

on an artesian well; 1904, W. I. Brashears, W. T. Burt and J. H. Zadeck appointed as committee to select location for well and contract let; March, 1905, well contractor claims he is financially unable to carry out his contract to bore well and he is released from contract at his request; during the absence of the mayor, "E. L. Blanchard, a justice of the peace" was requested by the board to "try all cases which may come up for the town;" 1906, first water tank and tower; in 1907 and 1911 waterworks improved; 1912, privilege tax imposed "for automobiles used for hire as public carriers"; same year it was ordered that a tax of three dollars per quarter be assessed for the privilege of running a fan with water; 1916, Mayor W. R. Shepherd, a Confederate veteran, superintended the laying of first concrete sidewalks; later a concrete water trough; electric light plant purchased in 1919 while L. S. Blanchard was mayor; first artesian well in 1928 during L. S. Blanchard's administration; first municipally owned town hall acquired in 1959 during the present administration; new water well and other waterworks improvements during present administration.

Among prominent families in the early development of Gunnison in addition to the Gunnisons and Wrenns and the town officials were Godfrey Franks, Blanchards, Arnolds, Brooks, Kirks, Boyds, Maddox, McGehees, Knowltons, Stokes, Edwards, Eblins, Smiths, Todds, Melchoirs, Blackburns, Seatons, Sledges and Tuminellos.

Gunnison has had three banks in its history. The first one was the Bank of Gunnison, opened in 1904 with J. M. Kirk as president and W. I. Brashears as cashier. The second bank was the Merchants and Planters and the third was the Peoples. The names of McGehee, Knowlton, Brooks, Walters, Holland, McKnight, Hull, Kirk and McNeil were associated with them.

Some of Gunnison's first merchants started in business as peddlers on foot, with their merchandise in a pack on their backs. Later, some of the merchant-peddlers used wagons drawn by horses. In more recent times, motor trucks have been employed and one is still in operation.

Among the medical doctors who have practiced in Gunnison were: J. B. Pease, Sr., and J. B. Pease, Jr., Nance, Halbert, McGowan, Catchings, Chilton, Hall, Simmons, Cockerham, Tuminello, Phillips, and Spaulding.

No record was kept of the railway station agents but listed among them were Price Blanchard, W. I. Brashears, King, W. A. Mitchel, D. F. Callaway, L. L. McGee, Mrs. Wade, Mrs. Blanche Brewer, and S. L. Owen.

Concordia Lodge, the oldest chartered Masonic Lodge in Bolivar County, is located in Gunnison. It was chartered Jan. 23, 1872.

The Boyd Chapter of the Eastern Star was chartered around the beginning of this century but forfeited its charter during the 1940's.

As the old and hackneyed expression goes, "'tis an ill wind that blows nobody good."

The steamboat made Concordia. When Concordia lost its adjacent port and the newly laid phenomenon called a railroad track bypassed Concordia on the east, Gunnison gained. Finally, the end came for the railroad through Gunnison during the late 1950's, and Gunnison was the

loser as Concordia had been in the last century. Good roads had robbed the railroad and the small town merchant of their mutually lucrative business. But now an era passed. Gunnison, stripped of its title of "a fine business town" by good roads and the exodus of farm labor as a result of government acreage control, farm mechanization and chemicals, still has many items on the credit side of the ledger. Land around Gunnison continues to be some of the richest farm land in the Delta, and is making greater yields than ever, there are fewer merchants but most of the ones left are prosperous, Gunnison has two very fine church buildings that would do credit to much larger communities, it has a new health center, built with federal and Bolivar County funds. The land on which it is located was donated by the Gunnison Planting Seed and Gin Co., Inc., while utilities and upkeep of the grounds are provided by the Town of Gunnison. There are two up to date cotton gins, ginning from 12,000 to 14,000 bales per season.

The good roads that forced a number of our merchants out of business are a wonderful asset to other inhabitants of the town and community. The town is also proud of its new post office building, owned by Postmaster O. C. Cockerham. Taxes lost to the town by the abandonment of the railroad have been replaced by increased tax collections from the Mississippi Power and Light Co. and the Southern Bell Tel. and Tel. Co. Gunnison now has a modern fire truck which replaced obsolete equipment. The town also boasts one of the nicest public libraries in the state.

Although Gunnison is not the business town it was in days gone by, it is a good town in which to live and rear a family. This fact can be attested to by its citizens.

TOWN CLERKS

Town Clerks of Gunnison were J. J. Montgomery, G. F. Wingfield, J. F. Arnold, R. S. McKnight, R. W. Nash, Mrs. Lillian Nash, J. H. Owen, Mrs. G. C. George, N. M. Jacobs, E. B. Scruggs, L. L. McGee, T. J. Bogue, Mrs. Mildred Cockerham, Joe Romando, Lillian McNeil, Mrs. Mary Lee Bassie, and Mrs. L. L. Davis, incumbent.

BOYD CHAPTER NO. 39, O. E. S.

Some of the worthy matrons of the Eastern Star were Mrs. Mignette P. Potts, Mrs. Emma C. Pease, Mrs. Lizzie M. Brooks, Mrs. Minnie Zadeck, Mrs. Lucile Pease, Mrs. Sarah Jacobs, Mrs. Loudie Walters, Mrs. Evelyn Cockerham, Mrs. May Edwards, Mrs. Kate Key, Mrs. Perle Holcomb, and Mrs. Mable C. Brashears.

BAPTIST MINISTERS

Pastors of the Gunnison Baptist Church from 1879 to 1962, inclusive, were M. A. Cameron, W. L. Slack, D. H. S. Cox, B. B. Milam, Lee, E. D. Solomon, L. G. C. Gates, W. S. Allen, R. C. Blailock, Elliot, Ellis, S. R. Gordon, B. L. McKee, W. P. King, R. D. Maum, D. A. McCall, R. M. Jennings, A. F. Youngberg, E. G. Evans, R. W. Martin, H. C. Schjeveland, H. T. Rich, B. J. Broome, A. V. Faggard, Carl Savell, J. O. McLemore and L. W. Timms.