agriculture Center

Agriculture was the basic industry of Oklahoma, and farm trade was eagerly solicited by merchants in every town. They also worked to obtain factories that would provide payrolls for people who lived in the towns. Every success was published.

A story in The Daily Oklahoman in September 1907 reported that the Goit Manufacturing Co. of Oklahoma City planned to erect "a large factory" at 520 W 2nd Street to build automatic dump carts, cement mixers and machinery. "The weekly payroll will be \$1,000 and 60 skilled mechanics will be employed," according to the news item.

Predictions that Oklahoma City might become "the livestock market of the Southwest" were made that year.

It was not until 1910, however, that Oklahoma City really made its mark as a meat and packing center. After Sidney L. Brock, Chamber of Commerce president, and chamber Secretary A.W. McKeand, mailed literature about Oklahoma City to all packing plants they could locate, a representative of the Nelson Morris & Co., one of the largest, paid the city a visit and agreed to build a meat packing plant in the city.

The agreement called for a cash bonus of \$300,000, plus other benefits.