

A

TOWN

NAMED

ANNA

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A TOWN NAMED ANNA

INTRODUCTION

The history of the town of Anna begins 102 years ago in 1883. My efforts to compile a history of the town from its earliest days were made difficult because very little information is available in published sources. Histories of Collin County give only limited data regarding Anna. One written by J. Lee Stambaugh and Lillian J. Stambaugh and published by the Texas Historical Association, 1958, lists the earliest settlers in the country, and I have attempted to determine which of those were located near Anna. Articles written by Capt. Roy F. Hall and data collected by Capt. Hall and his wife, Helen Gibbard Hall, were published in a book titled Collin County-Pioneering in North Texas, Nortex Press, 1975. This book includes biographical sketches of many pioneer families, including several from the Anna area. The two-volume Handbook of Texas, published by the Texas Historical Association, 1952, contains a brief history of Anna. Most of the information in it is erroneous. For example, it states that Anna was named for Anna Greer. The Stambaugh book reports that some sources say Anna was named for Anna Quinlan, daughter of H&TC official George A. Quilan, and that other sources say Anna was named for Anna Huntington, daughter of a prominent railroad official, C. P. Huntington. The Hall book lists all three Annas (Greer, Quinlan and Huntington) as possibilities and then concludes that Huntington is the most likely because C. P. Huntington, who built the railroad, reported to his stockholders that he had named Anna and Melissa for his two daughters.

I accept as the most reliable source as to the origin of the name of the town a brief item said to be taken from an article written by Jim Greer, son of John F. Greer, who built the first store and first residence in Anna and who was the father of Anna Greer. This states that Anna was named for Anna Quinlan (he spelled it Quinland), daughter of an H&TC Railroad official. This agrees with the information in a history written by my mother in 1910 (she spelled the name Quinlin). Mr. Greer's article and most other sources agree that Anna Greer was the first baby born in Anna.

Persons knowing of my interest in the history of Anna have sent me typed items and newspaper clippings containing historical facts about Anna and its people. An important source of names of early merchants, school personnel, ministers, postmaster, depot agents and other leaders of the town is a history of Anna written seventy-five years ago by my mother, Mrs. Frances Powell Howell Sanstrom, for a school assignment when she was a student at the Anna School. I am very grateful to her and all others who have assisted me in gathering the information for this history of our town.

A TOWN NAMED ANNA

The little town of Anna, Texas is located in Collin County about four miles from the northern edge. It is ten miles north of McKinney and forty miles north of Dallas. Collin County was created by Act of the state legislature on April 3, 1846, after Texas had become a state of the United States. It previously had been a part of Fannin County, which was created out of Red River County on December 14, 1837, after Texas became an independent republic. The capitol of Fannin County was Fort English (later to become Bonham), which also was the headquarters for all settlers along the Red River.

Mexico, after gaining its independence from Spain in 1821, strongly encouraged people from both the U.S. and Europe to settle in Texas. Mexico entered into a total of twenty-nine contracts with empresarios to bring colonists to Texas.

After Texas became a republic in 1836, she also attempted to attract volunteers from the U.S. to the Texas Army and to bring in settlers by giving grants of land. Heads of families who were here prior to March 2, 1836 could receive 4,605 acres of land and a single man 1,476 acres. Those coming later received smaller grants.

In 1841, the Republic began making large grants of land to agents for establishing colonies in Texas. The Peters Colony on the Red River was one such colony. As a result, the population of the Republic increased from 30,000 in 1836 to 135,000 (including 35,000 slaves) in 1846. An estimate made by a man who was here at the time was that the area that would become Collin County had a population of 150 in 1842. The U.S. Census of 1850 listed 1,950 and of 1860, 9,264.

The first contract with Peters and Associates was signed on August 30, 1841. Eventually, four contracts were signed. Grayson, Collin and Dallas Counties were on the eastern side of the colony.

After Texas was annexed as a state of the United States and the organization of Collin and adjacent counties was effected in 1846, the settlers looked to the county and state governments relative to obtaining land for new homes. By a law passed by the legislature on February 7, 1853, colonists could file claims directly to Austin and be issued patents.

A number of pioneers settled on farms near Anna some forty years before the town was started. I think it can be said that it was because of these and others who came later that the town was built. The early settlers brought with them the tools necessary to build a house and begin farming. They became almost totally self-reliant for their daily needs because of long distances to stores or trading posts where these could be purchased. The thing that attracted them to the Collin County area was that most of the ground was prairie and easy to begin cultivating. There were many streams and springs to provide water, and along the streams were sufficient trees to cut for fuel and for building. As more settlers came, towns developed with stores to supply the needs of the people and to purchase produce from them. Anna was one such town.

Late in 1841, a party left Fort English moving southwest to explore the rich farm land along the East Fork of the Trinity River which had been observed previously by the transient settlement in what would become Collin County along Throckmorton Creek three miles south of Anna. The creek was given that name later because the settlement was established by William Edward Throckmorton. He and the others were guided to that spot by Pleasant Wilson.

Throckmorton, a physician, died in 1843. His son, James Webb Throckmorton, came to Texas with his father. He went to Kentucky in 1844 and studied medicine and returned to Texas after the Mexican War. He married Annie Rattan, the daughter of another pioneer in the Anna area. After serving as a Brigadier General in the Confederacy during the Civil War, he was elected governor of Texas.

Another early settler, and the best known, was Collin McKinney. He and his family moved to a point north of Anna near the Grayson County line in 1846 from Hickman's Prairie on Red River. He remained in this home until his death on September 8, 1861. McKinney represented Red River County at the convention of 1836, where he helped draft the Declaration of Independence and was one of its signers. He was a member of the First, Second and Fourth Congresses of the Republic of Texas. Both Collin County and the county seat, McKinney, were named for him.

Other early settlers to the area of Anna, as listed in the Wambaugh book, were John Coffman, 1845, Illinois; George, James Asbury and Larkin Hendricks, 1850, South Carolina; Dr. W. D. Lair, 1857, Kentucky (this is William Dixon Lair, who was Anna's only doctor for many years); Mrs. Eliza Milam, 1844, Kentucky; William S. Rattan, 1845, Illinois; J. H. Slaughter, 1853, Kentucky; Mrs. Matthew Slaughter, 1853, native; Henry Smith, 1848, Missouri; Joseph P. Stewart, 1851, Indian Territory, J. H. Strother, 1853, Tennessee; James Wells, 1842; and John Wells, 1842. Joseph P. Smith and the two Wells men were settlers in the Throckmorton settlement.

The Eliza Milam on the list was the youngest daughter of Collin McKinney. She came to Texas with her father from Kentucky in 1842, and they settled in Bowie County. She married Jefferson Rush Milam in 1830, and they had ten children. He died in 1844 and she moved to near Anna a short time later. The Milams and McKinneys had been very close for many years when they moved to their land grants near Texarkana, and in later years some of the Milams lived with Collin McKinney at times. Eliza was a widow for 59 years and died in 1903. A brother of Eliza's husband was Benjamin Rush Milam. This is Colonel Ben Milam, the Texas hero who led a group of volunteers in December 1853 in defeating General Cos in the battle for San Antonio. Cos, brother-in-law of Santa Anna, had held the city, and after surrendering was allowed to lead his troops across the Rio Grande into Mexico. Ben Milam was one of only two Texans killed in the battle, which lasted five days.

At one time Ben Milam was engaged to a daughter of Collin McKinney. He went to Europe to purchase furniture for their home, and while he was gone she married another man. (This story was told to me by a friend of mine in Waco, Jesse Rush Milam, Jr., who is a great-great-grandson of Eliza and Jefferson Milam. Note: the Milam's continue to use Rush as a middle name for male members. Jesse has a son and grandson who carry the name.)

Charles Hopkins Wysong came to Texas in 1848 from Missouri and settled at Highland, three miles southwest of Anna. His wife died the next year, two days after giving birth to James Hopkins Wysong, who became a physician. In 1866, Charles Hopkins Wysong married Elizabeth R. Slaughter, daughter of James H. Slaughter. One of their sons was Dr. Walter Scott Wysong, who practiced medicine in Anna after graduating from medical school in Galveston in 1903. He moved to McKinney in 1913 and later established Wysong Clinic. Three sons became physicians and were associated with him. Charles H. Wysong, usually referred to as "Uncle Charlie", was a blacksmith, farmer and wheelwright. He was postmaster of Highland from 1853 until

1858. In 1856 he donated land for a church and cemetery at Highland. The church building was used by both the Baptists and Presbyterians. At its height, Highland consisted of a post office, gin, grist mill, the church, and several houses. Now only the cemetery remains. After the railroad bypassed Highland in 1872, the gin, grist mill and the Baptist Church moved to Anna. The post office closed on May 16, 1873.

The Hall book includes a biography of Thomas Rattan, from Illinois, who staked his headright three miles southwest of the location of Anna in 1840. One of his daughters married Governor James W. Throckmorton. One of his sons, Thomas H. Rattan, married Rebecca Jane Coffman, daughter of John Coffman, who settled on the adjoining headright. A son of Thomas H. Rattan, married Minerva Jane Milligan, daughter of Edward Milligan. He built the third residence in Anna for the Milligans.

The most important event that was to result in the building of a new town to be named Anna occurred in 1872. That was the year when the Houston and Texas Central Railroad (later to become the Southern Pacific) ran a line from Dallas to Denison through McKinney and Sherman. The line established a stop that for more than ten years was nothing more because there were no buildings there. But in 1883 the railroad stop became a town when some twenty people moved there. A post office was established that same year, and the new town was given the name Anna.

The first store was built by John F. Greer (some of the printed histories show his name as Capt. John L. Greer) and William Y. Barnett. The Hall book credits Greer with being the founder of Anna. He was born in Alabama in 1850, moved in Collin County in 1867, and settled at Mantua. When Mantua was bypassed by the H&TC Railroad, Greer moved to Anna in 1883 and built his store and the first residence. The Stambaugh book says that J. L. Greer donated the tract of land on which the H&TC built its depot and switch yards and that he became Anna's first mayor when the town was incorporated in 1913. The post office which opened in 1883 was located in Greer and Barnett's store. Barnett was appointed postmaster on May 29, 1883, and Greer became the second postmaster on January 13, 1885.

The second store was built by Guinn and Davis. (The Guinn is as it was spelled in the material written by Mr. Greer. The Stambaugh book identifies him as E. H. Gunn and the Hall book as E. H. Guinon). Shortly thereafter, a store was built by Strother Brothers and another J. M. "Jim" Guthrie. Guthrie had come from Alabama with several of his brothers and sisters ("Aunt Fannie" Cadenhead and my grandmother, Snow Guthrie Howell, were two of them), but he returned after a rather short stay in Anna. In a letter written from Eclectic, Alabama on November 10, 1894, he asked his brother-in-law, John C. Howell (my grandfather) to try to collect from several who owed him money. Regarding one, he wrote, "You go out and see him and make him settle if possible. If he has any stock, hogs or cow that you can get the money out of take them."

The next store was built by Copeland and Powell. The latter was William Powell, an older half-brother of M. C. "Cal" Powell and Y. H. E. "Bud" Powell.

The original stores were all in separate wood frame buildings located on the west side of the railroad tracks and facing the road which ran parallel to the tracks. I believe these were the four buildings, which I shall describe later, that were still being used in the early 1930's.

Andrew and Fred Sherley also had a store in a small frame building west of the tracks. Their father, Albert Sherley, married Rebecca Shirley in 1857. The following year they moved to a location just west of the present location of Melissa, where Andrew was born. Later they moved to a farm about two miles east of Anna.

After a short while, Andrew and Fred Sherley moved their store to a larger frame building east of the tracks, where the Anna Park is now located. In 1894, the Sherley's built the first brick building in town, slightly north of the previous location of their store. They sold a complete line of goods, including furniture, and added a lumber yard and funeral parlor to the complex of buildings. They also sold livestock. The store always was identified as A. Sherley and Bro. After the original owners died, Fred's son, Wayne, and Wayne's wife, Janet, operated the store but it became primarily a hardware store. Janet operated the store after Wayne died. The store was closed about a year after she died.

The next brick store building, the first two story commercial building, was built by Milton Hornsby and Lee Guthrie. The latter was a brother of Jim Guthrie, previously mentioned, and Hornsby was the husband of Guthrie's sister Victoria. An old school directory, which is not dated but believed to have been printed in 1904, has an ad which identifies the store as Hornsby, Guthrie and Hornsby. A few years later the partners split up and went separate ways. In my mother's history in 1910, she stated that Gratz P. Collins was operating a store in the building. He was married to a sister of Andrew and Fred Sherley.

The first major construction of new stores in Anna was in 1904, when the Sherley Brothers built the set of brick buildings on the north side of the new main street. This street crossed the tracks just north of the depot and ran on the south side of A. Sherley and Bro. The building on the east end of this group was a two story structure which housed Anna's first bank. The first banker was a Mr. Murphy. He was succeeded by B. A. Marcum. This building later was used as the post office and afterwards became the location of a very junky clothing store operated by Gratz Collins after he returned to Anna, having been in business in Dallas for many years. The upstairs was used as residences. This building has now been razed, but the others in the group stand empty.

Another major construction in 1907 provided several adjacent brick buildings on the south side of main street. They extended from an alley off main street on the east to the interurban tracks of the west, and the back of the west building became the interurban station. This line of the Texas Traction Company was completed from Dallas to Sherman in 1908 and connected with a line from Sherman to Denison. It was acquired by the Texas Electric Railway in 1917. It operated from July 1, 1908 until December 31, 1948.

The alley on the east end of the Hornsby buildings separated them from another building which housed Morgan's Meat Market. The meat market was directly across the street from the store building on the west of the Sherley group. All of these buildings on the south side of main street are still standing, and most are in use today.

The building on the east end of the Hornsby group was for many years the home of the Anna Mercantile Company, a general store owned by George Alexander, and after his death, by his wife and children. When I remember this store it was being managed by Mr. Sidney Smith, but two of the Alexander's children, Jim Alexander and Mrs. Myrtle Giles, wife of the banker, Grady Giles, helped in the store at times. They also owned the drug store next door. There was a passageway between the two stores. The drug store was typical of that time, with a soda fountain, tables and chairs in the front part.

Behind the Alexander store was a small concrete building which faced the alley. It had been vacant in the 1930's, when Dr. Largent, a McKinney dentist and father of Janet Sherley, opened it in one of several baby chick hatcheries which he owned in the county. My mother operated the hatchery until it closed. She then began working in the Alexander's store, where her work included candling eggs (examining by holding between the eye and a light) and testing cream brought in by local people.

The hatchery building later became the location of a barber shop operated by Sam Hagin before he was appointed postmaster in 1934. It was then operated by Clyde Walthall. The price of haircuts was twenty-five cents.

Just south of the hatchery and facing another street one block south of main street was located the first residence built in Anna. It was built by the first merchant, John F. Greer for his home and later sold to Mr. Alexander.

According to the article written by Jim Greer (James H. Greer, son of John F. Greer), the second house was built by Mr. Guinn. This probably was the Guinn who was a partner with Davis in the second store in Anna. This house is not mentioned as one of the first in my mother's history.

The next house in Anna was built for Mr. Milligan by James Dow Rattan. This house later was sold to the Baptist Church for use as its parsonage, probably soon after the church was moved from Highland. Ross Sams, Sr. of Waco remembers living in the house in 1906 and 1907 when his father, L. L. Sams, was pastor of the church. In 1914, the church sold the house to my grandfather, Y. H. E. Powell. In 1966, after the death of Miss Decker Powell, the surviving children of Y. H. E. Powell sold the house to Johnny McBride, who lives in the house now.

The next house was built for Mrs. Arthur Sherley on the lot where the Christian Church is now located.

In the same year when Anna became a town, 1883, the new residents established a school in the house that was the residence of "Uncle Jimmie" Strother. Mr. Greer's notes state that a second school was established in the residence of a Mr. Carter. It was customary in those days to establish the first schools in private homes, often with the owner being the teacher, according to a story in the Hall book. Both of the residences mentioned must have been used only for brief periods because my mother wrote that the first school house was built in 1884. Rooms were added to this building on two occasions. The Anna School Directory, believed to be for 1904, has on its cover a picture of this wooden building. It was a large two story structure across the front, with a one story part extending to the back.

The three story building that many of us attended was built in 1910. It was razed in 1982. Several years before that, the third floor, which contained the auditorium, was removed, and the building was given a flat roof. The lower two floors had classrooms in each corner, making eight in all. There were only eleven grades in Texas schools for many years. In the Anna school, the 10th and 11th grades were together, so nine grades were in the building. Courses for the 10th and 11th grades were taught so that half were taught one year and the other half the next year; therefore, 10th and 11th graders could be taught together. Behind the brick school were two annexes, which housed the first and second grades. Later, a third one was built and used as a lunchroom when a hot lunch program was initiated for the school.

My mother's history lists the principals up to 1910 as Moore, Newman, Robinson, Wilson, Lynser, Jones, Creswell, Tucker, Echols, Smith, Wolford, and Roper. Echols picture was on the 1904 directory. Apparently the tenure of a principal was quite brief before W. L. Roper came. He served from 1908 to 1943, when he was replaced by L. Dow Hendricks.

The "assistant teachers" were listed by my mother as Miss May Lisenby, Miss Nonie Slaughter, Miss May Greer, Miss Allie Wysong, Miss Annie Lou Sherley, Miss Etta Buck, Miss Blanch Hays, Mrs. Dolling King, Mrs. May Brown, Mrs. Grace Burke, Mrs. Annie Blassingame, Mrs. Smith, Mr. W. G. Cundiff, Mr. Massie, Miss Lotie Pierce, Miss Maude Webb, Miss Ethel Copeland, and Miss Allen.

After the H&TC depot was built in 1885, Anna had a second spurt of growth. The first depot agent was Andrew Sherley, who had just graduated from A & M College of Texas (now Texas A & M University) the previous year. His was the fifth class to graduate from A & M, and only twenty-three students had graduated before him in the four prior years. There were only fourteen in his class. A & M has long been known for having a very strong and supportive alumni association. When it was first organized in 1889, Andrew Sherley was elected president.

Other depot agents listed in my mother's history were Alden, Gitler, Jones Schenewerk, Hamm and Starr. The one I remember best was Mr. Charles Darwood. Milton Cadenhead was the telegraph operator at the depot.

The steam grist mill was moved from Highland in 1886 and was run by Mr. Moore. It was located on Throckmorton Creek just north of the bridge on the Anna-Weston road. A brick dam was built to provide the water for steam. The dam was still located there in the early 1930's and the little pool behind it was a favorite swimming hole for the smaller children. Later the dam was torn loose and washed some distance downstream during a flood of the creek. A student's thesis stated that the mill was owned by Capt. Greer. I do not know on which side of the creek the mill was located, but Mr. Greer owned the land on the west side. My grandfather rented the farm at that location from him when he first came to Texas in 1890.

A cotton gin was built by Dysart Brothers in 1887. A second gin was built by "Uncle Charlie" Wysong in 1892 and a third by Mr. Pear in 1900. A grain elevator was built by Greer and Moore in 1900. One was built later by M. C. Powell, Sr.

A lumber yard was built by O. F. Lion, who sold it to A. Sherley.

A livery stable was built by J. E. Adams, who sold it to Mr. Bill Estep. Mr. Estep then sold it to Smith and Mashburn but later bought it back. When my mother wrote her history in 1910, Mr. Estep was operating the livery stable, which was locted on the southeast corner of the block where the Baptist Church was located. When I was growing up, the building was still located there and in it were some large rusting trucks with solid rubber tires.

Just across the street south of the livery stable, Mr. Estep opened Anna's first automobile service station. A small telephone company structure is there now. Mr. Jim Bradshaw later had a service station and garage in the lower floor of the Hornsby and Guthrie building, where Gratz Collins had previously had a store. The Masonic Temple was on the top floor, entered by wooden outside stairs on the south side.

A barber shop was built and operated successively by Mr. Chatman, Jim Bradshaw, Brock Adams, Mr. Campbell, J. Lee Howell, and I. W. Hurst. The shop was still being operated by Mr. Hurst in the 1930's.

A hotel was built about 1889 or 1890 and was operated at different times by Kemp, Dunlap, Copeland, Wolford, Arnold, Smith, McDowell and Taylor. The city water tower is now located on the site of the hotel.

A saloon was established in 1884 or 1885 but was voted out in 1890. A meat market later was located in the building.

A tin shop was built by Mr. Hornsby in 1900 and later operated by R. T. Shelton.

A blacksmith shop was built by Judd Brothers, sold to Sam Wright, and later was operated by Joiner Smith.

My mother's history states that a restaurant was being run by Mr. Fortuno. The 1904 school directory had an ad for the Home Bakery and Restaurant operated by W. L. Strother, which stated "For good meals, short orders and chili. We make a speciality of cakes, pies, etc. Fresh bread baked every day. Call and see us." Another ad, under the name Levi Ross, stated, "He has just moved into his new place on Main Street. It has suitable compartments for ladies to take their meals.

The Buck Brothers butcher shop ad in the directory said, "Take one of Buch Bros.' fat juicy roasts baked in sweet potatoes, you have a dish fit for a king. We slaughter nothing but fat, young beaves and hogs."

My mother stated that a drug store was being operated by J. C. Barger. She also listed several former businesses that no longer were operating; Mr. Morgan, Dunlap and Satterwhite, Cromer and Sterling, Strother and Cox, Robinson Store House, and G. P. Collins Grocery Store. The latter, and possibly others on this list, were operating other businesses at that time.

A newspaper, the Anna Leader, began publication in 1904. I have found no record of how long it lasted.

In addition to Barnett and Greer, previously mentioned, other early postmasters and their dates of appointment were George W. Harner, June 10, 1889; George E. Strother, July 10, 1893; Joseph M. Robinson, July 21, 1897; Hawk Brown, March 5, 1912; Lebron H. Goforth, November 21, 1914; James T. (Tilford) Shaw, April 13, 1922, and Sam Hagin, November 14, 1934.

After Anna was established as a town, it soon had four churches. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was built in 1886 and the Methodist Church in 1890. The Baptist Church, previously established at Highland, was moved to Anna in 1892. A Presbyterian Church was established in 1898 but later closed.

My mother's history lists the pastors up to 1910: Baptist - Dunn, G. O. Key, Loveless, Bentley, Fuller, Sams and Evans. Christian - Douglas, Haywood, Eubanks, Martin and Smith. Presbyterian - Woods, Sale and Ewing. Methodist - Frequary, Graves, Roberts, Hudgins, Bounds, Dintis, Clifton, Day, Cole, Houston, Overstreet and Francis (That's twelve Methodist pastors in twenty years.)

The doctors who had practiced in Anna up to 1910 were Dr. Lair, Dr. Strange, Dr. Bates, Dr. Evans, Dr. Evans, Dr. McKinney, Dr. Wysong and Dr. Smith. Another doctor that I remember well, Dr. Bryant, who had his office in a little wooden building directly across the street from Alexander's store.

The first bank that I remember was located across main street from the building in which the interurban station was located. It is now the Anna City Hall. Grady Giles was the banker for many years.

A white wooden building in which Mr. Sid Smith (the slender one - to distinguish him from the heavy Sid Smith who managed Alexander's) and his daughter, Velma, had a dry goods store which was moved to a lot between the bank and Dr. Bryant's building. It previously had been a neighborhood store in a residential area.

West of the bank building (City Hall) and facing its west side is still located the white frame residence that for many years was the home of Matthew Calvin "Cal" Powell, Sr., who at the age of 19, came to Anna early in 1885 from his native South Carolina. He soon influenced an older half-brother, James William, (previously mentioned as an early merchant) to move with his family to Anna. William's home in Anna was one block north of Cal's, across the interurban tracks from where the Baptist Church was located (on the lot where the church is now located). William later moved back to South Carolina, but when Cal was back there on a visit in 1890, William and his family returned with him to Anna. Also coming with them at that time was a brother three years older than Cal, Young Henry Edward "Bud" Powell. Bud died in 1960 at the age of 98 and Cal six years later at age 101. During their long tenure in Anna these brothers had a great amount of influence on the town and on their beloved Baptist Church.

In addition to the Cal Powell home, one other residence was located in downtown Anna on Main Street. Across that street and a little to the west was a house which I remember as the home of the Ford family. I remember being told that it once had been a hotel, used mostly by traveling salesmen. Prior to the automobile, these "drummers" covered their territory on trains and stayed in hotels in the towns where they called on merchants.

East of the Ford house on the west side of the interurban tracks, where the post office now is located, was a wooden building divided into two parts. The west side was used for many years as a cleaning and pressing shop by A. L. Harkins. The east side was a cafe, operated at one time by S. Y. (Young) Powell and later by Louis Roberts.

West of the Ford house, facing U. S. Highway 75 before it was rerouted two miles west of Anna (the old highway was redesignated State Highway 5), where the bank

now is located, was a Texaco service station, operated for many years by Oran Lair and Floyd Summers. The station and Louis Robert's cafe were popular hangouts for people in Anna during the 1930's.

Behind the Texaco station was a croquet court when that became a very popular sport during the 1930's. Several local men would come with their personnel, hand-made mallets and play the game for hours, even under lights at night.

Another station was opened across the street from the Texaco station by Mr. Turner and his sons, Syd and Roy. North of them, across Main Street, was the Wilcox Lumber Company, operated by Lebrun Goforth.

In 1913 there had been three blacksmith shops in Anna, operated by Gene Kelly, Zack Shaw and Joiner Smith, but only the Gene Kelly shop was operating when I first remember Anna.

Also in 1913, there had been two butcher shops, the Buck Brothers, and one operated by Al Morgan. In the 1930's the Morgan market was still in business, being operated by Al Morgan and his son, Eldridge, with assistance as they got old enough from several of Eldridge's sons.

In the early 1930's four separate wooden buildings that had housed Anna's earliest stores were still located on the street west of the railroad. All were still occupied. These buildings were identical, with covered wooden front porches, a door in the middle of the front and a window on either side of the door. They were about three feet apart so one could step from the porch of one to the next during rainy weather.

The building on the north housed the restaurant where "Dad" Clark served up chili and hamburgers. On the south end, S. Y. Powell and Dow Hendricks operated a grocery store for a while. My grandfather, Y. H. E. Powell, frequently worked in the store. At the back was an enclosure where they kept chickens which they bought and sold. One merchant who operated his store in several locations was Beecher Luscomb. For many years he employed a Mr. Trice as a clerk. The store was a popular hangout for the young people of Anna because they were all fond of Mr. Trice.

The two wooden buildings on the south end, nearest the Hornsby-Guthrie building were moved out in the mid-thirties to make room for the Anna school's first gymnasium. Funds to build this large wooden structure was solicited locally under the leadership of a teacher, Balford Morrison. He was not a coach but saw the need for the basketball teams to be able to play inside instead of on the open dirt courts of the school ground.

In the back of their building, the Morgan's provided a home for the only black citizen of Anna in the 1930's. His name was George Henry Washington, but most people in Anna knew him only as Yank. He had drifted down from Kansas as a young man, and he remained in Anna until he died as an old man. I remember being told a story that when Yank arrived in Anna he became injured in a fall when citizens were attempting to run him out of town and they recanted and allowed him to stay.

Yank had the job of carrying bags of mail from the depot to the post office. He used a home-made wooden cart with two large iron wheels, which he pushed along at a slow shuffle. His feet always hurt, and his shoes, which appeared to be about size 13, had many cuts to relieve the pressure on his feet.

Once the merchants of Anna made up funds to pay Yank's way to St. Louis by train to visit a sister. When he returned a large crowd was waiting at the depot. I can only imagine how the other passengers on the train felt about this scene. Someone asked Yank if St. Louis was as big as Anna, and he quickly replied, "huh, it's twice as big."

The larger freight which Yank couldn't move in his hand cart was hauled from the depot by Fritz Wilkie, using a team of mules pulling an iron-wheeled wagon. He was constantly yelling at the mules.

A large open corner lot was located in the area north of "Dad" Clark's cafe and east of Morgan's Meat Market. The only structure on it was a circular band stand. In the heyday of town brass bands (as in the musical, "The Music Man") musicians had sat around the inside circular bench playing concerts for the townfolks. The bandstand was not used for many years and then spent its final years as the watermelon stand operated by Mr. Jim Bradshaw.

The Anna that I knew so well growing up there in the 1930's, was, and always had been, a center for business, banking, school and church activities for citizens living in a wide area surrounding it. When grain crops were harvested, many wagon loads of wheat, oats and corn were brought to the town's elevators. In the fall, there were long lines of wagons loaded with cotton waiting their turn at the gins.

The town named Anna is now in the second year of its second century. It is still a small town. It is still a good town, a friendly town, and it will always be --- my home town.

OCTOBER , 1989

TO: CITY HALL - Anna, Texas

The author of "A Town Named Anna" requests that you do not send our any copies before inclosing the errata. There were 25 copies that were originally printed to be sent upon requests to anyone wanting a copy.

Thank you

Imogene Ogle

ERRATA

1st Page. Last paragraph, 3rd line should read, "by transients. They established a settlement in what would become Collin County, along Throckmorton"

2nd Page. 4th paragraph, 9th line. year should be "1835", not "1853".

3rd Page. 5th paragraph, 4th line, insert "by" between "another" and "J. M."

4th Page. 2nd paragraph, last line, insert "ago" between "year" and "after."

5th paragraph, 1st line, insert "by Milton Hornsby" between "construction" and "in." 3rd line, after "tracks", change "of" to "on."

6th Page. Next to last paragraph, 2nd line. change "1982" to "1892."

7th Page. 2nd paragraph, last sentence. I have learned that the lodge meeting hall in the top floor of the Hornsby and Guthrie building was the Odd Fellows Hall, not the Masonic Temple.

8th Page. 3rd paragraph, 2nd line. Dr. Evans was erroneously listed twice. Next to last paragraph, in the reference "where the post office now is located," it should be noted that a new post office has been built on the highway, north of Main Street.

9th Page. 2nd paragraph, 2nd line, change "personnel" to "personal." In the next to last paragraph, I erroneously stated that Mr. Morrison was not a coach. When he spoke to the group celebrating the 50th anniversary of the graduating class of 1938 on the evening of October 8, 1988, he told several humorous stories from his experience as a coach of the Anna High School football team.